2013 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

1224 reasons to get on Top Band.

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Behind every log submitted for the 2013 ARRL 160 Meter Contest is a unique reason why that entrant took part. The 1224 logs submitted represent the fourth highest total ever for this contest, and they probably represent many of the reasons for being on the band. Here are just a few, drawn from the hundreds of operators who included comments with their logs and posted on various Internet sites:

- Operated remotely for the first time.
- Tried a new receiving loop.
- Set up a portable station at the beach.
- Got some friends together for a M/S operation.
- New radio, new logging software, old operator.
- Finally put up a decent vertical for 160.
- My club prodded me into loading whatever wire I had.
- First time using spots and being assisted (M/S, actually).
- Just doing search-and-pounce until my CW skills get better.
- Conditions seemed down, but my score was about the same.

Glenn, WØGJ and second op (his grandson Lincoln) spent some time bonding during the contest. We'll keep Glenn in the Single Op category — perhaps he used QRP so as not to wake Lincoln? [Vivien Johnson, KL7YL, photo]

- Conditions were down and my score was the lowest in many years
- Busy with holiday stuff, but I had to get on for a while!

Now that we've heard what some of the contestants had to say, let's take a look at the big picture.

Band Conditions

Propagation on the 160 meter band is like the weather. We all talk about it, we complain when it's bad, and get excited when it's good — yet there is nothing we can do about it! Of course, geography, activity level, and weather all play a part, as does the calendar. In 2013, the later date of the contest was farther into the holiday season, when social activities draw our attention away from the radio.

Single Operator, QRP (SOQRP)

At first glance, QRP seems to be a daunting challenge on 160 meters. Five watts is 1/300 of the 1500 W high power maximum for the event, and 1/30 of low power's 150 W limit. The remarkable success of QRP (with a decent antenna system) is an excellent real-world example of the logarithmic nature of "loudness." The 2013 QRP winner was Rich, W8VK, in the Ohio Section. Geography has a significant effect on QRP scores, as the top four finishers were all located in the east central US, which is close to the highest concentration of contest participants.

Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)

The benefit of a central US QTH is even more pronounced in the SOLP category, with the Top Ten having a geographical spread from VA to MN to NTX — all of them in proximity to high contest activity. Charlie, NØTT, tops the low power list with a new Missouri Section and Midwest Division record score. It is interesting to note that some of the successful low power competitors have quite modest stations by contesters' standards, compelling evidence that operating skill and perseverance are at least as important as the amount of available hardware!

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

As with nearly every ham radio contest, the Single Operator, High Power category is the pinnacle of competition. Effective station engineering, peak operating skills and high mo-

Table 1
Most Active Sections

Section	Number of Logs	Section	Number of Logs
VA	57	MDC	40
MN	56	AZ	30
IL	50	EPA	30
OH	43	TN	30

Affiliated Club Competition

Club Name	*Score*	*Entries*
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	6,656,145	82
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	4,857,111	55
Society of Midwest Contesters	3,172,429	56
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,697,095	54
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	4,095,994	39
Contest Club Ontario	2,242,895	34
Tennessee Contest Group	1,449,170	21
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	1,431,329	27
Mad River Radio Club	1,325,127	15
North Coast Contesters	1,188,955	7
Alabama Contest Group	873,739	14
Grand Mesa Contesters of	843,977	10
DFW Contest Group	814,939	15
Florida Contest Group	700,819	16
Hudson Valley Contesters and	567,833	11
Northern California Contest Club	554,900	22
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	507,558	9
North Texas Contest Club	431,879	5
Kentucky Contest Group	427,741	3
South East Contest Club	392,628	9
CTRI Contest Group	383,225	6
Georgia Contest Group	361,445	4
New Mexico Big River Contesters	288,211	4
Carolina DX Association	282,150	7
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	261,386	6
Southern California Contest Club	246,892	8
Western Washington DX Club	223,367	8
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	222,384	4
Utah DX Assn	172,887	6
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	87,145	3
Maritime Contest Club	65,398	3
Willamette Valley DX Club	65,304	4
Louisiana Contest Club	40,159	4
ORCA DX And Contest Club	19,452	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	948,773	8
Delara Contest Team	320,592	5
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	178,988	3
Spokane DX Association	172,247	4
Bristol (TN) ARC	172,012	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	169,708	4
West Park Radiops	116,860	7
Paducah Amateur Radio	113,597	3
Metro DX Club	97,088	5
Low Country Contest Club	78,577	3

