

2006 ARRL International DX Phone Results

“If you’ve heard this story before, don’t stop me, because I’d like to hear it again.” — Groucho Marx

H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Hope springs eternal in the heart of the DX contester. “Oh, for some flux and a quiet geomagnetic field!” Last year we were teased and jilted with conditions starting out well but clobbered on Sunday due to a lot of operators finding something else to do. This year we got our wish, as reflected in the total number of logs submitted. DX logs were up more than 10 percent from 838 last year to 937 in 2006, while W/VE submissions saw an even bigger increase of nearly 20 percent to 1284 logs.

What’s the lesson? Even with the lack of high-band propagation, DX contesting remains healthy around the world.

Write-up Notes and Features

Expanded coverage is available to members on the ARRL Web at www.arrl.org/contests, where you can enjoy detailed regional coverage from every Division and Continent. As always, please take a moment and thank the writer that took time out to do the analysis from your area.

Don’t forget that the full line scores are available on the ARRL Web site for contest results. The line score file looks like the *QST* listings of previous years. Look for the links to “*QST* Results, [month], [year] (with line scores)” to download the file. After the write-up appears in *QST*, the file is available to anyone, worldwide.

Cowboy Up and Head on Down the Bands

With the exception of KH7X setting a new Multi-Multi record in Oceania, all of the new records are on 20 meters or (mostly) lower frequencies. The good news is that there were new records — several of them! Last year’s disturbed conditions made 2005 a rare year in the record books. In 2006, the



The DX Single Operator High Power winner Robert Wood, W5AJ, who operated T11C (right), shown with his host Carlos Fonseca, T12CF.

calm layers shifting around above our heads even delivered some unexpected 10 meter openings. You can clearly see the cycle declining when you look at the propagation indices for the past five years in Figure 1. The good news is that after 2007, those flux numbers should start rising once again.

Records

The quiet conditions let the dedicated low-band operators make some hay below 20 meters. If you have a good location and some directive antennas, this year and the coming year are prime time! All of the US/VE records to fall this year were 80 or 160

meter records. K1LZ must have sufficiently recovered from his DXpedition fall to nearly double the old first district SO-80 record, as did W8LRL at K8V in the eighth district.

Overseas, the Asian SO-20 record fell as JA0AHA navigated through the crowds to clear the old bar. Two more SO-80 records fell from the western edges of AF and EU, with OH1RY piloting the superb station at EA8AH and ON4UN making good use of the advice in his book *Low-Band DXing*. If you’re wondering where KH6ND was this year, look no further than the next record. KH6YY assembled an all-star cast from three continents at his Oahu station, high over the famous surfing beaches of the North Shore. Even near the bottom of the cycle, they still broke the old record!

Be sure to review Tables 2 and 3, which show the complete set of new W/VE and DX records set during the 2006 contest.

The oldest record to fall this year was the MM Oceania record, originally set in 1986 between cycles 22 and 23. The tenth district MM record set at K0RF in 1979 still stands! If you want some really low-hanging fruit, no records from Antarctica have ever

Table 1
Propagation Indices for ARRL DX Phone

Year	Flux		Planetary A_p		Estimated K	
	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun
2002	191	183	5	10	1.6	2.5
2003	138	147	14.5	11	2.8	2.6
2004	105	106	5	6	1.8	1.8
2005	81	84	10	36	2.5	4.3
2006	75	74	2	1	0.9	0.5

Solar and ionospheric data can be obtained from NOAA’s “Solar Data and Products Online” Web site — www.sec.noaa.gov/Data/index.html#indices.

Table 2
New US/VE Records for 2006

Category	Call District	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SO-80	1	K1LZ	223,725	136,275	1998
SO-80	0	KU1CW	51,684	27,450	1993
SO-160	8	K8V (op W8LRL)	15,561	7,740	1996
SO-160	0	K0LW (op KU1CW)	6,804	4,896	1987

Table 3
New DX Records for 2006

Category	Continent	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SO-20	AS	JA0AHA	295,020	281,532	2001
SO-80	AF	EA8AH (op OH1RY)	238,419	187,050	1996
SO-80	EU	ON4UN	189,840	188,448	1996
MM	OC	KH7X @ KH6YY	6,314,238	6,062,463	1986

Top Ten — W/VE

Single Operator High Power		15
VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	N4PN	206,793
4,925,184	K9BGL	149,877
3,645,414	N2MM	121,752
VE3EJ	K0RH	117,576
VC3A (VE3AT, op)	NA4CW	111,042
3,478,440	N5DO	76,941
K4ZW	WA7LT	67,938
3,471,300	W7BJN	51,684
VY2TT	W7EB	45,192
3,252,024	KI6LZ	38,160
W9RE		
3,070,377		
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)		
2,814,066		
NN3W (@N3HBX)		
2,783,832		
AA1K	20	
2,685,267	VE6WQ (@ VE6JY)	
W3BGN	906,927	
	W7WA	620,844
	N3HBX	498,978
	W6AAN	354,594
	W1NR	279,090
	VE3XN	262,773
	W8TWA	181,194
	K8IA	173,565
	K6HNZ	170,235
	NV8N	167,874
	40	
	K8DJC	30,753
	WD0BGZ	30,090
	NA2X	21,228
	VA3XH	19,323
	N5OT	19,323
	W9SE	18,315
	W1TY	17,613
	AD8J	17,172
	W9GXR	16,800
	N1QM	16,500
	80	
	K1LZ	223,725
	AA1BU	166,050
	K5RX	44,550
	W4SVO	44,421
	N0NI	34,944
	K4KZZ	31,950
	N3XEG	20,355
	W9IND	18,468
	N4USB	12,201
	K9IDQ	7,440
	10	
	K4WI	3,726
	N2EOC	3,648
	W5PR	2,754
	K4QVK	1,248
	WB5JID	1,110
	WB2AMU	816
	AA1ZT	756
	W9CNF	285
	W9ROG	192
	WA0FQK	162
	160	
	K8V (W8LRL, op)	15,561
	W3GH	11,700
	AA4MM	9,504
	KK4SI	9,072
	W2VO	8,319
	NN1N	7,920
	K0LW (KU1CW, op)	6,804
	K1HAP	5,760
	NA2P	2,025
	WB2ABD	1,800

