# The 2005 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

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

David Jones, K4DLJ

k4dlj@arrl.net

here 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.

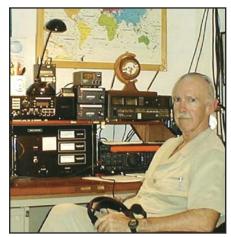
In lean propagation, one of the keys to success is paying attention. You need to check propagation on the band and be ready to go "full throttle" when it opens. Openings will tend to be shorter, so success will depend on being able to maximize your effort at the critical times. Included in the expanded 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\_arrl10/), is an excellent look at successful operating planning and strategy. Being successful in a contest means approaching it with a well-thoughtout 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

Affiliated Club Competition							
Unlimited Category	Score	Entries					
Potomac Valley Radio Club	7,823,334	95					
Medium Category							
Florida Contest Group Northern California Contest Club Central Texas DX and Contest Club South East Contest Club Minnesota Wireless Assn Frankford Radio Club Society of Midwest Contesters Yankee Clipper Contest Club Tennessee Contest Group Contest Club Ontario Southern California Contest Club Mad River Radio Club Western Washington DX Club Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado North Texas Contest Club Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers Kentucky Contest Group Willamette Valley DX Club Order of Boiled Owls of New York Mother Lode DX/Contest Club Oklahoma DX Assn Florida Contest Group - Panhandle East Coast Canada Contest Club Lincoln ARC Rochester (NY) DX Assn Northern Illinois DX Assn Central Arizona DX Assn Vest Allis RAC BC DX Club West Park Radiops Bergen ARA Six Meter Club of Chicago	7,584,162 4,299,480 2,628,560 2,510,642 2,405,984 2,206,968 1,985,110 1,711,556 1,674,094 1,229,230 1,217,604 844,074 730,378 633,718 611,102 383,926 221,044 191,316 190,404 184,152 158,192 145,240 142,044 123,144 111,634 94,162 72,926 72,704 23,460 21,460	49 43 18 37 14 33 32 22 30 16 15 17 5 13 6 6 5 6 4 4 3 3 3 6 3 3 6 3 6 3 7 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4					
Local Category							
Low Country Contest Club Maritime Contest Club Medina 2 Meter Group Columbia-Montour ARC Metro DX Club Sussex County ARC CT RI Contest Group Athens County ARA Hampden County Radio Assn Dominion DX Group Spokane DX Association	705,752 456,472 254,464 111,538 86,838 79,928 76,948 75,642 72,910 32,596 29,192	9 6 6 3 3 3 4 5 4 4 3					



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, **KA1LMR**, 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, **K90M**, 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-

