

2014 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

A fine winter weekend on Top Band.

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The 2014 ARRL 160 Meter Contest (Dec 5 – 7) was marked by typical band conditions — up and down with a few good openings as well as other times that were not so productive. Atmospheric noise was generally low, with only a few weather-related challenges across North America. Many familiar call signs were logged, along with plenty of brand-new 160 meter explorers.

Overall Highlights

There were 1175 logs submitted, down about 4% from last year, but still a number similar to most of the past dozen runnings of this event. The brand-new Unlimited category was introduced, which meant that single operators using spotting information no longer needed to enter the Multioperator category. 375 contestants chose to enter as Unlimited at one of the three power levels. Along with the 44 Multiop logs, 35.7% of all the entries used spotting. By comparison, the 2013 contest had 27.3% Multiop logs. It appears that growing interest in using spotting information, particularly from the Skimmer-based Reverse Beacon Network (RBN — reversebeacon.net), justifies the addition of this new category.

Readers can see all the top scores in the accompanying tables, but I'd like to put a spotlight on the inaugural Single Op Unlimited results, which had several highly competitive performances. At QRP power, Dale, WC7S, handed out 236 QSOs from his Wyoming QTH, which he says was three times more than in any of the past 10 years. Close behind was Vlado, N3CZ, in the North Carolina Section. Although well behind the winners in the traditional QRP category, the QRP Top Ten are still the trailblazers of this new entry category.

In the Unlimited, Low Power category, Chad, WE9V, dominated the field with a margin of victory of more than 59,000 points. His was the second-highest score of all Low Power entries, single or multioperator. Part of Chad's success was his choice of a temporary operation at his mom's farmhouse in a quiet rural part of Wisconsin. "My TX antenna noise was an amazing S3. So all but about five QSOs were with listening on the TX antenna."

The Unlimited, High Power winner was an-



Although recovering from a cycling accident, Markus, VE7CA, took some time to fire up his vintage Viking Ranger and Collins 51J-4 and make 52 QSOs in 25 sections. [Markus Hansen, VE7CA, photo]

other Midwesterner, Craig, K9CT, in Illinois, followed by an operator well-experienced in Unlimited or Assisted categories, Charles, K3WW, in Eastern Pennsylvania. Both of these operators had scores similar to the middle of the Top Ten in the highly competitive "unassisted" High Power category.

Regional Observations

The Single Operator, High Power category was dominated by stations in the Eastern time zone, where proximity to the many multipliers in Europe is a recognized advantage. This was again the case in 2014, with the top 11 scores achieved from the eastern US and Canada. Your author was pleased to have this category's highest score west of Eastern Time Zone at 12th place overall.

The advantage of an eastern QTH is a bit less in the High Power Multioperator and Single Op Unlimited categories. Spotting networks, multiple radios, and several sets of ears can efficiently locate additional QSOs and multipliers, and the Top Ten lists for these entry categories include several stations in the Central and Mountain time zones. Among them is the 4th place Multioperator team at NØNI in Iowa, who provided an example of another typical pattern — they had the highest QSO total of any station (1644), a feat often

Affiliated Club Competition

Club Name	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	6,439,488	86
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	3,422,974	47
Society of Midwest Contesters	2,858,734	57
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,832,744	53
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	3,632,195	37
Contest Club Ontario	2,280,592	29
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	1,543,371	33
Tennessee Contest Group	1,334,757	22
Mad River Radio Club	1,049,611	12
Alabama Contest Group	949,514	17
DFW Contest Group	841,813	17
Florida Contest Group	773,088	13
North Coast Contesters	748,595	10
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	606,116	7
South East Contest Club	583,457	10
Northern California Contest Club	521,895	18
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	441,689	5
Carolina DX Association	395,605	6
CTRI Contest Group	382,271	4
Contest Group Du Quebec	377,613	4
North Texas Contest Club	341,416	3
Western Washington DX Club	309,363	12
Southern California Contest Club	303,991	8
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	240,560	6
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	217,133	6
Utah DX Association	197,746	7
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	174,884	5
Maritime Contest Club	159,088	4
Kentucky Contest Group	148,264	4
Louisiana Contest Club	123,722	4
Swamp Fox Contest Group	112,158	3
Willamette Valley DX Club	81,273	6
Bergen ARA	22,686	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	499,176	7
Kansas City DX Club	326,548	3
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	269,783	7
Bozonga DX and Contest Club	234,432	4
Delara Contest Team	201,217	4
Spokane DX Association	167,419	3
Lincoln ARC	157,561	3
Bristol (TN) ARC	143,063	5
West Park Radiops	109,181	8
North Carolina DX and Contest Club	97,638	3

achieved from the center of North America.

