

2006 ARRL International DX CW Contest Results

It was one of those years...

Scott Robbins, W4PA

ARRL DX CW 2006 turned out to be one of those years — one of those years when it seems like the sunspots are never going to return. One of those years when the top 10 meter W/VE single band entrant made 47 QSOs and the top W/VE Multi-Multi made only 53 on 10 meters. One of those years when the Caribbean and Central America DXpeditioners had to rack up 10 meter contacts from a single 3 hour Sunday band opening — an opening some of them didn't hear much of at all. One of those years when the multiplier totals for the low bands skyrocketed. Krassy, K1LZ, nearly logged DXCC as an 80 meter single band entry; Paul, N4PN, had an amazing 75 multipliers on 160 meters en route to posting the highest USA score ever recorded on Top Band, and numerous stations scored DXCC in 48 hours on the low cycle workhorse bands of 14 and 7 MHz.

Yet even in those years, we have surprises. For the first time in 14 years, the W/VE High Power category was won by a station outside the northeastern part of North America. The DX High Power category featured entrants from five different continents making the top 10. The W/VE Multi-Multi category was won for the first time by a station that had tried for many years. DX QRP featured a close race for the top spot between two Europeans that was decided by multiplier count on 160 meters

Twelve US call area records, mostly in single band categories on 1.8 and 3.5 MHz,



Lucky 13. After 12 years of trying the K3LR team broke through to win the W/VE Multi-Multi category in attempt #13.

were broken including three that dated all the way back to 1985. Three continental records in single band categories were set from the DX side.

The close finishes, naturally, are always the ones that keep contesting interesting each year. The closest of all of them for this year's running turned out to be W/VE Single Band 20 meters with a less than 4 QSO margin out of 1600+ making the difference in determining a winner. ARRL DX CW 2006 also featured a squeeze in the W/VE High Power, W/VE Multi-Multi, DX QRP and DX Multi-Multi categories.

W/VE QRP

"This is a recording..." The 2005 results for the W/VE QRP category led off with the observation that the top 10 was geographically diverse topped with a category win by Bob, K3PH, and top 10 streaks going back several years by Doug, W9WI, and Gary, N7IR. This year was much the same — six US call areas and VE3 made the top 10 box

and Bob racked up his second consecutive win with 906 QSOs and 252 multipliers for 689,936 points. Second and third places were the aforementioned W9WI (TN) and N7IR (AZ), who continued top 10 QRP runs of five years and nine years respectively.

W/VE Low Power

This was Ed Sawyer's, N1UR, year — at last — in the competitive W/VE Low Power category. After three consecutive top 5 finishes, including two #2's, he held off everyone to finally take a win at the 100 W level. Ed's score of 2,242,314 put him just ahead of Larry, K7SV (VA), with 2,121,714 points.

W/VE High Power

Here is a trivia question for you: the last W/VE High Power win from outside Atlantic, Canada or New England was by whom, and when? Stumped? Has anyone ever won from outside the Northeast?

