

2007 ARRL International DX CW Contest Results

A CW (Conventional Wisdom) Contest.

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Conventional Wisdom (CW)... Any contester with years of experience can share with you a wide variety of “tricks of the trade” when you discuss contesting strategies. Each top operator has their own idiosyncrasies. Some of these were passed down from mentors and Elmers, often while learning the ropes at a competitive multi-operator station. Some they discovered with some luck or some skill while keeping their “buns in the seat” over the course of a 48-hour contest weekend. And this kind of CW certainly takes a seat whenever there is a major CW (continuous wave) contest in full swing.

Take the 2007 ARRL International DX CW Contest — this year held February 17-18. The participants knew that this year represents the end of sunspot Cycle 23 — and would produce few opportunities on 10 meters, with 15 meters also suffering from a dearth of propagation. So when the ops started their strategic planning for this grueling 48 hour endurance contest, you can rest assured that they had to have a workable plan of action.

One of the first pieces of contest “CW” passed on to me years ago was “to be as competitive as possible, you have to maximize your QSO and multiplier totals on the highest band open.” A quick look at the number of QSOs by Band from the past few years certainly show that contesters will “practice what they preach” in this case.

Take a look at Table 1, which shows “QSOs by Band” for the years 2002 thru 2007. It’s real clear that 10 meters is just like the little girl who had a little curl right in the middle of her forehead. As Longfellow wrote — “When she was good, she was very good indeed. And when she was bad she was horrid.” Many of you will remember 2002 was a good year for 10 meters — 31.6% of all QSOs reported in electronic logs were made on that band. When you fast forward you find only 1.2% of the total QSOs for this year’s contest were made on the band. Even when you factor in that total reported QSOs on all bands declined by over 700,000 between those two years, it is still dramatic proof that in the good years, follow the wise old adage.

Though not as dramatic, you can definitely tell from the data that 15 meter suffers in the lean sunspot years, though not as dramatically as its 10 meter cousin. Even with

the decline in total QSOs taken into account, there was a decline from 26% of all QSOs to 19% on 15 between the two years — a total of 267,000 fewer QSOs.

Loud is Good?

Most people would assume that in the lean years that the QSO machines simply move to the lower bands, further crowding them, which would lend an advantage to the “CW” that “Loud is good.” Table 1 only partially supports this maxim. Operation on 20 meters is something akin to “how many angels can you fit on the head of a pin.” In percentage terms, as “CW” tells us, it is the most crowded band when propagation is in the tank on 10 and 15 meters, rising from 24% of total QSOs to 37% of total QSOs. However even though it’s percentage of QSOs increased, the raw number of contacts still declined by 7%, a total of about 30,000 contacts. What is

QSOs by Band 2002-2007

	160 M	80 M	40 M	20 M	15 M	10 M	Total
DX Stations							
2002	9,071	41,242	93,834	181,328	203,617	241,663	770,755
2003	7,106	36,983	105,042	132,314	178,541	151,767	611,753
2004	22,570	67,177	151,266	180,029	206,700	83,140	710,882
2005	15,949	59,246	120,515	178,825	191,021	40,178	605,734
2006	20,488	66,460	151,603	231,261	114,659	10,245	594,716
2007	18,881	72,582	142,069	190,726	106,702	6,814	537,774
WVE Stations							
2002	8,354	48,434	122,685	245,545	263,916	322,824	1,011,758
2003	5,394	35,647	119,077	151,791	194,701	168,126	674,736
2004	16,182	64,881	163,131	198,656	233,017	78,652	754,519
2005	13,790	65,066	124,576	201,859	211,614	28,413	645,318
2006	17,839	65,534	146,459	244,577	107,241	8,014	589,664
2007	14,601	69,394	134,946	205,325	89,879	5,604	519,749