The ability to make lots of QSOs from the middle of the US is evident in the Low Power and QRP results for the Single Op, Multiop, and Unlimited categories. Four of the five Low Power and QRP categories were won from the Central or Mountain time zones, with a 2nd place finish in the fifth. If you are a competitive contester from the central or western US, history suggests that your best chance of achieving a Top Ten finish is with low power or QRP.

It is true that an overall high finish is nearly impossible from the far western part of North America, but there is much fun to be had in

Top Ten

W/VE

Single Operator, QRP

KV0Q	153,132
W0GJ	134,720
WD5COV	108,880
K4FT	96,912
KA1J	78,660
W3TS	67,893
N7IR	57,760
K9TF	55,200
N2WN	51,606
N8BB	38,995

Single Operator, Low Power

N2KW	237,650
N0TT	198,488
WB8JUI	163,095
K0TI	158,355
K8FH	156,090
NE9U	153,550
W0UO	151,551
VE3MGY	150,024
W9SN	147,972
K9MMS	142,106

Single Operator, High Power

K3ZM	479,454
AA1K	407,591
K1ZM	405,076
NO3M	364,169
VE3EJ	355,080
VA2EW	325,728
K1LT	300,273
K1LZ	297,696
W3BGN	295,846
WF2W	295,290

Multioperator, High Power

W2GD	433,260
VE3JM	369,955
N1LN	366,128
N0NI	342,794
N2CEI	334,070
N3RR	298,935
K7CA	252,648
VE2OJ	232,416
W4HZ	205,920
K3MJW	173,664

Multioperator, Low Power

KG0US	114,800
K8UO	113,190
VE9ML	104,796
N0HJZ	69,696
KE0L	59,112
W3HAC	51,646
N0AH	46,725
W5WTM	38,025
N3FJP	35,574
KA9VVQ	19,352

Single Operator Unlimited, QRP

WC7S	29,673
N3CZ	29,288
WR5O	27,434
KC9EE	27,246
K4DZR	17,568
KA3EHL	9,282
K8ZT	8,096
K9YC	5,053
NM2O	4,800
K0VK	3,243

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

WE9V	219,644
N0AT	160,188
W1NT	159,194
K8BL	158,950
W0DLE	150,822
N0IM	150,365
N9CK	125,050
AA5AM	123,820
WA4PSC	99,648
N3UA	98,023

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

K9CT	321,400
K3WW	307,082
W8MJ	259,158
K0RF	244,928
VE3RZ	236,900
W0AIH	
(K0TG, op)	232,028
W5TM	228,225
W8FJ	202,910
VE3TA	200,485
K1RO	199,405

DX

Single Operator, QRP

OL1A	162
JH4UYB	32

Single Operator, Low Power

XE2YWH	4,690
SP3HLM	1,794
G4L	864
DL5ZB	280
EA2SW	220
CO8DM	216
DL5CL	216
OK1CZ	180
EI3KI	176
HA7JQK	96

Single Operator, High Power

XE2S	88,350
ZF2AH	79,424
M5O	
(G3LET, op)	19,536
G4AMT	17,388
OK2W	7,590
GM4ZUK	6,848
OK1TN	6,840
DF2PY	5,184
DL4CF	2,064
DK2CF	1,216

Multioperator, High Power

PJ2T	141,526
OL7M	13,806
8J2VE	1,938
LY2XW	1,540
OG9W	240

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

XE2B	11,592
HA4XH	416
G3VZG	288
US2WU	220
HB9CPS	180
R7IA	50

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

XE2X	57,936
GW3YDX	16,744
IQ9UI	
(LY5W, op)	13,416
S51V	11,398
PI4D	
(PD1DX, op)	10,412
DL2SAX	7,140
EA1SA	5,624
GW0GEI	4,160
EA7PP	4,092
EA6URA	
(EA3AIR, op)	3,828

Division Winners

Single Operator, QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	67,893
Central	K9TF	55,200
Dakota	KE0G	11,704
Delta	N2WN	51,606
Great Lakes	K4FT	96,912
Hudson	W2JEK	3,600
Midwest	W0GJ	134,720
New England	KA1J	78,660
Northwestern	W7DRA	1,152
Pacific	K2GMY	1,190
Roanoke	WB4MSG	27,613
Rocky Mountain	KV0Q	153,132
Southeastern	N4AX	37,760
Southwestern	N7IR	57,760
West Gulf	N5OE	37,808
Canada	VE7VV	23,128

