2014 ARRL International DX Phone Contest Results

Solar mini-max? There's nothing "mini" about this year's results!

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After the marginal conditions in ARRL DX Phone last year, hopes were high that Sol would come through on March 1st and 2nd, providing good 10 and 15 meter openings for those of us at higher latitudes. Even given the infamously low "mini-max" sunspot peak of Solar Cycle 24, our fusioning friend did not disappoint. Solar flux was in the 160s, coinciding almost exactly with this cycle's peak. Participants were blessed with a wonderfully calm A index of 7 on Saturday and an even better 5 on Sunday.

Deserving DXers around the world consistently reported excellent high band conditions. KC8IMB reported that 10 me-

ters "was wall-to-wall all weekend." On the other hand, what is gained on 10 meters is sometimes lost on the low bands. KM1R asked, "Did someone turn off the 160 meter band on the first night?" Nevertheless, a few stations reported increasing their country total on 160 meters.

Such good conditions provided a lot of fun. Who wouldn't enjoy 2 days of six-band DX? The Soapbox comments were filled with words like "fantastic," "exciting," "super," "hot," and many instances of the phrase "first time for..."

2014 also smashed the participation record with a new record of 4131 logs — 586 more than last year! (There was an increase of 10% in both groups: 2053 W/VE logs, and 2078 DX logs.) 1,136,632 QSOs were reported by DX stations for an increase of almost 261,000 over 2013. That's up by an amazing 29%! W/VE logs contained 898,279 (691,336) QSOs for a similarly impressive increase. Be part of it all; claim your 15 minutes of fame and send in that log!



This KL7RA guest operator (MØOSE?) seemed to agree that 10 meter conditions were great — and hung around the 10 meter tower in the background for most of the weekend! [David Case, KA1NCN, photo]

High Band Hullabaloo

This year was a sunspot peak, so the big topic has to be 10 meters. Master contester W3BGN took W/VE Single Op, Single Band honors on 10 meters last year with 247k. This year, an amazing 22 entries bettered Steve's score, peaking at 825k. Some fun, eh?

For DX, the top three Single Op, Single Band 10 meter scores, starting at 718k, beat last year's winner of 557k. More significantly, the top four 10 meter scores last year were all in South America. This year, the top four, respectively, were from South America, Europe,

Category Abbreviations

 ${\sf SOHP/LP/QRP--Single\ Op,\ All\ Band}$

 ${\rm SOUHP/LP--Single\ Op\ Unlimited}$

SOSB — Single Op, Single Band

MSH/L — Multiop, Single Transmitter

M2 — Multiop, Two Transmitter

MM — Multiop, Multi-Transmitter

North America, and Europe. Now that's a solid indicator of good propagation!

How about new 10 meter overall records? Sorry, not for W/VE. Even at this sunspot maximum, top stations could not quite compete with overall 2000/2002 records. But things were great in the northeast, with new district highs set in W1, W2, and W3. An aging record from Solar Cycle 21 was broken this year, with K2SSS smashing the 2nd district Single-Band 10 meter record, set in 1982. In DX land, only the top European entrant set a continental record on 10 meters. Let's look forward to improv-

ing more of these figures in Solar Cycle 25.

But let us not forget 15 meters. The winning W/VE 15 meter score of 811k and the next three competitors easily beat last year's 527k. For DX entrants, 15 meter scores were very similar to last year with the winner at 665k, down slightly from last year's 673k. Clearly, 15 meter scores are not as sensitive to the magnitude of the sunspot peak.

Record New Records

This was a record year for records! Forty-four new records were set in 2014, 17 of which were in either in SOULP or MSL. Thirty-four were set in W/VE and 10 by DX stations. Particularly noteworthy are the seven all-time records set this year:

- VY2ZM W/VE SOHP
- N1UR W/VE SOLP
- W4AAA (KK9A, op) W/VE SOSB-40
- K4XS W/VE SOUHP
- W6AAN W/VE SOULP
- N1BA W/VE MSLP
- PJ6A DX MSLP

Bold indicates a new record W/VE	Accuracy Lea	ders								
Single Op Call	•									
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Low band aficionado VY2ZM set a new record in the prestigious SOHP category. Jeff broke his own VE record from 2004, and the overall W/VE record, with a score only 3% less than the Single Op Unlimited category winner. His multiplier of 49 on 160 meters certainly helped. If you think you need a DX spotting network to make big points, think again!