Top 10 W/VE		Top 10 DX	
Mixed Mode, QRP	Phone Only, High Power	Mixed Mode, QRP	Phone Only, High Pov
KA1LMR 96,264	K5TR (WM5R, op)	YV5YMA 26.010	LU1HF 395,460
WA8ZBT 90,138	333,486	RW3AI 9,648	LU4DX 319,700
W6YRA (WA6AYI, op)	W5PR 289,198	PY2HL 7,560	P40K (K6KO, op)
79,152	WØSD 215,298	IT9LNH 7,250	311,688
W5GZ 62,608	N2EOC 188,006	RW3LX 6,784	5U7JB (N4HX, op)
VA3DF 58,212	N3HBX 182,874	PY2NY 4,698	256,932
KØHW 48,248	K8CC (N8NX, op)	UT7GX 2,760	LR4E (LW4EU, op)
K3TW 47,628	175,932	YO4AAC 1,738	205,260
NDØC 27,694	AK2P 169,076	RAØAY 1,632	ZF2AH 170,424
WØEB 26,752	K7RL 144,832	YU1LM 1,512	YV5AMH 170,400
K2EKM 22,984	N8RA 132,404	.,	KG4WW 155,550
,	W7EB 128,612	Mixed Mode, Low	8P6SH 118,456
Mixed Mode, Low Power		Power	FM5AN 109,560
K9OM 471,042	CW Only, QRP	LT7W (LU5WW, op)	
WD5K 428,922	KG5U 105,072	988,920	CW Only, QRP
K2PS 383,320	W6QU (W8QZA, op)	VP5D (NØVD, op)	TI3TLS 72,716
W4TAA 358,930	49,980	574,830	PY1WX 33,480
N7LOX 241,164	N8AP 46,860	LU2EE 411,008	YO8KOS 10,320
W4TV 235,950	AA1CA 43,200	EA8/DJ1OJ 163,014	UA6LCJ 9.408
W3AU (K4GKD, op)	NØUR 37,228	TA2ZAF (OK1MU, op)	LZ7H 8,320
209,790	N6WG 34,592	116,472	UA9AFS 6,656
ACØW 191,840	K4ORD 34,476	RX9WN 103,806	RW9SZ 5,280
KØRC 179,220	K7MM 25,900	XE2TG 102,828	XE1NK 3,276
AA6PW 178,534	K2SM 20,172	UN6P 100,080	RV3QX 2,964
	KEØL 17,272	UN6LN 67,990	UR5ZQV 2,240
Mixed Mode, High Power		XE3WAO 50,976	G3YMC 2,240
N8II 777,212	CW Only, Low Power		
K4XS 706,530	K1TO 342,380	Mixed Mode, High	CW Only, Low Power
K5KG 599,452	WD4AHZ 202,800	Power	LU1EWL 232,900
WE3C 558,320	WB4TDH 201,872	CX6VM 1,043,860	CX4SS 159,084
WØYK 537,320	N4ZI 189,088	TI5N (NØKE, op)	ZL3TE (W3SE, op)
K4EA 526,020	WK2G 188,100	770,408	125,424
WN1GIV (N4BP, op)	WO4O 173,664	PJ2T (WB9Z, op)	RU9WZ 77,760
503,500	K7SV 147,408	756,704	HP1AC 72,352
WX5S(@N6RO)	W3EP 145,704	LU5EML 677,784	ZL1BYZ 69,384
486,534	N6JV 126,976	UA9SP 178,560	EA8CN 64,264
NØAT 483,030	K4LTA 121,680	UX2IO 171,072	PY4CEL 60,264
W5VX 476,868	OW Only Illink Brown	CE3BFZ 118,244	EX2X 57,288
Dhana Only ODD	CW Only, High Power	S57S 114,540 OH6NIO 106,704	UA4AN 51,624
Phone Only, QRP	K5NA 454,784	UA9MA 77,440	OW 0-1- 11 P
W2MF 46,400	K4OJ (N4KM, op)	0A9IVIA 77,440	CW Only, High Power
KR1ST 29,440	381,468	Phone Only, QRP	LU6ETB (LW9DA, op)
KG4IGC 17,680 WØPPF 15,402	K1PT 363,096		509,328
	N4WW (K8NZ, op)	LU1VK 55,650 LU5EVK 10.464	ZL4BR 205,296
KC8QAE 10,320 KC9AMM 9,906	362,544 NEDO 303,148		ZC4LI 187,712
N1BQ 8,640	N5DO 302,148 K9BGL 283,500	UA3BL 4,000 JH7RTQ 2,592	XE1MM 145,176
K9DXR 6,678	N6ZZ 276,696	EA8AUW (EC8AUA, op)	VK4AN 108,128
WW0WB 5,402	WJ9B 267,520	2,400	RD3A (RD3AF, op) 86,640
VE7KET 5,312	K4SAV 265,200	I5KAP 2,394	9A8A 85,956
	W9WI 232,260	DF1RK 1.720	PY3AU 84,952
Phone Only, Low Power	,	RD4HD 1,504	EA5YU 83,616
K4WI 156,600	Multioperator	HA1ZV 1,216	YZ9A (YU1AU, op)
KE3WM 92,752	NX5M 945,120	CT1ELF 782	72,276
N6IIU 67,670	W6YX 647,782		, -
W8DD 65,268	W4MYA 591,162	Phone Only, Low	Multioperator
W7UPF 48,576	W5YAA 493,172	Power	CX5BW 1,421,248
AC5N 46,746	K4FJ 474,628	HI3CCP 214,656	ZX5J 1,349,500
NV8N 42,904	N4RV 460,174	AY8A (LU8ADX, op)	EA8AH 885,778
W3ADC 41,216	K3DI 457,632	189,660	LT2H 762,192
KE2OI 39,886	AA1JD 450,776	L44DX (LW1DTZ, op)	ZL6QH 564,972
K8NWD 38,430	KRØB 425,340	170,448	LR5U 431,864
	N2RM 421,120	LU9DAG 158,574	PZ5C 347,766
		6W1EA 107,322	9H6A 288,420
		HR2DMR 104,086	CV5D 264,378
		LR2D (LW7DUC, op)	ZX3S 230,802
		95,000	
		EA8TX 87,318	
		CX9DX 83,284	
		LR1F (LU5FD, op)	
		82,476	