Division Winners

Single Operator, QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	71,736
Central	K9WX	14,872
Dakota	KE0G	30,464
Delta	N2WN	47,141
Great Lakes	W8VK	92,393
Hudson	W2JEK	5,017
Midwest	W0GJ	49,166
New England	AA1CA	21,824
Northwestern	W7DRA	2
Pacific	KU7Y	7,308
Roanoke	KV8S	31,680
Rocky Mountain	WC7S	9,212
Southeastern	W5NZ	12,218
Southwestern	N7IR	42,908
West Gulf	N4IJ	27,094
Canada	VE7VV	19,765

Single Operator, Low Power

Atlantic	K3AJ	128,152
Central	K9MMS	150,075
Dakota	K0TT	156,434
Delta	K5LG	64,944
Great Lakes	K8FH	174,447
Hudson	NY6DX	60,044
Midwest	N0TT	201,407
New England	N1IX	83,580
New England	KM1R	62,558
Northwestern	NE7D	36,750
Pacific	N6RK	85,120
Roanoke	N4VA	10,878
Roanoke	N9NB	145,520
Rocky Mountain	K7OA	67,562
Southeastern	AA4LR	84,135
Southwestern	W7RH	88,352
West Gulf	W0UO	133,560
Canada	VE3OSZ	68,100

Single Operator, High Power

Atlantic	AA1K	436,195
Central	K9AY	308,374
Dakota	NE0U	178,920
Delta	N8OO	315,468
Great Lakes	K1LT	378,822
Hudson	W2XL	149,812
Midwest	K0BJ	132,020
New England	W1UE	326,154
Northwestern	WJ9B	163,299
Pacific	W7DR	86,772
Roanoke	K3ZM	496,674
Rocky Mountain	WD5COV	262,956
Southeastern	KP2M	282,264
Southwestern	N7GP	230,175
West Gulf	K5RX	281,992
Canada	VY2ZM	670,480

Multioperator, Low Power

Atlantic	W2CCC	68,250
Central	W9PA	131,560
Dakota	K0MPH	65,564
Delta	WF7T	77,077
Great Lakes	K8BL	173,236
Hudson	W2CS	61,904
Midwest	W0GN	16,100
New England	K2RS	32,116
Northwestern	W7ZRC	2,508
Pacific	W6OFM	2,288
Roanoke	WU4G	49,608
Rocky Mountain	W0DLE	173,906
Southeastern	K4CWW	93,016
Southwestern	W8KA	21,170
West Gulf	W5WTM	10,252
Canada	VE3MGY	108,493

Multioperator, High Power

Atlantic	W2GD	415,998
Central	K9CT	322,177
Dakota	K0RC	103,750
Delta	WD5R	247,046
Great Lakes	W8MJ	325,066
Hudson	K2TTT	170,261
Midwest	K0JPL	50,203
New England	K1LZ	491,526
Northwestern	N7IP	129,774
Pacific	K6SRZ	90,968
Roanoke	NR4M	462,407
Rocky Mountain	K0RF	302,100
Southeastern	N2CEI	337,598
Southwestern	N6MA	114,400
West Gulf	NX5M	261,360
Canada	VE2OJ	286,011

tivation combine for some impressive results. The Briggs brothers repeated their 2012 success, with Jeff, VY2ZM, once again claiming the top spot from Prince Edward Island, and Peter, K3ZM, earning an overall second place finish from his VA QTH. All the stations that made it into the Top Ten reside in the Eastern Time Zone or farther east (Atlantic Time for VY2ZM).

Multioperator, High Power

A multioperator effort is an especially interesting exercise for a single-band contest. Sharing operating time certainly reduces fatigue, but simply permitting spotting assistance is a big advantage and some multiop entries are one person plus a spotting network and/or *CW Skimmer*. In this category, it was interesting to see the Top Ten box contain only two call signs from the previous year. The team at K1LZ operated Krassy's fine station into the top position, followed by six more stations on the eastern seaboard.