Low power champion N1UR also set a new SOLP mark, breaking his own 2013 1st district record, and the overall W/VE record set by K4XS in 2001. He noted, "Most amazing ARRL DX SSB conditions experienced here for 12 years here. It was a thrill to be part of it." Ed, if I made 3590 QSOs without an amplifier, I'd be thrilled too!

W4AAA, with contest veteran KK9A operating, smashed the 40 meter single band record. John topped it by 40%, moreover, during a part of the sunspot cycle not usually associated with 40 meter excellence.

Super-scoring regular K4XS apparently did not take the loss of his SOLP record lying down. Bill took the big SOUHP crown this vear with a record-setting 7.16M. Bill broke a record standing since 2000 by an impressive 24%! In fact, Single Op Unlimited veteran K3WW also broke the previous record with 6.06M. It's great to see such strong efforts being

made in the SOU categories.

Joining the surge of big SOU scores is W6AAN, who obliterated the SOULP record set in 2011. Also joining Vasily in breaking the previous mark were KT4ZB with 2.07M, N2WKS with 1.76M, and N2SQW with 1.74M.

N1BA rounds out the trifecta of stations breaking their own district records and the all-time figure. Lee and his team's 2.6M edged out the score set last year by NR4M in the Multi-Single, Low Power category. In this very close race, VE9ML and team also beat the previous record with their 2.57M.

Last but certainly not least is the PJ6A team, who topped the 2011 DX Multi-Single, Low Power record set by P4ØV. It certainly will not be easy to top their 6.08M, but the Caribbean is never short of strong efforts. Who wouldn't want to go there in March?

All of the ARRL contest records are available online at arrl.org/contest-records. More than 400,000 scores are included in the K5TR Contest database, too (kkn. net/~k5tr/scoredb). The best way for you to show your admiration for a record is to break it. Give it a try!

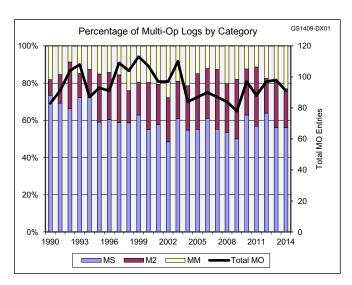
Accurate Operating

Hams are communicators and few of us would deny that accuracy is key. Getting the call and exchange right is important. Make the extra effort and ask for a fill when you need it. Penalties are assessed for errors to reward good operating habits. So boost your score by getting the call sign right!

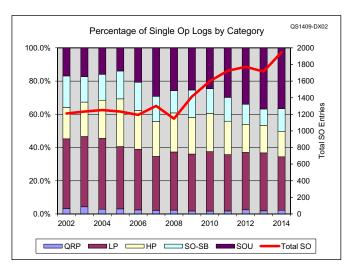
The table lists the top five Accuracy Indexes achieved by HP and LP single- and multi-op stations this year along with the corresponding all-time records. (For more information about the Accuracy Index and all-time accuracy records, see the full results at www.arrl. org/contest-results-articles.)

DXing Trophies

There are even more achievements to celebrate. The top multiplier totals keep growing



The relative levels of activity among W/VE single op categories along with the trend of increasing number of submitted logs since 2008.



This chart shows the relative levels of activity among W/VE single-op categories along with the trend of increasing number of submitted logs since 2008.