Single Operator Assisted

K1AR	2,024,343
K1KI (KM1P, op)	
N3AD	1,852,032
K3WW	1,799,334
N8TR	1,657,260
K1UQ	1,571,700
N3KS	1,400,355
VA3DX	1,369,845
AA3B	1,299,375
K2XA	1,288,320
X2A	1,133,160
W1GD	1,125,852

Multioperator Single Transmitter

VE3RM	2,387,100
K5NA	2,203,980
NN2W	2,070,600
K1IR	1,672,059
W1QA	1,645,656
NE3F	1,642,500
W3MF	1,441,584
W4WS	1,241,757
N1FD	1,201,698
W0ZT	1,097,544

Multioperator Two Transmitters

N3RS	6,048,090
WE3C	5,363,064
W4RM	4,132,350
K0TV	3,705,948
K3OOO	3,283,380
VE1JF	3,021,222
N2RM	2,311,920
W2ZQ	2,235,870
K3DI	1,809,885
N1AU	1,722,315

Multioperator Unlimited Transmitters

K3LR	9,131,736
W3LPL	8,068,200
KC1XX	7,905,150
K1TTT	5,112,855
K1RX	5,105,418
W1FJ	5,040,306
W3PP	3,809,319
KB1H	3,451,308
N6RO	2,073,945
W0AIH	1,955,862

DX

Single Operator High Power

T11C (W5AJ, op)	5,799,708
V31BH (OH2BH, op)	5,356,728
FS5KA (W1SJ, op)	4,717,152
WP2Z (N2TK, op)	4,613,805
TO5A (NH7A, op)	3,761,544
8R1EA (AH8DX, op)	3,496,128
KH6WT (K1YR, op)	3,179,076
CT8T (I4UFH, op)	3,096,768
OK1RI	3,044,028
6V6U	2,893,770

Single Operator Low Power

P40A (KK9A, op)	4,889,664
WP3F	4,242,558
VP5H (W0GJ, op)	3,452,625
VP9/W6PH	3,041,955
J88DR	1,925,880
H13NR	714,036
LU2NI	678,294
8P6EX	597,240
KH6/K2YY	546,612
HK6PSG	496,188

Single Operator QRP

YV5YMA	291,342
LU1VK	115,128
F5BEG	79,716
IK5RUN	74,244
OM7DX	40,110
JR4DAH	18,432
UA3BL	15,318
EA1TI	14,835
I5KAP	12,546
RA0QD	5,712

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LU1HF	257,358
CX5BW	241,794
PP5AMP	133,878
LQ5H (LU3HS, op)	115,182
LU9DAG	103,584
LW7HT	91,260
CX1AV	87,900
CX4DX	59,535
HC1HC	41,832
LU8EOT	36,519

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PS2T (PY5EG, op)	491,040
H13CCP	457,020
HK3JUH	358,020
J37K (AC8G, op)	243,198
LU5FF	195,228
PW2C (PY5KW, op)	172,800
J79DX (VA3YDX, op)	149,160
CT3EN	146,598
IU3X (IV3SKB, op)	136,935
J12UNR	124,656

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OH8X (OH8NC, op)	512,583
KG4WW	476,640
4A7L	385,506
DP4K	378,000
8P2K (8P6SH, op)	344,340
IR4T	336,354
HG3M (HA3MY, op)	309,240
JA0JHA	295,020
OM3PC	290,103
F4EGD	247,320

40

4M5DX (YV5SSB, op)	288,510
H13TEJ	283,377
WP3C	277,182
XE2K	264,969
ZX5J (PP5JR, op)	231,870
YV5KG	213,324
F6KHM (F4DXW, op)	206,568
KG4RN	203,616
CO8LY	132,762
ZF2AH	114,912

80

EA8AH (OH1RY, op)	238,419
YV5LIX	190,503
ON4UN	189,840
G3PPG (G4BYB, op)	144,144
SN3A (SP3GEM, op)	126,990
YV3AZC	122,661
IR4M (IK4MGP, op)	114,150
I4AVG	96,750
CT3IA	88,245
CO8KA	83,430

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KV4FZ	74,196
CM6RCR	67,500
CU2AF	30,666
YV2IF	22,464
KL7RA	9,975
SP3KEY (SP7VC, op)	7,776
DF2UU	2,760
LY2IJ	2,592
US0LW	1,980
EA1DVY	1,428

Single Operator Assisted

P40W (W2GD, op)	5,161,041
P40CW	3,844,368
LTOH (LU3HY, op)	2,021,016
ZX2B (PY2MNL, op)	1,805,400
EA7RU	898,080
AL9A	826,659
YO9HP	607,365
OH4R	482,112
I2SVA	476,556
IK3SCB	341,721

Multioperator Single Transmitter

FY5KE	6,883,110
XE7T	4,123,956
NP2B	3,914,649
LR2F	3,340,608
IR4X	2,791,404
TO1T	2,456,415
EA8ZS	2,441,166
IR2C	1,909,824
HG1S	1,569,090
OM5M	1,448,340

Multioperator Two Transmitters

PJ2T	9,414,792
OE4A	2,900,484
HG6N	2,640,600
9A7A	2,451,600
T18M	1,543,680
CV5D	917,196
JE1ZWT	644,490

Multioperator Unlimited Transmitters

KH7X @ KH6YY	6,314,238
9A15DX	2,777,736
RK2FWA	1,794,690
YR7M	947,025
ED1EA	23,085

been claimed. Just hop a boat to the South Shetlands and have at it!

