

1998 ARRL 160-Meter Contest Results

This year's 160-Meter contest marks the final event for Billy Lunt, KR1R, at the ARRL HQ Contest Branch. After 14 years at Headquarters, Billy has moved on to new opportunities. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

A great heavyweight champion is not just born—he trains and pays his dues. He works at his art, developing the skills of the jab and the counter-punch. He hones his skills against all comers if he is truly to be called “champion.” Analysts and commentators will evaluate all challengers. Predictions on who the “next great hope” in the ring will be bantered around—but the mark of the true champion is the ability to come through in crunch time.

The editorial by K7BV in the March/April edition of the *National Contest Journal* “handicaps” the 1999 heavyweight contesters with this comment about K1ZM: “Has a great station—it is just a question of which category he chooses to do. He will win whatever he chooses.” Well, he was certainly on the money with Jeff Briggs, K1ZM. Jeff once again showed his dominance and won the 1998 ARRL 160-Meter Contest. Not only did he outscore all of the contenders in the Single Op categories, he also finished ahead of every Multi-Op station as well.

Jeff racked up 327,175 points off of his 1241 Qs and led the way with 115 multipliers as the Single Op High Power winner. Second and third place finishers in the category were K9DX and W9IT who had a close race—256,215 to 255,360. More DX QSOs helped K9DX overcome W9IT's QSO totals. A tight race also emerged in the Single-Op Low Power category with K1PX Jim edging K1KY and WA1LNP 145,665 to 141,600 and 138,915.

In 1997 N0TT set a new QRP record with 95,025 points. The record stood for only one year as Dick Eshelman, WK3I, reclaimed the record he had lost the previous year. The new QRP record for the 160-Meter Contest is now 104,025—the first time the 100K threshold has been crossed in this category. Rounding out the winners were the operators at W8JI who were the only Multi-Op group to crack the 300K boundary this year.

Division records were also set during the event. KU7Y set a new QRP Pacific mark with 29,174. W4WA, with K9AY as the op, now holds the Southeastern QRP record with 87,150 points and N7IR now sits atop the Southwestern QRP ranks with 45,136. K1KY set the lone new Low Power record with a new Delta Division standard of 141,600. K9DX's effort of 256,215 is the new Central Division High power record, while N6RO upped the ante in the

Pacific High Power category to 155,652 points. No new records were set in any division in the Multi-Op category.

The Club competition saw a three-way battle to win the Medium category. In the end Potomac Valley Radio Club delivered a decisive “knock-out.” They triumphed over two of their traditional rivals—the Society of Midwest Contesters and the Frankford Radio club. PVRC was the only

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Medium Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	2,388,274	41
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,506,794	15
Frankford Radio Club	1,180,986	36
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	852,374	22
Mad River Radio Club	813,167	7
Minnesota Wireless Assn	673,596	9
North Coast Contesters	531,426	7
Salt City DX Assn	355,155	4
Texas DX Society	343,737	10
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	327,051	7
Northern California Contest Club	300,767	11
Oklahoma DX Assn	272,263	3
South East Contest Club	240,110	7
Florida Contest Group	192,192	6
North Texas Contest Club	148,018	4
Southern California Contest Club	139,067	4
Kentucky Contest Group	66,435	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	24,209	3
Western Washington DX Club	21,792	3
South Jersey Radio Assn	6,114	3
Local Category		
Hudson Valley Contesters and	248,277	6
River City Contesters	96,172	3
West Park Radiops	59,440	4

Top Ten

Single Operator, QRP

WK3I	104,025
W4WA	87,150
(K9AY, op)	
KE0FT	77,250
W3TS	63,120
K8LJQ	62,436
N4ROA	47,080
N7IR	45,136
K9OM	44,240
KV8S	43,888
N9NE	36,162

Single Operator, Low Power

K1PX	145,665
K1KY	141,600
WA1LNP	138,915
N4ZI	128,972
WX9U	124,662
W2LC	121,828
W2TZ	109,158
AD4TJ	108,864
WA8YRS	100,302
WA8TMK	94,720

