2013 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

"Wow! Ol' Sol is back." — Sandy, K4PZC

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After a disappointing 10 Meter Contest in 2012, it was hard to know what to expect in 2013. Throughout the middle part of 2013 solar conditions continued to decline. Then, to the surprise and delight of all, conditions made a sharp turn upward in October. Cycle 24 headed for a second peak just in time for the late 2013 contest season including the 41st ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 14 – 15.

Although solar flux was in the 90 – 100 range leading up to and during the 2012 contest, it soared into the 150 – 160 range just in time for the 2013 event. From a solar conditions standpoint this was better than what we had during 2011 and represented the best conditions of Solar Cycle 24 for the 10 Meter Contest. Not since the peak of Solar Cycle 23 in 2001 – 2002 have we experienced conditions like this.

Proving the adage that on 10 meters "propagation makes participation," contesters, DXers, and others of all interests hit the airwaves, as you can see on the maps comparing the 2012 and 2013 contests. A total of 4959 participants turned in logs — the second highest number ever. Everyone that got on the air found plenty of folks to work, showing once again that the ARRL 10 Meter Contest is just plain fun!

Activity

Part of the enjoyment of 10 meters is that low power and small antennas generate contacts far and wide. Whether operating competitively or just for the fun of it, when 10 meters is open, the band is a great place to hang out. During 2013, 10 meters delivered to the faithful all the fun they could handle.

With the band providing opportunities, operators worldwide jumped at the chance to get on the air. Though fun at its best, 10 meters is also fickle. Who knows when conditions will be this good again — 2014? 2024? You just don't know. Those who took advantage of 2013 conditions were not disappointed. As Ken, VY2TT, related in his post-contest soapbox: *"If sunspots are doing a double peak and then doing a vanishing act, and these are my last great conditions for a 10 meter contest, I can die happy. The band was great. There were times just past midday local that Western Europe and Western US were equally loud."*

Looking around the world, logs were received from 270 different DXCC entities and W/VE/XE sections, which was a huge increase over last year's 221. It also easily exceeded the 2011 total of 230. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is a truly a global event that generates interest even where ham population is low. A total of 38 DXCC entities were represented by a single log. On the other hand, more logs were received once again from those quintessential contesters in Japan, with 275, than any other DX location.

Magnífico! Eric Guzman, NP3A, has a wonderful view of Puerto Rico from his 100% green-powered QTH to keep him tranquil during those intense contest pileups. His score was *magnífico*, too; Eric took top DX honors in the Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power category. [Eric Guzman, NP3A, photo]

Who were the most energetic and active contesters? Looking at those entities from which five or more logs were received, 2013 honors go to the Virgin Islands. The six logs submitted from KP2 averaged 1899 QSOs each — a great effort from KP2/K3TEJ, KP2DX, NP2L, NP2N, NP2P (N2TTA), and NP2X that was way above the 362-QSO average. In second place was last year's leader, Uruguay, with six logs, averaging 1143 QSOs. Third place went to Colombia with six logs, averaging 1003 QSOs. Fourth place was captured by a great showing from Montana, turning in 12 logs, and averaging 870 QSOs; rounding out the top five was Canada's Maritimes with 13 logs averaging 842 QSOs. The performance by Montana and the Maritimes, and likely some of the Virgin Islands, can certainly be credited to the great propagation we had this year supporting long distance QSOs on east-to-west paths.

A Blizzard of New Records

Some of us contest for the fun and some of us for the competition. The real "Type A" personalities target setting a new all-time record. What this says is — not only do we want to compete against everyone in this year's contest but we want to take on everyone in all the years back to when this contest started in 1973! Then again, maybe some of us just sit down to operate and make QSOs for fun and — *what do you know?!* — we set a new record.