Exceptional Performances

One way to get a write-up author's attention is to win a category or place in the Top Ten with low power or even QRP — it's been done, but rarely! Other ways are top scores outside the "traditional" winning regions or repeat winners. We have all three this year.

- K4WI was the SO-10 category leader using Low Power from Alabama, beating N2EOC in New Jersey by a whisker.

- Even though the "sweet spot" for 20 meters seems to be somewhere in Western Pennsylvania, the band is owned by VE6JY's station near Edmonton, Alberta and W7WA on Puget Sound.

- This must be K3LR's year. Inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame at Dayton 2006, Tim's station also brought home the

walnut in both modes of ARRL DX for the first time ever!

Reminder

Contesters seem to "get it" that watching packet or getting frequency tips from somebody else requires them to enter the Assisted category. The log checkers have become quite skilled at spotting a "packet poacher." However, you might not be aware that spotting yourself or arranging/asking to be spotted is entirely prohibited, regardless of class! When in doubt, read the contest rules! Additional information about operating in contests is available at the ARRL's new Web resource "HF Contesting — Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions" at www.arrrl.org/contests/hf-faq.html.

W/VE

Single Operator QRP — There was a

lot of turnover this year with a lot of new calls in the Top Ten. K4CIA led the pack from NC with 185K although N8IE in OH was just 3 percent behind at 179K, one of this year's featured photo-finishes. The Dakota Division winner, ND0C, moved up to a nice 3rd place finish from MN, moving up from 8th last year. In 4th place, N1TM bettered last year's 7th place finish, too. The list then jumps all the way across the continent to San Diego section where W8QZA piloted W6QU to 5th and VE6EX in sixth.

Single Operator Low Power — After chasing the top spot and coming close last year, N1UR rang the bell this year and topped the pack with a convincing win! He was followed by K2PS who also moved up a place from 2005. N5AW landed in the Top Ten with a nice 3rd place finish fueled by a big multiplier total, followed by N1PGA who repeats in fourth. W1JQ and WD5K both moved up

Continental Leaders

Category	Call	Score	Category	Call	Score	Category	Call	Score
Africa			North America			Oceania		
Single Operator High Power	6V6U	2,893,770	Single Operator Low Power	EA1WS	358,410	Single Operator High Power	KH6WT (K1YR, op)	3,179,076
Single Operator Low Power	CN8SG	34,371	Single Operator QRP	F5BEG	79,716	Single Operator Low Power	KH6/K2YY	546,612
Single Operator 80 Meters	EA8AH (OH1RY, op)	238,419	Single Operator 160 Meters	CU2AF	30,666	Single Operator 40 Meters	VK2KPP	24,948
Single Operator 40 Meters	CT3DZ	103,656	Single Operator 80 Meters	ON4UN	189,840	Single Operator 20 Meters	4F1MEU	585
Single Operator 20 Meters	CT3KY	83,832	Single Operator 40 Meters	F6KHM (F4DXW, op)	206,568	Single Operator 15 Meters	VK3GK	67,779
Single Operator 15 Meters	CT3EN	146,598	Single Operator 20 Meters	OH8X (OH8NC, op)	512,583	Single Operator 10 Meters	AH6RF	1,350
Single Operator Assisted	EA8BZH	33,600	Single Operator 15 Meters	IU3X (IV3SKB, op)	136,935	Multioperator Single Transmitter	ZL1AA	107,520
Multioperator Single Transmitter	EA8ZS	2,441,166	Single Operator Assisted	EA7RU	898,080	Multioperator Multi Transmitter	KH7X @KH6YY	6,314,238
Asia			Multioperator Multi Transmitter	9A15DX	2,777,736			
Single Operator High Power	JA1ELY	852,768	Multioperator Two Transmitters	OE4A	2,900,484			
Single Operator Low Power	JH4UYB	454,896	Multioperator Single Transmitter	IR4X	2,791,404			
Single Operator QRP	JR4DAH	18,432						
Single Operator 80 Meters	JE1SPY	300						
Single Operator 40 Meters	JA8NFV	23,256						
Single Operator 20 Meters	JA0JHA	295,020						
Single Operator 15 Meters	JJ2UNR	124,656						
Single Operator Assisted	JF2SKV	83,877						
Multioperator Two Transmitters	JE1ZWT	644,490						
Multioperator Single Transmitter	JA8RWU	549,936						
Europe								
Single Operator High Power	CT8T (I4UFH, op)	3,096,768						

