

Results of the 2026 CQ WPX CW Contest

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“Always a fun contest where everyone is available to work” – KK7A

“Always challenging to correctly copy those serial numbers in WPX; it builds character” – VE6WR

“Lotsa fun with a good dose of challenge” – N3KI

“Good contest with interesting twists and turns” – HG4A

“I LOVE a contest where everyone works everyone” – W3US

“It was my pleasure to work so many fine CW ops” – NS3X

“This is a great contest for keeping ones CW skills at a high level and I really enjoyed it” – WD8DSB

“What a great time!!! The bands were open, the operators were welcoming, and I think I picked up at least 5 WPM in my code speed” – N2HC

The 2026 edition of the CQ WPX CW Contest delivered another impressive year of worldwide activity, with 5,711 logs submitted by 6,473 participants representing 141 DXCC entities. Even more exciting, this marks the third year in a row that log submissions have topped 5,000—a strong signal that enthusiasm for the contest remains vibrant.

Solar Cycle 25 made its presence felt across the bands, as the year-over-year QSO totals in Figure 1 clearly show. Activity on 15M and 10M dropped by nearly 40% compared with last year, but operators found fresh momentum on 20M and 40M, where productivity climbed.

Operators reported a mix of conditions throughout the contest, with plenty of variability to keep things interesting. Although solar flux indices were similar to last year’s levels, ranging from 139 to 146, geomagnetic conditions were sometimes unsettled to active around the globe, especially from 00z to 06z on Day 1 and again from 18z on Day 1 to 06z on Day 2, as highlighted in Figure 2.

Continent							
Metric	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	ALL
Logs	33	987	2,828	1,521	163	179	5,711
Operators	45	1,171	3,198	1,659	190	210	6,473
DXCC	13	24	58	18	12	16	141
Prefixes	22	277	835	507	78	85	1,804
Reported QSOs By Band (Post Log Checking)							
160M	397	286	16,912	267	3	0	17,865
80M	1,915	5,400	108,312	15,698	95	314	131,734
40M	5,740	33,581	361,699	149,897	6,771	11,050	568,738
20M	10,378	103,641	545,728	297,802	15,196	20,032	992,777
15M	13,970	129,194	257,836	131,712	16,544	24,529	573,785
10M	2,790	20,051	57,211	20,099	5,542	17,113	122,806
All	35,190	292,153	1,347,698	615,475	44,151	73,038	2,407,705
Average Productivity							
QSOs/Log	1,066	296	477	405	271	408	444
QSOs/Opr	782	249	421	371	232	348	394