The answer is yes, someone has. W/VE High Power #1 for 2006 goes to Indiana's

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)					
N2NT	4,635,210	C	W4RX	3,175,326	C	N9RV	4,714,356	C	K0SR	1,669,161	C	K7GK	1,423,896	C			
K3CR	4,462,128	C	(K0DQ, op)		VE3DZ	3,209,856	C	W5KFT	1,567,947	C	N6AA	928,140	C	N6AA	928,140	C	
(LZ4AX, op)			N2YO	2,916,114	C	VC3A	3,107,160	C	(K5P1, op)			K4XU	803,910	C	K4XU	803,910	C
AA1K	4,035,045	C	K0EJ	2,393,574	C	(VE3AT, op)			K5GN	1,157,580	C	K6TA	579,510	C	K6TA	579,510	C
VY2TT	3,198,555	C	WJ9B	1,765,962	C	VE3EJ	2,909,475	C	N6ZZ	847,341	C	W6UM	503,037	C	W6UM	503,037	C
(K6LA, op)			W5WUMU	1,754,271	C	(K8PO, op)			NN7ZZ	717,912	C						
K3ZO	3,165,855	C			K8GL	1,707,660	C	(N5LZ, op)									
N1UR	2,242,314	B	K7SV	2,121,714	B	VE3JM	971,208	B	N5AW	1,586,610	B	K8IA	750,600	B	K8IA	750,600	B
W3EF	1,783,818	B	N4ZR	1,549,392	B	VE3XB	905,343	B	W0UO	984,285	B	VE7XF	332,400	B	VE7XF	332,400	B
K2PS	1,503,360	B	N4YDU	1,456,752	B	K9QVB	650,748	B	WD5K	695,115	B	VA7ST	289,710	B	VA7ST	289,710	B
W1JQ	1,006,722	B	K1TO	1,267,110	B	KV8Q	561,411	B	N5DO	643,008	B	N7ZG	203,202	B	N7ZG	203,202	B
VO1HP	800,961	B	K1PT	1,263,879	B	K8IR	520,902	B	K0FX	440,748	B	W3CP	187,704	B	W3CP	187,704	B
K3PH	684,936	A	W9WI	376,593	A	VA3DF	272,130	A	N0UR	144,744	A	N7IR	298,704	A	N7IR	298,704	A
KO1H	155,694	A	WA4PGM	217,854	A	WB8RTJ	121,380	A	WA8ZBT	135,405	A	W6JTI	260,850	A	W6JTI	260,850	A
K3TW	149,688	A	K4CIA	161,184	A	WA8REI	62,130	A	W5KDJ	98,679	A	VE6EX	77,292	A	VE6EX	77,292	A
K3IU	139,104	A	NU4B	80,565	A	K0CD	47,256	A	W5ESE	55,212	A	K7MM	57,915	A	K7MM	57,915	A
VE1AI	115,101	A	K2EKM	77,220	A	W8VE	46,500	A	K10G	40,500	A	N6WG	57,312	A	N6WG	57,312	A

Continental Leaders

Category	Call	Score	Category	Call	Score
Africa			North America		
Single Operator High	6V6U (K3IPK, op)	3,607,200	Single Operator High	8P9PA (W4PA, op)	5,247,648
Single Operator Low	EA8CN	633,864	Single Operator Low	FG/N0YY	3,233,196
Single Operator 40 Only	7X0RY	147,744	Single Operator QRP	C6ASB (AK0M, op)	18,408
Single Operator 20 Only	EA8AVK	67,893	Single Operator Assisted	V26G (N2ED, op)	3,590,568
Single Operator 15 Only	EA8/OH6CS	174,348	Single Operator 160 Only	C6AHR (N8PR, op)	127,971
Asia			Single Operator 80 Only	ZF2NT	225,504
Single Operator High	JH4UYB	994,497	Single Operator 40 Only	ZF1A (W5ASP, op)	322,317
Single Operator Low	JA2AXB	132,762	Single Operator 20 Only	XE1CT	105,600
Single Operator QRP	JR4DAH	54,492	Single Operator 15 Only	KP3/N2BA	275,589
Single Operator Assisted	H2E	50,049	Multioperator Single	HQ9H	4,313,190
Single Operator 160 Only	JA5BJC	5,742	Multioperator Two	T15N	7,687,953
Single Operator 80 Only	JA6GCE	21,798	Multioperator Multi	J7OJ	7,177,740
Single Operator 40 Only	4Z5J (UT5UDX, op)	124,902	Oceania		
Single Operator 20 Only	JH7XMO	139,878	Single Operator High	KH6WT (K1YR, op)	2,976,120
Single Operator 15 Only	JA7NVF	81,243	Single Operator Low	V7/K7ZZ	717,336
Multioperator Single	JA2ZJW	948,096	Single Operator QRP	AH7ZA (W8QZA, op)	192,060
Multioperator Multi	JE1ZWT	1,200,000	Single Operator Assisted	ZL1BYZ	246,510
Europe			Single Operator 40 Only	KH6NF (KH6SH, op)	77,700
Single Operator High	CU2A (OH2UA, op)	3,961,653	Single Operator 20 Only	KH6WW (N6XG, op)	65,121
Single Operator Low	F6HKA	833,760	Multioperator Single	ZM1A	1,380,456
Single Operator QRP	OM7DX	223,938	South America		
Single Operator Assisted	DK3GI	1,471,023	Single Operator High	P40W (W2GD, op)	4,907,025
Single Operator 160 Only	IS0/K7QB	46,464	Single Operator Low	P49Y (AE6Y, op)	4,173,144
Single Operator 80 Only	G0IVZ	145,638	Single Operator QRP	YV5YMA	166,656
Single Operator 40 Only	IO3P (IZ3EYZ, op)	211,584	Single Operator Assisted	HK1AR (YL2KL, op)	3,480,162
Single Operator 20 Only	OH8X (OH6UM, op)	331,818	Single Operator 80 Only	4M5Y (YV50HW, op)	174,348
Single Operator 15 Only	T96Q	120,900	Single Operator 40 Only	PX8C	185,535
Multioperator Single	F6KHM	2,628,723	Single Operator 20 Only	P40G (I2UIY, op)	356,832
Multioperator Two	CU7/DL5AXX	4,790,760	Single Operator 15 Only	PY1KN	220,896
Multioperator Multi	9A15DX	3,135,492	Single Operator 10 Only	LU7HN	85,383
			Multioperator Single	PJ4R	5,105,100
			Multioperator Multi	PJ2T	7,391,184