Nation N	15 Meters 160 Meters 10 Meters VE3EJ 811,422 Single Operator KV4FZ 59,976 PX5E 717,960 K1DG 774,360 High Power XE2X 31,878 CR2X KU2M 749,322 8P5A CU2CE 30,240 (OH2BH, op) 667,401 K5RX 580,116 (W2SC, op) 9.338,580 SP3GTS 3,363 NP2P
Single Operator High Power W6AAN 2,291,769 VE3EJ 811,422 Single Operator High Power KV4FZ 59,976 CR2X PX5E 7 VY2ZM 6,949,614 N2WKS 1,759,914 KU2M 749,322 8P5A CUZCE 30,240 (OH2BH, op) 60 K1TO 5,253,930 N2SQW 1,743,948 K5RX 580,116 (W2SC, op) 9,338,580 SP3GTS 3,363 NP2P K3CR KS1J 1,238,541 AB4B 320,832 KP2M SO8L (N2TK, op) 7,046,820 SO8LU, op) 720 MW0ZZZK 52 XL3A W3KB 1,154,340 K1,1B 199,320 V26M N2TK, op) 7,046,820 SO8LU, op) 720 MW0ZZZK 52 NR5M 3,629,304 KA2KON 1,116,297 N2UN 193,011 N5Z Single Operator Single Operator Single Operator 80 Meters PJ4DX 4 K3ZU 2,985,285 Single Operator 10 Meters Single Operator (NA2U, op)	VE3EJ 811,422 Single Operator High Power KV4FZ 59,976 PX5E 717,960 K1DG 774,360 High Power XE2X 31,878 CR2X KU2M 749,322 8P5A CU2CE 30,240 (OH2BH, op) 667,401 K5RX 580,116 (W2SC, op) 9,338,580 SP3GTS 3,363 NP2P
NSII	AB4B 320,882 KPZM VATO 26,995 57,840 VATO VATO

Continent	Call	Score	Continent	Call	Score
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with lots of activity from around the world from difficult DXCC entities on the air. And of course, 10 meter operators were especially happy this year.

The top four DX multiplier champions were a repeat from last year, with P4ØL joining the list: HK1NA (363), PJ2T (357), PJ4G (356), VP5H (352), P4ØL (352). That's a lot of states and provinces!

The best DXCC entity totals acquired by a Multiop and Single Op entry are listed below. Can Five-Band DXCC in a weekend be far off? Just a little more 80 meter activity and this dream will come true.

160:K3LR — 60 (MM); VY2ZM — 49 (SOHP) 80: W3LPL — 90 (MM); K4XS — 68 (SOUHP) 40: K3LR — 116 (MM); W4AAA (KK9A, op) — 102 (SOSB-40) 20: K3LR — 147 (MM); W8TA — 130 (SOSB-20) 15: K3LR — 139 (MM); VE3EJ — 122 (SOSB-15) 10: K3LR — 136 (MM); K1LZ (K3JO, op) & W6YI — 123 (SOSB-10 & SOUHP)

The Top Tens

The tables tell the story, of course, and we note the winners of several popular categories here, W/VE and DX. More discussion and coverage is available in the full version of the results at www.arrl.org/contest-resultsarticles.

Single-Op. All-Band

From the US-Canadian side, VY2ZM set a new all-time SOHP record and took the category for the 11th year out of the past 12. He comfortably passed frequent high-flyer K1TO, who in turn prevailed over K3CR (LZ4AX, op). XL3A (VE3AT, op) and NR5M made a close showing for fourth and fifth place, respectively. The domination of the northeast is just a bit less apparent this year, thanks to excellent conditions.

From the DX side, 8P5A (W2SC, op) is our repeat SOHP winner, surpassing his 2013 score. This is Tom's fifth win in a row and seventh out of the past 13 years. 8P5A managed 9.3M, 2.3M greater than the 2nd place finisher. KP2M (N2TK, op). Tony is a Frankford RC contesting veteran and repeats his Top Ten placement of last year. As does #3, V26M (N3AD, op), another FRC DXpedition veteran. YN5Z (K7ZO, op) places #4 and is another repeat placer. KH7M made the #5 mark, still surpassing the 5M mark.

As we saw in the record listings, N1UR (VT) continues to dominate W/VE SOLP with a sixth straight win; the longest in the contest. Ed's score would have placed 3rd in the SOHP Top Ten. That is truly an amazing achievement! The next four spots were placed quite closely, representing IN (W9RE), MS (NA5NN — N5BO, op), STX (N5AW), and MI (NA8V), all of whom would have made the SOHP Top Ten box this year!