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
W/VE Single Operator High Power	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	Frankford Radio Club
W/VE Single Operator Low Power	N1UR	Dauberville DX Association
W/VE Single Operator QRP	K4CIA	Jeffrey Briggs, K1ZM
W/VE Single Operator Assisted	K1AR	Pete Carter, K3VW Memorial
W/VE Multioperator Single Transmitter	VE3RM	Steve Adams K4RF
W/VE Multioperator Unlimited	K3LR	Western New York DX Association, W2DXA
W/VE 1.8 MHz	K8V (W8LRL, op)	Butch Greve, W9EWC Memorial
W/VE 3.5 MHz	K1LZ	K1ZM Communications, Inc
W/VE 14 MHz	VE6WQ (@ VE6JY)	William F. Beyer Jr., N2WB
W/VE 21 MHz	N4PN	Dayton Amateur Radio Association
W/VE 28 MHz	K4WI	Ralph Fontaine, AH6RF
World Single Operator High Power	T11C (W5AJ, op)	North Jersey DX Association
World Single Operator Low Power	P40A (KK9A, op)	Dayton Amateur Radio Association
World Single Operator QRP	YV5YMA	Southern Arizona DX Association
World Single Operator Assisted	P40W (W2GD, op)	Willamette Valley DX Club
World Multioperator Single Transmitter	FY5KE	Carl Cook, A16V/P49V
World Multioperator Two Transmitters	PJ2T	W6NL and K6BL
World Multioperator Unlimited	KH7X (@KH6YY)	Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ
World 1.8 MHz	KV4FZ	Fred Race, W8FR, In Memory of ZL2BT
World 3.5 MHz	EA8AH (OH1RY, op)	Northern Illinois DX Association
World 7 MHz	4M5DX (YV5SSB, op)	Dayton Amateur Radio Association
World 14 MHz	OH8X (OH8NC, op)	Don Wallace, W6AM, Memorial Award
World 21 MHz	PS2T (PY5EG, op)	Long Island DX Association
World 28 MHz	LU1HF	North Shenandoah DX Association, NS4DX
Asia Single Operator High Power	JA1ELY	Tim Coad, NU6S
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter	JA8RWU	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
Europe Multioperator Unlimited	9A15DX	Operators at K1TTT
North America Multioperator Single Transmitter	XE7T	Nick Lash, K9KLR
Oceania Single Operator High Power	KH6WT (K1YR, op)	W7EW / W7AT
Oceania 28 MHz	AH6RF	Ralph Fontaine, AH6RF
South America Multioperator Two Transmitter	PJ2T	Operators at K1TTT
Central Division Single Operator High Power	W9RE	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Multioperator Single Transmitter	WN9O	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Single Operator Low Power	AJ9C	Society of Midwest Contesters
Seventh Call Area Single Operator High Power	K7RL	Willamette Valley DX Club
Canada Single Operator Low Power	VO1MX	Contest Club Ontario
Japan Single Operator Low Power	JH4UYB	Western Washington DX Club
W/VE Single Operator High Power Combined Score	K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	National Contest Journal
W/VE Single Operator Low Power Combined Score	N1UR	Rochester DX Association K2FR Memorial Plaque
World Single Operator Low Power Combined Score	VP9/W6PH	C. Sharp, K5DX Memorial, Texas DX Society
World Multioperator Unlimited Combined	9A15DX	W2PV Memorial — Schenectady ARA
Rocky Mountain Division Single Operator Combined	N6ZZ	Albuquerque DX Association

from last year to finish 5th and sixth.

Single Operator High Power — Not for the faint of heart, the SOAB-HP category competition was once again overpowered by K1ZM operating on the Atlantic shore at his Prince Edward Island station, VY2ZM. Jeff's margin of victory was 26 percent — not quite the whopping 40 percent of last year, but certainly impressive. Noteworthy is the Canadian dominance of this category. Last year found four Canadians in the Top Ten and we have the same this year

From September 2006 QST © ARRL

(VY2ZM, VE3EJ, VC3A and VY2TT), but they are packed into spots #1 through #5! VE3EJ and VC3A (operated by VE3AT) really delivered a 1-2 punch from Ontario this year.

Let's not overlook K4ZW's strong showing, narrowly shouldering his way past VY2TT to claim 4th position and just missing on displacing VC3A for third. In fact, the competition for the HP spots 2-3-4 was very tight. The Top Ten returned to the lower 48 to stay with W9RE's 6th place finish, fol-

lowed by K3CR operated by LZ4AX, and NN3W moving to HP in the new N3HBX QTH, AA1K, and W3BGN — all familiar calls from many years of top finishes.

Single Operator Assisted — This is the most competitive Top Ten of all US/VE or DX single-op categories, with the winning score only 45 percent higher than that of tenth spot. K1AR took a break from waxing the competition at K3LR's multi-multi, putting his skills to waxing the Assisted competition instead. Right on his heels was KM1P operating K1KI's station and just barely eluding the snapping jaws of N3AD in third. N8TR wound up in 4th while K1UQ and N3KS battled to a close finish at 5th and 6th, respectively. Last year's 20 meter SOSB winner K2XA moved to Assisted this year and appears in the 9th position.

Single Operator Single-Band

The money band, I've learned, just keeps raking in the signals and single-band entries. If you've got a tribander, it's fairly easy to be competitive at the bottom of the cycle on 20. What is a little surprising is that there weren't more 40 meter entries, although 40 meter phone can be a bear. Both 160 and 80 meter entries were up solidly.