WVE Single Operator Region Leaders

Table lists 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)			(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)		
VY2PA (W4PA, op)	4,863,075	C	N4PN	1,638,336	C	VC3O	2,793,168	C	WX0B (AD5Q, op)	1,593,765	C	K6XX	1,116,864	C
N2NT	4,026,048	C	K1TO	1,513,071	C	(VE3AT, op)			W7VJ	849,120	C	W7VJ	849,120	C
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	3,445,200	C	WO4O	1,078,983	C	VE3DZ	2,653,992	C	K0SR	1,192,464	C	K07AA	836,418	C
AA1K	3,315,510	C	W5WMMU	971,100	C	WB9Z	1,304,784	C	WD5K	643,734	C	N7CW	744,753	C
K1ZZ	3,128,625	C	WJ9B	936,768	C	K8GL	1,201,086	C	K5BG	521,820	C	K6NA	651,423	C
						K0SN	656,208	C	K0RC	516,789	C			
N1UR	1,636,128	B	WK2G	804,408	B	K9QVB	717,606	B	N5AW	1,283,040	B	VE7XF	354,144	B
W3EF	1,208,088	B	N4KG	742,716	B	WB8JUI	471,033	B	N5DO	641,802	B	N6JV	293,763	B
KS1J	1,180,608	B	W4AA	642,978	B	WA8RCN	384,450	B	WB0HCH	365,205	B	NW7E	245,952	B
VE1OP	1,061,346	B	W4YE	465,831	B	N9JF	322,344	B	K5FP	358,272	B	N7AN	229,368	B
K2PS	1,035,990	B	K4FPF	439,812	B	VE3GSI	310,554	B	K5WO	175,329	B	N7ZG	208,065	B
KR2Q	509,472	A	N8II	499,956	A	VA3DF	242,496	A	ND0C	96,867	A	W6JTI	249,744	A
K3PH	501,972	A	K2EK	464,223	A	N8IE	237,375	A	WA8ZBT	49,920	A	N7IR	226,737	A
K2DM	334,764	A	K4CIA	287,793	A	N8WS	45,120	A	W7JI	43,800	A	VE6EX	144,288	A
N1TM	221,034	A	W9WI	279,954	A	K0CD	22,560	A	K1QG	40,392	A	W6QU	131,868	A
AA1CA	201,696	A	AD4Z	175,380	A	VA3RKM	5,031	A	W5ESE	31,248	A	(W8QZA, op) N6WG	25,854	A

Top Ten

W/VE

Call Score

Single Operator High Power

VY2PA (W4PA, op)	4,863,075
N2NT	4,026,048
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	3,445,200
AA1K	3,315,510
K1ZZ	3,128,625
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	3,042,660
VC3O (VE3AT, op)	2,793,168
WC1M	2,766,510
VE3DZ	2,653,992
N2LT	2,642,400

Single Operator Low Power

N1UR	1,636,128
N5AW	1,283,040
W3EF	1,208,088
KS1J	1,180,608
VE1OP	1,061,346
K2PS	1,035,990
WK2G	804,408
N3DG	773,244
W1JQ	754,965
N4KG	742,716

Single Operator QRP

KR2Q	509,472
K3PH	501,972
N8II	499,956
K2EK	464,223
K2DM	334,764
K4CIA	287,793
W9WI	279,954
W6JTI	249,744
VA3DF	242,496
N8IE	237,375

Single Operator 160 Meters

KT1V	65,391
W4ZV	55,944
VE2ZT	31,584
K4PI	25,938
W5UN	23,187
KK4SI	16,929
W4DR	16,464
W3GH	15,066
W2VO	14,196
W8LRL	13,932

Single Operator 80 Meters

W1MK	263,349
K1LZ (LZ1YQ, op)	252,252
NY3A	135,792
KU1CW	134,385
K9ES	104,922
KD2I	87,087
N2IC	72,675
K1PQS	71,190
N5IA	69,708
K1GU	67,410

Single Operator 40 Meters

N2MF	315,576
N2ZX	312,393
W3UA	291,288
K1ZZI	273,798
K5GA	213,408
K8IA	155,394
K9OM	155,337
NN3W	135,915
N7DF	128,934
KK0HF	118,341

