

# Results of the 2010 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

By Gary Breed, K9AY [k9ay@k9ay.com](mailto:k9ay@k9ay.com)  
*A Contest for Every Type of Ham Operator!*

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest has always attracted serious contesters and avid 160 meter DXers, but it has also been an exciting adventure for many hams who simply want to have some fun exploring the low end of the Amateur Radio spectrum. Two comments seem to sum up things quite well:

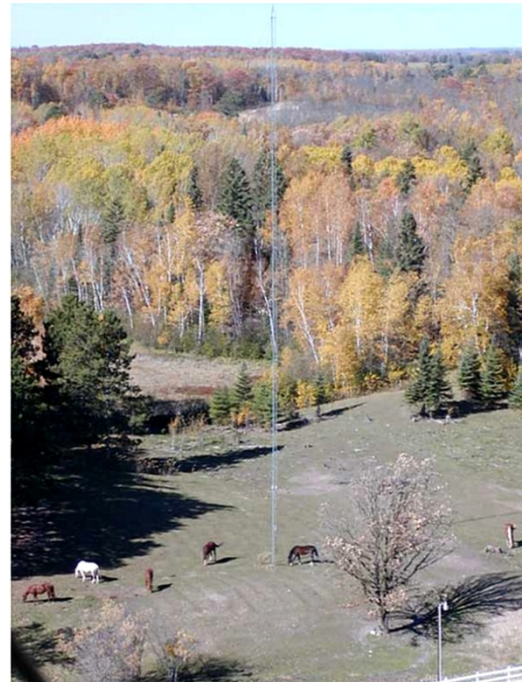
“This was my first contest or even any real experience on 160. I think I’ll be back for more!” —*Soapbox comments from Vic, KI6VC at [www.arrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/soapbox)*. In Vic’s first 160 meter contest effort, he made 374 QSOs and collected 71 multipliers from his California City, CA QTH.

“My goal is simply to try to finish in the Top Ten and to have fun doing it. Yes, I had a lot of fun!” —*Richard, K5NA in the 3830 Soapbox on [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com)*. Richard certainly had fun, reaching his goal with an 8th place finish in the Single-Operator, High Power category from his station near Austin, TX.

## 2010 Contest Notes

There are many good stories after any contest, but as your author was reviewing the results of the 2010 event (held on December 3-5, 2010), a few things stood out above the rest. The first was a record number of DX logs submitted, and big overall increase in scores from Europe in the Low Power and Multioperator categories from the previous year. It wasn’t band conditions—2010 was good, but 2009 had better propagation—the higher DX participation seems to be from more enthusiasm for Top Band and the ARRL 160 Meter contest. Thanks to all of our DX friends who help make the event a huge success!

You don’t need a big antenna to get on 160 and have fun, but winning is another matter! This big vertical helped Glenn, WØGJ win the QRP category for the third year in a row. (Photo by WØGJ)



It is impossible to talk about the 160 meter band without including propagation in the conversation. During the 2009 contest, my own experience was that Saturday night was much better than Friday, with a couple hours of excellent propagation to Europe. However, many hams from other parts of the country reported that Friday was better for them. I saw below-average conditions everywhere to the west, but other hams east of the Mississippi reported that the western stations were particularly loud and easy to work. Without a doubt, the unique propagation in the Medium Wave part of the spectrum is one of the mysteries that make Top Band a fascinating place!

*Version Notes – 1.1 corrects the order of finish in the Club Competition in the Medium category and corrects the Yankee Clipper Contest Club’s total score. 1.2 corrects the Division Winners SOHP table.*

With 1306 logs submitted, total participation was slightly below the record level of 2009, and higher than any other previous year. A measure of the combined effects of activity and conditions is the number of logs with at least 1000 QSOs or 100 multipliers. 80 logs had 1000 or more QSOs, the second-highest ever, while the number of logs with 100 multipliers or more was 106, just barely behind the record 2009 total of 112 and way ahead of the previous high mark of 69!