10 meters — Quiet. The band was quiet — too quiet. Even though the ionosphere did its best to cooperate, the little UV photons just weren't numerous enough to turn those 10 meter photons back. K4WI's winning score was just over a tenth of last year's category winner, so you know things were slow. Maybe it was a good time to fill out QSL cards while the voice keyer did the heavy lifting! Nevertheless, his LP score topped the pack, moving up from 5th place in 2005. Persistence paid off for N2EOC who moved up to 2nd place this year, just ahead

W/VE Region Leaders

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

Phone

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 (K1ZM, op)	4,925,184	C	K4ZW	3,471,300	C	VE3EJ	3,645,414	C	K0KT	554,130	C	K7RL	2,099,766	C
VY2TT	3,252,024	C	N8II	1,778,115	C	VC3A (VE3AT, op)	3,478,440	C	WB0HCH	481,140	C	W6YI	1,286,637	C
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	2,814,066	C	K4SSU (NA4BW, op)	1,419,237	C	W9RE	3,070,377	C	W0BH	288,333	C	WC6H (NU6S, op)	1,006,926	C
NN3W (@N3HBX)	2,783,832	C	WA4TII	954,345	C	N0IJ	763,344	C	N0KE	256,620	C	VE5UA	518,370	C
AA1K	2,685,267	C	W2OO	475,164	C	VE3CX	356,766	C	WA0MHJ	210,141	C	N6AA	499,140	C
N1UR	1,063,530	B	K1TO	402,300	B	VE3AD	504,240	B	N5AW	748,440	B	WN6K	193,998	B
K2PS	792,360	B	N4NX	305,370	B	K8BL	487,797	B	WD5K	557,823	B	VE7XF	186,813	B
N1PJA	613,320	B	KA8Q	296,430	B	AJ9C	349,812	B	VE5ZX	210,990	B	KE7RT	182,223	B
W1JQ	587,571	B	WB3BEL	247,212	B	WA8RCN	243,525	B	K0HW	188,604	B	K7JE	181,908	B
VO1MX	525,525	B	K9OM	243,165	B	K9QVB	226,077	B	NT0F	186,798	B	N7VR	170,166	B
N1TM	102,258	A	K4CIA	185,319	A	N8IE	179,118	A	ND0C	115,824	A	W6QU (W8QZA, op)	81,585	A
KA1C	62,034	A	N4ZAK	4,773	A	VA3DF	59,670	A	KA5PVB	17,877	A	VE6EX	73,656	A
K3TW	55,014	A	AF4KL	108	A	N8XA	22,422	A	WA8ZBT	4,650	A	K7MM	24,534	A
N3HU	39,798	A				WD9FTZ	10,176	A	WD5FGZ	2,691	A	K6TV	23,760	A
NF2L	12,768	A				KC9ECI	7,686	A				KE6CC	9,798	A

of last year's winner, W5PR.

15 meters — Scores were down about 50 percent on this usually hot band, but there was still enough activity for stations across the US to be represented in the Top Ten. N4PN moved up a notch from 2005's 2nd place finish. His big QSO total and DXCC of multipliers locked up the top spot this year with a solid win over 2nd place finisher, Midwestern beacon K9BGL, with N2MM in third. K0RH improved from 7th place a year ago and grabbed 4th, just ahead of NA4CW. The final places move west, through N5DO in 6th, to WA7LT and W7BJN (Eastern WA), W7EB (Nevada), and finally, to KI6LZ (Santa Barbara).

20 meters — Twenty will be the band of choice for a couple more years before 15 starts taking up the slack. Twenty meter entries had another solid increase in a string of solid increases since 2003, and have reached 41 percent of all single-band entries.

Top scores this year even increased a tad over last year, 906K to 700K, and both first and 3rd place finishers VE6WQ (at the big VE6JY station) and N3HBX at his new QTH narrowly missed call-area records. Second place finisher W7WA muscled in from WA, with the remainder of the Top Ten bouncing around the US from W6AAN in 4th place, back to W1NR in 5th, and VE3XN in sixth. K6HNZ was the final West Coast call in the Top Ten at 9th place.

40 meters — Where the 20 meter Top Ten ricocheted around the continent, 40 meters was bounded in the southwest by WD0BGZ in CO and N5OT in OK — everybody else was to the north and east. The QSO and multiplier counts were very closely packed, making this a very competitive category. Ohio was the place to be on both 20 and 40, with K8DJC using the best multiplier total to lead the way. He was closely challenged by WD0BGZ much farther west, whose extra QSOs nearly made

up the difference. NA2X appears in the Top Ten this year at third. Here's a rarity — N5OT and VA3XH ran to a dead heat, tying for fourth! The six through 10 spots are all new Top Ten faces, as well: W9SE, W1TY, AD8J, W9GXR and N1QM.

80 meters and 160 meters — This was a good year to take advantage of low-band conditions and the opportunity was not missed by K1LZ on 80 meters and W8LRL (as N8V) on Top Band. Both smashed the old call area records, nearly doubling them! Second place finisher AA1BU's 80 meter score would have also been a new all-district record, and sixth place N0NI as well, so congratulations are due to both. K0LW, operated by KUICW, was the farthest west station in the 160 meter Top Ten, too.

On 80 meters, 4th and 5th places were only separated by a whisker, as K5RX eked out four additional QSOs to W4SVO's one additional multiplier — that's one tight race! 160 meters was competitive, too, with W3GH in 2nd, and relative neighbors AA4MM and KK4SI duking it out for 3rd and 4th. That competitive fire propelled them ahead of Northeasterners W2VO and NN1N in 5th and 6th place.

Multi-Operator

Multi-op stations picked up a few more adherents this year, with 90 logs submitted. Multi-single percentage (61 percent) was the highest since 2003, as more teams figure out how to keep the airwaves burning all night. Multi-two seems to have stabilized at 25-30 percent of the multi-op logs (27 percent this year). Multi-multi, however, is down, as the two other categories continue to gain "market share" at its expense. The logistics associated with running a big multi-op station make it harder to attract (and retain) operators with uneven conditions and activity.