In the DX SOLP competition, VP2MLL (K1XX, op) takes the gold in this category with VP9/W6PH only 1% behind to claim silver. Being close to the East Coast, VP9/ W6PH dominated 40 and 20 meters, but the better 15 and 10 meter scores at VP2MLL ultimately won the day. J75Y (K1LI, op) was not far behind and earned the bronze. While North America dominated SOLP as usual, KH6JJ and PY2NY were able to bring Oceania and South America onto the board. Good propagation rewarded the low power competitors with scores up about 1M from last year.

In SOQRP it is clear that a New England location doesn't hurt, and indeed W1MR placed 1st in the US and Canada. But trust me, being in NH does not make 1000 QSOs at 5 W easy — congratulations, Chris! Second place comes from the rather inland location of NDØC in Minnesota. Back to New England with N1TM placing 3rd, and off to the West Coast with W6QU (W8QZA, op) placing 4th. To the south was NT4TS placing 5th from SFL.

On the DX end of the pileups, F5BEG, last year's 2nd-place SOQRP finisher, came out on top this year, driven by good 10 meter totals. Gerard has been in the Top Ten for the past 13 years. IK6FWJ also focused on 10 meters to place 2nd. SP6JOE made nearly the same QSO count, but fell behind in multipliers to place 3rd. In a great show of skill and good propagation, three QRP stations from Japan made the Top Ten this year.

Single Op Unlimited

From well outside of the usual DC, Philadelphia, and Boston circles comes an interloper from North Florida, K4XS, this year's SOUHP winner and holder of the new SOUHP W/VE record. Wow, way to go, Bill! Following K4XS, it is easy to identify the "usual suspects." In 2nd place is contest Hall-Of-Fame member K3WW. Chas has been 1st or 2nd for eight times out of the past 13 and in the Top Ten for the category 12 out of the past 13 years. And 13 years is as far back as your author can easily check! Another very familiar call, VY2TT, shifted from SOHP last year and placed 3rd from MAR.

Just as competitive as SOUHP, SOULP saw seven district records broken plus the all-time record. Congratulations to PVRC's W6AAN for placing first, and setting a new all-time bar for others to follow. Not very far behind, KT4ZB placed 2nd and set the fourth district record. N2WKS placed 3rd for the second district record, barely sneaking by N2SQW who placed 4th. KS1J managed the #5 spot from RI and set a first district record.

The SOU categories are popular outside the US and Canada, too. The top score this year was again from South America, with a dominating effort from P4ØP (W5AJ, op). But OK7K (OK1BN, op) placed 2nd, and set a new EU SOUHP record! Europeans also placed 3rd-4th-5th as EC2DX, IR4M (IK4MGP, op), and ED7W (EA7OT, op). From 2nd to 10th, this was indeed a tight race.

DX SOULP brought the medal back to North America, with a win by 8P2K (8P6SH, op). YV8AD managed nearly 200 more Qs but

fell short on multipliers to take 2nd place. DF2SD placed 3rd, with 4th through 6th place also coming from Europe. Not placing in the Top Ten, but worthy of mention, were two new SOULP records; BG2AUE in Asia, and YE1NS (W7NZ, op) in Oceania.

Multioperator Categories

We have some new faces in W/VE MSHP for 2014. On top of our chart is WW4LL placing #1 from GA, setting a new 4th district record in the process. N1RR (WMA) tied in multipliers but fell just a bit short in QSOs to place 2nd. MSLP was topped only by SOULP in number of new records set. Ultimately, N1BA prevailed from NH by a slim margin over VE9ML in MAR. Both topped the previous all-time record set last year, with N1BA now holding that honor, and VE9ML holding the VE record.

After the electrons cleared, KB1H (CT), last year's #2 participant, came out on top in M2. W6WB (EB), also in last year's Top Ten, placed 2nd to represent the west. The bar set by K1AR in 2000 (11.4M) is going to take quite some time to top! This is a mature category and there were no big records set this year. In MM, the intense yearly competition between the teams at W3LPL (MDC) and K3LR (WPA) leads to ever-growing scores, and this year is no exception. This year, K3LR prevailed and took the top spot while setting a 3rd district record at 19.4M. But team LPL was hardly lying down. Their #2 score of 16.9 M would have been the winner last year.