Top Ten							
Single-Operator, QRP		Single-Operator, Low Power		Single-Operator, High Power		Multioperator	
WØGJ	138,852	N1UR	238,543	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	864,753	K1LZ	655,914
N8BB	101,885	K8FH	227,136	K8PO	647,873	W2FU	580,354
K4CNW	80,770	NE9U	216,678	VE3EJ	586,929	W2GD	544,952
NØUR	70,645	N2ZN	214,920	K1DG	573,750	NØNI	509,696
N7IR	62,826	WB8JUI	200,640	W8JI	573,520	K3WW	494,736
W3TS	61,628	K1EP	200,335	K9DX	556,100	N1LN	488,630
K6EI	54,216	K8BL	199,300	NO3M	507,494	WB9Z	457,800
N9NE	50,317	K4FT	186,816	K5NA	501,540	N3UA	424,494
VE3MGY	43,384	WØUO	183,206	K1LT	477,056	W3UA	415,896
AA1CA	40,474	KØPK	177,284	AA1K	473,301	WØAIH	413,699

### Multioperator

K1LZ, operated by station owner Krassy, with help from Velimir, K3JO and Mladen, NU5Y, captured the top spot in the Multioperator category. Operating from the Eastern Massachusetts section, the crew also set a new scoring record for the Multioperator category with nearly 656k points.

Three other stations topped the 500k level in this category, with W2FU in WNY and the W2GD crew, operating as usual from the Jersey shore (SNJ section) taking second and third place respectively.

Out in Iowa, the operators at NØNI skillfully steered Toni's station to more than 509k points and the #4 spot, a notable achievement from the U.S. Midwest with its greater distance from most DX activity. Other fine performances from Midwest included WB9Z in 7th place and WØAIH filling the #10 spot on the list.

Rounding out the Top Ten are K3WW's 5th place finish, N1LN in 6th, plus N3UA and W3UA finishing 8th and 9th in alphabetical order.

Multioperator		
Atlantic	W2FU	580,354
Central	WB9Z	457,800
Dakota	KØKX	239,890
Delta	WO4O	175,398
Great Lakes	W8MJ	353,916
Hudson	N2BA	266,532
Midwest	NØNI	509,696
New England	K1LZ	655,914
Northwestern	NK7U	237,699
Pacific	N6ML	258,570
Roanoke	N1LN	488,630
Rocky Mountain	KØRF	404,860
Southeastern	N4WW	235,724
Southwestern	N6SS	282,596
West Gulf	W5TM	402,083
Canada	VE2OJ	381,250

### Single-Operator, QRP

The top QRP score was earned by Glenn, WØGJ in Bemidji, MN. Although most operators claim that conditions were not as good as last year, it made little difference to Glenn whose 2010 score was just 1.4% below his 2009 record-setting performance.

The remaining members of the QRP Top Ten list represent nine different sections. In order from 2nd to 10th are: Werner, N8BB (MI); George, K4CNW (SC); Jim, NØUR (MN); Gary, N7IR (AZ); Mike, W3TS (EPA); Jim, K6EI (EB); Todd, N9NE (WI); Brian, VE3MGY (ON) and Tom, AA1CA (NH). Note that 5th place N7IR and 6th place K6EI are “Out West” where Top Ten scores can be hard to find. Great job, guys!

Single-Operator, QRP		
Atlantic	W3TS	61,628
Central	N9NE	50,317
Dakota	WØGJ	138,852
Delta	KS4X	15,181
Great Lakes	N8BB	101,885
Hudson	KR2Q	18,648
Midwest	WTØA (KE5RX, op)	15,080
New England	AA1CA	40,474
Northwestern	W7YAQ	9,288
Pacific	K6EI	54,216
Roanoke	K4CNW	80,770
Rocky Mountain	WC7S	16,896
Southeastern	K3TW	29,160
Southwestern	N7IR	62,826
West Gulf	W5ESE	6,732
Canada	VE3MGY	43,384

Single-Operator, Low Power		
Atlantic	N2ZN	214,920
Central	NE9U	216,678
Dakota	KØPK	177,284
Delta	W4DAN	85,045
Great Lakes	K8FH	227,136
Hudson	W2ID	141,064
Midwest	KØDI	159,645
New England	N1UR	238,543
Northwestern	K7TQ	54,069
Pacific	N6RK	101,024
Roanoke	N8II	145,912
Rocky Mountain	WF4U	90,692
Southeastern	AA4LR	107,172
Southwestern	AC7A	59,520
West Gulf	WØUO	183,206
Canada	VE1ZA	58,596

### Single-Operator, Low Power

Low Power is the most popular category in this contest with 40% of all logs submitted. It's a competitive category, too—the top four scores are all within 10% of one another. At the top of the Low Power list is Ed, N1UR in Vermont. Although four other competitors had more QSOs, Ed's higher multiplier total made the difference.