Multi-Single — This year the three top spots weren't separated by much. K5NA's

team made a great effort, but was bested largely due to the huge 20 meter volume (1494 QSOs) from VE3RM, who came in first. Right behind both, 3rd place finisher NN2W couldn't quite overcome the 436 multipliers of K5NA. All in all, a real horse race between the three. Fourth place K1IR was locked in an even tighter race with 5th place W1QA and 6th place NE3F.

Multi-Two — Last year's two top multi-two stations went all out and wound up in the same order, with N3RS taking the blue ribbon and WE3C right behind in second. The teams are so consistent that they were even separated by very nearly the same percentage of scores! W4RM made a nice entry to the Top Ten in 3rd place. In 4th, K0TV advanced significantly, moving up from 8th place in 2005.

Multi-Multi — The annual clash of the titans tends to culminate with the ARRL DX Phone contest. The top titan this year: the K3LR team for a three-peat. And not only a three-peat, but a sweep of both modes! Tim's Talkers made up on 20 and 15 meters what distance took away on the low bands. Second place W3LPL excelled on 160, 80, 40 and 10 meters, and KC1XX was not far behind. To illustrate the strength and competence of these stations, their single-band scores would have swept the SOAB field.

DX

The oldest of all contests, the ARRL DX is an ideal forum for the "little guys" to get a shot, whether from home or abroad. DXpeditions during ARRL DX are a little less daunting, since it's possible to focus your efforts in just a few directions, instead of world-wide. Are you a DX station in pursuit of WAS or 5BWAS? Only have a few hours to work the states? Pick a single-band effort and make some W/VE stations happy! Here's your contest! From our side of the various ponds, we're so glad you're there!

Close races are by no means confined to the domestic contest scene. Narrow decisions are to be found in several categories:

- P4ØA (by KK9A) and WP3F in SOAB-LP went toe to toe, with P4ØA prevailing.

- TI1C (by W5AJ) bested V31BH (by OH2BH) by only 8 percent in the SOAB-HP category.

- 4M5DX (by YV5SSB), HI3TEJ, and WP3C engaged in a SO-40 pileup with only 4 percent separating the three of them.

The most competitive Top Ten boxes are to be found in the evenly contested SOAB-HP and SOSB-20 categories. Anyone listening to 20 meters over the weekend will not be surprised.

Single Operator QRP — We're always thrilled to have that weak signal with the big DX sound call in to our CQ. This year, YV5YMA came from out of the blue with a big score to easily best the 2005 winner, LU1VK, and claim the top spot. LU1VK was followed by F5BEG, just as in 2005, but one place lower. IK5RUN moved up a place to fourth. The top Asian entrant was that ever-popular call sign JR4DAH. AL2Q was the top NA entry — no Caribbean QRP entries! Oceania and Africa didn't show up in the QRP category.

Single Operator Low Power — Lots of stations decided to run barefoot again this year, including a few DXpeditioners. Hopefully without fighting a cold this year, KK9A returned to Aruba and took home the top spot again as P4ØA. Second place finisher WP3F made a strong effort, particularly on the low bands, but didn't get the 10 meter openings enjoyed by Aruba and that made the difference. WØGJ once again traded the snowy climes of Paul Bunyan country for the entirely more comfortable Turks and Caicos, coming in third. DXpedition regular W6PH put on his Bermudas and placed 4th from VP9. J88DR moved up a place to 5th and 8P6EX from 10th to eighth. Welcome to the Top Ten, HI3NR (6th), LU2NI (7th), KH6/K2YY (9th), HK6PSG (10th). With the east-west paths at a lull, JH4UYB was the top Asian entry, just out of the Top Ten in 12th place, and EA1WS led the way for EU in 14th place. Africa's leading entry was provided by EA8CQW.

Single Operator High Power — Here we are, the home of the Big Gun, for whom "Have ticket, will contest" is a way of life, it seems. The complications of a high-power operation away from home are legion: heavier, bigger, harder. And we *do* appreciate it! In fact, eight of the Top Ten entries are from world travelers. I'm not sure who traveled farthest — OH2BH to V3, or K1YR to KH6. At any rate, it didn't slow them down a bit.

TI1C was hotly pursued by the globe-trotting Finn, Martti, OH2BH, in disguise as

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	196,375,278	205
Frankford Radio Club	174,069,834	131
Potomac Valley Radio Club	122,282,505	171
Florida Contest Group	38,980,746	81
Society of Midwest Contesters	29,116,362	66
Contest Club Ontario	28,618,086	59
Minnesota Wireless Assn	25,943,529	64
Northern California Contest Club	13,841,253	64
Medium Category		
North Coast Contesters	35,731,797	19
South East Contest Club	21,818,229	27
Tennessee Contest Group	19,226,328	41
Caribbean Contesting Consortium	16,808,064	3
Southern California Contest Club	16,778,472	38
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	13,779,870	31
Maritime Contest Club	11,616,672	13
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	11,128,392	19
North Texas Contest Club	9,355,098	16
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	8,157,903	13
Central Texas DX and Contest	7,596,087	13
Mad River Radio Club	7,222,416	22
Western Washington DX Club	6,472,950	34
East Coast Canada Contest Club	6,202,659	8
Willamette Valley DX Club	3,682,131	10
Empire Contest Club	3,498,333	3
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	3,328,140	17
Carolina DX Assn	2,747,289	21
Central Arizona DX Assn	2,631,480	21
Bay Area Wireless Assn	1,410,591	3
BC DX Club	1,375,755	7
Western New York DX Assn	1,331,121	9
Texas DX Society	1,286,316	14
Western Illinois ARC	1,264,005	8
Utah DX Assn	1,084,821	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	1,041,921	13
Oklahoma DX Assn	1,015,734	4
Florida Contest Group - Panhandle	971,082	8
Northern Arizona DX Assn	807,567	7
West Park Radiops	733,011	12
Northern Illinois DX Assn	643,503	7
Kentucky Contest Group	625,737	5
Spokane DX Association	592,893	11
Salt City DX Assn	497,187	4
Kansas City DX Club	492,606	4
Alberta Clippers	328,347	4
Southern California DX Club	257,004	3
Bergen ARA	192,396	7
South Jersey Radio Assn	127,704	4
Local Category		
Wireless Association of South Hills	3,597,180	3
Mt Frank Contesters	1,978,455	6
Albuquerque DX Assn	772,812	3
Sterling Park ARC	718,539	5
CT RI Contest Group	668,310	4
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	658,758	5
Dominion DX Group	632,079	10
Low Country Contest Club	444,564	6
Great South Bay ARC	348,012	3
South Texas DX and Contest Club	263,655	4
Meriden ARC	220,470	4
Metro DX Club	71,964	3
East Coast DX Assn	42,459	4

