

# 2004 ARRL International DX Phone Results

Break out the low bands!

*"Alternating currents are dangerous. They are fit only for powering the electric chair."—Thomas A. Edison*

The ARRL DX contest is one of the oldest, if not the oldest contest in existence. First run in 1928, it exemplifies the urge to push your operating and station abilities to the maximum. I'm not sure there is any deeper urge in ham radio than to make QSOs at the very limit of your range and then to extend that range. DX is!

Despite the between-cycle funk, the ARRL DX contests remain extremely popular. 929 DX stations and 1337 US stations submitted phone logs, five more than last year. The total number of stations was even higher than last year, judging from the 15 meter QSO totals of K3LR with 2421 and FY5KE with 3467.

## Write-up Notes and New Features

This year, I am very pleased to be able to present a Clean Sweep of Division reviews. We also added Europe to the list of continental reviews and a special review of the Caribbean region is included. Please take a moment and thank the writer who took time out to do the analysis from your area. ARRL members can read these exciting additions on the ARRLWeb at [www.arrl.org/contests/results](http://www.arrl.org/contests/results) and selecting the link for the "Web Report."

Also included are features by Jim Idelson, K1IR, who assembled the winning Multi-Single entry for both CW and Phone this year; Doug Grant, K1DG, with a retrospective on "The 1979 ARRL DX Contest—25 Years Ago" and Ken Harker, WM5R, who contributes several sets of maps that give you a new picture of how the contest played out around the US.

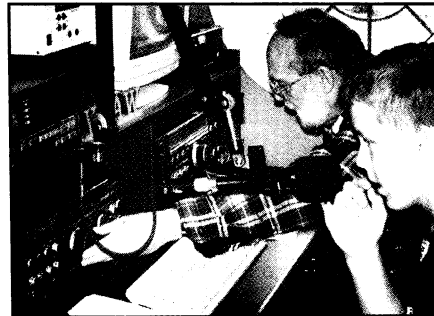
Don't forget that the QST-style line scores are available on the ARRLWeb, just like they always were in the magazine.

## Records

The low-flux years of solar cycles are not the years during which lots of records



TI8M, which finished 4th in the Multi-Two category for the world, was ably manned by (back, from the left) Carlos, TI2KAC; Bob, W4BD; Eddie, K4UN, and Brian, NA4BW; (front) Mauricio, TI2MOT; Keith, W4KTR, and Bill, K4WPM.



ARRL HQ staffer Dan Miller, K3UFG, spent time Elmering aspiring ham Jordan Sakal at W1AW.

## Expanded Results, Line Score Printouts Available

For complete contest results online, please visit [www.arrl.org/contests/results](http://www.arrl.org/contests/results). ARRL members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.

are set. (The complete set of ARRL DX records for both SSB and CW are available at [www.arrl.org/contests/](http://www.arrl.org/contests/).) The Records Set table shows the complete list of the continental, national and district-level records set this year.

The oldest DX record broken this year was the 1988 SO-20 meter South American record previously held by HC1HC. It was convincingly snagged by KK9A operating from the sunny island of Aruba at P40A by a margin of nearly a third. The longest-held domestic record that vanished from the scene was the 1995 SO-40 meter record for the 6th call district. Jim, N6IG, added another 3rd to Glen K6NA's old high-water mark this year. The oldest ARRL DX records still standing are both multi-multi efforts from 1979 by K0RF (SSB—10th district) and W7FU (CW—7th district).

The largest proportion by which a record was broken was claimed by Mr Oceania, Mike, KH6ND, operating at KH6YY's station (KH6YY is the new proprietor of the KH7R station) in the SO-Assisted category. Mike's score is nearly six times the old record, set in 1996.

In "The Large Print Giveth and the Small Print Taketh Away" department, Alfredo, HC1HC, set a new record in the SOAB-QRP category, but lost his old SO-20 record to KK9A at P40A. Dang!