The Ohio section was well represented in the 2010 contest, with Fred, K8FH taking second place; Rick, WB8JUI reaching 5th place; and Bob, K8BL in the 7th position. Other top finishers from the middle of the U.S. were Scott, NE9U (WI) in 3rd place; John, K4FT (KY) in 7th; and Paul, KØPK (MN) in tenth. In 9th place, and the farthest west operator to make this Top Ten list, was Jim, WØUO in NTX. Completing the list are Ken, N2ZN (WNY) in 4th and Ed, K1EP (EMA) in 6th.

### Regional Leaders

A = Single-Op QRP, B = Single-Op, Low Power, C = Single-Op High Power, D = Multioperator

Northeast Region					Southeast Region					Central Region					Great Plains Region					West Coast Region				
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections					Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions					Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section					Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections					Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections				
Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Cat	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Cat	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Cat	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Cat	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Cat
W3TS	61,628	499	62	A	K4CNW	80,770	472	82	A	N8BB	101,885	718	71	A	WØGJ	138,852	805	87	A	N7IR	62,826	414	74	A
AA1CA	40,474	416	49	A	K4ORD	38,060	337	55	A	N9NE	50,317	377	67	A	NØUR	70,645	497	71	A	K6EI	54,216	369	72	A
W1TW	22,032	209	51	A	AA4XX	33,000	300	55	A	VE3MGY	43,384	323	68	A	KEØG	24,485	211	59	A	N6WG	18,816	194	48	A
K2QO	21,805	224	49	A	K3TW	29,160	236	60	A	W8RTJ	32,704	296	56	A	WC7S	16,896	185	48	A	VE7VV	17,264	169	52	A
KR2Q	18,648	253	37	A	KG4JGQ	28,578	207	66	A	W9CC	20,996	179	58	A	WTØA (KE5RX, op)	15,080	135	58	A	W7YAQ	9,288	109	43	A
N1UR	238,543	962	113	B	N8II	145,912	766	92	B	K8FH	227,136	1038	104	B	WØUO	183,206	947	94	B	N6RK	101,024	594	82	B
N2ZN	214,920	932	108	B	AA4LR	107,172	680	78	B	NE9U	216,678	1078	98	B	KØPK	177,284	921	94	B	W6JTI	84,460	506	82	B
K1EP	200,335	895	103	B	WA1FCN	105,307	665	79	B	WB8JUI	200,640	1032	95	B	KØDI	159,645	914	87	B	AC7A	59,520	361	80	B
W2ID	141,064	786	88	B	AB4I	93,272	503	89	B	K8BL	199,300	966	100	B	N7IV	130,368	767	84	B	K7TQ	54,069	406	67	B
W2TZ	123,024	669	88	B	K4CWW	86,702	552	77	B	K4FT	186,816	948	96	B	KØTI	122,608	771	79	B	W7/WL7E	50,246	335	74	B
VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	864,753	1989	141	C	W8JI	573,520	1741	134	C	VE3EJ	586,929	1745	133	C	K5NA	501,540	1655	130	C	W7RN (KY7M, op)	256,405	1246	95	C
K8PO	647,873	1705	137	C	N8OO	346,905	1336	117	C	K9DX	556,100	1776	134	C	K5RX	413,703	1416	129	C	K7RL	252,396	991	114	C
K1DG	573,750	1609	135	C	N4XD	321,196	1225	118	C	K1LT	477,056	1594	128	C	WØSD (WØDB, op)	411,348	1579	118	C	KL7RA	217,470	757	110	C
NO3M	507,494	1652	131	C	WD5R (N5ECT, op)	301,302	1242	114	C	W5MX	472,420	1594	130	C	NØTT	264,264	1221	104	C	VE7CC	187,357	854	103	C
AA1K	473,301	1604	129	C	KV4FZ	300,048	933	133	C	K9CT	407,007	1506	123	C	K5BG	248,535	1117	105	C	KG7H	183,600	999	90	C
K1LZ	655,914	1726	138	D	N1LN	488,630	1640	131	D	WB9Z	457,800	1744	120	D	NØNI	509,696	1744	128	D	N6SS	282,596	1230	106	D
W2FU	580,354	1797	134	D	N3UA	424,494	1374	126	D	WØAIH	413,699	1602	121	D	KØRF	404,860	1495	124	D	N6ML	258,570	1141	102	D
W2GD	544,952	1688	136	D	KC4D	288,150	1158	113	D	W9SN	400,024	1484	124	D	W5TM	402,083	1512	121	D	NK7U	237,699	1168	99	D
K3WW	494,736	1582	132	D	N4WW	235,724	855	124	D	W8MJ	353,916	1455	116	D	NX5M	280,486	1095	118	D	K7OX	156,510	793	94	D
W3UA	415,896	1283	129	D	K1ZZI	209,827	917	107	D	K9NW	318,720	1214	120	D	KØXX	239,890	960	115	D	N5KO	123,582	688	86	D

