

The 2005 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

There was good news and there was bad news...

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There was good news and bad news when December rolled around, and it was time to for the 2005 ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

The bad news is that yes, we are nearing the rock bottom of sunspot cycle 23. If you thought solar activity could not get much worse than it was for the 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, you were wrong. According to the NOAA's Space Environment Center, the observed number of sunspots in December 2004 was a paltry 34.7, with a solar flux index of 94.6. The projections for December 2005 came in at 21.5 for the sunspot index and a flux index of 84.2. These numbers might mean great conditions for those interested in working top-band, but they would pose strong challenges for what is one of the most popular amateur bands. It was obvious that Ol' Sol was not going to cooperate with the 10 meter enthusiasts who ventured onto the bands.

Just three years ago in 2002, a record 3120 entries were received by the ARRL for this contest — an all-time record number for any ARRL single-weekend contest. Declining propagation means reduced participation, and that means fewer entries. A total of 1941 entries arrived for 2005, and while that is only 60 percent of the 2002 total, it does represent a modest increase from the 1860 logs received in 2004.

Experienced operators will tell you that even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle there is still activity to be found and stations to be worked on the 10 meter band. The bands do open, though those openings will be shorter in duration. Worldwide propagation will probably not be enjoyed, even by those in locations nearer the equator, but you may well find propagation enhancements such as E-skip. Also, in reading some of the participants' comments, several noted completing QSOs via meteor scatter.

In lean propagation, one of the keys to success is paying attention. You need to check propagation on the band and be ready to go "full throttle" when it opens. Openings will tend to be shorter, so success will depend on being able to maximize your effort at the critical times. Included in the expanded Web presentation of these results are excellent contest "post mortems" from

two of the top stations. Be sure to check out the comments from Kelly Jones, NØVD, operator of VP5D (see lists.contesting.com/_3830/2005-12/msg00984.html), and how he handled encounters with "Murphy." The extensive analysis of Ken Harker, WM5R, who was guest operator at K5TR (see www.wm5r.org/contest/2005_arrrl10/), is an excellent look at successful operating planning and strategy. Being successful in a contest means approaching it with a well-thought-out strategy in place before you turn on the radio. Thanks to Kelly and Ken for sharing their experiences with us for the expanded Web write-up.

Individual Results

While propagation did not lend itself to



Bull, N4HX, was the operator at the 5U7JB station in Niger.

establishing any new overall scoring records, it did not mean that there were not good contests for top honors in many categories. A few category winners did distinguish themselves with solid wins, as well. But when looking through the Top 10 and Regional Leader boxes (both W/VE, DX and Continental), you will see proof that even though sunspots are low, the potential for radio fun was high.

W/VE Categories

The farther south in the US you ventured, the more likely you would be to make a Top 10 table. But winners in two of the Single Operator QRP categories hailed from more northern latitudes. Manny, **W2MF**, posted a win in the Phone Only QRP category from his station in New Jersey, while Chris, **K4ILMR**, brought home a Mixed Mode QRP victory from New Hampshire. Dale, **KG5U**, found the CW Only QRP top slot from Texas. Congratulations to these three for finding ways to be heard!

The Single Operator Low Power category contests were highlighted by a close race, a relative runaway victory and another win by someone widely considered to be one of the best in amateur radio contesting. Dick, **K9OM**, used a good location in Florida to hold off a strong challenge by Tom, **WD5K**, in Texas to claim top honors in the Mixed Mode field. Cort, **K4WI**, claimed first place in the Phone Only level with a substantial 64,000 point total more than runner-up Pat, **KE3WN**. In the CW Only category it was none other than three-time reigning WRTC champion Dan, **K1TO**, posting the top score.

Leading the way in Single Operator High Power Phone Only was Ken, **WM5R**, who piloted the great K5TR station to top hon-

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	7,823,334	95
Medium Category		
Florida Contest Group	7,584,162	49
Northern California Contest Club	4,299,480	43
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	2,628,560	10
South East Contest Club	2,510,642	18
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,405,984	37
Frankford Radio Club	2,206,968	14
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,985,110	33
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	1,711,556	32
Tennessee Contest Group	1,674,094	22
Contest Club Ontario	1,229,230	30
Southern California Contest Club	1,217,604	16
Mad River Radio Club	844,074	15
Western Washington DX Club	730,378	16
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	633,718	7
North Texas Contest Club	611,102	5
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	418,306	13
Kentucky Contest Group	395,772	6
Willamette Valley DX Club	383,926	5
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	221,044	6
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	191,316	4
Oklahoma DX Assn	190,404	3
Florida Contest Group - Panhandle	184,152	4
East Coast Canada Contest Club	158,192	3
Lincoln ARC	145,240	3
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	142,044	6
Northern Illinois DX Assn	123,144	3
Central Arizona DX Assn	111,634	3
West Allis RAC	94,162	6
BC DX Club	72,926	3
West Park Radiops	72,704	7
Bergen ARA	23,460	4
Six Meter Club of Chicago	21,460	4
Local Category		
Low Country Contest Club	705,752	9
Maritime Contest Club	456,472	6
Medina 2 Meter Group	254,464	6
Columbia-Montour ARC	111,538	3
Metro DX Club	86,838	3
Sussex County ARC	79,928	3
CT RI Contest Group	76,948	4
Athens County ARA	75,642	5
Hampden County Radio Assn	72,910	4
Dominion DX Group	32,596	4
Spokane DX Association	29,192	3