Single Operator 20 Meters

W1MU	491,628
K7RL	332,100
W7WA	328,671
NA3D	325,920
N4ZR	274,590
N9CK	248,400
K1IM	231,360
W8TWA	117,738
W0ZA	106,554
K2MFY	96,390

Single Operator 15 Meters

K4EA	191,769
K4FJ	129,276
K7AO	87,330
K7MI	79,170
KC7V	50,580
WB4TDH	45,492
KT5E	40,095
K4RDU	27,816
W2FV	19,200
VE2DC	18,900

Single Operator 10 Meters

K5NA	5,103
K4WI	1,053
WB2AMU	48

Single Operator Assisted

W2UP	3,976,263
K2NG	3,687,687
K3OO	3,113,739
AA3B	3,070,800
WE3C	2,299,410
N1IW	2,241,000
W3FV	2,071,269

W8AV	2,004,300
N3BB	1,970,712
K5YA	1,911,936

Multi-Single

W3BGN	4,153,428
KT3Y	3,346,362
K8AZ	3,345,510
K2QMF	2,682,504
W4MYA	2,109,210
W2ZQ	1,930,485
W2XL	1,615,152
NE3F	1,606,098
K9SD	1,463,670
W9SZ	1,356,552

Multi-Two

NY4A	5,960,745
W4RM	4,199,910
K0TV	3,714,363
N0NI	3,414,534
N3AD	3,375,756
NK7U	2,392,368
K2AX	2,152,770
K3DI	1,494,465
W2CG	1,443,825
K2BA	1,362,546

Multi-Multi

W3LPL	8,532,252
K3LR	8,483,040
KC1XX	7,966,659
K1XM	7,415,784
K1KI	6,503,256
W2FU	5,986,596
NQ4I	5,575,176
K1TTT	5,532,072
K5GO	5,072,130
K1RX	4,835,106

DX

Single Operator High Power

P40W (W2GD, op)	5,078,862
ZF2AM (K6AM, op)	4,932,414

Single Operator 160 Meters

PJ4A (K4BAI, op)	4,754,160
KH7X (KH6ND @ KH6YY)	4,621,353

Single Operator 80 Meters

VP2E (N5AU, op)	4,093,845
V31KO	2,933,775
V47KP (W2OX, op)	2,122,992
OK5R (OK1RI, op)	2,031,810
G4BUO	2,009,940
TM6X (F5VHY, op)	1,982,460

Single Operator Low Power

P49Y (AE6Y, op)	4,177,656
H13TEJ (K7BV, op)	3,713,868
VP9/W6PH	3,273,522
WP3C	3,248,154
C6AWL (RA3CQ, op)	2,982,924
VP5/WJ2O	2,738,145
V49A (K0EJ, op)	2,313,750
VP9/K9CC	1,899,540
KH6NF (KH6SH, op)	1,586,184
CT6A (CT1ILT, op)	1,425,525

Single Operator QRP

4M2L (YV5YMA, op)	378,585
HB9BMY	153,816
I1BAY	92,367
EA7AAW	79,299
F5UKL	58,320
OK7CM	55,902
F8KHF (F4EGZ, op)	54,516
LZ2RS	46,656
JR4DAH	40,896
LZ8W (LZ4SA, op)	35,088

Single Operator 160 Meters

V31YN	146,547
C6AHR	136,629
PJ4/KU8E	113,544
KV4FZ	104,481
ON4UN	37,023
IS0/K7QB	29,718
SE1/K7CA	25,776
CN7Q	23,835
DJ0MDR	23,220
4M5IR	20,592