With 2013's conditions, it was expected that new records were going to be set — and were they ever! A total of 339 new all-time records were set at the DXCC entity and W/VE/XE section level. One in every 15 logs represented a new record! Taking the challenge up one notch to the continental and W/VE/XE division level a total of 45 new records were set. This means that about 20% of the continental and

Top Ten

US

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, HP

KQ2M	2,783,836
N8OO	2,052,452
K6LL	2,029,520
N4PN	1,876,980
W1VE	1,868,064
W0AIH (NE9U, op)	1,719,210
K0TT	1,594,240
NN1N	1,515,786
WB9Z	1,445,642
AB3CX	1,381,224

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, LP

N2IC	1,652,876
N8II	1,269,432
KU2M	1,245,692
N5DX	1,136,336
K6AM	1,026,344
W3EP	934,284
K1HTV	899,596
KT0K	804,000
N6ZFO	785,510
K7SS	745,348

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

K9OM	556,356
N1CC	400,760
WA6FGV	293,388
N1IX	247,632
NK8Q	207,284
WB2AMU	161,916
KE5SNJ (AC5O, op)	123,384
N2XP	98,820
KU4A	98,440
NS7K	48,772

Single Operator, Phone Only, HP

NR5M	818,736
W5PR	744,892
NC1I (K9PW, op)	648,240
K5TR (WM5R, op)	614,040
N4OX	606,504
W1SJ	572,934
W3LL	495,360
K4NV	489,600
WU2X	468,692
KB8U	465,740

Single Operator, Phone Only, LP

KB3WD	256,872
N7FLT	252,700
WD4IXD	181,106
WB5R	174,932
WW5TT	171,958
K4PZC	126,566
K7ULS	124,336
KA7PNH	121,584
K6GHA	119,952
WS7V	117,040

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

KE2OI	138,828
ND0C	78,660
N1YWB	64,092
KB5KYJ	47,872
KS4GW	40,592
NT4TS	37,800
KK0Q	37,440
N9FRY	35,280
W2WGK	22,932
KK7EL	14,800

Single Operator, CW Only, HP

K8AZ (K8NZ, op)	1,424,528
NY3A	1,359,252
KD4D	1,335,040
KI1G	1,251,872
N5RZ	1,218,820
K5NA (K5OT, op)	1,217,216
N3RS	1,106,616
WJ9B	1,056,372
KH7Y	1,034,208
N2KW	1,006,056

Single Operator, CW Only, LP

K1TO	1,016,776
WA1Z	878,592
W3BGN	813,852
W2UP	754,068
NA8V	637,872
K9WZB	612,560
N5DO	606,044
N4WW (N4KM, op)	601,140
W0UO	572,448
WB4TDH	567,600

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

KH7M (KH6ZM, op)	307,644
W6JTI	273,568
N0UR	266,112
AA1CA	243,800
W1WBB	208,120
K0LUZ	204,600
W9OP	180,960
W6QU (W8QZA, op)	172,400
KT8K	144,936
K2SM	129,904

Multioperator, HP

K1LZ	3,569,956
K0RF	2,841,960
NX5M	2,803,744
N9RV	2,311,184
W7RN	2,278,348
W4UH	2,238,520
N6RZ	2,099,692
N7DD	2,074,800
N1RR (@K6ND, op)	2,054,360
W6YX	1,984,422

Multioperator, LP

KH6LC	1,780,660
KD2RD	1,497,048
N0NI	1,478,816
W7TVC	1,125,252
K0UK	696,654
NA5NN	601,012
WL7E	596,520
WA1F	420,110
K2DFC	390,220
N1EN	385,700

Canada

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

VY2TT	2,459,142
VE3KZ	890,736
VE4VT (VE4EAR, op)	475,104
VE3BW	376,176
VE7AX	230,652
VE3YT	61,912
VE1JS	47,500

Single Operator Mixed Mode, Low Power

VE4EA	630,938
VE1ZA	496,856
VE2AWR	353,916
VE4YU	313,170
VY1EI	240,964
VE3FH	173,698
VE3TW	144,946
VA3KAI	140,616
VE8GER	125,856
VE2BWL	105,360