Pat, N9RV. Pat edged out second place finisher Andrew, N2NT (NNJ) by a thin margin of 4,714,356 to Andy's 4,635,210.

Trivia answer: Jeff, N5TJ (then KR0Y), won W/VE High Power from WM5G in 1992.

W/VE Single Op Assisted

The W/VE Single Op, Assisted category was again topped by two contest operators who have dominated this category going back for more than 15 years.

It was Rick, KI1G (RI), notching his second consecutive victory for Single Op, Assisted and his seventh win overall in the category with 3816 QSOs and 473 multipliers for 5,414,904 points. In second place was Chas, K3WW (EPA), himself a previous five-time SOA winner, with 3368 QSOs, 462 multipliers and 4,668,048 points. K3WW has finished either #1 or #2 SOA in ARRL DX CW in every running of the contest since 1993.

W/VE Single Band

When the sunspots are low, the low band conditions go "high." Call area records in W3, W4, W5, W8, W9 and W0 were eclipsed in the 160 meter Single Band category, including some of the oldest records on the ARRL DX CW books.

Finishing #1 with the new W4 call area record and the highest USA score ever posted on 160 (VY2ZM is the current overall record holder) was Paul, N4PN (GA) who combined 360 QSOs with 75 multipliers for a top total of 81,000 points.