Single Operator 80 Meters

6Y1V	235,770
FM5BH	204,798
C6APG (K4PG, op)	204,516
M5X (G4TSH, op)	150,852
CM6RCR	133,893
GM3POI	119,568
G0IVZ	113,985

HB9CIP	108,360
IU3X (IV3SKB, op)	108,324
S57Z	106,428

Single Operator 40 Meters

C6AKQ (N4BP, op)	367,488
HB9FAP	238,773
PT7AG (PY8AZT, op)	228,984
ZL3WW	221,760
T96Q	214,032
YU1LA	206,640
EA8/OH6CS	201,951
IK4ZGO	177,912
SO9Q	158,088
F2DX	151,209

Single Operator 20 Meters

EA8/OH4NL	325,032
OH8X (OH8SR, op)	252,225
SO2R (SP2FAX, op)	220,542
J88DR (G3TBK, op)	215,289
9A5W	207,765
DL1IAO	200,925
PY2NY	177,840
G3RAU	175,896
OH8L	173,304
OT5A (ON5UM, op)	157,320

Single Operator 15 Meters

P49V	343,476
LU7HN	273,006
PY2YU	239,946
PV8DX	155,736
LU6UO	154,224
LW5EE	137,826
9A7R	106,272
PT7AA	78,246
IK1QBT	77,910
T99W	66,693

Single Operator 10 Meters

LU1HF	109,869
LU8EOT	6,048
JA7OWD	3

Single Operator Assisted

CN3A (IK2QEI, op)	2,822,400
LU4DX (LU5DX, op)	2,587,788
NH6P (W6YM, op)	2,148,309
P40LE (K2LE, op)	1,726,536
OE4A (OE1EMS, op)	1,463,448
DD2D (DK8ZB, op)	1,121,526
FM5JC (F5JJK, op)	1,085,508
F8CMF	1,017,360
KH6/VE7AHA	926,652
UU7J (UU0JM, op)	871,650

Multi-Single

HK1/K8DD	3,816,120
LR2F	3,274,128
CN2WWW	3,227,010
TM6M	2,517,375
EE5E	2,353,482
IR4X	1,979,100
IR2C	1,663,134
F5OGL	1,634,367
PI4TUE	1,358,514
HG1S	1,351,926

Multi-Two

PJ2T	7,655,172
HP1XX	7,571,520
V31TP	6,591,816
WP2Z	6,176,460
KH6LC	5,215,302
EF8M	5,125,788
CT9L	4,620,360
9A7A	2,336,487
DJ9MH	1,778,532
LN3Z	634,068

Multi-Multi

FS5KA	7,224,219
J70J	7,116,522
OM8A	2,711,694
OM7M	2,336,445
JA3YBK	1,639,440
RK2FWA	1,368,990
VK9DNX	1,226,475

traditionally a crowded band remains crowded.

“CW” says that in lean sunspot years, you had better be ready for the lower bands — 160, 80 and 40 meters. The 40 meter band showed the largest raw QSO increase with over 60,000 more contacts being completed there in 2007 as compared to 2002. When you throw in the 52,000 QSO increase on 80 meters and the 16,000 QSO increase on 160, there is definitely credence to the emphasis shifting to the low bands as sunspots disappear. But remember that the 128,000 QSO surge on those bands is more than offset by the 853,000 QSO decline on the high bands.

The list of reasons for this variance includes a wide range of thoughts, but don't overlook a couple of the most obvious. First, the casual to mid-level contest participant is not going to spend a full contest period “in the chair.” Since 160-80-40 primarily are night-time bands, you rarely see the more casual

participant burning the midnight oil, unless they are searching to pick up some low band DX countries for DXCC. Second, the antenna systems necessary for serious DX contesting on the three lower bands put the casual or space limited operator at a disadvantage. Those of us who have been “city lot dwellers” have pretty much come to grips that extensive arrays of aluminum, four-squares and beverages aren't going to happen, so we tend to “call it a night” after working the loudest of the DX stations. It isn't a lack of competitive drive — it often comes down to the practical limits of our station set-up.

The Great Thinkers

Once you sort through the various adages, thoughts, and pieces of “CW” you accumulate, it still comes down to determining who can parlay those guideposts into a successful contest weekend. While perusing the Boxes, you will see the accumulated wisdom of thousands of hours of contest operation

by skilled operators who have honed their experiences by testing the conventional wisdom.