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

VE6EX	295,800
VA3RKM	42,924

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

VA5DX	566,432
VE2GSO	106,552
VE6FI	60,610
VE6CMV	42,606
VA2QR	31,800
VE3EDY	16,660
VA3XH	16,124
VE7TJF	5,928
VE2JM	4,340

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

VA7AM	160,776
VO1KVT	157,248
VE2HIT	123,200
VE3TU	64,600
VE9ZZ	61,800
VE1ZD	58,990
VE3KKQ	43,648
VA3GD	32,996
VE3FCT	22,936
VE7EMI	21,594

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

VA3VF	11,316
VE7GNR	6,290
VE7KA	4,464
VE3BKM	2,184
VE3KJQ	1,932

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

VE7JH	1,007,304
VE5UF	768,296
VE3OI	351,648
VE3EY	308,252
VE3PN	298,368
VE3EJ	294,360
VA7OM	232,220
VE7IO	109,344

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

VE3DZ	765,576
VE6WQ	626,416
VE5ZX	413,820
VO1QU	290,476
VE3GFN	211,152
VE3FJ	157,504
VE7JKZ	148,456
VA3ATT	142,128
VE1RSM	129,168
VE5GC	114,408

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

VE5VA	138,380
VY2OX	133,824
VE3GTC	103,544
VA1MM	33,280
VA7KH	18,424
VE3DQN	6,336
VA7AD	3,528
VE3IGJ	120

Multioperator, High Power

VE9AA	2,173,000
VE1OP	1,626,096
VE5MX	1,203,482
VE3CX	1,134,080
VA3DDX	814,472
VA2WA	781,264
VE3MMQ	706,002
VE3NZ	389,080
VE2SG	260,864
VE3MIS	260,496

Multioperator, Low Power

VE4GV	1,075,648
VA7BEC	600,264
VA7DZ	264,224
VE5UO	175,718
VE7CA	173,740
VE3XAT	141,988
VE9ML	133,140
VE3KI	127,512
VE3CWU	108,720
VE2AXO	73,528

Mexico

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

4A1TD	53,286

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

XE1/AA0AA	18,972

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

XE2ES	1,872

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

XE1B	701,820
XE2K	507,408
XE2HUQ	299,750
XE1REF	76,700
XE2KEC	8,284

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

XE3/K5ENS	440,244
XE1SDK	142,760
XE2AA	141,950
XE1HG	80,008
XE1AO	42,592
XE1ZTW	15,336
XE3D	8,944
XE1AJ	7,920
XE2ML	5,328
XE2PXZ	4,774

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

XE2JS	161,376
XE2MBE	2,064

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

XE1MM	567,472
XE2S	493,848

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

XE2YWH	12,060
XE1AY	6,032

CW QRP

XE1GXG	9,792

Multioperator, High Power

XE2CQ	476,286
XE1EE	155,800
XE2B	1,204

Multioperator, Single Tranmitter, Low Power

XE2AU	57,380
XE3N	17,710
XE2FGC	3,952

DX

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

NP2P (N2TTA, op)	2,478,464
EA7KW	2,138,600
TM7XX (F5MUX, op)	2,067,808
OM2VL	1,841,120
OE8Q (OE8SKQ, op)	1,589,572
IT9VDQ	1,568,640
HG3R	1,511,198
UW1M	1,378,894
YU7AV	1,324,708
TM0R (F5MNK, op)	1,195,512

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

CT9/R9DX	2,201,000
NP4DX (WP3C, op)	1,627,152
LO5D (LU8EOT, op)	1,262,976
JG1AVO	769,792
HG0R (HA0NAR, op)	748,500
S51YI	628,824
CR5A	611,072
EF8O	603,288
PY2NY	495,000
RU4AA	440,200

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

YW2LV (YV5YMA, op)	713,310
RT4W	306,944
LY7Z	133,350
RU9CD	118,146
RW3AI	114,660
9A2EY	73,280
DK1IZ	69,762
SM6PPS	51,200
DU7/N7ET	29,618
DL/W6ZBA	27,000

