

# Results, 1993 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Never forget—10 meters is always open to somewhere!

—Maurice, F6IIE

By Billy Lunt, KR1R and Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J  
Contest Manager Assistant Contest Manager

**F**irst the bad news: In case you didn't catch it in the papers, we're no longer at the top of the sunspot cycle. With the decline in sunspots, conditions on 10 will continue to deteriorate. Now the good news: The band still has enough life in it to make things interesting! Sure, it isn't what it used to be—but the tropo, backscatter and E<sub>S</sub> that popped up all over kept things jumping. This may not have been 1990, when conditions were at their peak, but it wasn't *that* bad, either. Just because you may think the band is dead doesn't necessarily make so. The only real way to find out what's on

is to fire up the rig and do some listening and transmitting.

Some people would argue that the challenge of tougher band conditions make for a better contest. Knowing where the band is open at a given time, being able to work those short openings quickly and efficiently, are all skills that separate the neophyte contesteer from the experienced old hand. A contest is a series of opportunities—as those opportunities grow shorter and rarer, you need to become more adept at seizing them if you want to be successful.

The band openings that came with this

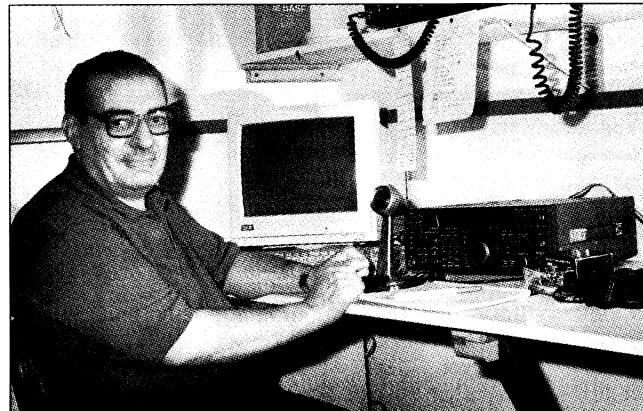
year's contest allowed us to work people in places we couldn't reach had propagation been better. A lot of closer-in stations that you might not even hear in times of good, worldwide propagation are a lot easier to work during conditions like these. This makes the contest tougher, to be sure. It also helps you improve your operating skills, though, and you're certainly going to need those skills during the coming lean years in the sunspot cycle. As Gene, N2AA, reports, "This is one of the most interesting contests going—lots of scatter modes, meteors and super E<sub>S</sub>, allowing us to work hordes of W4,



Top left—10-year-old twins Holly, KB8OWT, and Hillary, KB8OWS (l-r), shared the rig for their first 10-Meter Contest.

Top right—if you needed Mozambique on 10 meters, John, WA4WKY/C91J, would have been happy to help you. He obliged more than 1200 hams on CW and phone.

Bottom right—Frank, LU1VK's 698k score put him at the top of the World in the phone-only, high-power standings.