V31BH, but the extra multipliers Carlos' big signal pulls in made up for Martti's QSO advantage. The Windward station, WP2Z, was piloted by N2TK to a nice 3rd place showing. NH7A went to Guadeloupe and drove TO5A to 4th place ahead of AH8DX on the north shore of South America at 8R1EA. Leading the EU contingent, OK1RI moved up a position to 8th, and 6V6U was a welcome addition from Africa in ninth. In 17th place, JA1ELY led the way from Asia.

Single Operator Assisted — The spotting networks have become truly worldwide. Not too many years ago, Assisted category stations outside Europe were few. With every beachfront resort offering broadband Internet, there's little holding back the category today. W2GD decided to give Assisted a try and seems to have married his considerable pileup management skills with good judgment about picking up spots from the network. P4ØW placed first by a

large winning margin in both QSOs and total multipliers. Fellow islander P4ØCW kept Aruba on the list with a 2nd place finish. The north-south path played well for both LTØH (operator LU3HY, 3rd place) and ZX2B (operator PY2MNL, 4th place). Europe made its first appearance as EA7RU in 5th and North America as AL9A in sixth. JF2SKY was the top Asian score in the category and EA8BZH was the top African entry.

Single Operator Single-Band

Single-band entries took a BIG jump this year, from 406 to 460, without taking a bite out of total DX logs or QSOs! As in the US and VE, 20 meter logs made up the lion's share, representing 53 percent of all DX single-band logs. In general, the distribution of logs between the bands looked about the same.

10 meters — Welcome to the Way South American QSO Party! The station farthest north (HC1HC) is almost directly on the equator. It was a very close contest between last year's winner, CX5BW, and LU1HF. When the band closed for the last time, LU1HF prevailed by 40 QSOs and 2 multipliers. The word was out on 10 meter single-band, because the Top Ten is full of calls not there last year. PP5AMP placed 3rd from Brazil before the standings turn south again to Argentina (LQ5H operated by LU3HS in 4th, LU9DAG in 5th as a LP entry and LW7HT in sixth). Repeat Top-Tenner CX1AV appears in 7th place, with countryman CX4DX right behind. Ecuador's HC1HC and LU8EOT round out the Top Ten, making it a South American sweep. AH6RF made a casual entry from Oceania, and WP4BL's single-QSO was the sole North American entry and a continent-winning log!

15 meters — There's quite a bit more variety in the 15 meter Top Ten with SA, NA, AF, EU and AS all represented. The top spots were largely a matter of QSOs, since all three stations had identical QSO totals of 60, not far from the maximum available 63. HI3CCP made a very good run at the win, but was just too far north to beat WRTC2006 Chairman PY5EG, operating PS2T, who is the winner, moving up from 2nd in 2005. HK3JJH put Colombia in a lot of 15 meter logs with low-power to place third. DXpeditioners AC8G traveled to Grenada and wound up in the Top Ten at 4th place and VA3YDX took 7th from Dominica as J79DX. LU5FF's nice low-power score made 5th place, followed by PY5KW at PW2C in sixth. Africa makes an appearance with CT3EN in 8th place, followed by southern European IU3X operated by IV3SKB in ninth. Asia is also represented in the Top Ten by J12UNR at the 10th position. Outside the Top Ten, VK3GK led the way from Oceania.

20 meters — Competitive in score and deed, the 20 meter Top Ten is thickly populated with excellent scores by great operators. As we saw in the US and VE 20 meter scores, stations at northern latitudes were not greatly disadvantaged and this holds true here — OH8NC guided OH8X to the top score from Scandinavia. Zooming to a location about as close as you can get to the continental US, 2nd place goes to KG4WW at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. 4A7L's low-power entry makes an unexpected appearance in 3rd place from Venezuela, then 4th place goes winging back across the Atlantic to DP4K in Germany. Fifth place? Back across the pond to 8P2K in Caribbean, and then pack your bags for the return trip to Europe as IR4T and HG3M (operated by HA3MY) put Europe on the list at 6th and 7th. Asia is also represented, as JA0JHA placed 8th and then back to the European call signs of OM3PC (9th) and F4EGD (10th). CT3KY is the leading African score and 4F1MEU the Oceania winner.

