

2006 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

The mystique of Top Band can be irresistible!

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This was my first time on 160 meters! To get on this contest, I was one of those guys crazy enough to whip something together the night before. I managed to get a 140 foot wire 20 feet vertically up into a tree. The rest of the antenna shoots over the second story of the house and ends about 20 feet up in a tree in the front yard by the curb. — Wayne Wagner, AA9DY

So I could operate the ARRL 160 meter contest, I designed a simple base loaded 31 foot vertical wire. This is supported by a 33 foot fiberglass pop-up mast that I strap (and duct tape) to a wooden post that is part of our small deck. I pop up the mast when it gets dark and take it down in the morning when the sun comes up. We have restrictions on antennas, and this antenna lets me operate my favorite contest. — Don Kirk, WD8DSB

Talk about enthusiasm! Wayne and Don were just two of 1053 entries by hams who could not resist the lure of the challenging and enigmatic 160 meter band. That's 3 percent more than 2005 and 10 percent higher than two years ago. While this may be expected at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, more hams are discovering 160 meters each year, and activity in this contest should remain high even after sunspots start to increase again.

Top 10 Highlights

The QRP winner was VY2ZM, with Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, at the helm of his impressive Prince Edward Island station. The result is a new QRP record, more than double the score of the previous record. Down in the "Lower 48," "Mike" Michael, W3TS, captured second place with a personal best, topping his own EPA section record. The best score from Out West was submitted by Gary Hembree, N7IR, capturing the fifth place spot from AZ.

In the popular Low Power category (482 entries), Fred Helwig, K8FH, in Ohio came out on top by a decisive margin, followed by KØSF in Minnesota (operated by Jim Lageson, NØUR). Julius Fazekas, N2WN, in Tennessee captured the third spot. Not far behind in fourth place was the farthest-west of the Top 10, Gene Shea, KB7Q, operating portable in the snowy (and quiet) Montana mountains.

Tom Rauch, W8JI, led the always-competitive High Power category using South East Contest Club's W4AN club call

at his Georgia station. John Sluymmer, VE3EJ, also used a special call sign, CG3EJ, to place second from Ontario. Farther west in Illinois, John Battin, K9DX, snagged third place from



COURTESY GENE SHEA, KB7Q

Gene Shea, KB7Q, hauled his radio, generators and a tank of helium up to his Montana mountain cabin near Yellowstone Park for the 2006 ARRL 160 Meter Contest.

Top 10

Single Operator QRP

VY2ZM	199,662
W3TS	75,584
N8BB	55,974
W8VK	55,556
N7IR	54,936
KØPK	46,020
W4TMR	35,807
WA2RZJ	34,574
KA1LMR	34,370
K4ORD	27,293

Single Operator, Low Power

K8FH	204,510
KØSF	171,040
(NØUR op)	
N2WN	168,345
KB7Q	161,622
NØPF	144,924
WA4PGM	142,560
WØ4O	131,784
K9OT	128,000
K1PX	127,156
NØAT	121,212

Single Operator, High Power

W4AN	443,016
(W8JI op)	
CG3EJ	360,009
K9DX	331,436
K3ZM	310,750
K5NA	310,692
W5MX	304,290
WE3C	298,430
WØSD	262,105
K9AY	250,700
K5BG	250,610

Multioperator

W2GD	429,641
W4MYA	394,247
NO2R	361,364
AA1K	350,980
K1LT	333,888
NØNI	319,800
W9AZ	282,999
K1TTT	276,134
KVØQ	266,538
KE9I	260,728

Top DX Scores

Single Operator QRP

JH4UYB	18
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Single Operator, Low Power

HI3A	100,196
C6AAQ	81,834
(ND3F op)	
HKØGU	30,798
(DL7VOG op)	
PS7DX	6,724
JE1SPY	1,892
HP3XUG	1,488

Single Operator, High Power

PJ2T	179,102
(K8ND op)	