Top 10 W/VE

Mixed Mode, QRP

KA1LMR	96,264
WA8ZBT	90,138
W6YRA (WA6AYI, op)	
W5GZ	79,152
W3DF	62,608
K0HW	58,212
K3TW	48,248
ND0C	47,628
W0EB	27,694
K2EKM	26,752
	22,984

Mixed Mode, Low Power

K9OM	471,042
WD5K	428,922
K2PS	383,320
W4TAA	358,930
N7LOX	241,164
W4TV	235,950
W3AU (K4GKD, op)	
	209,790
AC0W	191,840
K0RC	179,220
AA6PW	178,534

Mixed Mode, High Power

N8II	777,212
K4XS	706,530
K5KG	599,452
WE3C	558,320
W0YK	537,320
K4EA	526,020
WN1GIV (N4BP, op)	
	503,500
WX5S(@N6RO)	
	486,534
N0AT	483,030
W5VX	476,868

Phone Only, QRP

W2MF	46,400
KR1ST	29,440
KG4IGC	17,680
W0PPF	15,402
KC8QAE	10,320
KC9AMM	9,906
N1BQ	8,640
K9DXR	6,678
WW0WB	5,402
VE7KET	5,312

Phone Only, Low Power

K4WI	156,600
KE3WM	92,752
N6IU	67,670
W8DD	65,268
W7UPF	48,576
AC5N	46,746
NV8N	42,904
W3ADC	41,216
KE2QI	39,886
K8NWD	38,430

Phone Only, High Power

K5TR (WM5R, op)	
	333,486
W5PR	289,198
W0SD	215,298
N2EOC	188,006
N3HBX	182,874
K8CC (N8NX, op)	
	175,932
AK2P	169,076
K7RL	144,832
N8RA	132,404
W7EB	128,612

CW Only, QRP

KG5U	105,072
W6QU (W8QZA, op)	
	49,980
N8AP	46,860
AA1CA	43,200
N0UR	37,228
N6WG	34,592
K4ORD	34,476
K7NM	25,900
K2SM	20,172
KEOL	17,272

CW Only, Low Power

K1TO	342,380
WD4AHZ	202,800
WB4TDH	201,872
N4ZI	189,088
WK2G	188,100
WO4O	173,664
K7SV	147,408
W3EP	145,704
N6JV	126,976
K4LTA	121,680

CW Only, High Power

K5NA	454,784
K4OJ (N4KM, op)	
	381,468
K1PT	363,096
N4WW (K8NZ, op)	
	362,544
N5DO	302,148
K9BGL	283,500
N6ZZ	276,696
WJ9B	267,520
K4SAV	265,200
W9WI	232,260

Multioperator

NX5M	945,120
W6YX	647,782
W4MYA	591,162
W5YAA	493,172
K4FJ	474,628
N4RV	460,174
K3DI	457,632
AA1JD	450,776
KR0B	425,340
N2RM	421,120

Top 10 DX

Mixed Mode, QRP

YV5YMA	26,010
RW3AI	9,648
PY2HL	7,560
IT9LNH	7,250
RW3LX	6,784
PY2NY	4,698
UT7GX	2,760
YO4AAC	1,738
RA0AY	1,632
YU1LM	1,512

Mixed Mode, Low Power

LT7W (LU5WW, op)	
	988,920
VP5D (N0VD, op)	
	574,830
LU2EE	411,008
EA8/DJ1OJ	163,014
TA2ZAF (OK1MU, op)	
	116,472
RX9WN	103,806
XE2TG	102,828
UN6P	100,080
UN6LN	67,990
XE3WAO	50,976

Mixed Mode, High Power

CX6VM	1,043,860
TI5N (N0KE, op)	
	770,408
PJ2T (WB9Z, op)	
	756,704
LU5EML	677,784
UA9SP	178,560
UX2IO	171,072
CE3BFZ	118,244
S57S	114,540
OH6NIO	106,704
UA9MA	77,440

Phone Only, QRP

LU1VK	55,650
LU5EVK	10,464
UA3BL	4,000
JH7RTQ	2,592
EA8AUW (EC8AUA, op)	
	2,400
I5KAP	2,394
DF1RK	1,720
RD4HD	1,504
HA1ZV	1,216
CT1ELF	782

Phone Only, Low Power

HI3CCP	214,656
AY8A (LU8ADX, op)	
	189,660
L44DX (LW1DTZ, op)	
	170,448
LU9DAG	158,574
6W1EA	107,322
HR2DMR	104,086
LR2D (LW7DUC, op)	
	95,000
EA8TX	87,318
CX9DX	83,284
LR1F (LU5FD, op)	
	82,476