Single Operator, High Power

K1ZM	327,175
K9DX	256,215
W9LT	255,360
W4MYA	239,372
KE9I	215,469
K4WX	204,864
N5DX	204,077
K5NA	198,380
AA8U	194,558
K8OQL	176,968

Multioperator

W8JI	310,194
K8XXX	268,593
WB9Z	264,992
K8MK	241,242
N6NI	210,270
N5ZS	185,045
W0AIH	180,892
K0KX	176,126
NA5B	174,505
W0AH	166,992
NU4Y	164,064

The Secret of K1ZM's Success

In 1998 Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, made a major change in his 160-meter contest strategy—he operated from Cape Cod instead of his home in southeast New York. “From the Cape in December, I can work Europe on 160 for at least 20 hours a day,” says Jeff. Location is a major factor in his 160-contest success, but it isn't the only factor. “You have to have the right transmitting antenna for the prevailing conditions.”

In New York Jeff uses an inverted-V antenna with the apex at 197 feet and the ends stretched way out. This creates a high-angle radiation pattern for those early “close-in” QSOs. At about 0500 UTC, as conditions improve for long-haul work, Jeff makes the most of low-angle radiation by switching to a quarter-wavelength shunt-fed tower (with tons of radials) or a 4-square array. For listening purposes, K1ZM uses combinations of two 1000-foot beverages, assorted loops, slinky beverages or his 4 square.

As far as the Cape station is concerned, “It is a special place. I started looking for it the day after I purchased my first house there and spent 10 years trying to find it.” Jeff uses similar strategies at the Cape as he does in New York, but only has two transmitting antennas. He gets particularly good results from an array of four-inverted Ls. “The array looks like a kid's kite, but it has 6.91 dB gain to Europe.” Jeff employs an assortment of beverages and loops for receiving, but perhaps his most powerful station asset is its location just a few hundred feet from the Atlantic.

Let all of us “lightweights” be warned: The Top Band Heavyweight Champion is already making improvements to his Cape Cod station. With a grueling tower ordinance battle behind him, Jeff's primary goal is getting the station in shape for next season. The rest of us will need considerable luck next December as we struggle to make headway against one of the acknowledged “best of the best.”

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT/Yukon Sections)		
WK3I	104,025	A	W4WA	87,150	A	K8LJQ	62,436	A	KE0FT	77,250	A	N7IR	45,136	A
W3TS	63,120	A	N4ROA	47,080	A	K9OM	44,240	A	W5TEN	11,421	A	KU7Y	29,174	A
N1RL	27,388	A	KV8S	43,888	A	N9NE	36,162	A	N0UR	11,180	A	K7FR	11,172	A
N3BNA	21,804	A	W4TMR	23,556	A	WA8RCN	34,265	A	K10II	8,240	A	AA7UN	6,020	A
N1TM	18,860	A	K4ZRA	22,034	A	W8RU	26,784	A	WJ0Z	4,814	A	N16G	5,832	A
K1PX	145,665	B	K1KY	141,600	B	WX9U	124,662	B	W0UY	66,748	B	W6JT1	50,048	B
WA1LNP	138,915	B	N4ZI	128,972	B	WABYRS	100,302	B	K16DY	64,032	B	AC7A	49,032	B
W2LC	121,828	B	AD4TJ	108,864	B	WA8TMK	94,720	B	N0BB	50,904	B	K0DI/6	48,106	B
W2TZ	109,158	B	N4DU	86,412	B	N9JF	85,083	B	W0ETT	50,853	B	N6CMF	46,376	B
K1NK	87,584	B	WO4O	79,800	B	N8AA	83,625	B	NT5D	44,823	B	K6ME	33,264	B
K1ZM	327,175	C	W9LT	255,360	C	K9DX	256,215	C	K5NA	198,380	C	N6RO	155,652	C
K3SV	163,968	C	W4MYA	239,372	C	KE9I	215,469	C	K5RX	115,344	C	K4XU/7	102,858	C
KA2RDO	154,406	C	K4WX	204,864	C	AA8U	194,558	C	N5LZ	95,440	C	W7RM (K17Y,op)	94,380	C
K8FC	153,296	C	N5DX	204,077	C	K8CC	175,056	C	K5DX	93,440	C	K6SE	65,160	C
W1SJ	151,146	C	K8OQL	176,968	C	K1AO	161,112	C	W7SE	91,800	C	KA6BIM	63,288	C
K3WW	156,112	D	W8JI	310,194	D	K8XXX	268,593	D	N0NI	210,270	D	KH7R	108,498	D
K2DS	154,230	D	N5ZS	185,045	D	WB9Z	264,992	D	K0KX	176,126	D	N7KE	78,400	D
AA2PQ	151,697	D	NU4Y	164,064	D	K8MK	241,242	D	NA5B	174,505	D	K6ZZ	71,558	D
W9XR	141,100	D	W5WMMU	145,140	D	W0AIH	180,892	D	W0AH	166,992	D	N6KB	64,021	D
K5KG	124,983	D	NT4D	111,419	D	WN9O	154,640	D	K0DU	150,156	D	K7RST	58,146	D