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

D4C (IZ4DPV, op)	1,885,290
V55V (DJ2HD, op)	1,055,982
LP1H (LU5HM, op)	1,026,270
YN5Z (K7ZO, op)	885,430
GM5X (GM4YXI, op)	804,228
TM0T	750,380
OK7K (OK1BN, op)	721,712
DL2ARD	719,280
CR6K (CT1CJJ, op)	657,580
9A5Y (9A3LG, op)	582,080

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

PJ4DX	598,142
KP4EU	467,646
PY2UD	443,292
HI3K	410,328
CO6LC	409,250
ZZ2T (PY2MNL, op)	355,038
PU5FJR	317,124
HA4XH	261,750
LU7DH	220,248
EU6ML	216,176

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

EA7KB	54,902
YO8SSB	53,932
CT1GVN	42,406
US5ZCW	28,188
VK4ATH	10,812
EA1TI	10,608
SP4LVK	10,176
CE3WYZ	8,964
MW8T (MM0CWJ, op)	8,712
CE3OP	8,550

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

CE1/K7CA	1,639,780
PW2D (PY2ZXU@PY2DM)	1,339,068
HD2A (HC2AO, op)	1,272,000
9A5W	1,259,012
CS2C (OK1RF, op)	1,249,440
KP2/K3TEJ	1,132,364
GM3X (GM3POI, op)	1,100,400
LZ9W (LZ3FM, op)	930,852
YT9X (YU1ZZ, op)	923,800
F8CMF	898,560

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

NP3A	1,296,896
VP5CW	1,205,484
CX2BR	842,712
CN8KD	841,728
EA8CN	793,072
9K2/SP4R	675,904
5B/RN3QO	559,248
EA4TX	526,176
LT7H (LU7HZ, op)	509,168
SU9AF	489,456

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

YO4ATW	253,356
MW0EDX	218,448
JA1YNE (JR1NKN, op)	147,840
VR2ZQZ	134,820
YL2CV	131,976
US5VX	124,852
HG3M (HA3MY, op)	119,040
G3LHJ	113,208
HA3HX	105,376
EA7AAW	103,020

Multioperator, High Power

ZW5B	4,159,652
CW5W	4,147,168
HK1NA	3,869,040
PJ2T	3,707,550
CN3A	3,458,478
TM6M	2,960,604
NP2X	2,831,708
4O3A	2,256,390
ED1R	2,227,876
IQ9UI	2,180,046

Multioperator, Low Power

PY1GQ	1,932,890
CE2AWW	1,594,710
VP2VGG	1,548,650
LO4D	1,372,928
HI3CC	1,195,176
ED1B	1,033,530
ZR9C	825,440
LW8DQ	819,280
R7MM	673,600
DK5A	658,912

W/VE/XE division level, records were set in 2013. And, moving up into that rarefied air of all-time category records, there was even one of those set during 2013 by Max, IZ4DPV, operating at D4C.

Thanks to the hard work and herculean efforts of Ken, WM5R, a full set of all-time ARRL 10 Meter Contest records is available at **www.arrl.org/contests**. These records go all the way down to the W/VE/XE section level as well as each individual DXCC entity, and cover all 11 entry categories. So, if you want to know the Single Op, High Power Power, Mixed record for your section or country, it is in there. Take a look.

The People Behind the Numbers

Though it is fun to review all the activity and records, we must keep in mind that any contest is really about the people: those operators who made the effort to get their station on the air, sit down in their chair, make some QSOs, and put them into the log. In any contest there are full-bore operations intended to place first in their category, there are operations just about having some fun, maybe along with friends and family, and there are operators who make extra special efforts just to get on the air.

Paul, WN6K, used the 2013 ARRL 10 Meter Contest to introduce his grandson Dylan, KK6IFZ, to contesting.