## Single-Operator, High Power

The High Power category is always competitive, with highly experienced operators at well-designed, well-equipped stations filling the Top Ten list. Of course, there are also hundreds of hams who enter this category because a boost in power allows their modest stations make more QSOs and reach more multipliers, especially DX.

The 2010 High Power winner is VY2ZM, manned by Jeff, K1ZM at his Prince Edward Island superstation. Second and fourth place finishes were achieved from the state of Maine in the extreme northeast U.S., by Paul, K8PO and Doug, K1DG. Sandwiched between them was John, VE3EJ, who always does well from his eastern Ontario QTH. Fifth place was captured from the southeast, where Tom, W8JI piloted his superb station in central Georgia.

In 6th place was John, K9DX, operating from northern Illinois. This event was the last ARRL 160 Meter contest from John's antenna farm near Harvard, IL. He has sold the farm, and the famous 9-circle array and other antennas are being dismantled following the 2010-2011 winter low band season.

Rounding out the High Power Top Ten are familiar calls on Top Band: Eric, NO3M (WPA) in 7th place; Richard, K5NA (TX) in 8th place; Victor, K1LT (OH) taking 9th; and Jon, AA1K (DE) in the tenth spot.

Single-Operator, High Power		
Atlantic	NO3M	507,494
Central	K9DX	556,100
Dakota	WØSD (WØDB, op)	411,348
Delta	N8OO	346,905
Great Lakes	K1LT	477,056
Hudson	N2GC	174,303
Midwest	NØTT	264,264
New England	K8PO	647,873
Northwestern	K7RL	252,396
Pacific	W7RN (KY7M, op)	256,405
Roanoke	N4XD	321,196
Rocky Mountain	WD5COV	227,340
Southeastern	W8JI	573,520
Southwestern	N6MA	135,696
West Gulf	K5NA	501,540
Canada	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	864,753

## DX Notes

"ARRL 160m getting more and more popular outside USA! Even if it is sometimes very hard to get attention of US stations on that band it's always big thrill to compete with other EUs!" —Braco, E77DX. Braco had the top European score in the Multioperator category, using spotting assistance as the other "operators".

DX (non-ARRL/CRRL sections) activity continues to grow in this contest, as more hams in all parts of the world discover the unique character of the 160 meter band. 40 DX stations made 100 QSOs or more, including 28 in Europe, 7 in North America, 3 in South America, and two in Asia.

Two DX stations managed to make one QSO each while operating QRP: 9A1CRJ (operated by 9A3QB) and ER3AU. Caribbean contester Ted, HI3TEJ was the top DX entry in the Low Power category but nine Europeans completed the Top Ten list at this power level. Congratulations to all the DX stations who undertook the challenge of operating with less than 150 watts.

In the High Power category, C6AGU (operated by George, AA7JV) made an excellent score from the Bahamas where "high power" is just 250 watts! P4ØTA (Ken, K6TA, op.) turned in the top score from South America, and Jiri, CT1JLZ (who is also OK1RF) had an excellent contest, finishing as the top High Power entry from Europe.

Another Bahamas operation, C6AKQ, topped the DX multi-operator list, operated by Mike, K4RUM and Bob, N4BP. Off the coast of South America, the active club station PJ2T

took the second place DX position with K8LEE and WØCG doing the operating. VP2MSC (K3VX, K9FO, K9CS ops.) took the #3 spot, with Europeans dominating the rest of the Top Ten Multiop list, led by E77DX.

### Club Competition

Four clubs had at least 50 entries, putting them in the Unlimited category. The runaway winner for this year's gavel was the Yankee Clipper Contest Club which made a concerted effort to encourage members to get on the air and make some QSOs. A close finish for the next two spots saw the Potomac Valley Radio Club edge out the Society of Midwest Contesters. Not far behind was the Minnesota Wireless Association. These four clubs represent 231 entries, or nearly 17% of all contest logs. Contest clubs are important; they certainly encourage plenty of activity!