W/VE Winners

The general consensus is that the Single Operator High Power category is where one tests their mettle against the best of the best. Once the dust settled, in 2007 two emerged with scores over the 4-million threshold. Scott, W4PA, journeyed to a “fortress of solitude” in the frozen north, operated as VY2PA and battled against Andy, N2NT who challenged all comers from his home “fortress” in New Jersey. Congratulations to Scott who followed up his 2006 victory in the category from the DX side of the contest by posting a winning final tally of 4.86-million. Andy's 4.02-million points enabled him to finish as the runner-up for the second straight year.

Ed, N1UR, was able to pull off the repeat win in the Single Operator Low Power

Continental Leaders

	Call	Score		Call	Score
Africa			North America		
Single Operator High Power	EA8MQ	507,906	Single Operator High Power	ZF2AM (K6AM, op)	4,932,414
Single Operator Low Power	EA8CN	1,100,160	Single Operator Low Power	H13TEJ (K7BV, op)	3,713,868
Single Operator 40 Meters	EA8/OH6CS	201,951	Single Operator 160 Meters	V31YN (DJ4KW, op)	146,547
Single Operator 20 Meters	EA8/OH4NL	325,032	Single Operator 80 Meters	6Y1V (KY1V, op)	235,770
Single Operator 15 Meters	EA8/IJ1GLO (K2LEO, op)	378	Single Operator 40 Meters	C6AKQ (N4BP, op)	367,488
Single Operator Assisted	CN3A (IK2QEI, op)	2,822,400	Single Operator 20 Meters	J88DR (G3TBK, op)	215,289
Multi-Single	CN2WW	3,227,010	Single Operator Assisted	FM5JC (F5JKK, op)	1,085,508
Multi-Two	EF8M	5,125,788	Multi-Single	KL2R	290,490
			Multi-Multi	FS5KA	7,224,219
Asia			Oceania		
Single Operator High Power	JH4UYB	1,077,600	Single Operator High Power	KH7X (KH6ND @ KH6YY)	4,621,353
Single Operator Low Power	JA2AXB	149,265	Single Operator Low Power	KH6NF (KH6SH, op)	1,586,184
Single Operator QRP	JR4DAH	40,896	Single Operator 80 Meters	AH7C	30,528
Single Operator 160 Meters	JA8NFV	9,396	Single Operator 40 Meters	ZL3WW	221,760
Single Operator 80 Meters	JH10GC	63,600	Single Operator 20 Meters	ZL3TE (W3SE, op)	14,385
Single Operator 40 Meters	4Z5LA	104,850	Single Operator 15 Meters	YC1KAF	4,200
Single Operator 20 Meters	JH7XMO	100,650	Single Operator Assisted	NH6P (W6YM, op)	2,148,309
Single Operator 15 Meters	7K4XNN	54,780	Multi-Single	ZM1A	1,314,600
Single Operator 10 Meters	JA7OWD	3	Multi-Two	KH6LC	5,215,302
Single Operator Assisted	JF2QNM	387,090	Multi-Multi	VK9DNX	1,226,475
Multi-Single	JA8RWU	967,824			
Multi-Two	JA3YBK	1,639,440	South America		
Multi-Multi			Single Operator High Power	P40W (W2GD, op)	5,078,862
			Single Operator Low Power	P49Y (AE6Y, op)	4,177,656
Europe			Single Operator QRP	4M2L (YV5YMA, op)	378,585
Single Operator High Power	OK5R (OK1RI, op)	2,031,810	Single Operator 160 Meters	PJ4/KU8E	113,544
Single Operator Low Power	CT6A (CT1ILT, op)	1,425,525	Single Operator 80 Meters	PT7CG	87,528
Single Operator QRP	HB9BMY	153,816	Single Operator 40 Meters	PT7AG	228,984
Single Operator 160 Meters	ON4UN	37,023	Single Operator 20 Meters	PY2NY	177,840
Single Operator 80 Meters	M5X (G4TSH, op)	150,852	Single Operator 15 Meters	P49V	343,476
Single Operator 40 Meters	HB9FAP	238,773	Single Operator 10 Meters	LU1HF	109,869
Single Operator 20 Meters	OH8X (OH8SR, op)	252,225	Single Operator Assisted	LU4DX (LU5DX, op)	2,587,788
Single Operator 15 Meters	9A7R	106,272	Multi-Single	HK1/K8DD	3,816,120
Single Operator Assisted	OE4A (OE1EMS, op)	1,463,448	Multi-Two	PJ2T	7,655,172
Multi-Single	TM6M	2,517,375			
Multi-Two	9A7A	2,336,487			
Multi-Multi	OM8A	2,711,694			