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



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 NØVD 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

Boxes list Callsi	gn, Score, Cla	ss (A = Mixed		only, C = CW only, D = Multiope			1/0 /////
Northeast Regi (New England, Atlantic Divisio and Quebec Se KA1LMR 9 K3TW 4 KO1H 4 W2DSX 4 K2PS 38 N2EK 8 WA3IIA 7 W1BYH 6 KK1W 66 W53C 55 K1KI 38 K3VOA (K4ZW, 35 K3VOA (K4ZW, 48 W3ADC 4 WB0WG K2TGW 4 WB0WG 8 KE3WM 9 WB0WG KE3WM 9 W3ADC 3	gn, Score, Clar on Hudson and ons; Maritime octions) 6,264 A A 7,628 A A 9,600 A A 1,248 A A 1,250 A C 1,520 A C 1,520 A C 1,520 A C 1,520 B A 2,484 B A 2,484 B A 2,484 B A 2,482 B B 1,520 B B B	Ü	Mode, B = Phone 24,190 B B C 90,534 B C 46,508 B C 28,512 B C 19,716 B C 19,716 B C 34,476 C A 17,020 C A 11,556 C A 9,792 C A 9,792 C A 342,380 C B 201,872 C B 189,088 C B 201,872 C B 189,088 C B 201,872 C B 189,088 C B 363,096 C C	only, C = CW only, D = Multioped  Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)  WA8ZBT 90,138 A A WSGZ 62,608 A A A WSGZ 62,608 A A A ND0C 27,694 A A ND0C 27,694 A A W0EB 26,752 A B COW 191,840 A B COW 191,840 A B COW 191,840 A B COW 191,840 A B COW 140,802 A B COW 140,803 A C CWSVX 476,868 A C W0BH 370,432 A C WSVX 476,868 A C W0BH 370,432 A C WSVX 476,868 A C W0BH 370,432 A C WOPPF 15,402 B A WWOWB 5,402 B A WWOWB 5,402 B A WWOWB 15,402 B A KI4LZK 126 B A KI4LZK 126 B A AC5M 46,746 B B AG0M 37,856 B B KSHUT 30,576 B B KSHUT 30,576 B B KMOPCK 29,052 B B	rator), and Power (A = QRP, B : K7PRW 31,058 B KH6GMP 13,770 B B K7RL 144,832 B C W7EB 128,612 B C K6HNZ 124,944 B C W6SR 35,208 B C W6OU (W8OZA, op) 49,980 C A K7MM 25,900 C A K7MM 25,900 C A K7MM 25,900 C A K7MM 25,900 C A K7TQ 8,372 C A K7TQ 8,372 C C B W6SC 15,088 C A K7TQ 8,372 C B W6SC 15,088 C C C K7BG 17,328 C B KA7T 77,380 C C C K7BG 103,224 C C C W6YX 647,782 D K6RIM 335,296 C C W6YX 647,782 D W7RN 161,964 D W6OAT 143,948 D	UA9AOL 31,080 C B VUZBGS 29,328 C B ZC4LI 187,712 C C VRZBG 52,452 C C JF1SQC 26,040 C C UA9KM 13,572 C C UA9KM 5,800 D JA1XRH 4,576 D Europe  RW3AI 9,648 A A IT9LNH 7,250 A A A UT7GX 2,760 A A B UR4MRD 47,120 A B SQ4MP 40,040 A B EA7KJ 35,112 A B UA3ABJ 31,008 A B RUGLG 27,270 A B UX2IO 171,072 A C S57S 114,540 A C C GD6NIO 16,704 A C	KG4WW 155,550 B C 8P6SH 118,456 B C FM5AN 109,560 B C H79BS 52,900 B C T13TLS 72,716 C A KE1NK 3,276 C A H71AC 72,352 C B XE1MM 145,176 C C XE2AC 138,200 D  Ceania  VK6DU 36,888 A B DV3ZOR 340 A B DV3ZOR 340 A B CL1ANH 5,016 A C ZL1ANH 720 A C DV1JM 1,924 B B DW3XER 136 B B VK4VCC 48 B B CVK4CZ 25,688 B C VK2GWK 19,440 B C VK4CZ 25,688 B C VK2GWK 19,440 B C VK4CZ 25,688 B C VK4TT 152,424 C B ZL1BYZ 69,384 C B ZL1BYZ 69,384 C B ZL1BYZ 69,384 C B ZL1BYZ 69,384 C B ZL2DF 3,960 C B