Phone Only, High Power

LU1HF	395,460
LU4DX	319,700
P40K (K6KO, op)	
	311,688
5U7JB (N4HX, op)	
	256,932
LR4E (LW4EU, op)	
	205,260
ZF2AH	170,424
YV5AMH	170,400
KG4WW	155,550
8P6SH	118,456
FM5AN	109,560

CW Only, QRP

TI3TLS	72,716
PY1WX	33,480
YO8KOS	10,320
UA6LJC	9,408
LZ7H	8,320
UA9AFS	6,656
RW9SZ	5,280
XE1NK	3,276
RV3QX	2,964
UR5ZQV	2,240
G3YMC	2,240

CW Only, Low Power

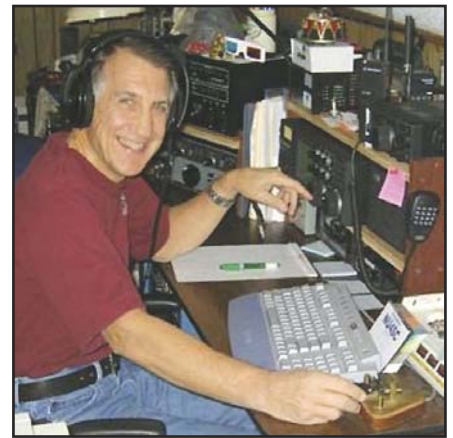
LU1EWL	232,900
CX4SS	159,084
ZL3TE (W3SE, op)	
	125,424
RU9WZ	77,760
HP1AC	72,352
ZL1BYZ	69,384
EA8CN	64,264
PY4CEL	60,264
EX2X	52,888
UA4AN	51,624

CW Only, High Power

LU6ETB (LW9DA, op)	
	509,328
ZL4BR	205,296
ZC4LI	187,712
XE1MM	145,176
VK4AN	108,128
RD3A (RD3AF, op)	
	86,400
9A8A	85,956
PY3AU	84,952
EA5YU	83,616
YZ9A (YU1AU, op)	
	72,276

Multioperator

CX5BW	1,421,248
ZX5J	1,349,500
EA8AH	885,778
LT2H	762,192
ZL6QH	564,972
LR5U	431,864
PZ5C	347,766
9H6A	288,420
CV5D	264,378
ZX3S	230,802



Mel, W4MEL, in the chair as the Low Country Contest Club, NU4SC, was put on the air for the first time. The LCCC claimed first place in the Affiliated Club Competition Local category.

interesting finishes. In the end, there were clear victors, but against stronger competition. LU5WW, using the call LT7W, held off good efforts from VP5D, operated by N0VD in the Mixed Mode category. HI3CCP had a tougher go of it against AY8A, operated by LU8ADX, but managed a 25k victory for top honors in Phone Only. The CW Only crown belongs to LU1EWL, holding off CX4SS by about 70,000 points.

The High Power categories produced the only single operator station who managed to post at least 1 million points either domestically or DX. Congratulations to CX6VM who posted a score of 1,043,860 in the Mixed Mode category. The Phone Only winner was LU1HF, holding off another Argentinean (LU4DX). Yet another LU took first place in the CW Only competition, and LW9DA took top honors operating as LU6ETB.

Perhaps the hardest fought head-to-head battle of the weekend was between CX5BW and ZX5J in the DX Multioperator category, with the crew in Uruguay finally emerging victorious over their Brazilian counterparts.

ARRL Affiliated Club Competition

One of the fun sidebars to the contest itself is the always-spirited ARRL Affiliated Club Competition. To be eligible to compete, a club must be a full ARRL Affiliated Club and current in its registration. DXpedition scores may not be included for a club in this contest, so it is purely the scores of those members operating from the club territory. Also to be eligible, there must be a minimum of three logs from any club to be part of the competition.

Congratulations are in order to the Low Country Contest Club of South Carolina, which is the winner of the Local Category competition. The Low Country Contest Club

ors, edging out another Texas star, Charles, W5PR. The CW-Only High Power winner was another familiar Texan, Richard, K5NA, who withstood a challenge from the Florida Contest Group club call, K4OJ, wielded by Kevin, N4KM. From the hills of West Virginia, Jeff, N8II, posted the highest W/VE single operator score in any category while taking first place in Mixed Mode High Power.

In the W/VE Multioperator category, NX5M led the way by a substantial margin over W6YX in second place and W4MYA in third. In reading the additional soapbox of many of the multioperator entries, it was nice to see many using this contest and category as a way to get some newer operators

on the air. What a great way to learn!

DX Categories

The QRP power categories did not yield any nail-biting finishes for the top spots but did show some close finishes in other spots in the Top 10 boxes. YV5YMA was the only entry above 10k in the Mixed Mode category and took top honors. In Argentina, LU1VK posted a commanding win in the Phone Only category with more than five times the score of second place. TI3TLS more than doubled the score of the runner-up to take first in the CW Only competition.

Low Power saw more entries and more competition off shore, making for more