club to top 2 million points, 2,388,274 to SMC's 1,506,794 and FRC's 1,180,986. The Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers win the gavel for the Local category with 248,277 points. Congratulations to all of the clubs whose members entered the gavel competition.

The 1999 ARRL 160-Meter Contest is set for December 3-5, 1999. Use the summer to get in training. Instead of "rope-a-dope" maybe roping a new top-loaded 160 vertical might be in order. Perhaps putting down new radials will be better preparation than hours spent sparring on the heavy bag. A new champion of the top band will be crowned in the wee hours of the approaching December. The reigning champion is hard at work upgrading his station even more (see the sidebar, "The Secret of

K1ZM's Success"). Who's ready to step forward and be handicapped as the rising new contender?

Soapbox

Was excited when I worked both WY and UT, which were hard ones during SS (W9YS)... My apologies to those callers that I couldn't pull out of the heavy line noise. Disappointed to miss AK for WAS during the contest (K5RX)... Worked KH6 for a first. Maybe I should try for a 160 WAS! (W3CP)... Band conditions were low average the first night and abysmal on the second (K9NX)... Heard no one from Europe this year—or SD or AK (W0TM)... First time in the zany 160 contest. Surprising results with just an 80-meter inverted V (NV3V)... All things considered, I feel pretty good about the score. I spent almost no time doing search and pounce or hunting DX (K8ND)... Great contest. The balloon vertical works great. Now I need ears (N4DU)... The second evening it seems it took divine intervention to get west of the Mississippi (K8FC)... Boy, this was a tough, gritty

one. Only DX in the window were the DX "cops" telling somebody to get out (VE6EX)... Heard Europe early on Friday evening, assumed it would hang in there. Wrong! (KJ9C)... Things worked better after I discovered that I had selected the wrong transmit antenna (WHITE)... As always, I enjoyed this contest, though conditions were noticeably poorer than last year (K6SE)... Played in the contest less the second night and turned spectator watching the UT Vols beat Ole Miss for the SEC Championship (WO4O)... This has always been my favorite contest since the early 70s. The Texas noise is much harder to deal with than the noise levels from my previous years in NY (K5NA)... Somehow I convinced myself the contest started on Saturday. No wonder people were asking my section as I made a few pre-contest Qs Saturday night! (K9BG)... No matter how good conditions may become, I am going to need more antenna, more power and more coffee next year (KQ6ES)... Another great 160 Contest. Bands were much better the first night due to an approaching winter snowstorm (WA7LNW)... First operation from the new rural QTH. Noise levels never above S-2 (K5PC)

Scores

Scores are listed by DXCC Countries and ARRL/RAC Sections. Within each Country or Section, scores are listed in descending order, by power categories, followed by multipliers. Line scores list call sign, score, QSOs, multipliers, power (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power, D = Multioperator).