> Dylan is 11 years old and he received his Technician license after passing his exam two Saturdays before the contest. I showed him how to set up the DVK on the microHam II, how to watch his band edges, and let him go at it. I told him that his mental goal should be to try to make about 100 Qs in the contest, but by band closing on Saturday I had to revise that one as he had 150 in the log. Sunday morning we went and got hot cocoa and a bagel and set a new goal for 250. That was easily surpassed as he finished with a claimed count of 455. In my first 14 hours of operating as a Novice 38 years ago, I never came close to 10% of that! When a local friend of mine, WB6BFG, worked him, Wild Bill started to 'chat a bit' and Dylan politely cut him off and said, "...uh thanks Wild Bill — gotta run — QRZ." Makes me proud for sure.

Dan, WA6URY, found himself traveling in Tokyo during the contest and away from his home station. Dan has operated the ARRL 10 Meter Contest every year since 1992. Not wanting to see that streak end, he was able to take advantage of improvements in remote station technology and get on the air with no problem.

> I started operating my station in southern California by remote from Tokyo in March of 2011. When I started the remote project I had very little knowledge about IT and so it took more time than I expected to understand how to set it up. Fortunately I was able to work with some patient hams that coached me through the process until I understood the how and why of what I had to do to set everything up. Operating remote is no different than if I was actually sitting in front of my station in California. In spite of the distance from Tokyo to California, latency for the most part is not a problem, even during fast-paced CW contest QSOs.

Fun with Antennas

One of the great things about 10 meters is that when it's open you can make QSOs with just about any kind of antenna: big and small, high and low, commercial and homebrew. In 2013 operators made QSOs will all sorts of antennas. Creative implementations of commercial antennas and homebrew antennas of all kinds abounded.

John, K9JK, managed to make 22 QSOs with his mobile antenna mag-mounted to the railing of the front steps of his QTH. Another Jon, NØJK, managed to make seven QSOs during a brief mobile operation Sunday while stopped for gas at a rest stop on the Kansas Turnpike.

Bob, WØAO, got on the air with a homebrew vertical made out of a fishing pole, an electric fence post, and speaker wire. He did use a commercial radial plate, but even with that the total cost was well under $100. Bob must have very understanding neighbors as he managed to put his creation in his front yard. It worked pretty well with 135 QSOs and 49 multipliers in the log.

You just have to admire ham ingenuity. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is a great forum for giving your latest and greatest idea a try.

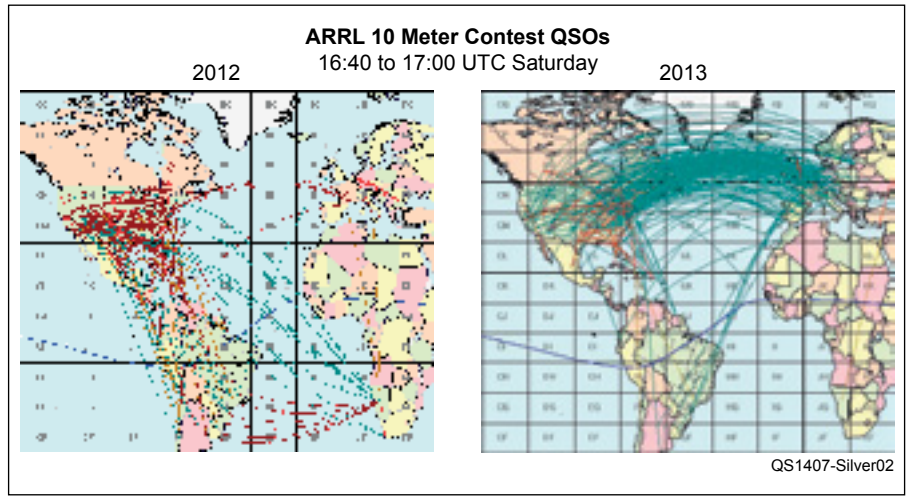
Club Competition

The ARRL Affiliated Club Competition continues to be a popular and fun aspect of this contest. It is like a wide-area multioperator effort where you operate from your home QTH but are member of a larger team competing with other teams. Seventy-eight clubs submitted logs for the 2013 10 Meter Contest, a nice increase from the 71 last year. These 78 clubs submitted a combined 1186 logs meaning 50% of W/VE operators were also part of a club entry! Way to go, club organizers!