At the top of the Medium category is the Frankford Radio Club, with nearly 4.7 million points from 43 members; that averages out to almost 109,000 points per submitted log! The Tennessee Contest Group hit second place with more than 2 million points from its 27 entries, followed by the Mad River Radio Club and the Northern California Contest Club. The Local Category saw the 7 entries from the Central Virginia Contest Club combine for nearly 1 million points.

<b>Affiliated Club Competition</b>		
	<i>Score</i>	<i>Entries</i>
<b>Unlimited Category</b>		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,907,308	53
Potomac Valley Radio Club	4,795,237	61
Society of Midwest Contesters	4,694,910	58
Minnesota Wireless Assn	3,967,194	59
<b>Medium Category</b>		
Frankford Radio Club	4,683,109	43
Tennessee Contest Group	2,019,244	27
Mad River Radio Club	1,805,105	14
Northern California Contest Club	1,387,730	36
South East Contest Club	1,368,851	12
Central Texas DX and Contest	1,252,806	8
Grand Mesa Contesters of	1,189,928	12
Contest Club Ontario	1,181,298	25
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	1,100,406	8
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	1,093,699	23
Alabama Contest Group	1,046,623	19
North Texas Contest Club	1,032,160	9
Florida Contest Group	974,147	16
Kentucky Contest Group	806,344	6
Contest Group Du Quebec	639,672	8
Southern California Contest	625,454	14
Western New York DX Assn	601,215	8
CTRI Contest Group	555,135	6
Western Washington DX Club	449,205	11
Hudson Valley Contesters and	437,349	14
Maritime Contest Club	360,005	10
Willamette Valley DX Club	346,713	8
Utah DX Assn	290,881	4
Order of Boiled Owls of New	254,244	4
Louisiana Contest Club	215,258	3
North Coast Contesters	202,916	3
Carolina DX Association	184,542	4
Saskatchewan Contest Club	161,814	4
<b>Local Category</b>		
Central Virginia Contest Club	983,201	7
Iowa DX and Contest Club	599,954	3
Spokane DX Association	402,286	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	343,368	6
Kansas City DX Club	289,166	3
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	268,664	4
New Mexico Big River	251,823	4
West Park Radiops	187,624	8
DELARA Contest Team	185,138	4
Sterling Park ARC	180,869	3
Blue Ridge ARC	137,006	4
Bristol (TN) ARC	36,408	3
Midland ARC	35,906	3
Bergen ARA	23,190	3

## New Records

In 2009, outstanding conditions made it possible to break many overall, division and section records. However, the 2010 ARRL 160 Meter contest was the “second-best” ever by most measures conditions and activity—including new records!

In addition to the new overall records mentioned above—VY2ZM (High Power) and K1LZ (Multioperator)—fourteen new Division records were established in 2010:

Atlantic Division	N2ZN (Low Power)
Dakota Division	WØSD, WØDB op. (High Power)
	KØKX (Multioperator)
Great Lakes Division	N8BB (QRP)
Midwest Division	NØNI (Multioperator)
New England Division	K8PO (High Power)
	N1UR (Low Power)
	K1LZ (Multioperator)
Northwestern Division	NK7U (Multioperator)
Pacific Division	K6EI (QRP)
	N6ML (Multioperator)
Rocky Mountain Division	KØRF (Multioperator)
West Gulf Division	W5TM (Multioperator)
Canada	VY2ZM (High Power)

With this many Division records, you can easily guess that many ARRL/CRRL Section records were broken as well. Watch for an update to the records listing for this contest on the ARRL web site at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

## Final Thoughts

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest is for everyone. Whether you plan to be highly competitive, chase DX, or just want see what the 160 meter band is like, there is lots of activity to keep you busy. After all, this is a popular contest, with well over 1000 stations trying to fit into one band—typically into about 75 kHz, sometimes up to 100 kHz when things really get busy.

Year after year, this contest has grown in popularity, as experienced contesters enjoy the increased DX activity and more casual operators show up to see what all the excitement is about on this unique place they call Top Band. Either way, I encourage you to take advantage of summer weather to get your antennas ready for the first weekend in December, when the next ARRL 160 Meter Contest will fill the band with the QRM and general mayhem of a major contest ... and lots of fun among good friends!