## Top 10, W/VE

Mixed Mode, QRP			
AA2U	323,106	KS3F	552,500
WA7BNM	104,890	N2RM	414,352
KA1CZF	98,374	NY1E	407,592
WA6FGV	79,212	N8RA	357,856
N8TLZ	47,880	K8CC (W8WD,op)	
WG2H	47,600		336,996
KG7ME	36,260	WM2V	262,568
AA6KX	24,900	N0XA	246,340
N7RWH	15,120	KH6FKG	241,336
KC6DMQ	15,088	N3MKZ	238,928
		K5XI	206,500
Mixed Mode, Low Power			
W3EP	495,172	CW Only, QRP	
K6JCV	471,900	WA4IAR	64,736
KZ1M	431,932	K8LJQ	62,244
N6NF	383,522	WT3W	56,496
K7FR	380,396	N9CQQ	48,384
AB6FO	365,330	NM1K	35,144
NW6S	312,156	N2BJG	33,252
W6UOF	305,500	K2SM	32,032
N6HC	273,686	WO2N	22,532
AA4UF	267,496	K3UA	21,844
		K3TW	18,532
Mixed Mode, High Power			
AC4NJ (WC4E,op)	495,172	CW Only, Low Power	
1,104,740	N4MO	260,348	
W5WMU (KZ5D,op)	NW1S	221,536	
996,000	K3MQH	219,296	
K2LE	882,764	NA1R	144,152
K6LL	780,780	AA7KF	137,760
K3ZO	674,424	W4DEC	133,584
W9XT	662,544	VO1MP	131,868
K1VUT	657,400	AC10/4	131,424
AB4RU	606,540	KA7T	127,660
W1FEA	602,064	KJ4OP	125,156
K0TT	588,760		
Phone Only, QRP			
NBLMT	31,680	CW Only, High Power	
W6CN	25,842	N2AA	458,920
WB0IWG/T	10,160	KJ0I	404,800
KB1AWI/T	7,684	WD8AUB	355,536
VE6BMX	2,808	K1JKS	335,616
N4ZAK/T	1,254	N8RR	326,340
KH6CDO	816	K7QQ	294,828
N8ZR/9	540	W3GH	282,400
N8ZAT	384	W3GN	278,576
Multioperator			
K4VUD	438,396	W3LPJ	1,615,938
K8XR	263,268	N2NU	1,283,458
WB2BZR/3/T	211,068	NU4Y	1,120,692
KE5FI	209,888	W0AIH	1,013,636
K6SVL	173,264	KY1H	982,716
NH6SR	163,508	VE3XO	927,134
KC3PZ	161,802	K2XR	902,820
WB1HBB	161,196	NR5M	841,020
W6AXX	144,522	NC0P	791,808
KD6LNY/T	131,456		

W8, and W9 stations that are usually invisible." Gene should know—his contesting credentials go back many years.

A lot of people remarked on how many stations they were able to work via backscatter. Steve, KB2NXT, exclaims, "At one point I thought the wind had spun my beam 180°!" If you've not tried this trick yet, give it a go! It doesn't take much to garner those close-in multipliers or work that many more stations.

## Sunrise, Sunset

Ten meters has always been a "daylight" band. When the band is open (other than those sporadic openings, which are, as anyone knows, unpredictable), it's usually along a path where it's daylight on both ends of the contact. For example, on the East Coast, Europeans were workable roughly from 1200Z (sunrise on the East Coast) until 1600Z or so, which was when sunset was falling across Europe. This should give you a good idea of when to look for all those multipliers. On the West Coast,

about the only time Japan was workable was the last hour of the contest (naturally!) If you woke up early Saturday, like Dave, K6LL, you would have found a great opening to Florida and the Caribbean starting around 1400Z. The lack of JA stations to work certainly hurt scores in the West Coast region.

Another common characteristic of 10 meters for this period in the sunspot cycle is the tendency for openings to run north to south, as opposed to east to west. Although the West Coast listened in vain for Asia and the Far East, the higher-scoring South American stations (like the group at CW0A, or Frank, LU1VK, and Arturo, LU6ETB) were able to work JA stations long, hard and almost continuously. Similarly, A22MN started off each morning with a good helping of Europeans before the band opened to the US. Sharp contestants will be aware of these trends and make them part of their strategy.

When cross-checking logs this year, we found a common mistake made by many people who used computer logging software. Apparently some programs thought that ZW0JR was in one of the "PY0 countries," Trinidade, Fernando de Noronha or St Peter and Paul Rocks. In this case, they weren't. So if you lost a multiplier in your final score, this could be the reason. A number of people are getting caught as well using so-called "master data" files to fill in call signs and exchanges for contacts. Our experience is that the only sure way to know your contact is good is to copy all the information over the air.

Who knows what the next 10-Meter Contest will bring? Admittedly, we're still some time away from a return to the excellent propagation we all grew to know and love back a few years ago. But who's to say the next one won't be as much fun (or even more) than this one was? The only way you'll know is to get on the air and participate. The next 10-Meter Contest will be December 10 and 11; the rules will be in November *QST*. Thanks to Contest Assistant Anne Jaworski for her help in preparing these results.