category. Though his score declined a bit, Ed continues to post strong efforts in the category. This year almost one of every three entries on the US side was submitted for this category (402 total). Ed's 1.63-million points was able to best a great effort by Marv, N5AW, who was the runner-up. It is interesting to note that Marv's second place finish flies a bit in the face of CW as he competes from his QTH in the South Texas ARRL section. "CW" does generally hold true that New England and middle Atlantic stations have an advantage because of their closer proximity to Europe, but Marv frequently defies the norm, as his fourth place finish in 2006 will attest.

The Single Operator QRP category generated 63 entries, but less than 10K points separated the top three stations after the log checking magic was worked. Doug, KR2Q, Bob, K3PH, and Jeff, N8II ended up 1-2-3 in the category. Bob held a slim 13 QSO lead on Doug and 26 over Jeff, but that wasn't quite enough to offset Doug's 8 more multipliers.

Barry, W2UP, is no stranger holding his own in the Single Operator Assisted category, as he always seems to find a way to parlay his skills into a great showing. He can add the title of 2007 category winner to his resume, as he was able to take top honors with 3.97-million points. A strong contest was also posted by runner-up Noah, K2NG, another familiar resident in this rarified company.

The Single Operator Single Band specialists come to their various categories for a variety of reasons. Some are students

2007 ARRL International DX CW Contest Sponsored Plaques

Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
W/VE Single Operator High Power	VY2PA (W4PA, op)	Frankford Radio Club
W/VE Single Operator QRP	KR2Q	Tod Olson, K0TO
W/VE Single Operator Assisted	W2UP	Harold Ritchey, W3WPG Memorial by K3WWW
W/VE Multioperator Two Transmitter	NY4A	Hal Kennedy, N4GG
W/VE 3.5 MHz	W1MK	SM3DMP - W7ACN
W/VE 7 MHz	N2MF	Northern Arizona DX Association
W/VE 14 MHz	W1MU	The QSLMAN - W4MPY
W/VE 21 MHz	K4EA	Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
World Single Operator High Power	P40W (W2GD, op)	North Jersey DX Association
World Single Operator QRP	4M2L (YV5YMA, op)	Jerry Griffin, K6MD/Y19MD
World Multioperator Two Transmitters	PJ2T	Tom De Meiss K2TD Memorial
World Multioperator Unlimited	FS5KA	St Stephen Miller N0SM
World 14 MHz	EA8/OH4NL	Jeff Hartley, N8II
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	N6JV	Central California DX Club, Inc. W6MEL
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter	JA8RWU	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
Europe Single Operator High Power	OK5R (OK1RI, op)	Jim George
North America Single Operator High Power	ZF2AM (K6AM, op)	Potomac Valley Radio Club

intrigued by the characteristics and dynamics of working on specific bands. Others choose to participate as a single band entry for personal reasons. Whatever the reason, the efforts to maximize their scores will see them employ the same skills and techniques as those in other categories. Congratulations to these great operators, who took top honors on the various bands: 160 meters, Ted, KT1V; 80 meters, Robye, W1MK; 40 meters, Brian, N2MF; 20 meters, Mike, W1MU; 15 meters, Neal, K4EA; and 10 meters, Richard, K5NA. (Be sure to see the expanded contest write-up at www.arrl.org/contests.results for more details on these and other category results.)