73, Gary K9AY

## **From atop the Soapbox**

As noted at the beginning, operating the ARRL 160 Meter Contest appeals to both Big Gun and everyday operators. And of course, in any contest the participants will have many stories to tell! I've collected some comments and stories that collectively give us an idea what the 2010 contest was like! These are excerpted from e-mails received, plus posts to 3830@contesting.com and [www.arrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/soapbox).

## **Fun for “Little Pistols” and 160 Meter Newcomers**

I cannot complain... Low power, small antenna, few radials, No RX antenna and the beautiful blessing of 18,000 volts just few meters away is too much but here I am....

Not really playing for score position and just giving the opportunity to everyone to work a HI station especially on TB because there isn't anyone around QRV. —Ted, HI3TEJ

Made 450 contacts and worked 69 ARRL sections plus 6 DX stations using my 53 foot vertical wire, remote controlled base loading box, 48 short radials (2500 feet total) and 100 watts using my old Kenwood TS-180s. —Don, WD8DSB

I ran 25-50 watts to my 100ft long dipole with ladder line ends shorted together, 15 ft high. I did manage to work GA, ON, and MS from my MO location. —Dave, KAØP

I'm a little pistol in these things (obviously!) I still had lots of fun, worked a bit of DX and got enough QSOs with my missing states for LoTW WAS on 160m —Tom, N9DD

I was happy to see the 160M 1/4 wave inverted L work so well. I converted my 80M inverted L and added some more radials. It paid off with several new countries for me. —Mike, AB5EB

My first 160M contest. Goal was to work all 50 states. Got all but KH6. —Chuck, AD8W

Last year was my first time to participate in this contest and I found it very enjoyable. So, there was no stopping me this year despite the limited op time. —Russ, KØVXU

I'm just a little “pea shooter” station here, but this is such a fun contest for this little housewife from NH. Baking cakes by day and hamming/contesting at night!! 160, what a cool band! —Ann, K1QO

What a great time—worked my first European station ever on 160 with my low Inverted L. —Tad, K3TD

My 3 most distant contacts were KØRF in CO, WD5COV in NM and K9DX in IL. —Bert, K6CSL

Ant: 120 ft length of wire out the second floor window of house across to back corner of yard. —Dave, K7DR



I've never made a 160 contact before this event, and to work 29 sections, including AB, EWA, and SD was amazing! I'll definitely be back! —Scott, KB4KBS

This was my first ARRL 160M contest, and certainly learned a lot. No receive antennas, which was definitely needed for any type of serious effort. —Greg, KI7MT

My first ever 160M contest. Only had a few hours Saturday evening to devote but had a good time. Re-purposed the 80M dipole just installed for CQWW CW and simply center-fed it with an old homebrew tuner scored at a recent hamfest. —Jim, KK1W

The Doublet of Doom at 30 feet played pretty well—after I got the RFI problem with the kitchen stove fixed! I was Q5 on the Whirlpool :-). —Ward, NØAX

K2, 5w, 1/4-wave wire @ 25ft. Hard to get distance this time. —WA3RKM

Used the rain gutters on the house again in my antenna restricted area. —WØAO

I have asked my neighbor to vacate his house to make room for a beverage antenna. I'll let you know how this pans out. —W1SJ

Highlights: —Snagging the very elusive ND mult (for me!) for first time on 160m. Thanks N7IV!! —Bill, W1WBB

I was surprised that I could snag QSOs from the east coast with my 50' high 160 meter dipole (the ends are about 8 to 10 feet off the ground). I'm glad that most everyone was patient while trying to decipher my call. —Bill, WB6JJJ

## **Tales of Joy**

Finally, a sweep! First time ever on 160. Thanks to VE8EV for handing out a few contacts. That made the sweep possible. —VE7CC

There is simply AMAZING activity in this contest! This is a very civilized, FUN contest. Thanks for the QSOs. —Jim, WX3B

Conditions were down from last year. However, the fun meter was still pegged. Thanks to all that called. CU next year. —Dave, WD5COV

I like this contest. You can nap during the day. —W7JDE

I have had a bright Christmas Star mounted at the 90' level of my tower for the past 25+ years. When using the west 160M quarter wave sloper with any kind of power it trips the no-fault breaker that powers the star. So in the spirit of Christmas I ran low power with just the PRO-3 to keep the star glowing all weekend. I was really surprised how effective low power is on 160m. —Rick, K300