Krassy, K1LZ, nearly scored DXCC in one weekend on 80 meters en route to a W/VE

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
W/VE Single Operator High Power	N9RV	Frankford Radio Club
W/VE Single Operator QRP	K3PH	Tod Olson, K0TO
W/VE Single Operator Assisted	K11G	Harold Ritchey, W3WPG Memorial
W/VE Multioperator Single Transmitter	K5ZD	Northern Illinois DX Association
W/VE Multioperator Unlimited Transmitter	K3LR	Southeastern DX and Contest Organization
W/VE Multioperator Two Transmitter	N3RS	Hal Kennedy, N4GG
W/VE 1.8 MHz	N4PN	Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z
W/VE 3.5 MHz	K1LZ	SM3DMP
W/VE 7 MHz	N2MF	Northern Arizona DX Association
W/VE 14 MHz	NY3A	The QSLMAN — W4MPY
W/VE 21 MHz	K5TR	Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
W/VE 28 MHz	K7AO	Green River Valley (IL) ARS, K9WM
World Single Operator High Power	8P9PA (W4PA, op)	North Jersey DX Association
World Single Operator Low Power	P49Y (AE6Y, op)	Jim Stevens, K4MA
World Single Operator Assisted	V26G (N2ED, op)	Willamette Valley DX Club
World 7 MHz	ZF1A (W5ASP, op)	Dayton Amateur Radio Association
World Multioperator Single Transmitter	PJ4R	DX Publishing, N4AA
World Multioperator Two Transmitters	T15N	Tom DeMeiss, K2TD Memorial
World Multioperator Unlimited	PJ2T	H. Stephen Miller N0SM
World 1.8 MHz	C6AHR (N8PR, op)	Fred Race, W8FR, In Memory of DL1FF
World 14 MHz	P40G (I2UIY, op)	Jeff Hartley, N8II
World 21 MHz	KP3/N2BA	Caribbean Contesting Consortium - PJ2T
World 28 MHz	LU7HN	Fort Wayne DX Association
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	N6EM	Central California DX Club, Inc
Canada Single Operator Low Power	VE3JM	Contest Club Ontario
Seventh Call Area All Band	K7GK	Willamette Valley DX Club
Asia Single Operator High Power	JH4UYB	Alamo DX Amigos
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter	JA2ZJW	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
Europe Multioperator Two Transmitter	CU7/DL5AXX	Jim George, N3BB
North America Single Operator High Power	8P9PA (W4PA, op)	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Japan Single Operator Low Power	JH4UYB	Western Washington DX Club
Central Division Single Operator High Power	N9RV	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Single Operator Low Power	K9QVB	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Multioperator Single Transmitter	K9NR	Society of Midwest Contesters

Single Band #1 finish with 1090 QSOs and 96 multipliers for a total score of 313,920.

In keeping with our theme of single band #1 finishers breaking call area records, it was Brian, N2MF (WNY), taking away the 1991 W2 call area record of K1ZM/2 while topping the 40 meter Single Band category with an impressive 414,336 points.

Wait... I'll let you guess — the top finisher in the 20 meter Single Band category also broke their call area record, correct? Yes, and not only did Steve, NY3A (EPA), set the W3 call area record, he raced Steve, K4EU to the closest finish of 2006 with only a handful of contacts separating their scores of 548,790

and 547,725 points respectively. K4EU was slightly ahead on QSOs at 1675 to 1663, but NY3A's one extra multiplier made up the difference. With NY3A's +1 multiplier total, 4 QSOs added for 'EU or lost for NY3A would have meant the difference for the top spot.

George, K5 "Texas Radio" (STX) is our 15 meter W/VE top finisher for 2006. It seems 606 QSOs and 103 multipliers on a relatively poor band were good enough to beat out #2 entrant Steve, K4FJ (VA), who had 505/91 for 137,865 points.

Ten meters at this point in time is a matter of waiting it out for the small band openings to the Caribbean and South America and