Multioperator is less popular for DX stations but there was lots of activity just the same. The epic MSHP struggle between PJ2T and VP5H of last year reversed itself, with VP5H prevailing for the win this year. PJ2T came in 2nd, topping VP5H on multipliers. In MSLP, PJ6A absolutely ran away with the category this year, placing first, and setting a new alltime MSLP record. PY1GQ placed 2nd. The outstanding PJ6A score would have placed 7th in the MSHP category!

In M2, PJ4G had a super score and repeated their Top Ten finish from last year but was bumped for the #1 spot by P4ØL, setting a new South American record in the process. Number two station PJ4G still made an amazing 12.3M. The M2 category was packed with superb scores, with #10 still making almost 4000 QSOs. The big MM category was won this year by II9P, moving up from last year's M2 and scoring 7.5M. LP1H brought 2nd place to South America, repeating last year's Top Ten showing. Asian calls are rare in the DX MM Top Ten, but

Affiliated Club Competition **Unlimited Category** Score **Entries** Yankee Clipper Contest Club Frankford Radio Club 309,313,344 274,550,130 225 Potomac Valley Radio Club Minnesota Wireless Assn 194 119 100 108 211,298,259 73,479,519 Florida Contest Group 61.845.312 48,590,538 Society of Midwest Contesters 69 99 53 68 Contest Club Ontario 43,355,826 Northern California Contest Club 40,386,816 Tennessee Contest Group Arizona Outlaws Contest Club 27,241,215 25,992,876 **Medium Category** 83,227,824 761,619 668,532 North Coast Contesters 31 Radio Club of Redmond 7 3 3 3 Oklahoma DX Assn South Jersey Radio Assn Nacogdoches ARC Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers 407,493 158,733 32,621,709 36 Central Texas DX and Contest Club 30,367,659 25 50 40 46 25 30,100,296 28,626,342 Carolina DX Association DFW Contest Club Southern California Contest Club 25,347,537 Mad River Radio Club 25.247.256 Mad River Radio Club Alabama Contest Group 20,103,351 28 20 16 11 26 18 31 15 9 South East Contest Club Maritime Contest Club 17,647,536 16,692,306 Order of Boiled Owls of New York 16,062,111 CTRI Contest Group Willamette Valley DX Club Contest Group Du Quebec 15,819,768 12,518,019 12,449,646 ORCA DX And Contest Club 11,395,245 10,857,801 Georgia Contest Group Louisiana Contest Club Grand Mesa Contesters of 10,293,270 8,901,399 7,250,163 7,222,296 6,776,478 6,048,792 5,989,530 27 10 33 11 21 11 5 23 Colorado North Texas Contest Club Western Washington DX Club Kansas City Contest Club Rochester (NY) DX Assn Niagara Frontier Radiosport Northern Rockies DX Association Mother Lode DX/Contest Club 5.621.709 4,943,211 Mississippi Valley DX/Contest 12 17 20 10 7 Club 4.767.492 Sergen ARA Spokane DX Association Bristol (TN) ARC Kentucky Contest Group Utah DX Assn 3,365,940 3,060,033 3,021,285 2,497,506 2,445,000 Allegheny Valley Radio Association 3 1,763,442 1,626,945 1,258,434 6 12 14 7 Saskatchewan Contest Club Metro DX Club West Park Radiops Texas DX Society 896,310 **Local Category** Iowa DX and Contest Club 11,005,815 3 10 5 6 8 6,222,639 Delara Contest Team Central Virginia Contest Club 5,815,893 599 DX Association 3 669 753 Kansas City DX Club 2,315,898 Paducah Amateur Radio Association 2,139,354 3 6 3 Meriden ARC 1,570,572 Hilltop Transmitting Assn 1,263,252 Portage County Amateur Radio 853,491 74335453375335875344 Service St Louis ARC Salt City DX Assn 780,294 766,716 Loudoun ARG Blue Ridge ARC New Mexico Big River Contesters Fort Wayne Radio Club 739,290 700,449

687,735 683,184

629,580 573,096 552,057 532,494

498,351 477,507 423,816 403,473

391,293 342,144

299,250

270.870

221,622

169,692

All Amateur Radio

Badger Contesters Brazos Valley ARC

Great South Bay ARC

Milford (OH) ARC Northern Illinois DX Assn

Boeing Employees ARS

Ventura County Amateur Radio

Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club

Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio 270,525

South rexas DX and Contest Club 160,314
Southern California DX Club 153,066
Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association 88,446
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club

Skyview Radio Society

Lincoln ARC

Fort Smith Area ARC Sterling Park ARC

Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Wireless Association of South Hills

W/VE Single Operator Region Leaders

Boxes list call sign, score, and power (Q = QRP, LP = Low Power, HP = High Power, U = Unlimited).