WAS achieved in less than 8 hours. —W7RN

What a blast. Didn't plan to operate this much, but conditions the first night were good enough to hook me for a second night. Not only is this score a personal best, but also an all-time high for the number of countries worked on top band in any one contest. Saturday night into Sunday, the DX just kept rolling in with EU stations worked until local sunrise. —Mitch, K7RL

My best result in this event, nearly doubling last year's Q count. What was the difference? New amp recently (900W vs. 500W) made me feel louder, but that couldn't be it. Same crummy antenna and QTH (Vee at 50 feet in a deep canyon). Couldn't be that, either. For the first time on 160, I was able to hold run frequencies. Friday night, I had my longest run ever—just over three hours with sustained rates of 90-100. Similar success on Saturday, except Friday's work thinned out the available unworked stations. —Dan, K7IA

For the first time in probably 10 years+, I had absolutely no noise problems on 160! —Mike, W9RE

This was my first ever attempt at this contest and I had a ball. I just installed a new 2 element phased array on this band and wow! This thing played well. —W9SN

Highlight this weekend was working a lot of old friends including Ron, WA7NAH (who seldom operates 160 much less CW) and my friend and neighbor Al, CE1/K7CA who is spending time this winter down in Chile. —Jack, WA7LNU

### **Tales of Woe**

Logging program acted up and lost 45 min (Yes—read manual first), plate choke took heat deformation—build new choke in middle of nite—another 45 min down the drain. Had to speed up after that, but still was able to improve my personal best by some 60% of score. Contesting ain't for sissies for sure. —Wolf, DF2PY

I had a home renovation project go into extra innings and wasn't able to get on until Saturday afternoon. —John, VE8EV

Darn company Christmas party wiped out the second night. —Dick, K4XU

The old Titanex fallen down and broke last month due to hurricane Thomas. I finished to set up my new 27m vertical just before the contest ... Now, I've to fix my Alpha, he works perfectly on all bands but 160m ... Is Murphy still in Martinique ? —Michel, FM5CD

This morning (Sunday) we developed trouble on one of the 4-square systems with intermittent high SWR. It is good that Paul has plenty of 4-squares to go around so we used the other one. :-) You can never have too many 4-squares for 160 it seems. ;-) —John, KØTG for the WØAIH team

We annually use the ARRL 160 contest to shake down the station in preparation for CQ160 CW in January. Some years we're fortunate to be very competitive, everything comes together easily, but apparently this was not to be one of our better efforts, the score is down about 10% from last year. —John, W2GD

Worked Friday, got home and threw the station together, and fired up the rig 5 minutes before the start, and WHAM—it was S9 to S9+10 powerline noise across not just 160M but across the entire HF spectrum. Clearly something has gone very wrong on a local power line. My profuse apologies to all the guys who called me and didn't get a response, or who had to repeat everything 10x or more. —W2ID

I have got to spend some time on building some 160 antennas... —WG5J

Lesson: get your 160 meter antennas fixed in October because there ain't enough free time in November! —Carl, WS7L

Whatever possessed me to use “slash five” is beyond me ... never again. —Dallas, K1DW/5

I left Atlantic City on Friday, November 12, to move to northern Wisconsin, where I found a reasonably-priced place to live. My 1990 Subaru ran perfectly for 1340 miles before overheating from (apparently) a blown head gasket 30 miles short of destination. It was snowing at the time, of course, and accompanying me in the Subaru was all my radio gear. You can leave a 20-year-old car behind but not an Elecraft K3, etc. —Jim, K1TN

The plan was to work the contest Friday night from the start until about 2am local—the rest of the weekend was to be filled with a backpacking trip...

I spent the evening before redoing my inverted L. The “support” on the far end fell over and I needed to find another tree. I thought I was ready to go... but 5 minutes before the contest I turned on the amp and radio, set the antenna switch and pre-set the amp tune and load controls per my cheat sheet. I give a quick tune and Zap Pow Poof. I see a flash of light and hear a loud bang and out comes a puff of smoke. The contest starts and I look helplessly at my now broken amp. I decide to try the contest at low power and jump right in. After 2.5 hours and 118 contacts I threw in the towel.

The backpacking trip was a disaster as well. We didn't do the full hike because it was real cold and the wind was unrelenting. Would have been nice to be cozy warm in my shack with my amp space heater ;-) —Steve, WM3O