## Exceptional Performances

Paul "The Energizer Bunny" Gentry, K9PG, continues to live in the #1 DX position, taking both modes SOAB-LP this year from WP3R where you may recall that Paul racked up both of the top scores in SOAB-HP last year.

No secret to regulars on the contest scene, Dan Handa, W7WA, is a formidable competitor in the single-band ranks. Low sunspots? No problem, Dan just pushes his 20 meter record up another 20 percent this year! (VE6WQ also pushed the VE 20 meter record by almost as much from the super VE6JY station.)

While New England isn't usually considered a tough spot for DX contesting, it can be in some categories and SOAB-QRP was that way this year. Yet Chris Merchant, KA1LMR, pushed a pair of multiband verticals and wire antennas to a score hard on the heels of perennial category champ, N4KG, less than 20 QSOs off the pace.

For sheer persistence, it's hard to beat Tim Duffy, K3LR, proprietor of one of the world's most capable stations. His crew works extremely hard to take advantage of every opportunity and this year they hit pay dirt with a convincing win over M/M arch-rivals KC1XX and W3LPL, leading all competitors in multipliers on four bands.

What is Jim Pratt, N6IG, doing at the #2 position with a record score, sandwiched in between K4XS (who also set another record this year) and WX4G? In fact, Jim is the only West Coast representative in the Top Ten of this Euro-dependent category.

From the Old Countries, congratulations

are due Jiri Sanda, OK1RI, who placed in the SOAB-HP Top Ten with over 50 percent more points than his closest European competitor.

There are many more exceptional efforts, of course. Read the Divisional Write-ups on the ARRLWeb for detailed information about the races in all of the North American divisions, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean and South America.

## US and VE Overview

In 2002, the money band was 10 meters, but the excitement has been steadily moving to lower and lower frequencies along with the solar flux.

DX contesting being the geography-dependent business that it is, some things are best shown on maps. Enter Ken Harker, WM5R. Ken has applied the US Census Bureau's on-line Tiger Map Server ([tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapsurfer](http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapsurfer)) to place US station information on a map of the contiguous 48 states.

Ken's maps make geographical trends and variations much clearer. Make sure to see Ken Harker's graphic representations in the web results.

## US-VE QRP

The field size fell from 53 entries in 2003 to just 39 in 2004—QRP is tough even in the best of times and the loss of 10 meters hurts QRPers the most. Nevertheless, Tom, N4KG, continues to place at the top. Chris, KA1LMR, roared up to chase Tom and placed a strong second. N8IE moved up to third this year, displacing N1TM to 5th with W0AH between them in 4th. No West Coast entries made the Top Ten last year at all, so a tip of the cap is due K7MM and W6AQ in sixth and seventh place, respectively.

## US-VE Low Power

Congratulations to Marv, N5AW, for his win from Texas in this highly competitive category. Marv traded QSO to-