Top Ten

US	15	Single Operator Assisted	DX	15	160
Single Operator HIGH POWER	K5TR 187,254 K4FJ 137,865 K4OAOQ 133,056 W6YA 108,540 K6XX 99,066 KC7V 92,394 WB4TDH 77,760 WA7LT 71,928 KR2AA 40,950 N7BV 32,832	K1G 5,414,904 K3WW 4,668,048 K2NG 3,814,548 AA3B 3,738,264 W2UP 3,647,592 KF3B 3,588,312 NN3W 2,795,196 W3FV 2,660,559 WE3C 2,568,852 N1IW 2,485,125 KQ3F 2,302,560	Single Operator HIGH POWER 8P9PA (W4PA, op) 5,247,648 P40W (W2GD, op) 4,907,025 V31PP (OH2PM, op) 4,588,500 HI3TEJ (K7BV, op) 4,563,348 CU2A (OH2UA, op) 3,961,653 6V6U (K3IPK, op) 3,607,200 EA8ZS (DL6RAI, op) 3,405,546 WP2Z (K3MD, op) 3,281,124 KH6WT (K1YR, op) 2,976,120 OK1RF 2,538,306	KP3/N2BA 275,589 PY1KN 220,896 EA8/OH6CS 174,348 LW5EE 129,276 T96Q 120,900 OM7JG 95,904 JA7NVF 81,243 S52ZW 78,255 4N1SM 77,748 7K4XNN 75,600	C6AHR (N8PR, op) 127,971 V31YN 96,444 KV4FZ 93,786 CM6RCR 65,505 IS0/K7QB 46,464 OM3GI 42,120 KL7RA 39,396 SP3KEY (SP3RBR, op) 36,138 YU7AV 35,520 DJ0MADR 35,112
K3ZO 3,175,326 VC3A (VE3AT, op) 3,165,855 K1ZZ 3,107,160 3,103,290	20 NY3A 548,790 K4EU 547,725 W1MU 454,530 VE6BF (@ VE6JY) 396,300 N4ZZ 394,956 N9CO 394,680 N7DD 361,035 N9CK 332,175 W7WA 310,854 W8CZLN 256,152	Multioperator Single Transmitter K5ZD 5,556,243 W3BGN 4,848,003 KT3Y 4,458,264 K8AZ 4,389,720 K2QMF 3,622,164 K9NR 2,681,244 W0UCE 2,434,617 K9SD 2,116,800 NE3F 2,051,280 WN9O 1,559,763	Single Operator LOW POWER P49Y (AE6Y, op) 4,173,144 FG/N0YY 3,233,196 FS5UQ (K3LP, op) 3,229,200 VP9/W6PH 3,007,485 WP3C 2,917,956 VP5/WJ2O 2,488,593 VP9/K9CC 1,964,820 PJ7/ND5S 1,900,944 LU7EE 909,792 F6HKA 833,760	20 P40G (I2UIY, op) 356,832 OH8X (OH6UM, op) 331,818 M7Z (G3VHB, op) 284,262 G3TXF 262,914 IU9S (IT9BLB, op) 241,512 G3AB 241,428 OH8L (OH8LQ, op) 234,702 HA3UU 231,420 IU3X (IV3SKB, op) 225,144 OH6AC (OH6CS, op) 218,892	Single Operator Assisted V26G (N2ED, op) 3,590,568 HK1AR (YL2KL, op) 3,480,162 DK3GI 1,471,023 OE4EMS (OE1EMS, op) 1,421,244 LY8O 786,048 HB9CVQ 644,412 OH6NIO 566,865 YL7X (YL2LY, op) 536,976 SP1NY 517,440 IK3SCB 479,808
Single Operator LOW POWER N1UR 2,242,314 K7SV 2,121,714 W3EF 1,783,818 N5AW 1,586,610 N4ZR 1,549,392 K2PS 1,503,360 N4YDU 1,456,752 K1TO 1,267,110 K1PT 1,263,879 W1JQ 1,006,722	40 N2MF 414,336 N2IC 306,384 K7RL 183,255 NN5K 159,705 K6KM (WX5S, op) 130,380 K4GMH 103,500 VE6WQ (@ VE6JY) 97,266 WF3J 82,080 N4NX 79,032 W7DX (K7WA, op) 71,604	Multioperator Two Transmitters N3RS 8,037,234 K1KI 7,171,398 NY4A 6,948,030 K1IR 6,266,949 W4RM 5,227,950 K0TV 4,744,320 N4RV 4,234,923 N0NI 4,056,651 AA4HP 3,551,499 W2XL 3,494,976	Single Operator QRP OM7DX 223,938 HB9BMY 218,988 OK7CM 205,530 AH7ZA (W8QZA, op) 192,060 YV5YMA 166,656 LU5FZ 153,153 ON6NL 152,280 LZ2RS 137,376 EA7AAW 109,800 UT2UZ 81,468	40 ZF1A (W5ASP, op) 322,317 C6AKQ (N4BP, op) 310,458 IO3P (IZ3EYZ, op) 211,584 IY4W (IK4ZGO, op) 206,538 SN2B (SP2FAX, op) 195,402 OM2VL 192,930 YU1LA 191,688 SQ6Z (SP7NJX, op) 188,100 PX8C 185,535 HB9FAP 185,220	Multioperator Single Transmitter PJ4R 5,105,100 HQ9H 4,313,190 V31TP 4,001,637 PS2T 3,458,637 LR2F 3,186,000 F6KHM 2,628,723 IR2C 2,230,560 IR4M 2,226,546 EA5RS 2,174,130 HG1S 1,889,784
Single Operator QRP K3PH 684,936 W9WI 376,593 N7IR 298,704 VA3DF 272,130 W6JTI 260,850 WA4PGM 217,854 K4CIA 161,184 KO1H 155,694 K3TW 149,688 N0UR 144,744	80 K1LZ 313,920 NN1N 231,528 W5ZN 90,300 K4DLJ 85,644 K1PQS 68,634 K1GU 67,890 N2WN 55,626 K6OY 54,531 K3JGJ 47,712 W4VQ 40,896	Multioperator Unlimited Transmitters K3LR 10,314,948 W3LPL 10,151,280 KC1XX 9,309,468 K1XM 9,063,873 W2FU 7,591,266 NQ4I 7,143,657 K1RX 7,002,000 K1TTT 6,656,760 K5GO 5,899,275 KB1H 5,077,020	10 LU7HN 85,383 LW2DX 30,915 HC1HC 14,070 PY2XC 1,548	80 ZF2NT 225,504 C6APG (K4PG, op) 203,580 4M5Y (YV5OHV, op) 174,348 G0IVZ 145,638 SN7Q 116,220 CO6LPB 115,020 HB9CIP 114,741 M5A 112,302 HG8DX (HA8DU, op) 105,723 HA3O (HA3MY, op) 105,300	Multioperator Two Transmitters TI5N 7,687,953 TO9A 4,982,472 CU7/DL5AXX4,790,760 VP2MVX 3,325,608 9A7A 2,798,730 OM7M 2,670,750 HG6N 2,397,492 ES5Q 1,501,500 KL7DX 1,435,188 OH4A 1,005,708
10 K7AO 3,525 N0VD 1,824 K4WI 936 WB2AMU 432 KV6K 216	160 N4PN 81,000 W4ZV 75,189 N2EE (K3BU, op) 65,700 KT1V 56,940 K9DX 39,168 WF2W 34,782 W3GH 32,178 K5NA 24,012 W8RT 23,010 W2VO 17,496 K0LW (KU1CW, op) 17,496				Multioperator Unlimited Transmitters PJ2T 7,391,184 J7OJ 7,177,740 9A15DX 3,135,492 DR1A 2,889,000 RK2FWA 2,083,128 YR7M 1,478,256 JE1ZWT 1,200,000