Single Operator, Low Power

Atlantic	K1PTF	111,774
Central	NE9U	153,550
Dakota	K0TI	158,355
Delta	W9SN	147,972
Great Lakes	WB8JUI	163,095
Hudson	K2TTM	112,590
Midwest	N0TT	198,488
New England	N2KW	237,650
Northwestern	AI7H	49,050
Pacific	N6RK	94,721
Roanoke	W4UX	104,025
Rocky Mountain	W7SE	111,930
Southeastern	K1DC	124,880
Southwestern	WA7NB	63,300
West Gulf	W0UO	151,551
Canada	VE3MGY	150,024

Single Operator, High Power

Atlantic	AA1K	407,591
Central	K9AY	248,832
Dakota	W0SD (W0DB, op)	232,880
Delta	KM5PS	111,034
Great Lakes	K1LT	300,273
Hudson	K2UF	146,608
Midwest	K0BJ	136,037
New England	K1ZM	405,076
Northwestern	N9RV	125,712
Pacific	W7RN (K7NV, op)	137,934
Roanoke	K3ZM	479,454
Rocky Mountain	W7UT	154,400
Southeastern	N4PN	209,343
Southwestern	N7GP (N5IA, op)	239,766
West Gulf	K5WA	239,232
Canada	VE3EJ	355,080

Single Operator Unlimited, QRP

Atlantic	NM2O	4,800
Central	KC9EE	27,246
Delta	K4DZR	17,568
Great Lakes	K8ZT	8,096
New England	N1IMW	3,120
Pacific	K9YC	5,053
Roanoke	N3CZ	29,288
Rocky Mountain	WC7S	29,673
West Gulf	WR5O	27,434

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

Atlantic	K3MD	85,050
Central	WE9V	219,644
Dakota	N0AT	160,188
Delta	N4ARO	67,266
Great Lakes	K8BL	158,950
Hudson	WA2MCR	37,926
Midwest	K0KT	3,100
New England	W1NT	159,194
Northwestern	AB7R	51,359
Pacific	K6MI	11,826
Roanoke	WA4PSC	99,648
Rocky Mountain	W0DLE	150,822
Southeastern	WE4S	83,930
Southwestern	AK7AR	53,669
West Gulf	AA5AM	123,820
Canada	VE3VM	36,366

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Atlantic	K3WW	307,082
Central	K9CT	321,400
Dakota	K0RC	110,290
Delta	N4VV	115,121
Great Lakes	W8MJ	259,158
Hudson	N2GC	188,418
Midwest	KI0I	149,688
New England	K1RO	199,405
Northwestern	KG7H	180,900
Pacific	W6DR	71,136
Roanoke	NR4M	183,540
Rocky Mountain	K0RF	244,928
Southeastern	KR4F	135,120
Southwestern	AA7A	121,548
West Gulf	W5TM	228,225
Canada	VE3RZ	236,900

Multioperator, Low Power

Atlantic	W3HAC	51,646
Central	KE0L	59,112
Dakota	N0HJZ	69,696
Great Lakes	K8UO	113,190
Midwest	KG0US	114,800
Rocky Mountain	N0AH	46,725
West Gulf	W5WTM	38,025
Canada	VE9ML	104,796

Multioperator, High Power

Atlantic	W2GD	433,260
Central	K9MOT	57,706
Great Lakes	W3HKK	162,162
Midwest	N0NI	342,794
New England	W1OP	109,798
Northwestern	K7LFY	84,800
Pacific	KH6LC	61,983
Roanoke	N1LN	366,128
Rocky Mountain	K7CA	252,648
Southeastern	N2CEI	334,070
Southwestern	W6XI	67,488
Canada	VE3JM	369,955

regional competition, or simply participating in a major operating event on this unique band. In 2014, hams out west had significant DX activity from Japan and the Pacific to keep things interesting.

Club Competition

The camaraderie of a radio club is a big part of our hobby. With a band like 160 meters, a little help from your friends is the way to learn and improve your station hardware and operating skills. Four clubs had more than 50 members submit logs, qualifying them for the Unlimited Category. This past December, the Potomac Valley Radio Club mustered 86 of their troops for both the highest participation and highest aggregate score total. The Frankford Radio Club topped the Medium Category, while in the Local Category, the Central Vir-

ginia Contest Club came out on top. If you ever wondered how important clubs are to contesting, please note that more than 50% of the submitted logs were affiliated with one of the participating clubs!

The Wrap-Up

Summer is approaching, so take advantage of good weather to upgrade your station for the 2015 running of the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, December 4 – 6!

Full Results Online

The full results for the contest can be tuned in at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles. Look for more tables and discussion of the contest!