Single Operator, High Power

P4ØTA	83,638
(K6TA op)	
GIØKOW	38,272
(GIØNWG op)	
ZF2AH	31,464
F6CWN	23,782
(F6FGZ op)	
IK1YDB	6084
JH2FXK	5916

Multioperator

OM3GI	9,828
LY2IJ	9,112
ES5Q	8,784
JA3YBK	7,920
IQ2CJ	4,032
UU7J	3,968

his well-appointed station. The next four places were very close, with the scores of Peter Briggs, K3ZM; Richard King, K5NA; Bryan Bydal, W5MX, and John Rodgers, WE3C, having a spread of just 2 percent.

The multi-operator teams always seem to enjoy working together to find every possible QSO and multiplier, whether as a close-knit group, or one operator connected with his or her colleagues via a spotting network. The W2GD gang had a convincing victory this year, once again operating portable from their coastal New Jersey site. They were followed by a strong second place effort at W4MYA. The highest score away from East Coast allowed the team at NØNI in Iowa to finish in sixth place. In Colorado, Bill Johnson, KVØQ, and friends made the Top 10 list with a ninth place finish.

Although personal objectives, such as helping WAS totals, are often the goal of DX participants, a notable few make serious efforts. Their hard work and operating skill provides a new multiplier for many competitors, including low power and QRP stations. PJ2T, operated by Jeff Maass, K8ND, was

Affiliated Club Competition

Score Entries

Unlimited

Potomac Valley Radio Club	4,742,793	75
Society of Midwest Contesters	4,231,162	58
Minnesota Wireless Assn	3,019,700	59

Medium

Frankford Radio Club	2,939,387	31
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	2,120,456	43
Tennessee Contest Group	2,011,258	26
South East Contest Club	1,708,003	18
Northern California Contest Club	1,468,075	44
Contest Club Ontario	1,265,308	27
Mad River Radio Club	1,096,199	15
Hudson Valley Contesters	820,279	11
Florida Contest Group	660,620	14
Western Washington DX Club	455,736	12

Local

North Texas Contest Club	524,226	3
Grand Mesa Contesters of	437,551	10
Central Texas DX and Contest	411,409	7
Kansas City DX Club	401,218	5
Medina 2 Meter Group	359,980	5
Alabama Contest Group	353,362	8
Carolina DX Assn	303,156	5
Spokane DX Assn	298,016	3
North Coast Contesters	280,730	5
Southern California Contest	272,091	9
Western New York DX Assn	242,765	5
West Park Radioops	155,319	8
Order of Boiled Owls	134,892	3
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	116,975	3
Motor City Radio Club	98,191	3
Kentucky Contest Group	98,040	4
Central Arizona DX Assn	95,034	3
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	49,168	3
Dominion DX Group	23,982	3
CTRI Contest Group	14,676	3
Florida Contest Group	8,197	3