W3ARS 2 N2EOC 18 N3HBX 18 N3HBX 18 N3HBX 18 N3HBX 18 NSRA 13 W3LL 11 AA1CA 4 K2SM 2 AE3J 1 KD2MX 11 W3EP 14 NS3T 1 W3CB 6 KC2TA 4 K3MQ 3 N2NT 20 W1QK 11 N3UM 15 K2FU 12 KW2J 11 K3DI 45 AA1JD 45 N2RM	e and		Great Lakes Ontario Section)  58,212 A A 9,156 A A 6,258 A A 4,3726 A A 108,288 A B 74,152 A B 67,768 A B 57,876 A B 441,600 A C 394,404 A C 272,288 A C 10,320 B A 6,678 B A 1,804 B A 1,610 B A 65,268 B B 38,430 B B 38,430 B B 33,535 B B	WAMPGK	Africa  EA8/DJ10J 163,014 A B ST2T (S57CQ, op) 6,156 A B 6,156 A B EA8AUW (EC8AUA, op)  6W1EA 107,322 B B EA9GW 8,370 B B 5U7JB (N4HX, op)  256,932 B C S9SS 31,668 B C CS5NK 7,488 B C CEA8CN 64,264 C B ZS4JAN 11,008 C B EA8NQ 3,192 C B EA8AH 885,778 D VQ9X 8,514 D  Asia  RA0AY 1,632 A A JK12VC 558 A A JH0QYS J664 A A JK2VOC 558 A A JH0QYS J16472 A B RX9WN 103,806 A B B A STAT COLUMN 101,001 T 16,472 A B RX9WN 103,806 A B	RABDB 52,440 A B C LASBL 4,000 B C A LASBL 4,720 B C A LASBL 4,720 B C A LASBL 4,720 C B	ZLABR 205,296 C C VK4AN 108,128 C C VK7GN 5,200 C C ZL6QH 564,972 D ZL1AA 23,660 D South America  YV5YMA 26,010 A A PY2HL 7,560 A A PY2HL 7,560 A A PY2HL 7,560 A A PY2HC 41,008 A E PY2XC 44,550 A E PY2XC 44,550 A E PY2XT 43,200 A E CX6VM 1,043,860 A C PJ2T (WB9Z, op)  756,704 A C C3BFZ 118,244 A C C3BFZ
K2EKM 2 WA4PGM 1 W4DEC K4UK AC2N K9OM 47 W4TAA 35 W3TV 20 KA0GGI 13 N8II 77 K4XS 70 K5KG 58 K4EA 52 WN1GIV (N4BF KG4IGC 1 KC4ATU K4WI 15 N4XML 3 WA8QYJ 3	2,984 A A 8,590 A A 6,6300 A A 4,544 A A 960 A A 1,042 A B 18,930 A B 15,950 A B 0p) 9,790 A B 5,176 A B C 16,530 A C 19,452 A C 16,630 A C 16,630 A C	KE9S W9NY KC9HVB AC8G N8AP N8XA K9JU N8WS N9SV K9QVB VA3DX WD9DZV VE3DZ WA8RCN K9BGL K8AJS W9RE K0SN W9SE N4GN KY1V N2BJ K5ZG W8FT	96,792 B C 75,336 B C 75,336 B C 44,484 B C 46,860 C A 8,112 C A 924 C A 512 C B 90,048 C B 90,048 C B 90,048 C C 160,632 C C 160,632 C C 125,440 C C 79,104 C C 337,412 D 331,320 D 182,784 D 127,488 D 81,104 D	West Coast region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)  W6YRA (WA6AYI, op) 79,152 A A KE6CC 10,320 A A VE7NI 9,336 A A A K7ABV 6,980 