## Top Ten

<b>W/VE</b>		W7AT (W7EW, op)	228,330	<b>Single Operator Assisted</b>	P40L (W6LD, op)	6,757,338	<b>15</b>	YU7AV	2,640
<b>Single Operator High Power</b>		AK2P (KC2LLM, op)	225,303	W2RE	3,948,930	6,757,338	PS2T (PY5EG, op)	RN6BN	1,680
VY2ZM	5,647,008	WW4R (K4WX, op)	217,536	K2XA	3,696,819	5,960,034	PT5A (PY2EMC, op)	EA1DVB	648
VE3EJ	4,572,756	W7UT	194,205	K3WW	3,283,344	5,812,992	GI0NWG	OM2VL	396
N9RV	4,295,280	W7EB	192,276	W2WB	2,492,625	4,696,704	GW4BLE	UT3SA	48
K4ZW	4,079,790			W2GD	2,362,572	4,670,325	LP0H	LY3ZM (LY1FK, op)	12
W9RE	3,833,925			K1AR	2,179,584	4,538,226	CS6T (CT1ILT, op)	LY2OU	12
VE3AT	3,526,551			N3OC	2,004,300	4,350,504			
AA1K	3,356,298			N2MM	1,960,956	3,150,504			
K3ZO	3,319,470			K9NW	1,932,336	2,712,060			
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	2,914,377			K0KX	1,738,335	1,913,994			
K3NA	2,914,128								
<b>Single Operator Low Power</b>				<b>Multioperator Single Transmitter</b>					
N5AW	1,029,231			K1IR	4,051,278				
N1UR	965,358			VE3RM	2,833,176				
N1SV	823,032			K0DU	2,238,000				
N4TZ	818,730			NE3F	2,167,011				
K51J	766,800			WW4LL	1,752,651				
W1JQ	704,472			W0ZT	1,656,495				
KG1E	694,035			N4BP	1,614,222				
N1PGA	692,124			NN2W	1,613,403				
N8WRL	687,192			WB1ADR	1,403,811				
K8IA	672,360			VE3RZ	1,267,110				
<b>Single Operator QRP</b>				<b>Multioperator Two Transmitters</b>					
N4KG	529,584			K4JA	8,245,080				
KA1LMR	424,032			N3RS	6,967,134				
N8IE	378,336			W4RM	3,700,584				
W0AH	267,036			NK7U	3,627,018				
N1TM	201,285			K0TV	3,474,048				
K7MM	130,476			K5NA	3,309,411				
W6AQ	111,321			K7ZSD	3,065,976				
WA8ZBT	96,159			VE1JF	3,061,320				
K4WY	92,856			W2XL	2,446,632				
K3TW	83,880			AA5NT	2,072,340				
<b>10</b>				<b>Multioperator Unlimited Transmitters</b>					
K5RX	36,192			K3LR	11,830,950				
K4WI	35,400			KC1XX	10,704,474				
W2KV	18,189			W3LPL	10,014,840				
K0RH	15,660			K9NS	8,904,870				
W7UPF	13,674			K1RX	6,324,624				
N6EE	12,852			KB1H	5,977,128				
K0GT	11,844			K1TTT	5,413,356				
AA1ZT	9,024			N3AD	5,089,188				
N6HC	7,029			W0AIH	3,316,104				
KC9AMM	6,390			W3PP	3,253,044				
<b>15</b>				<b>DX</b>					
N7DD	695,196			<b>Single Operator High Power</b>					
N4PN	618,636			8P1A (W2SC, op)	9,468,711				
KV0Q	484,956								
N3HBX	468,360								
WE2F	458,832								

tals for multipliers, leading the category in multipliers on 40 through 10 meters. N1UR moved way up this year—from seventh to second—and had the highest LP QSO total. New to the LP Top Ten this year are all five of the 6th through 10th place finishers: W1JQ, KG1E, N1PGA, N8WRL and K8IA.

### US-VE High Power

Who is that way in front, Lance Armstrong? No, but it looks like Jeff, K1ZM, in the guise of VY2ZM is going to make a run at Lance's record of wins. Jeff is going to be mighty tough to beat as he increased his score by 10 percent this year. Another Canadian station took the 2nd spot this year as John, VE3EJ, pushed his 2003 total almost 20 percent! There must have been something in the Indiana drinking water this year! N9RV and W9RE rocketed to 3rd and 5th this year from the flat farming country, bracketing K4ZW, a new call to the HP Top Ten this year.

### US-VE Assisted

As in the SOAB-HP category, the top scores improved slightly, despite the lack of 10 meter propagation. The term "packet" is really a misnomer in many areas of the world as packet radio clusters are replaced with packets on the 'net.

