

MY ARRL DX CW this year, by EA2BD.

I have participated many times in the ARRL DX CW, most of these times from my comfortable home shack, running Low or High power.

This year I had to leave my hometown and go visit some relatives during the weekend for a celebration.

I couldn't resist to grab my tiny portable gear just in case. I didn't want to miss this lovely contest!

I decided to install a silly short random wire in the apartment and I simply stretched a 4 meter wire in my bedroom, hanging it inverted L from the curtain, aside a window facing West, towards USA.

What could I expect from that very limited indoor setup, having only a QRP CW rig inside an apartment, with a wall between me and the outer atmosphere?

I used my QRP Labs QMX rig, powered by 3 light Lilon cells, with about 4 watts out to a ZM-2 manual tuner, and I decided to choose 21 MHz band only.

I worked about 3 hours, operating a paddle by hand and logging in a compact smartphone App.

Was it difficult? Sure it was. I could only operate Search and pounce, and had to do many repeats of my call and exchange, combined with some other easy and straightforward QSO.

Despite the marginal signal I guess I had put in the other side across the pond, I had a lot of fun, logging 42 QSO in 21 states.

I can't but thank all the colleagues who were patient enough with me, spending their time to complete the QSO. God bless your ears and big antennas, dear mates!

Was it worth to participate that way to get a marginal score? YES, it's always worth to greet ham friends in the other corner of the world, and to notice what we, amateurs, can do even with a poor system.

Thanks all and wishing to participate next year (hopefully with a proper antenna!)

73 EA2BD Ignacio