then working anything that can be heard when the opportunity arises. A win is a win regardless of circumstances and our top two entrants on 10 meters were Ken, K7AO, with 47 QSOs, and Kelly, N0VD, with 32.

WVE Multioperator Categories

Trey, N5KO, found himself in Boston on a business trip during ARRL DX CW weekend and got together with Randy, K5ZD, to run a two operator Multi-Single effort at K5ZD, resulting in a category win with 5,556,243 points. Randy and his station in Western Massachusetts were also winners of the M/S category back in 1998.

Finishing second was 2005 Multi-Single winner Steve, W3BGN (EPA), plus Peter, NO2R, and Thomas, K2TW, with 3431 QSOs for 4,848,003 points. Philip, KT3Y

(VA), Thomas, and K8AZ (OH), also broke the 4 million point level to finish third and fourth respectively.

The top two spots in the 2005 running for the Multioperator Two Transmitter category flipped positions in 2006. Sig's crew of himself, K9RS, N2SR, N3ED, N3NA, N3RD and W8FJ operated N3RS (EPA) to a victory margin of nearly 1 million points over 2005 victor Tom, K1KI (CT - K1KI, W1RM, KM1P, K2KQ, ops). Putting in a strong challenge for the third slot only 3 percent behind K1KI was North Carolina's NY4A (K2AV, N4AF, W2CS, K4QPL ops).