A look at the "CW" over time tells us that the Multi-Operator categories on the W/VE side are sure to be a strong battleground with great stories to tell. After being displaced in 2006, the W3BGN call sign once again reigns supreme in the Multi-Single category. Steve's pool of talent included Pete, NO2R,

and Tom, K2TW. They easily outdistanced the operators at KT3Y, who managed to hold on to second place by a mere 852 points over the K8AZ crew.

This year the Multi-Two category was dominated by the NY4A entry. Using a PVRC Club call, Guy, K2AV, Jim, K4QPL, Bruce, N1LN, and Howard, N4AF, racked up almost 6-million points from their NC QTH. They finished 1299 QSOs ahead of category runner-up W4RM (who finished only 2 mults behind the winner).

Conventional wisdom says when you hear some particular call signs you can automatically guess what category they entered. You always associate W3LPL and K3LR with the Multi-Multi category and with top performances. The W3LPL station operators of K1HTV, N1IN, K3KU, AI3M, K3MM, N3OC, K3RA, K3RV, N3UA, WR3Z, KD4D, K4ZA, K4ZW and W3LPL had a score to settle, having been displaced as champions one year earlier by the determined crew of K3UA, K1EA, N2NC,

K1AR, N2NL, N6MJ, VE3EJ, VE7ZO, N3GJ, and N3SD all pounding brass at the K3LR station. This was yet another epic contest. In the end Frank, W3LPL and crew regained the title as their 166 more QSOs offset Tim, K3LR and company's 14-multiplier advantage.

DX Leaders and Continental Winners

You will always find a lot of great W/VE operators who choose to run this contest from the DX side. And who can blame them? The decision to spend the third weekend in February either at some warmer location in the Caribbean, Central or South America versus the winter cold of most of the mainland US is a "no brainer." But don't be fooled. These guest operators to warmer climates don't check their contesting CW with the custom's officers when they leave the states.

A win in the ARRL DX CW Contest in the Single Operator High Power category from off-shore is one of the top honors in the contesting community. And in 2007 the winner — and only op to crack the 5-million point barrier was John, W2GD, who operated as P4ØW in Aruba (South American winner). John edged out another John, K6AM, operating as ZF2AM (North American winner), by about 140K. Close on their heels was another of the veritable icons of the contesting world, John, K4BAI, operating as PJ4A. Believe it or not, though he has operated off shore many times in numerous contests, this was the first time John had every chased the brass ring as a single operator in an ARRL International DX CW Contest.

Almost as competitive was the Single Operator Low Power category. Aruba was definitely the destination as Andy, AE6Y, operates as P49Y to take the overall category and South American title by a comfortable 463K points over Dennis, K7BV, who operated from HI3TEJ. Dennis's score was enough to secure top honors for North America in the contest over third place finisher Kurt, VP9/W6PH. Close on Kurt's heels was Al, WP3C, a scant 25K behind.

In any contest the Single Operator QRP category takes a mixture of skill, luck, experience, and some would say, a bit of "insanity." But they also know that the rush of adrenaline they experience with almost every completed contact is worth the effort. YV5YMA operated as 4M2L and was able to patiently outdistance runner-up HB9BMY by a score of 358K to 153K. Both stations earned continental winner status for South America and Europe respectively, as did JR4DAH (Asia) and V31YN (North America).

For years one of the smaller categories from the DX side has been Single Operator assisted. "CW" tells us this is due to the lack of one of the basic elements necessary to



W4OC and N4GG in "full concentration" mode at HP1XX, where the team finished in second place in the Multi-Two category.

enter in the category — access to an internet connection or packet spotting network. With access to spotting information growing all the time, the number of participants in this category continues to grow as well. About 10% (125) of all DX entries were Single Op Assisted in 2007. The top three slots all hail from different continents as well. Stefano, IK2QEI, operated as CN3A and won the overall category with the top score from Africa of 2.82-million points. Second place and top score from South America was claimed by Martin, LU5DX, operator of LU4DX for the weekend. Oceania winner Fred, W6YM, brought the NH6P station home for 3rd place in the category.