40 meters — With the congestion on 40 meter phone, it not surprising that the Top Ten is dominated by stations near the continental US and Canada. YV5SSB used the call sign 4M5DX to repeat as the number one station, but just barely ahead of HI3TEJ who fought off power outages to nearly take first, one of the closest races this year. Not far behind were low-power Caribbean entry WP3C in 3rd place and Central American XE2K in fourth. South America kept the run going with PP5JR, using ZX5J, to place 5th and YV5KG in sixth. Europe's top (and only) score in the Top Ten is from F6KHM (operated by F4DXW). Three more Caribbean calls round out the list; KG4RN, CO8LY and ZF2AH. CT3DZ, just barely missing the Top Ten, was Africa's leading score. VK2KPP fell out of the Top Ten this year, but was still the continental leader from Oceania.

80 meters — The trend of improving low-band conditions continued in 2006 with last year's 80 meter winner, CO8KA, barely making "the box" this year. The winner moved from North America to Africa, as OH1RY set a new continental record from EA8BH, followed by YV5LIX from South America in 2nd place. (YV5LIX became a Silent Key on the YX0A expedition just weeks after the contest.) Three Europeans follow: ON4UN in 3rd (with another continental record), G3PPG (operated by G4BYB), and SN3A (operated by SP3GEM). YV3AZC is new to the Top Ten this year in 6th place, followed by familiar call IR4M with IK4MGP at the microphone. Another African call is in 9th place — CT3IA. JE1SPY is the top Asian score, but there is no Oceania entry this year.

160 meters — Top Band entries saw

dramatic improvement in scores and participation this year. US and Canadian DXers know that the ARRL DX contest is a great way to add new counters to their totals and they make special efforts around the solar minimum. DX stations that operate 160 around the solar cycle reap the benefits of their practice sessions with single-band operations. KV4FZ repeated as the high score (would that be Tip-Top Band?), although he was hotly pursued by CM6RCR with just a few QSOs less. Europe was represented by its western-most entity, the Azores, as CU2AF placed 3rd. South America's top score was turned in by YV2IF at the 4th position before the list swings to the far north, where KL7RA fought off the aurora and braved the bears to place fifth. Europe ran the rest of the Top Ten list and, in fact, the rest of all submitted entries!

Multi-Operator

Multi-Single — The FY5KE team, a regular in the multi-op categories, made their first win in multi-single this year. A strong showing was also made by a Mexican-American team at XE7T. A team of DXpeditioners assisted NP2B to the 3rd place finish, ahead of LR2F from the southern part of South America and IR4X from southern Europe. TO1T barely beat EA8ZS for 6th place, who was followed by three more European teams at IR2C, HG1S and OM5M. The big signals from JA8RWU topped all Asian teams while ZL1AA was the Oceania leader.

Multi-Two and Multi-Multi — The winning PJ2T station of the Caribbean Contest Consortium has carried the legacy of PJ9JT and W1BIH into the 21st century, racking up win after win against strong competition. They showed no sign of slowing down in 2006 at the top of the category. Europe's three entries battled each other to the final bell with OE4A coming out on top and in 2nd place overall. HG6N and 9A7A kept southeastern Europe on the bands, finishing 3rd and fourth. Using TI2KAC's station, the TI8M team put in a good score, followed by CV5D in Uruguay. JE1ZWT was the only Asian entry — I expect to see more Multi-Two entries from the many club stations in Japan and those forming in China. Oceania and Africa were not represented in Multi-Two this year.

KH6YY's station is capable of challenging for a win in any category. Using KH7X, this year the crew set their sights on Multi-Multi. Their efforts added a plaque and a record to the Oahu wallpaper. Three big European efforts follow, beginning with a special call sign at 9A15DX that generated no end of busted spots. Kaliningrad was available due to RK2FWA, and the YR7M team made sure no one missed Romania. It's also nice to see a Spanish entry from ED1EA.

Affiliated Club Competition

Affiliated Club entries rebounded overall, with the 60 entries surpassing the 59 of 2004, establishing what one hopes will be a rising trend. Those 60 entries included 1411 individual station logs! Not every club has to be a giant in the Unlimited category. There is lots of room for Medium and Local clubs.

In the Unlimited Club category, the Big Three dominate: Yankee Clipper (YCCC), Frankford Radio Club (FRC) and Potomac Valley (PVRC). With a little extra "get out the vote" oomph, YCCC will be taking home the coveted Unlimited gavel for 2006, followed by FRC and PVRC.

In the large Medium category, the North Coast Contesters really deserved their first place gavel with more entries and an even higher score than last year! In 2nd and 3rd place, the Southeast Contest Club and Tennessee Contest Club traded last year's squeaker for another this year, but in the opposite order.

In the Local category, the Wireless Association of South Hills submitted fewer but larger scores to push past the Mt Frank Contesters to take the gavel. A number of new names made their appearance this year, led by the Albuquerque DX Association and the Sterling Park ARC in 3rd and 4th places. Local club entries increased to 13 from nine last year.

Concluding Remarks

When receiving a big, fat e-mail with the data spreadsheets, I'm often a little overwhelmed at first. All that data and all those calls and categories...yikes! But then the familiar sorting and massaging and head-scratching begins to kick in, and pretty soon I've spent a couple of days getting to know everyone all over again. Having done this write up since 2002, I'm beginning to get a feel for the ebb and flow of the solar cycle on a score-by-score, category-by-category basis. It's fun thinking up new ways to slice-and-dice the data, looking for nuggets of information!

Whenever you get on during a big contest, take a second to consider how many other stations are on the air doing just what you're doing. Contacts are flying around the globe, darting between continents and skipping across borders. Islands quiet most of the year are lighting up burning red as a crack team is pouring on the coals to antennas on the hotel roof. A virtual pipeline is filling between Europe and the US and Japan. If you could listen to the ionosphere, it would echo with the drumbeat of thousands of hopping, skipping signals making their way along the airwaves. The globe is alive with the crackle of HF radio! 