Top Multi-Two finisher from outside the East Coast was Iowa's Tony, N0NI (N0NI, N0AC, NU0Q, WO0V, W0FLS, N0AV, ops).

There are three perennial first, second

and third place finishers in the WVE Multi-Multi category in recent years: Frank, W3LPL, Matt, KC1XX, and Tim, K3LR. Each has won their share of contests over the years, but until this year a win in the ARRL DX CW Multi-Multi category had eluded K3LR (WPA). Twelve years of Multi-Multi DX CW entries, 12 "wait 'til next year!" cries from Tim, undoubtedly smiling the entire time. Putting together an all-star operating crew of K1EA, K3UA, K8CX, N2NC, KL9A, K1AR, W2RQ, VE3NE, VE3EY, N3GJ, W2AU plus himself, the wood will hit the wall in Tim's basement when the plaque arrives for this first win in his 13th try, narrowly edging out second place finisher W3LPL (MD) and 3rd place KC1XX (NH) for the win. Fantastic!

DX QRP

Three European operators battled it out for the top spot in the DX QRP category with Stefan, OM7DX, scoring 223,938 points on 522 QSOs to edge out second place finisher Peter, HB9BMY, by a margin of less than 5,000 points. HB9BMY was leading on QSOs but OM7DX's extra multipliers were enough for the win. 160 meters turned out to be the deciding factor for the top spot. HB9BMY had no Top Band QSOs, but OM7DX was able to squeeze out 6 multipliers there, which turned out to be the victory margin; without those multipliers, HB9BMY would have been the winner in the category.

DX Low Power

It's all about numbers. 100 W...4241 QSOs...328 multipliers...four trips to Aruba in four consecutive years for ARRL DX CW. One category win! This turned out to be the year Andy, AE6Y, had been waiting for as he operated P49Y to a #1 finish in the DX Low Power category, breezing past Richard, FG/NØYY, FS5UQ (David, K3LP, op) and 2005 Low Power winner Kurt, VP9/W6PH. The second and third place positions for FG/NØYY and FS5UQ were separated by a mere 10th of a percentage point.

DX High Power

In contrast with past years when the top finishers were often a string of North and South American stations in the Caribbean, the 2006 DX High Power top 10 was represented by entrants from five of the 6 continents.

Scott, W4PA, continued his even-numbered year luck in ARRL DX CW. After winning W/VE High Power from K5ZD in 2002 and 2004, he traveled to Barbados for 2006 to record his first DX High Power win operating as 8P9PA with 5206 QSOs and 336 multipliers for a total score of 5,247,648.

Finishing a strong second from Aruba was CQ Contest Hall of Fame member John, W2GD, who operated P4ØW to the tune of 4825 QSOs, 339 multipliers and 4,907,025 points.

DX Single Op Assisted

Ed, N2ED, is back on top of the DX Single Operator, Assisted category. He operated V26G to victory in the category in both 2002 and 2003, setting the SOA category record en route to the '03 win. The record subsequently passed to KH7X (KH6ND, op) in 2004, and then to 9Y4W (Girt, YL2KL, op) in 2005 with Ed finishing #2 both of those years plus taking the SOA North American record in 2005.

Neither his 2005 continental nor the overall record was topped (given the sunspot cycle, not surprisingly), but Ed has again placed #1 from V26G with a fine effort of 3694/324 for

3,590,568 points. In second place was current SOA record holder Girt, YL2KL, who operated HK1AR from Colombia to a line score of 3854/301 for 3,480,162 points.

DX Single Band

Last year's DX low band theme was "March on Bahamaland," as stations operating from C6A took the top spots on 160, 80 and 40 meters. This year would probably be best expressed as "March on Bahamaland — a couple of steps behind the Caymans..."

Top spot on Top Band was taken by Peter, N8PR, operating from the Bahamas as C6AHR, racking up 723 QSOs plus 59 multipliers for a decisive win at 127,921 points. Second place went to Gerd, V31YN, at 96,444 and third to Herb, KV4FZ, with 93,786.