Multioperator, Low Power

Low power is the most popular entry category for this contest, so a similar multioperator category was introduced in 2011, providing another level of competition that can be great fun. Popularity is gradually rising, with 90 logs submitted for the 2013 contest. This year's top two stations easily outdistanced the rest of the pack, with WØDLE in CO barely edging out K8BL in OH. As with the SOLP category, all Top Ten finishers are located away from the coasts.

Affiliated Club Competition

All the top clubs had good turnout in the 2013 160 Meter Contest. In the Unlimited category, the Potomac Valley Radio Club got its members into the action in big way, with 82 logs submitted and an aggregate score more than ⅓ higher than the next best club (Yankee Clipper Contest Club). The Frankford Radio Club topped the Medium category with its 39 logs and more than 4 million points, while the Central Virginia Contest Club rode its eight logs to the top spot in the Local category.

Most Active Sections

A review of the submitted logs reveals which sections had the most activity. The eight sections listed in Table 1 had 30 or more official entries, while ten more had at least 20 logs sent in. If you missed these sections, you were very unlucky!

Final Thoughts

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest has an enthusiastic bunch of fans! For hardcore contesters, the first 8 or 10 hours has a rush of activity that matches any other contest. For more casual operators, it's a great time to work on awards like WAS. Techies can experiment with crazy antennas for a band they don't use very often. The second day always has a slower pace, but that just makes things less intimidating for inexperienced operators. Whatever your motivation, be ready at 2200 UTC December 5, 2014 to try again!

Top Ten

W/VE

Single Operator, QRP

W8VK	92,393
W3TS	71,736
W0GJ	49,166
N2WN	47,141
N7IR	42,908
N8LJ	39,558
WT0A	37,630
KV8S	31,680
KE0G	30,464
N4IJ	27,094

Single Operator, Low Power

N0TT	201,407
K8FH	174,447
WB8JUI	157,208
K0TT	156,434
K0TI	155,144
K9MMS	150,075
N9NB	145,520
KI0I	141,288
W0UO	133,560
NA8V	130,704

Single Operator, High Power

VY2ZM	670,480
K3ZM	496,674
AA1K	436,195
VE3EJ	433,504
NO3M	406,510
VA2EW (VE2TZT, op)	400,842
K1LT	378,822
W5MX	342,048
W3BGN	340,548
W1UE	326,154

Multioperator, High Power

K1LZ	491,526
NR4M	462,407
W2GD	415,998
K3WW	389,880
N1LN	380,944
N3UA	338,774
N2CEI	337,598
W8MJ	325,066
K9CT	322,177
K0RF	302,100

Multioperator, Low Power

W0DLE	173,906
K8BL	173,236
W9PA	131,560
VE3MGY	108,493
N9CK	95,776
K4CWW	93,016
K4ZGB	84,084
K8UO	83,697
WF7T	77,077
W3HKK	69,224

DX

Single Operator, QRP

JH4UYB	70
GD4RFZ	2

Single Operator, Low Power

VP5CW (W5CW, op)	36,146
XE1AY	4,824
IK0XBX	4,118
PA0O	2,850
G4LDL	2,496
F4DXW	1,960
UT6UD	928
ON7EH	850
SM7MX	690
XE1GXG	660

Single Operator, High Power

XE2S	89,832
FM5CD	86,702
ZF2AH (W6VNR,op)	75,312
TM6M	60,062
S59A	48,048
OM2VL	40,948
G4AMT	22,256
PJ2T (W0CG, op)	22,140
DR1D (PY2SEX, op)	21,902
OK2W	21,120

Multioperator, High Power

C6AKQ	165,048
T32RC	31,668
OK1MU	15,652
LY5W	11,360
DL7CX	11,154
DL2SAX	10,416
OM2XW	8,208
JA3YBK	7,480
OM4EX	6,734
YO3APJ	6,468

Multioperator, Low Power

XE2ST	1,908
OL1A	1,152
XE2X	396
ON9CC	390
YO8WW	180
US2WU	98
FG1PP	84
UU2JG	12
JA1YNE	4

More Information Online

The extended version of this article contains complete record listings, more personal comments, and additional discussion and analysis of the results. Browse to **www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles**.