## BACKSCATTER

I used this contest as a training exercise and allowed a friend to operate and make QSOs (AA9AX). Because of stormy weather, heavy rain and snow, the conditions were bad. We had an opening to the US only at the end of the contest (ON1AFN). During the first 22 hours of the contest, I was able to work 51 Stateside multipliers, which was great! (ZL1ANJ). Propagation was peculiar, but it was fun running the backscatter signals (N4AA). The bands were down, but my new beam helped quite a bit. It was a great contest (N5VAV). When conditions are bad, like they were for this contest, it sure makes it a challenge (AA8AV). Conditions were terrible, but persistence pays off. Working Europe from Ohio was a major challenge. There was only about a 20-minute window each day into Eastern Europe; otherwise, all the Europeans I worked were southerly or westerly ones. (WD8AUB). Good

## Top 10, DX

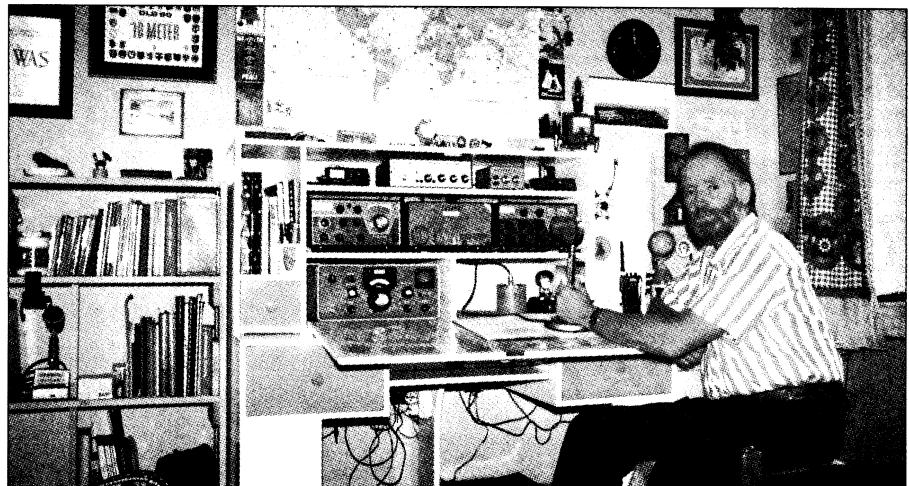
Mixed Mode, QRP		
NP2Q	63,650	Phone Only, High Power
JL1HE	5,616	LU1VK 698,700
I4MFA	3,780	LU4D (LU4DXU,op)
JR4GPA	2,508	474,150
IK5RUN	1,824	ZS6BRZ 406,714
ON5EU	1,558	PT7CB 382,008
UB2JQ	1,554	ZF2RC (N6DEC,op)
JG1EIQ	462	318,212
JE7DOT	168	TM7C (F6CTT,op)
Mixed Mode, Low Power		
EA6ZY	192,150	CT5P (CT1DIZ,op)
G0AEV	160,460	232,320
VK2APK	93,024	ZL1ANJ 230,316
UY7E (UB5ECE,op)	90,304	VP5JM 215,600
S52UT	83,030	ON6TT 203,750
S24FO	62,416	CW Only, QRP
G4IQM	52,598	9A2NW 38,304
DL3HRA	34,572	G0TDX 28,200
SK0HB (SM0THN,op)	31,536	G1KAA 3,276
JQ1NGT	27,048	OH2YL 2,240
Mixed Mode, High Power		
A22MN	965,360	OZ8E 1,092
HH2PK	889,644	JA1GTF 1,008
C91J	489,240	W7SW/I0 440
P43GR	409,344	NP2I 368,600
F5NBX	205,058	KP4TK 361,424
EA3CWK	158,472	FY5FP 250,808
KP2N	140,904	9A2OB 202,924
S51SO	139,360	LU5ARD 133,548
PZ5JR	133,440	9K2ZZ 115,388
4X5S9PR	130,950	EA7CEZ 78,312
Phone Only, QRP		
FM5DN	98,696	8P9GE (K2PF,op)
JF3EIU	5,508	72,576
JA2JSF	3,192	CW Only, High Power
VK4NEF	2,600	ON4UN (ON4WW,op)
DU7AFT	1,200	324,988
RU0ST	372	OA4CWR 323,204
OZ1FMO	100	F5DE/P 276,024
JO1MCC	8	PY2OU 127,872
JL6IPK	2	EA4KA 101,120
Phone Only, Low Power		
LU6ETB	550,546	PP1RR 87,296
FR5DX	394,956	VS6BG 84,096
ZS6YA	230,160	HABVK 81,120
YS1X (YS1RRD,op)	189,336	F5IN 80,340
LUGAMD	177,388	VK2QF 69,688
LU2NI	162,448	Multioperator
J37LA (KB4VLO,op)	144,600	CW0A 1,771,000
IB4M (I4ABF,op)	136,290	LO3A 1,025,088
LU8HSO	124,740	ZW0JR 818,040
KP2BH	77,154	L5V 716,996
		LT5F 458,430
		P14COM 314,628
		G3OZF 261,616
		LU1FNH 248,136
		F6KDF 235,314
		PJ8CW 214,000