In the Local Club category, the Central Virginia Contest Club (CVCC) took top honors among the 31 clubs. Their nine members combined for more than 4 million points, the only Local Club to do so. They also were the only Local Club to exceed 3 million points!

In the popular Medium Club category, 41 clubs fought a high-pitched battle which saw the closest one-two finish anywhere in the contest. In the end, the 32 members of the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) just squeezed by the 42 members of the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club (AOCC). The final margin of victory? Just over 5,000 points or a measly 0.04% of the club total score.

In the "big boys" Unlimited Club category, participation rebounded in 2013 with six entries, up from four last year. Coming out on top again for the third year in a row were the



28 MHz real-time QSO maps from 16:40 to 17:00 UTC Saturday. Maps courtesy of Gabriel, EA6VQ. [**www.dxmaps.com**]

125 members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) who bested the 2nd place Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) by a safe margin. The PVRC repeated their traditional success formula by overwhelming the competition with the sheer number of members participating.

Close Races

In reviewing the results of just about any contest you can usually find a couple of races where two stations finished very close together in battling for their category's top spot. In reality, during the contest, the stations may or may not have even known they were in a race. Technology exists that allows stations to post their real-time scores to a common website so that all can see. However, this practice has not been widely adopted, so in most cases it is only a post-contest review that uncovers a close race in progress and shows how the race played out. (Plus post-contest reviewing includes the effects of log checking, which is not known while looking at real-time scores.) There were a couple close races that we can look at for fun and education. (See the extended writeup at **www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles** for "play-by-play" coverage!)

The first one is the Multioperator, Low Power Power battle for 2nd place in the US between KD2RD and NØNI. When the contest was over and log checking completed, KD2RD finished second in the category with a score of 1,497,048. NØNI was only 18,232 points behind, meaning KD2RD's margin of victory was just over 1%.

A second close race was between two DX stations in a category that always seems to be the source of classic battles; Multioperator, High Power. This year the two heavyweights slugging it out were ZW5B and CW5W. Jorge, CX6VM, and his CW5W team won the category in 2008, 2009, and 2010 only to have D4C knock them into second place in 2011 while setting the all-time category world record. In 2013 Jorge found himself up against a new adversary, Oms, PY5EG, the Araucaria DX Group, and their famous 10 meter 2 × 2 echelon antenna array. When the dust settled, ZW5B had won the battle by a mere 12,484 points or 0.3%!

Predictions for 2014

The 42nd annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest will be held on December 13 and 14, 2014.