Congratulations to Ray, W2RE, for coming out on top of this tough category by just a few percentage points. Hotly pursued by Saul, K2XA, and Chas, K3WW, the Assisted category had the closest finish among the Top Ten this year. To give you an idea of how hard these guys were working, the top six HP stations (W2RE, K2XA, K3WW, W2WB, W2GD and K1AR) all logged DXCC on both 20 and 15 meters. K1LD was the runaway leader of the LP group, outdistancing N0FW and WA1Z who were quite close.

Don't forget—if you peek at the spots or your software monitors Internet spotting traffic, you're in the Assisted class. It's okay to send your own spots and chat, as long as you don't receive spots or information about the frequencies of other stations. "Running spots" is fun, but it's not fair to the Single-Op entrant who doesn't have the same advantage. Don't be a "packet poacher."

### US-VE Single-Band

As expected, the single-band log total increased to 199. The exodus from 10 meters is on and folks seem to be headed to 15, 20, and 40 meters. 20 meters had the biggest increase and is probably the most popular single-band category throughout the cycle, followed closely by

15 meters. I think 10 meters is the most fun when it's open, but it's not much fun to listen to receiver hiss in the off years. We haven't reached optimum conditions for 80 and 160 meters, but you'll see more logs on those bands in 2005 through 2007. The next few years will be a great opportunity to go after the low-band multipliers to round out a DXCC or add to your band-entirety totals.

**10 meters:** Without belaboring the obvious, 2004 was a very different contest than in previous years. Jim, K5RX, and Courtney, K4WI, did battle from the southern states of TX and AL to a nip-and-tuck finish with K5RX coming out on top 36 to 35 kpoints—a 2.2% difference. Stations farther north and west found the going pretty difficult.

**15 meters:** One of the most popular bands for DX-ing and contesting, 15 meters kept everyone busy with plenty of action and multipliers to hunt. Making a move from 40 meters last year, Larry, N7DD, picked up a convincing single-band win from AZ on 15 this year with 695 K, outdistancing N4PN's 615 K from NFL and KV0Q's 484 K from CO. There were seven DXCCs logged by the Top Ten—along with the top three finishers, hats off to N3HBX, WE2F, W7UT and N5TW in the hands of KC5YKX.

**20 meters:** Twenty is a band that's always there, year in and year out, to the point where we kind of take it for granted. Two in particular stand out this year: VE6JY (operated by Joel, VE6WQ) and Dan, W7WA. Not content to just win, Joel

### Records Set in 2004

Category	Call	District	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SOAB-HP	VE		VY2ZM	5,647,008	5,513,712	2000
SO-Assisted	0		K0KX	1,738,335	1,576,368	2000
SO-20	7		W7WA	767,016	577,866	2003
SO-20	VE		VE6WQ @VE6JY	933,525	715,428	1998
SO-40	4		K4XS	268,761	245,127	2000
SO-40	6		N6IG	207,603	164,016	1995

Category	Continent	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SOAB-LP	NA	K9PG @WP3R	6,028,056	6,011,520	1999
SOAB-QRP	SA	HC1HC	1,584,360	1,223,388	1993
SO-20	SA	KK9A @P40A	607,290	486,330	1988
SO-40	EU	F6CTT	257,220	240,096	1993
SO-Assisted	OC	KH6ND @KH6YY	6,205,416	1,078,680	1996

### Continental Leaders

#### Single Operator QRP

Asia	JA2MWV	10,815
Europe	F5BEG	156,375
North America	T15N (W8QZA, op)	1,246,050
South America	HD8A (HC1HC, op)	1,584,360

#### Single Operator Low

Africa	EA8/DJ1OJ	3,864
Asia	JM1LPN	207,090
Europe	EA7RM	799,920
North America	WP3R (K9PG, op)	6,028,056
Oceania	FK8HN	250,368
South America	HK3JJH	1,189,440

#### Single Operator High

Africa	CN2R (W7EJ, op)	5,960,034
Asia	JH4UYB	1,135,428
Europe	OK1RI	3,150,504
North America	8P1A (W2SC, op)	9,468,711
Oceania	VK4UC	413,478
South America	P40L (W6LD, op)	6,757,338