ears were a must for all operators this year! (AF8A). Who would have thought anyone needed Indiana? I've needed RI for four years to finish WAS and they all showed up at once! (KB9BGV/T). I worked more LU stations than all of Europe combined! (KR0B). This is my first 10-Meter Contest and it was great fun—especially the CW activity, which was great! (KD1CJ). I was surprised at how much activity popped up, considering band conditions (N7YCK). All things considered, propagation was fairly good, although more than 20% of my QSOs were E- or F-layer bank shots! (W8UCI). My strategy in this contest was to work every station I could hear. Considering the propagation, we're pleased with the results because we can't all live in South America. (PA3DMH). This turned out to be the first contest in which I wasn't embarrassed to turn in my log! I had lots of fun (AA1ER). It was a fun contest, but it was too bad there weren't more slow CW ops out there! (WB1EDI). The opening to Europe was strong late Sunday at about 1800Z. My QSO rate was running more than 250/hour on phone to the West Coast—who says 10 is dead? (K2LE). I enjoyed the little time I had for the contest, and working QRP with an indoor dipole during less-than-spectacular band conditions is a real character builder! (AA8EG). I had just upgraded to General class on Saturday of the contest (WD4FMG). Conditions were strange, especially Sunday when, within three minutes, F and ZS

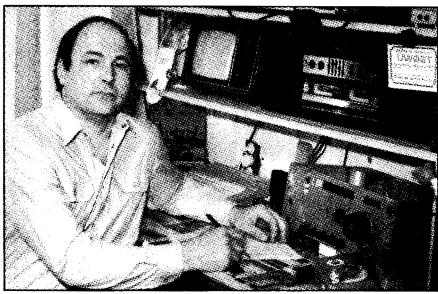




The YL Club of Kuwait put on a multioperator effort for this year's contest. (l-r) Millie, VE3OMG/9K2YF and Donna, N0YKI/9K2YY, claim, "This is better than cooking for the OMs!"



Ulrich, CE5BPE, exclaims, "I was surprised how nice the conditions were! We should look to this band more often."



Serge, RU0ST, reports, "Conditions were poor, but the contest was great!"



11-year-old Melissa, KB7SDC, "got excited when I worked several DX stations!"

stations called me for my only contacts on those continents. I excitedly tuned the band for more, but never got to hear another European or African station (AB6FO). My greatest surprise was working a lot of Europeans on short skip in the evening, long after darkness! (LA8GV). My underground Sterba curtain worked great for backscatter contacts! (W3GH). I only made one Stateside QSO, with W3LPL! (DL3HRA). I found propagation