Regional Leaders

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	199,662	783	107	A	W4TMR	35,807	292	61	A	N8BB	55,974	492	57	A	K0PK	46,020	354	65	A	N7IR	54,936	372	72	A
W3TS	75,584	590	64	A	K4ORD	27,293	277	49	A	W8VK	55,556	413	68	A	N2AWE	20,935	210	53	A	N6WG	15,795	206	39	A
WA2RZJ	34,574	293	59	A	KW4JS	23,058	215	54	A	AD9T	22,086	206	54	A	K0HW	18,540	215	45	A	K6EI	12,580	185	34	A
KA1LMR	34,370	240	70	A	KC4AUF	14,952	194	42	A	KM4CH	19,680	213	48	A	WORSP	18,048	190	48	A	K7TQ	7,980	117	35	A
KR2Q	25,032	302	42	A	K4UK	14,274	184	39	A	K8LN	19,350	194	50	A	W5ESE	13,489	144	47	A	NU7T	5,368	124	22	A
K1PX	127,156	752	83	B	N2WN	168,345	949	87	B	K8FH	204,510	1190	85	B	K0SF	171,040	1070	80	B	KB7Q	161,622	976	82	B
N1RL	97,736	629	76	B	WA4PGM	142,560	881	80	B	K9OT	128,000	796	80	B	N0FP	144,924	925	78	B	NT6K	109,109	703	77	B
N2ZX	91,104	617	73	B	WO4O	131,784	869	76	B	K8BL	113,600	706	80	B	N0AT	121,212	779	78	B	W7RH	99,630	572	82	B
K1EP	89,217	640	69	B	KA9EKJ	104,335	693	77	B	NE9U	110,475	739	75	B	K7RE	121,044	795	77	B	W7DX	96,876	587	81	B
K3WI	79,127	586	67	B	KA4CNW	88,844	570	76	B	K2AAW	109,964	753	74	B	K0TT	111,496	722	77	B	N6RK	93,210	560	78	B
WE3C	298,430	1239	110	C	W4AN	443,016	1535	126	C	CG3EJ	360,009	1434	117	C	K5NA	310,692	1410	102	C	K7RL	160,440	903	84	C
W3BGN	250,496	1129	103	C	K3ZM	310,750	1249	113	C	K9DX	331,436	1643	98	C	W0SD	262,105	1444	89	C	K7BG	153,633	884	83	C
N3KS	248,574	1129	102	C	W5ZN	227,240	1214	92	C	W5MX	304,290	1397	105	C	K5BG	250,610	1259	95	C	WA7LT	150,360	858	84	C
VE2TZT	206,024	1109	91	C	N4XD	206,415	1013	99	C	K9AY	250,700	1341	92	C	K5TR	200,187	1119	87	C	AC6DD	139,635	716	87	C
W3GH	183,825	940	95	C	AF4OX	197,695	1011	95	C	AD8P	245,716	1276	94	C	N0TT	199,070	1156	85	C	VE7CC	137,531	765	83	C
W2GD	429,641	1491	127	D	W4MYA	394,247	1528	119	D	K1LT	333,888	1427	111	D	N0NI	319,800	1539	100	D	N7PG	191,610	1015	90	D
NO2R	361,364	1268	122	D	N4PN	258,774	1204	102	D	W9AZ	282,999	1509	93	D	KV0Q	266,538	1351	93	D	N6DZ	147,552	769	87	D
AA1K	350,980	1425	115	D	W0UCE	246,089	1238	97	D	KE9I	260,728	1401	92	D	W5TM	222,390	1213	90	D	K7OX	128,000	771	80	D
K1TTT	276,134	1313	101	D	K1ZZI	229,710	1182	95	D	W0AIH	236,918	1325	89	D	W0GG	153,804	909	84	D	N6RO	94,405	576	79	D
K3WW	257,050	1139	106	D	WD5R	202,952	1086	92	D	W8MJ	231,768	1319	87	D	KD0S	130,240	806	80	D	W9NGA	84,864	474	78	D

Division Leaders

Single Operator QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	75,584
Central	AD9T	22,086
Dakota	K0PK	46,020
Delta	KW4JS	23,058
Great Lakes	N8BB	55,974
Hudson	KR2Q	25,032
Midwest	N2AWE	20,935
New England	KA1LMR	34,370
Northwestern	K7TQ	7,980
Pacific	N6WG	15,795
Roanoke	W4TMR	35,807
Rocky Mountain	W5GZ	10,332
Southeastern	N4YQ	3,900
Southwestern	N7IR	54,936
West Gulf	W5ESE	13,489
Canada	VY2ZM	199,662

Single Operator Low Power

Atlantic	K3WI	79,127
Central	K9OT	128,000
Dakota	K0SF	171,040
Delta	N2WN	168,345
Great Lakes	K8FH	204,510
Hudson	N2ZX	91,104
Midwest	N0PB	76,425
New England	K1PX	127,156
Northwestern	KB7Q	161,622
Pacific	NT6K	109,109
Roanoke	WA4PGM	142,560
Rocky Mountain	W0ETT	69,692
Southeastern	KA9EKJ	104,335
Southwestern	W7RH	99,630
West Gulf	W0UO	101,752
Canada	VE5UF	110,160