#### Single Band 160

Europe	CU2CE	23,760
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#### Single Band 80

Asia	RW0MM	2,565
Europe	GI0KOW	153,285
North America	CO8KA	135,240
Oceania	KH6QJ	105
South America	YV4BU	130,200

#### Single Band 40

Asia	JA8NFV	51,450
Europe	F6CTT	257,220
North America	KL7RA	134,406
Oceania	VK2KPP	116,280
South America	YW5NN (YV5NWG, op)	106,020

#### Single Band 20

Asia	EX2M	135,720
Europe	SO2R	507,408
North America	ZF2AH	612,684

Oceania	YB0ECT	23,436
South America	P40A (KK9A, op)	607,290

#### Single Band 15

Africa	EA8LS	215,586
Asia	JA7NVF	179,640
Europe	GI0NWG	387,180
North America	CO8ZZ	300,420
Oceania	KH6GMP	71,073
South America	PS2T (PY5EG, op)	490,296

#### Single Band 10

Asia	JH1OCC	90
Europe	CU2AF	5,922
North America	HP3XBS	309,024
South America	LT1F (LU1FAM, op)	446,220

#### Single Operator Assisted

Asia	UA0SE	39,432
Europe	DL1IAO	1,469,412
North America	KP4KE (DK8ZB, op)	4,896,774
Oceania	KH7X (KH6ND @KH6YY)	6,205,416
South America	LU1NDC	2,374,752

#### Multioperator Single Transmitter

Africa	EA8ZS	2,542,590
Asia	J12ZJS	642,003
Europe	IR4X	3,063,741
North America	VP5B	7,461,300
Oceania	DU9DWV	23,352
South America	PJ4G	7,313,220

#### Multioperator Two Transmitter

Asia	JA1YPA	27,081
Europe	HG6N	2,634,645
North America	V26DX	7,262,541
Oceania	AH6NF	23,520
South America	PJ2T	12,484,800

#### Multioperator Unlimited Transmitter

Asia	JA3YBK	1,331,190
Europe	9A1A	3,146,610
North America	VQ5A	10,867,860

## W/VE Single Operator Region Leaders

Tables list call sign, score and power (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power).

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 Sections)		
VY2ZM	5,647,008	C	K4ZW	4,079,790	C	VE3EJ	4,572,756	C	W0GG	893,700	C	K7RL	2,710,950	C
AA1K	3,356,298	C	WA4TII	982,800	C	N9RV	4,295,280	C	N0VD	755,580	C	W7GG	1,866,240	C
K3ZO	3,319,470	C	KZ2I	811,125	C	W9RE	3,833,925	C	KT0R	597,534	C	WA7LT	1,171,500	C
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)			N8II	756,750	C	VE3AT	3,526,551	C	W0BH	592,371	C	N6AA	1,047,360	C
	2,914,377	C	N4NW	714,063	C	VE3XN	1,082,880	C	K5XR (W5ASP, op)	302,679	C	K5RR	917,448	C
K3NA	2,914,128	C												
N1UR	965,358	B	N8WRL	687,192	B	N4TZ	818,730	B	N5AW	1,029,231	B	K8IA	672,360	B
N1SV	823,032	B	KC8FS	616,998	B	K8NVR	511,500	B	AC0W	660,600	B	N6NF	574,560	B
KS1J	766,800	B	N4IG	568,080	B	VE3CR	508,542	B	VE5SF	530,550	B	W7YAQ	400,020	B
W1JQ	704,472	B	WB3BEL	478,590	B	KD9MS	360,855	B	WD5K	508,254	B	VE7NS	377,058	B
KG1E	694,035	B	KT4Q	474,948	B	K9JE	320,742	B	KE5LQ	323,637	B	N6RV	352,152	B
KA1LMR	424,032	A	N4KG	529,584	A	N8IE	378,336	A	W0AH	267,036	A	K7MM	130,476	A
N1TM	201,285	A	K4WY	92,856	A	N8XA	57,960	A	WA8ZBT	96,159	A	W6AQ	111,321	A
K3TW	83,880	A	KR1ST	26,730	A	VA3JFF	20,520	A	N0UR	77,922	A	N6AZR	44,376	A
WB7OCV	17,136	A	WB6BWZ	25,833	A	K9WIS	7,920	A	KB0YH	40,194	A	N7IR	44,370	A
N2JNZ	10,335	A	KQ4YY	19,998	A	KT8K	6,552	A	WW0WB	25,086	A	WO7T	20,178	A