extremely strange on Saturday, but Sunday turned out to be a big improvement. I had short openings to Europe and the US! (EA7HAL). I didn't hear one solitary European or anything farther east than Hawaii, but I loved getting Midway Island! (VK4ICU). I had a good time and was glad to work a lot of QRP stations (WA4IAR). The Saturday night E-skip opening was something else! I never imagined it would be possible to have a 70+ QSO/hr run on CW with low power and an indoor antenna! (W9WI). Widespread sporadic E on Saturday evening helped my score (N8II). The band was strange, but what a kick I got when 9V1ZB called me! (PZ5JR). Things got so fast and furious on Saturday that the computer started to smoke from overexertion! I worked more people in one hour than I expected to work all weekend long (WB2JSJ). Good old 10 meters came through again. It was exciting not knowing where it would be open next (WA2JHN). Various propagation modes helped me to work 12 new states on 10 meters, and I have only four countries to go for my DXCC! (K8JLF). After Friday evening, I found myself thinking that the propagation sure was bad. Then came Saturday morning and I discovered my antenna lying on the ground! (WQ5L). Thank goodness for the West Coast! It would have been slow without it (N6WLX/8). I had a lot of fun in this contest. I'm a 12-year-old YL Technician (KB2MER/T). As usual, I missed one state! This year it was Alaska (N2RM). I had a good time, this being my first 10-Meter Contest, although propagation was terrible! (KK4MZ). It was an interesting contest because of propagation conditions. To work northeast, I turned the beam southwest. To work south, I turned the beam north (KB2NXT). For me, the highlight of the contest was working ON4UN on backscatter on Sunday morning (AA7NX). Who says 10 meters is as dead as a hammer? (AA0NB). It was surprising to find the band open Stateside! On Sunday the band closed and opened again three times! (DL8PC). Conditions to Europe were poor. The saving grace this year was the great sporadic-E openings on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to the Midwest. I was able to run 170 QSOs during one 60-minute period centered on 2235Z! (W3EP). I had a lot of fun, this being my first contest. I also learned a lot! (KB2PED/T). QRP with indoor dipoles and punk band conditions made the going tough, but I sure had a lot of fun (KT0P/5). I found conditions fairly good on Saturday, but on Sunday, there were only big signals, and they didn't last long (K7QQ). Conditions on Saturday were very poor. Thank goodness for the opening to W/VE on Sunday afternoon! (G4IQM). What a great contest! Where

else can you see F, E<sub>s</sub> and scatter modes demonstrated so plainly in one weekend! (W4AQL). Conditions were fairly good on Saturday, but on Sunday only the big signals were heard and they didn't last long (K7QQ). The band openings bounced around like ping-pong balls. I didn't hear a single JA station (ZF2RC). We were blessed with E skip, which made high contact rates in the US a lot of fun (AB4RU). Conditions were poor compared to the past two years, but better than I had expected. I had a good run of about 50 European stations with my beam pointed northwest and signals definitely peaked from this direction (N8RR). My score isn't much to look at, but I had a swell time. This contest is a great place to start for a beginner like me, and I'm proud to have upgraded my license just prior to the contest (NSSRC). You just had to work fast when the band opened because it wouldn't last long! The band seemed dead and then I heard A22MN, worked him, and never heard him again (WA0RPI). Where did Europe and Asia go? The excellent E-skip openings to the East Coast made up for the loss of Europe and Japan (N9ISN). This contest brought out the best of 10 meters again, given the low flux. I worked Japan long path for the first time in my life! (ON6TT). I worked most of contest using a vertical, rather than a beam antenna, but still had good results. The pipeline to the northeast was hot Saturday night, but few Europeans were heard (KC4TEO). To those operators who didn't participate because they thought 10-meter conditions would be bad, you lost out on a good time (W9XT). It was a pity conditions were so poor! I heard only two stations from the US, but they were weak. It was impossible to be heard there without a beam antenna (SP5UAF). There were no W/VE contacts on the first day and it was hard to catch some stations on Sunday (DL7UTA). The opening to Europe wasn't great. The E-skip to the Midwest got us great rates, but a few more DX multipliers would have been nice! (N2NU). At 6 AM on Sunday morning, I was 1/2 mile from my shack hitting electric power poles with a sledgehammer. The 20 over S9 noise from power lines went down to S1! (K4VUD). This is my first attempt to do a contest by myself. I hope next time I'll do better! (IK3VUX). This is my first time contesting. I'm now addicted (KK6WF). Band openings were short with lots of pileups. Conditions weren't bad for the ebbing solar cycle. I didn't hear Europe or Africa, and only a few VEs and JAs (N7WWQ). The band opened up big time on Saturday and not on Sunday. I ended up low on multipliers, but high on fun. My thanks to the West Coast "wall" of Washington, Oregon and California (WA8YRS).