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson an Atlantic Divisions; Maritim and Quebec Sections) VY2ZM 6,949,614 H	Southeas K1TO K4AB	panoke and stern Divisions 5,253,930 3,272,904	HP HP	Central Reg (Central and Divisions; C Ontario Nor and Greater	d Great Lake Intario East th, Ontario	,	Midwest Regi (Dakota, Midw Mountain and Divisions; Ma Saskatchewa	vest, Rocky I West Gulf nitoba and n Sections)		Southwest Alberta, Br and NWT S	orthwestern a ern Divisions itish Columb Sections)	s; ia
K3CR	K3ZJ	2,985,285	HP	XL3A			NR5M		HP	N9RV	2,059,668	HP
(LZ4AX, op) 4,445,289 H		\0.000.040	LID	(VE3AT, op)		HP	KØTT	2,281,686	HP	K5RR	1,123,440	HP
AA1K 3,476,400 H		op)2,232,048	HP	K8AO	1,222,326	HP	WD5K	1,921,995	HP	N6AA	686,106	HP
K3ZO 2,798,640 H W2XL 2.030.625 H		1,115,856	HP	K8GL K9ZO	1,217,430 916.575	HP HP	VE4VT (VE4EAR, op)	1 500 000	HP	N6NF VA7ST	661,710 436,260	HP HP
N1UR 4,708,275 L		p) 2.502.927	LP	VE3OI	721.926	HP	KM5VI	1.260.936	HP	N7IR	800.745	LP
W2TF 4,700,273 L		2.057.544	LP	W9RE	2.502.984	LP	N5AW	2.453.802	LP	N6RV	747.486	LP
WX1S 849.024 L		2,021,370	ĽΡ	NA8V	2,355,240	LP	W5GFI		LP	K7ACZ	472.230	LP
W1JQ 772.632 L		762,852	ĽΡ	N4TZ	2,069,613	ĽΡ	N1CC		ĽΡ	K6GHA	331,296	ĽΡ
WA2JQK 771.120 L		693,600	ĹΡ	VA3SWG	898,776	ĹΡ	N7WY		LP	WB7QXU	258,456	LP
W1MR 654,678 C	NT4TS	256,620	Q	W8KTQ	871,332	LP	AAØMZ	518,817	LP	W6QU	,	
N1TM 437,760 C	K3TW	74,100	Q	KA8SMA	203,634	Q	NDØC		Q	(W8QZA, c		Q
K2QO 46,458 C	N4ZAK	42,588	Q	N8HP	107,352	Q	KKØQ		Q	K2GMY	34,632	Q
W1CEK 46,350 C	K8MR	37,392	Q	N8XA	96,558	Q	N4IJ	172,845	Q	KG7RZ	32,832	Q
W2IX 45,582 C	W1IS	24,174	Q	AI9K	11,520	Q	KFØF	62,217	Q	N6HI	14,691	Q
	IP K4XS	7,160,103	UHP	AF9J	9,588	Q	WBØIWG	17,442	Q.	KK7VL	8,307	Q
	IP N4ZC	3,123,861	UHP	N8TR W8MJ	2,559,738	UHP UHP	AB5K	3,082,134	UHP	KA6BIM	1,755,549	UHP
AA3B 4,930,992 U N2NT	IP KØLUZ K3IE	2,188,809 2.187.408	UHP UHP	K9IMM	2,153,334 1.842.675	UHP	K5LLA WØGJ	2,200,626	UHP	KG7H N6QQ	1,583,469 1,262,751	UHP UHP
	IP K5EK	2,167,406	UHP	N2BJ	1,042,675	UHP	(NØKK, op)	2.200.608	UHP	N6JV	1,135,440	UHP
	IP KT4ZB	2,069,949	ULP	WO9Z	1,265,481	UHP	KØMD	1,699,716	UHP	W6TK	913,920	UHP
	P AA4R	1.136.364	ULP	WE9R	1,193,976	ULP	K3PA	1,588,980	UHP	VA7BEC	532.014	ULP
	P NA4EA	844,560	ÜLP	VE3TW	821.526	ÜLP	WA8ZBT	723.330	ÜLP	N7FLT	442,818	ÜLP
	P WØPV	738,720	ÜLP	N9UA	789,342	ÜLP	NØHJZ	713,775	ÜLP	K3WYC	194,922	ÜLP
KS1J 1,238,541 L	.P W4ZAO	595,080	ULP	K8LY	645,621	ULP	AAØAI	705,942	ULP	NG2Q	183,768	ULP
W3KB 1,154,340 L	.P			N4LR			KØAD	565,245	ULP	WN6K	134,640	ULP
				(@ K9XD)	613,035	ULP	VE4EA	505,890	ULP			