and Dan both pounded their old records silly, bagging 135 and 134 multipliers, respectively. Both stations are located well away from the traditional "sweet spots"—could it be that operator skill also has something to do with it?

**40 meters:** As noted in the "Exceptional Efforts" section, the SO-40 Top Ten leapt from coast to coast as Bill, K4XS, ran the table from the WCF section, followed by Jim, N6IG, from SV, and back to Bob, WX4G, in SFL. K4XS and N6IG both set new records for their call districts on 40 meters, an inkling of what's to come in future years. SO-40 log entries were up and I expect that trend to accelerate next year. All three of the top finishers either logged or flirted with a DXCC's worth of multipliers.

**80 meters and 160 meters:** It was a little surprising that 80 meter scores didn't take off this year, with what should have been better band conditions. As it was, Joe, AA1BU, pushed last year's total up a tad to 122 kpoints, 459 QSOs (29 fewer than last year), and a whopping 89 multipliers (6 more than last year) from WMA. Joe was followed by W4SVO in the SFL section. Two brave souls entered SO-80 running QRP (N8VW in OH) and LP (K2HT in MO)—way to scratch, fellas!

Last year's number two finisher in SO-80, Ted, KT1V, decided to punch the "1.8" button this year and led the pack in SO-160. He was hotly pursued by Leo, AA4MM, and Stan, KK4SI, both down in NFL. 160 Phone is tough in the best of years and we're still a year away from the best conditions.

### Multi-Operator Overview

What did I say last year? Something about team operating becoming more popu-

lar due to demographics (a kinder, gentler way of saying that we like to sleep), conditions, and better station design options. Well, it didn't play out that way in 2004 as multi-op entries dropped from 110 back to 84. The relative percentages of MM vs M2 vs MS did not change, however.

### Multi-Single

K1IR's crew can be proud of themselves this year with a FB score from EMA, more than one-third higher than 2nd place finisher VE3RM. Third-place went to K0DU out in CO, the most westerly of any MS Top Ten score.

### Multi-Two

This category turned into a slugfest between the two fine stations of Paul, K4JA, in VA and Sig, N3RS, a few miles north in EPA. Both were just a little off last year's pace. W4RM, another VA station, came in 3rd just ahead of NK7U's OR crew, moving up a place from last year. In fact, both West Coast entries in the Top Ten are from OR as Brad, K7ZSD's teams debuts in the box. VE1JF was another welcome presence for the MAR multiplier in eighth place.

### Multi-Multi

The usual suspects led the way in the Clash of the Titans category, with K3LR's crack team successfully shoveling their way to the #1 position just miles from the Ohio border in WPA over KC1XX in NH and W3LPL in MDC. Not nearly as close as last year, 'LR was about 10 percent better than 'XX and you can be sure Matt and Frank will be gearing up to take back the walnut in 2005.

K9NS in 4th place from IL was closer than ever to their East Coast rivals. A win

from the Land of Lincoln is not out of the question if the conditions are right, so watch your tails! W0AIH cracked the Top Ten from WI in ninth place and the remaining spots were all from the Atlantic seaboard or New England.

W1AW made an appearance in the MM category with Bob Heil, K9EID, and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and a number of ARRL staffers sharing a good time. No word on who had to cook the post-contest dinner in Newington!