A A K7ABV 252 A A NZLOX 241,164 A B AA6PW 178,534 A B W6KK 142,296 A B WN6K 131,600 A B KX1G 100,152 A B WN9K 537,320 A C WX5S( @ NGRO)  WX5S( @ NGRO)	UNGP 100,080 A B RA9MX 50,160 A B RA9MX 50,160 A B UA9SP 178,560 A C UA9MA 77,440 A C UA9QA 71,672 A C RA0AA 55,680 A C UA9MA 56,680 B B C UA9MA 56,680 B B C UA9MA 56,680 B B C UA9MA 56,680 B C UA9MA 56,666 C A UA9MA 57,760 C B EX2M 57,288 C B	72,276 C C YU2A 64,512 C C 9H6A 288,420 D UU5A 112,140 D OK7M 104,690 D S51DX 98,334 D UU9A 89,930 D  North America VP5D (N0VD, op) 574,830 A B XE2TG 102,828 A B XE2TG 102,828 A B XE2MA 50,976 A B XE2AUB 8,208 A B C6ALH (WJ7R, op) 3,888 A B TISN (N0KE, op) 770,408 A C HI3CCP 214,656 B B HRZDMR 104,086 B B NP2KW 76,180 B B NP2KW 76,180 B B XE1L 65,964 B C	LR2D (LW7DUC, op) 95,000 B B CX9DX 83,284 B B LU1HF 395,460 B C LU4DX 319,700 B C P40K (K6KO, op) 311,688 B LR4E (LW4EU, op) 205,260 B C YV5AMH 170,400 B C PY1WX 33,480 C C LU1EWL 232,900 C E CX4SS 159,084 C E PY40CEL 60,264 C E PY8MGB 46,400 C E PY1MK 30,400 C E LU6ETB (LW9DA, op) 509,328 C C CX5BW 1,421,248 D CX5J 1,349,500 D LT2H 725C 347,766 D

is only about a year old and this is its first win in any category in any ARRL Contest. Way to go, gang!

While the **Potomac Valley Radio Club** was the only entry in the Unlimited Category, and thus the winner, its score of 7.8 megs would have been hard for any group to top. In the Medium Club category, the everpresent force of the **Florida Contest Group** posted 40 logs for a total score of 7.5 megs to

take first place. Over 600 logs were received from entries claiming one of the eligible clubs — about 30 percent of all entries.

As we said at the beginning, there is good news and there is bad news. Looking forward to the 2006 contest, the bad news is that the solar cycle should be right at the very bottom. In fact, 5.1 sunspot prediction and flux index of 69.6 for December 2006 is the *very* lowest of the current projections. The good

news is that we as we hit rock bottom, there is nowhere to go but up. So as you plan for the 2006 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, make sure to do some planning to do the little things that may help maximize your score. Remember, 10 meters will be open at times during the contest — just not as long or for as wide an area as you may hope. Maybe this is your to make your own "good news" and plan a successful operation. Good luck!