Stations in the Cayman Islands took the top spots on both 80 and 40 meters with Bahamian stations at #2 on both bands. On 80 meters, it was Bruce, ZF2NT, operating from his self-built shack on Little Cayman, who took the top spot with 1296/58 for 225,504 points. Right on his heels was 2005 80 meter winner C6APG (Kevin, K4PG, op) with 1170/58 for 310,458. Forty meters was led by Joe, W5ASP, at ZF1A with 1821/59 for 322,317, just ahead of 2005 40 meter winner Bob, N4BP, at C6AKQ with 1754/59 and 310,458 points.

Continental records for South America and Europe respectively were set by the #1 and #2 finishers on 20 meters. It was Paolo, I2UIY, operating from Aruba as P4ØG and breaking the 2000 QSO mark to take the top spot and the new South American continental record. The 2005 20 meter winner Pasi, OH6UM, operated OH8X to a strong second place finish with 331,818 points and the new European 20 meter record.

Brooke, N2BA, has the (dubious?) distinction of the longest call sign used in a 2006 category victory, taking the top spot on 15 meters from Puerto Rico as KP3/N2BA with 1557 QSOs and a total score of 275,589. Second place on 15 went to Marcelo, PY1KN, with 220,896.

Ten meters was won by Rene, LU7HN, who had 537 QSOs. Not a bad total at all considering the band was open only for brief stretches on both days of the contest.

DX Multioperator Categories

A game of musical chairs (pun intended) was in place for top finishers in the DX Multioperator Single Transmitter and DX Multioperator Two Transmitter categories. The 2005 Multi-Two win from PJ4R was followed up by team leader Jeff, KU8E, jumping down a category to operate the same Bonaire station Multi-Single with

John, K4BAI, for 2006. Meanwhile, the other 75 percent of the 2005 PJ4R team (N5OT, W9RE and N4GG) added NT6X and went to Costa Rica to compete in the Multioperator Two Transmitter category as TI5N.

Winners all around for the above mentioned teams! PJ4R followed up their 2005 Multi-Two win with a fine #1 effort in the Multi-Single category, topping HQ9H (NØSTL, NØAT, ops) by a comfortable margin of 5,105,100 to 4,313,190 points.

Multioperator Two Transmitter was won going away by a significant score margin (nearly 3 million points) by the TI5N team of N5OT, W9RE, N4GG and NT6X. Their 7.67 million point score was also the highest score posted of any DX category in the 2006 running of the contest. Nice job, gents. Second place finishers were TO9A operated by K3TEJ and K3CT on Martinique to a score of 4,982,472 points.

The Caribbean Contesting Consortium club station PJ2T (WØCG, N1ZZ, NP2L, K8CJQ, W8CJQ, W8AV, N8LGP, W9EFL and WA9S, ops) on the island of Curacao has posted a third consecutive win in a DX Multioperator category. They took the DX Multi-Two title in 2004, followed it up with a Multi-Multi win in 2005, and have made it a two-fer by sliding past the crew at J7OJ (K5KG, KK9K, W4IX, W19WI and K1XX, ops) in Dominica by a 3 percent difference in scores for a 2006 Multi-Multi repeat win.

Coda

Sunspots carry both good news and bad news for the upcoming 12 months. The most recent bad news is that the sunspot lull is projected to possibly continue into 2007, rather than reaching theoretical minimum around fall 2006. Some possible good news — at least for now — is that if this does come to pass, the next cycle peak is projected to be longer and higher than any we've seen in recent memory. Sunspot minimums can only be identified in retrospect, so it may be a couple of more years until we can confidently point to a specific point as having been the bottom.

Either way, as we saw in the 2006 running of the contest, opportunities to pick a regional record to try and break abound. Numerous call area records were set in the past running. There are several call area records from the online listing on the ARRL web page at www.arrl.org/contests/results/intldx-rec-cw.html that invite themselves to be broken — some that are as old as the late 1980s.

The 2007 running of ARRL DX CW will be February 17 and 18. Until next year — see you on the bands!

QST