### Affiliated Club Competition

You can really tell that the club contest chairs were working overtime this year. We had a new winner in every category.

At the top of the Unlimited list, Frankford Radio Club and Yankee Clipper Contest Club traded places from last year with an even closer finish. The 164 FRC scores held off the challenge from 231 YCCC entries by a whisker and take the gavel—only 1.9 percent separates these two vigorous, motivated clubs! Another club—Contest Club Ontario—made the leap to Unlimited from the Medium ranks after placing 3rd in the 2003 Medium category.

In the Medium category, what turmoil! The North Coast Contesters really turned it on this year and zoomed from 10th place to a gavel-grabbing 1st with a 45 percent margin and five fewer scores than the 2nd place Hudson Valley Contesters. Woof! Pretty convincing smackdown, NCC! The North Texas Contest Club also bulked up by 50 percent and leapfrogged to 4th place with the Tennessee Contest Group in 3rd.

More turnover awaits you in the Local category as the top four spots are all occupied by new names and the gavel was



Tom, W2SC, really dominated the HP category from 8P1A this year with a solid record-Megapoint victory that just missed record territory. John, W6LD, is new to the Top Ten this year, placing second from P4ØL. John was followed by the two Africans, Jim, W7EJ, as CN2R moved up from the LP category and Martti, EA8BH, in 3rd and 4th, respectively. Jiri, OK1RI, led all European HP entries, a long way from the sunny beaches in the Czech Republic—see the European analysis in the Divisional write-up sidebar on the Web for more about this score.

Other noteworthy scores in HP include KL1V's #13 finish from chilly Alaska, JH4UYB's top Asian score, and VK4UC leading the pack from Oceania.

**DX Assisted:** I already mentioned that Mike, KH6ND, walloped the old record and all competition using the call KH6X from KH7YY (got all that?). Quite an effort by Mike, don't you agree? I hope he's not getting blasé about his #1 streak, because he's fun to listen to on the air. If you're wondering how to improve your technique, listening to KH6ND run a pileup is a great place to start. This was the only category in which the winner was from Oceania.

In 2nd place, with an amazing LP effort, Barney, DK8ZB, operated as KP4KE and was the only LP effort in the Assisted Top Ten. Indeed, the next LP score is in 13th place! LU1NDC and PY2MNL at ZX2B dueled to 3rd and 4th places from SA only 200 QSOs and 6 multipliers apart. DL1IAO led the way from Europe.

## DX Single-Band

Single-band entries were up a bit, reversing last year's trend, 396 to 383. This is still down from 2002's 428, but is a sign that activity is holding steady, even with shorter openings to NA on the higher bands. The most popular band was 15 meters, just as in the US and VE, with 171 logs, followed by 20 meters with 112. 40 meters showed the biggest increase from last year's 16, tripling to 48 entries.

**10 meters:** Three familiar calls grace the 10 meter Top Ten, LT1F (op LU1FAM), ZY5G (op PP5WG), and PX2W (op PY2YU). Taking advantage of the almost exclusively north-south propagation on 10, these guys ran like the wind when the band was open, racking up some big QSO totals of 2479, 2291, and 1792 respectively. NA dented the listings in the form of HP3XBS, on the heels of PX2W, but just a little bit too far north this year. WP4EDD, LW3DX and PJ4/KG9QX submitted the top LP scores on 10 meters this year. KG9QX ran 5 W into a Hamstick on his rental car. FB work! EU and AS were under-represented and AF

was entirely absent this year.