Our Conventional Wisdom tells us that from the DX side, the Single Operator Single Band categories should usually come down to the stations with the best QSO totals. "CW" is borne out by the fact that in five of the six single band categories the multiplier totals of the top three stations were within two of the other stations on that band, and in two cases all three of the top scores worked the same number of multipliers. So the difference between the top scores here will be the ability to keep QSO rates going. Congratulations to the stations who took top honors in the six single band categories: 160 — Gerd, V31YN; 80 — David, 6Y1V; 40 — Bob, N4BP operating C6AKQ; 20 — Mauri, EA8/OH4NL; 15 — Carl, P49V; and 10 — Juan, LU1HF.

New record scores are hard to find when this contest is conducted at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Congratulations go to Jyrki, EA8/OH6CS and his fellow countryman Mauri, EA8/OH4NL, who set new African continental records for Single Band 40 meters and Single Band 20 meters respectively. Two new Asian Single Band records were also set in 2007, with Yas, JA8NFV, setting a new standard for 160 meters from Asia while Kasuo, JH1OGC, raised the bar with a new 80 meter record. And don't overlook Jeff, KU8E, who spent the contest operating from PJ4 and set a new South American Single Band 160 meter record. The complete list of continental leaders is included else-

where in this write-up. Congratulations to all of these hard-working operators.

While all are generally hotly contested, the Multi-operator categories always tend to concentrate on the Multi-Single and Multi-Two categories on the DX side. Three stations managed to top the 3-million point mark among the 44 Multi-Single entries submitted in 2007 (the largest multi-operator category). Congratulations are in order to K8DD, who operated as HK1/K8DD and was joined by AC8W to win this competitive category and the top South American category score by a comfortable margin of about 540K points over the competitive LR2F team with LU1FAM, LU2FA, LU5FF, and LW8DQ operators.

One of the more interesting races to watch unfold in 2007 would have to be the Multi-Two contest, which is always among the most hotly contested categories. It was a full-bore effort between the PJ2T team of W8TK, WØCG, WA4PGM, K8NZ, WA9S, N1ZZ, NP2L, W9EFL and N8LGP and the team of W9RE, N5OT, W4OC and N4GG operating from HP1XX. Again, it was the additional QSOs making the difference, as the PJ2T were able to overcome their rivals minute advantage of 1 more multiplier with 108 more QSOs — that's just a little more than 2 an our for the duration of the contest. Both groups are hardware eligible as PJ2T is the winning score from South America while HP1XX is top score from North America.

Only six entries total were received in Multi-Multi category, but that does not lessen the outstanding efforts of any of the six. Leading the way were two highly competitive teams — FS5KA which included K3LP, K1LZ, N3KS, N2OW and N2YO and J7OJ manned by K5KG, J79XX, K1XX, W19WI, KK9K and W9IU. Both topped the 7 million point barrier with Saint Martin team edging out the Dominica group by a scant 108K points. In doing so they also claimed the continental win for North America.

As always, there is far more to this contest than can be written up in a brief summary article for QST. If you are an ARRL member be sure to check out the expanded results article available on the ARRL Web at www.arrl.org/contests/results. And of course everyone should review the ARRL Online Soapbox for this (and all ARRL) contests which can be found at www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox.

So that's a wrap for the third weekend in February 2007. By February 16-17, 2008 there are indications that we could begin to see the reappearance of the missing sunspots, as we transition from Cycle 23 into Cycle 24. We will all be happy to see their return — after all, they will help all of us adjust our CW as we prepare for one of the premier CW contests of any calendar year. Keep pounding the Brass and 73!