Single Operator High Power

Atlantic	WE3C	298,430
Central	K9DX	331,436
Dakota	W0SD	262,105
Delta	W5ZN	227,240
Great Lakes	W5MX	304,290
Hudson	K2XA	131,120
Midwest	N0TT	199,070
New England	W1SJ	141,988
Northwestern	K7RL	160,440
Pacific	W7DR	95,840
Roanoke	K3ZM	310,750
Rocky Mountain	W6PU	144,222
Southeastern	W4AN	443,016
Southwestern	AC6DD	139,635
West Gulf	K5NA	310,692
Canada	CG3EJ	360,009

Multioperator

Atlantic	W2GD	429,641
Central	W9AZ	282,999
Dakota	KD0S	130,240
Delta	WD5R	202,952
Great Lakes	K1LT	333,888
Hudson	NO2R	361,364
Midwest	N0NI	319,800
New England	K1TTT	276,134
Northwestern	K7OX	128,000
Pacific	N6DZ	147,552
Roanoke	W4MYA	394,247
Rocky Mountain	KV0Q	266,538
Southeastern	N4PN	258,774
Southwestern	N7PG	191,610
West Gulf	W5TM	222,390
Canada	VE2OJ	131,377

the top scoring DX station, while low power entry Julio Henriquez, HI3A, was next best, ahead of fellow low power competitor, C6AQQ, operated by Brian Skutt, ND3F. GI0KOW, piloted by Andrew Williamson, GI0NWG, topped all European entries, giving 376 US/VE stations the Northern Ireland multiplier. P40TA, operated by Ken Anderson, K6TA, was tops from South America, while ZL6QH, operated by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club, fought poor conditions and noise to make 15 QSOs, the best from Oceania. Multi-op JA3YBK, followed by single-op Shigeru Tsukeshiba, JH2FXK, were the top scorers from Asia, where 22 entries nearly matched the 27 logs submitted from Europe.

Geographical Notes

Analyzing the results provides some insight into the dynamics of Top Band conditions and activity. In the High Power category, only three of the Top 10 can be considered East Coast stations; five were in the Central Time Zone. The Low Power category had the same general pattern, with four representatives from the Upper Midwest, and fourth place achieved from Montana.

At first glance, the QRP results look skewed to the East, but that is probably related to activity more than anything else. After all, fifth place finisher N7IR, was the farthest-west station to make any of the Top 10 lists. It is probably fair to say that the

multi-op results did favor the eastern US and its shorter path to European QSOs and multipliers, but the Top 10 also includes strong efforts from the central part of the country.

The strong performances by many stations in the eastern and central parts of the US can be credited to the high level of activity in that area of the country. Sections with the most entries were Eastern Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ontario, Tennessee and Virginia. That's a lot of easy contacts if you are within a one-hop distance.

As a single band contest, the pool of available QSOs is steadily drained by well-equipped stations and competitive operators. Having lots of stations on the air keeps everyone busy for a longer time, even in years when conditions may not be the best.

Another contributor to this contest's appeal is its combination of US/VE and DX participation. The availability of DX contacts and multipliers is often considered a "bonus" enjoyed mainly by big stations and those with advantageous locations near the Atlantic Ocean. Although conditions in the 2006 contest were not spectacular, propagation was good enough to reach inland fairly well. Seventeen stations collected 100 multipliers or more. Richard King, K5NA, in Texas and multi-op N0NI in Iowa were part of that elite club. While the others were all in the Eastern Time Zone, not all were near the coast, such as Victor Kean, K1LT, in Ohio and Bryan Bydal, W5MX, in Kentucky.

Finally, if you were not a participant in the 2006 ARRL 160 Meter Contest, join the fun later this year (November 30-December 2). If you need help, these clubs and the many individual hams who enjoy Top Band are ready and willing to lend a hand! 