**15 meters:** South America prevailed once again, but this time the competition was from Europe. Brazil was both 1st and 2nd on 15, with PY5EG winning from PS2T and PY2EMC right behind him from PT5A. PY5EG is obviously getting the bands warmed up for WRTC-2006! Both scores had identical multiplier totals (62), but Oms must have talked a little faster with 71 more QSOs. The UK was home to the next two entries by GIØNWG and GW4BLE to lead the way in Europe. A real dogfight followed between LPØH at #5 and CS6T (op CT1ILT) at #6, only 16 QSOs behind. The only NA entry in the Top Ten was CO8ZZ from Cuba. EA8LS was tops in Africa, JA7NVF in Asia, and VK3GK in Oceania. XE1KK was the QRP winner and CO8LY the LP titlist.

**20 meters:** Where did all those 10 meter stations from last year go? Many of them wound up on the Queen of the Bands, 20 meters where entries increased by 50 percent to 112. As mentioned earlier, ZF2AH's 77 extra QSOs more than made up for the single multiplier advantage of P4ØA, operated by KK9A, to eke out the narrow victory. Europe was represented by SO2R (the station, not the category) in 3rd place with twenty-seven hundred QSOs from Poland. The Top Ten finishers bounced between SA, NA and EU in roughly equal proportions, so the band was open widely this year. XE1L and PY2NY finished one-two running LP.

**40 meters:** Coming to life in a hurry, but still a tough place to do business, 40 meter phone was the domain of Europe. Operating split and sharing the band with multi-megawatt SWBC stations is no picnic, but F6CTT came out on top, pulling away from the pack. OE6Z (op OE6MBG) and S53M (op S55OO) battled to 2nd and 3rd place from the picturesque mountains of Central Europe. The lone NA occupant of the Top Ten was Rich, KL7RA, in his final operation from Fairbanks. Oceania appears in the #10 spot as VK2KPP. Low power scorers were led by CT3IA and CO2JD.

**80 meters and 160 meters:** You might think that proximity to NA is pretty much required for a top score on these tough two bands. You would be wrong. GIØKOW was top dog on 80 meters with a great effort, making nearly a thousand QSOs. CO8KD came in second, running LP, and YV4BU 3rd, but seven of the Top Ten are from Europe. All of the 160 meter entries are European, led by CU2CE from the Azores, the westernmost point of land considered European. RN6BN nearly doubled his QSO total of last year to 40 from the far eastern edge of Europe.

## DX Multioperator

**Multi-Single:** The first five finishers in this category were travelers, on a contesting vacation to the Caribbean or other warm water ports of call. VP5B prevailed (just barely) over PJ4B, trading propagation advantages on the low bands (VP5B) versus 10 meters (PJ4G) in a hotly contested victory. Dave, W6NL, and Barb, K6NL, Leeson traded their California mountaintop for one on the equator to place 3rd as HC8L on San Cristobal Island. IR4X was the top European entry and 6Y8Z cracked the Top Ten with low power to claim the 8th spot. African entry EA8ZS was 9th.

**Multi-Two and Multi-Multi:** The two-transmitter category heated up dramatically with FY5KE challenging PJ2T for bragging rights. They came close, but PJ2T prevailed, very nearly setting a new SA record in the bargain.

Multi-Multi remains a difficult challenge for traveling teams and so remains under-represented in the DX listings. The VQ5A team re-activated the old Kenyan colonial prefix and made some serious noise from the Turks and Caicos. V47KP was a welcome new entry to the MM category, finishing second, but equaling the VQ5A multiplier total—now for some QSOs! 9A1A and LZ9W club stations kept the bands hot from Europe and the JA3YBK team from Asia.

## Concluding Remarks

*"Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling."*—Margaret Lee Runbeck

I am always amazed at the breadth and variety of the submitted scores from all corners of this big round ball we play with called Earth. Even though the solar cycle is waning, you all found new ways to have fun, new bands that were open, and new challenges to overcome. That bodes well for contesting.

I'm sure that every contester can think of at least one ham—new or old—who would enjoy being invited over for a multi-op or being "given the keys" for a weekend. Don't complain about new blood if you haven't given any!

Until next year, I'll be spinning the globe, wondering where my signal will land and who will answer my "CQ Contest"!

QST