Affiliated Club Competition

	Entries	Score
Unlimited		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	125	33,720,558
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	72	29,420,280
Florida Contest Group	59	16,778,758
Minnesota Wireless Assn	102	16,738,102
Northern California Contest Club	53	14,359,660
Society of Midwest Contesters	71	10,775,910
Medium		
Frankford Radio Club	32	14,018,274
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	42	14,012,518
Contest Club Ontario	45	9,617,108
Alabama Contest Group	23	8,555,080
Southern California Contest Club	26	8,405,998
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	22	6,480,396
Mad River Radio Club	16	6,195,432
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	21	5,428,096
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	10	5,273,722
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	24	4,928,682
Maritime Contest Club	8	4,659,970
North Coast Contesters	7	4,642,856
DFW Contest Club	27	4,418,658
Georgia Contest Group	10	4,048,766
Northern Rockies DX Association	5	3,755,830
Tennessee Contest Group	30	3,605,618
ORCA DX And Contest Club	12	3,384,678
Carolina DX Association	20	3,279,116
Saskatchewan Contest Club	8	2,745,676
South East Contest Club	18	2,732,784
Willamette Valley DX Club	15	2,722,688
Western Washington DX Club	15	2,712,480
Texas DX Society	5	2,692,138
Utah DX Assn	10	2,546,982
CTRI Contest Group	9	2,079,958
Redwood Empire DX Assn	10	2,025,092
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	9	1,485,446
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	10	1,452,470
Contest Group Du Quebec	9	1,365,186
Hampden County Radio Assn	14	1,144,606
North Texas Contest Club	3	940,282
Louisiana Contest Club	5	826,122
Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont	3	665,452
Kentucky Contest Group	3	656,694
Bristol (TN) ARC	8	531,904
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	6	390,458
Great South Bay ARC	5	133,352
L'anse Creuse ARC	4	78,780
Six Meter Club of Chicago	4	63,380
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society	4	62,322
Vienna Wireless Society	3	39,896
Local		
Central Virginia Contest Club	9	4,101,712
Iowa DX and Contest Club	4	2,530,728
Midland ARC	3	1,603,696
Spokane DX Association	8	1,516,528
New Mexico Big River Contesters	4	1,294,340
Lincoln ARC	5	1,051,516
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	4	954,960
Kansas City Contest Club	7	838,192
Delara Contest Team	6	827,572
599 DX Association	5	827,140
Metro DX Club	5	822,360
Bergen ARA	7	710,300
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	6	457,692
West Park Radiops	6	426,504
Meriden ARC	3	381,218
Skyview Radio Society	3	347,248
Columbia-Montour ARC	4	310,312
Kansas City DX Club	4	296,946
Low Power Country Contest Club	3	245,416
Brazos Valley ARC	3	224,728
Contoocook Valley Radio Club	3	222,234
Sterling Park ARC	3	216,910
Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club	4	216,674
West Allis RAC	8	193,494
Athens County ARA	4	187,876
Badger Contesters	4	144,358
Gloucester Co ARC	3	122,940
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	3	101,764
Granite State ARA	4	59,736
Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club	3	39,008
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	6	24,522

So, what might we expect this year? If there is one main lesson about how an ARRL 10 Meter Contest will go, it has to do with propagation. Good propagation brings out more operators. Good propagation means each participant can make more QSOs more easily. These two factors build on themselves in almost an exponential way driving overall QSO counts up dramatically and thus scores. And because propagation is based on what the Sun is doing, let's start by looking at solar forecasts.

During the last year, Solar Cycle 24 pleasantly surprised us by rising to a second peak. In fact this peak coincided nicely with the 2013 edition of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest and amateurs worldwide jumped at the opportunities it gave them. But what about 2014? Solar cycles are notoriously hard to forecast. If you remember, early forecasts for Solar Cycle 24 suggested it could be the cycle of *all* cycles but, alas, it has proven out to be the weakest of all since the ARRL 10 Meter Contest began in 1973. Not since Solar Cycle 20, which peaked in the late 1960s, have we seen such a weak sunspot cycle. But, it does look like Cycle 24 might have a little life left in it.

The April 2014 forecast by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center for December 2014 are for a smoothed sunspot number in the 63 to 83 range with corresponding flux levels in the 117 to 135 range. Their single best guess predictions for smoothed sunspot number and solar flux are 75 and 127 respectively. These levels, though down from 2013, should still allow for reasonable 10 meter propagation. Compared to recent years conditions might not be as good as 2011 or 2013 but should be better than 2012. However, these conditions will almost assuredly be better than any year for the rest of the decade!

Though the exact path Solar Cycle 24 will take is hard to forecast, it is certainly going to be declining through the end of the decade. By 2019 you will certainly be looking back at 2014 and wishing conditions were at least that good. So, enjoy them now. Make sure to sit down and get on the air — the 2014 contest looks like it will be a fun one. And, given where we are in the solar cycle, in future years you will look back on 2014 and say to yourself "Boy, those were the good old days!"