consistent powerhouse JA3YBK is again the exception, placing 4th.

Bang the Gavel - Club Competition

Another great way to have fun is to complete as part of a club. Whether you are part of one of the powerhouse Unlimited clubs or a casual operator in your own Local club, there is no better way to compete, share the experience, and perhaps tell a few tall tales. For beginners, joining a club is a great way to get started. If there are none in your area, why not start one?

ARRL Affiliated Club activity continues to grow, with 2071 club logs submitted from 84 clubs this year. Note that CW and SSB contests are combined in the overall club totals.

Starting in the Local Club category, the Iowa DX and Contest Club ran away with the title, making 11 Meg and propelled by the huge 9M+CW score at NØNI. The Delara Contest Team earned a very respectable 6.2M for the silver, followed by the Central Virginia Contest Club reaching 5.8M for the bronze.

Next up the scale are the Medium Clubs where the North Coast Contesters achieved 83.2M, and repeated for the win over the Hudson Valley Contesters at 32.6M. The Central Texas DX and Contest Club captured 3rd at 30.4M, just squeaking past the Carolina DX Association at 30.1M. This

category has quite a race for 2nd place, so expect to see some fights next year.

But what about the major league pennant? Predictably, it was a giant struggle between the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Frankford Radio Club, and the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Final results look a lot like last year, scaled up a bit due to the excellent conditions. The New England champs at YCCC prevailed for the third year in a row, with an amazing 309M over 225 logs. The Philadelphia powerhouses at Frankford Radio Club managed second place with 275M and 145 logs. You might note the outstanding points-per-log figure for FRC. (Disclosure: your author is an FRC member.) Placing 3rd is the high voltage DC effort of Potomac Valley Radio Club, with 211M over 194 logs. But watch out for the Minnesota Wireless Association and others, they are growing fast!

Signing Off and Clear

The 2014 ARRL DX Contest was a real thrill, a perfect storm of good conditions and lots of activity. I hope this encourages others to give the contest a try. It really is a lot of fun and is a terrific way to enjoy ham radio. Tell your friends!

It now seems clear that the 2014 contest season represented the peak of Solar Cycle 24. However, what is not known is how quickly the cycle will decline. It is entirely possible that next year will also feature excellent 10 and 15 meter conditions. The only way to tell is to turn on your radio during the weekends of 21 - 22 February and 7 - 8 March.

The ARRL Soapbox web pages (www.arrl. org/soapbox) feature more photos and stories, too. Please send your contest stories and photos next year so that I can use more of them. Your suggestions for what to put in next year's article are always welcome.

I'd like to thank Ward, NØAX, for an entire solar cycle of superb results article authorship. Ward, my sincere appreciation for such good material to borrow from! And thanks to the ARRL for this opportunity to talk contesting with you all.

Full Results Online

Read K3PA's complete inaugural article online at www.arrl.org/ contest-results-articles. Each category is scrutinized, records are sorted, band-by-band results swept, and QSO-multiplier breakdowns studied.