Asia					Ukraine					Vermont					W2CG									
Japan					YU1RA					Eastern Massachusetts					Western Massachusetts									
JE1SPY 126 9 7 B					YU1RA 8 2 2 B					W1AX 13,065 166 39 A					W1TE 76,358 505 73 B					W2ZK 24,462 219 54 B				
JE3HHT 18 3 3 B					North America					W1QV 2,142 51 21 A					W21M 53,592 468 56 C					W2VQ 11,610 126 45 B				
JQ1UKK/7 8 2 2 B					Cuba					W1DM 32,595 306 53 B					K5ZD 44,160 302 69 C					W2VJ 6,600 110 30 B				
J3IVL 2 1 1 B					CO8TW 672 21 16 B					K1NTR 28,560 280 51 B					K1AE 25,800 252 50 C					N2KJM 6,400 100 32 B				
JH1HGC 128 8 8 C					St. Lucia					K1DC 26,850 267 50 B					W2HCA 9,252 127 36 C					N2LKF 5,264 94 28 B				
JA4YPE (JF3EBO,op) 18 3 3 C					J6A (K16T,N8BJQ,K9LU,S50R,N9AG, 13,065 166 39 A					W1CSM 17,702 161 53 C					WA2VYA 3,750 75 25 C					W2EN 37,024 350 52 C				
JA4HIX 18 3 3 C					N8NR,ops) 82,368 572 72 D					W1T0 (+NET) 57,889 383 73 D					K5KG (+NET) 124,983 755 81 D					N2C2G 21,888 228 48 C				
JH0ZHQ (JH1BBT,JH1GNU,JH1MDJ, 32 4 4 D					Cayman Islands					W10T (+NET) 57,889 383 73 D					K2TW +packet 37,386 281 67 D					N2W2N 3,264 94 28 B				
JK1GKG,ops) 32 4 4 D					ZF2AH 57,816 438 66 C										W1GD (+NET) 15,100 142 50 D					N2G2C 21,888 228 48 C				
JA1YNE (JP1OGL,JJ8DEN,ops) 2 1 1 D					Oceania										K3KYR 1,456 19 12 B					N2KWK 17,190 182 45 C				
Europe					Hawaii										W2HCA 9,252 127 36 C					N2W2V 1,794 39 23 B				
Fed. Rep. of Germany					K5H6/WB6FZH 12 3 2 A										WA2VYA 3,750 75 25 C					K2TW 2,240 56 20 B				
DF2PY 2,160 40 27 C					Australia										W2ENY 14,792 172 43 C					K2WB 1,122 33 17 B				
Spain					V5SGN 336 14 12 C										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
EA5BY 900 25 18 C					South America										K2S 2,080 52 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
ED1RCW (EA1FAE,EA1AU,EA1J0,ops) 8,528 104 41 D					Aruba										K2WB 1,122 33 17 B					WK2G 46,656 429 54 C				
Balearic Islands					P40I (KR3I,op) 4,416 69 32 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
EA6ACC 1,080 30 18 C					1										K2S 2,080 52 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Scotland					Connecticut										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
GM3POI 12,000 150 40 C					N1RL 27,388 334 41 A										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Italy					N1TM 18,860 230 41 A										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
I3VHO 966 23 21 C					N1MT 15,600 200 39 A										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Lithuania					W1BRS (NM1K,op) 5,270 85 31 A										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
LY2VAD (LY1FZ,op) 374 17 11 C					K1PX 145,665 858 83 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Bulgaria					W1WEF 39,494 308 62 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
LZ1DFP 8 2 2 C					WB8MM/1 11,628 160 36 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Czech Republic					NX1Q 10,040 124 40 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
OK1DOT 2,268 42 27 C					W1GM 8,820 126 35 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				
Poland					N1TKS 6,930 99 35 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					N2MM 134,904 779 84 C				
SP7GIQ 1,200 30 20 C					K1BTD 3,640 67 26 B										K2V2 2,240 56 20 B					W2UL 992 31 16 B				