Figure 1. 2026 Activity Level Summary by Continent

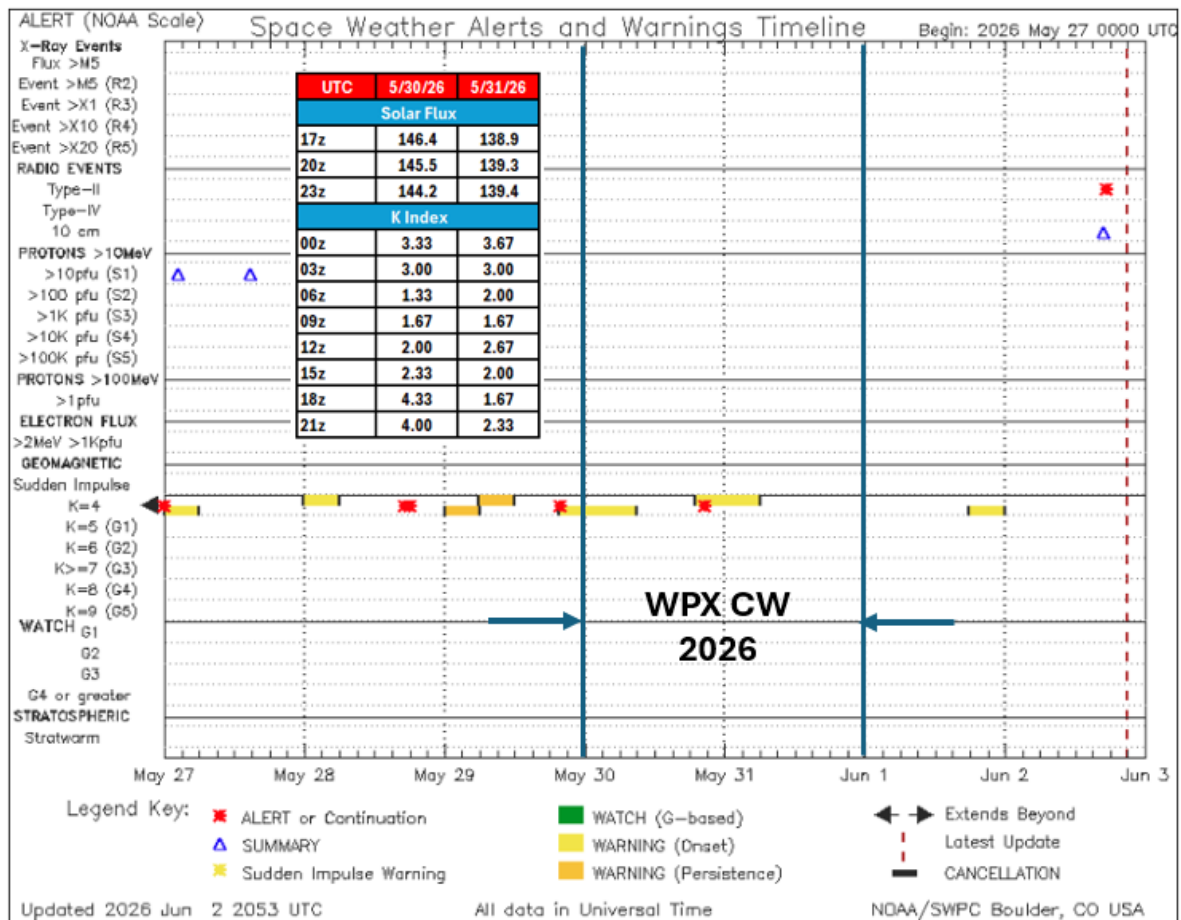


Figure 2. NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center Alerts and Warning Timeline – 30 to 31 May 2026

Single Operator: Standout Efforts and Big Wins

Excitement ran high this year as 5,180 Single Operator entries came in—a tremendous showing from competitors around the world.

The All Band and Low Power category led the field as the top choice, while 20 meters stood out as the most popular single-band battleground, as shown in Figure 3.

	Continent							Average per Entry		
2026 Category	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	All	Op Time (Hours)	Score Reduction	All 2025
Single Op High Power Entries										
All Band	7	158	564	538	32	22	1,321	15	10%	1,395
160M	1	0	16	1	0	0	18	10	12%	17
80M	0	6	17	4	1	0	28	11	9%	30
40M	1	10	59	15	1	5	91	15	12%	78
20M	0	25	99	41	3	6	174	14	10%	150
15M	2	44	62	12	8	5	133	15	9%	161
10M	0	11	30	6	3	4	54	14	10%	77
Single Op Low Power Entries										
All Band	10	361	1,006	630	37	57	2,101	11	11%	2,172
160M	0	1	8	1	0	0	10	10	10%	17
80M	1	6	33	1	0	1	42	10	9%	48
40M	0	18	98	19	3	5	143	10	11%	132
20M	1	45	189	53	9	9	306	9	12%	253
15M	1	122	95	28	33	12	291	9	16%	304
10M	1	24	26	10	7	20	88	8	14%	152
QRP Entries										
All Band	1	26	99	36	9	6	177	10	12%	187
160M	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	5	5%	6
80M	0	2	14	1	0	0	17	9	10%	16
40M	0	5	21	4	4	0	34	8	14%	30
20M	0	16	38	14	0	1	69	8	14%	62
15M	1	20	21	6	3	1	52	8	11%	60
10M	0	4	13	5	1	2	25	6	14%	43

Figure 3. Single Operator Participants by Continent

Figure 4 brings the Single Operator All Band operating-time story to life by power level. The results show a fast-paced contest rhythm, with most participants wrapping up well before the demanding 36-hour limit.

- 59% made their decisive push and stopped operating within 12 hours
- 87% had completed their efforts by the 24-hour mark
- 125 All Band and 23 Single Band entrants powered through the entire 36 hours
- 3 QRP All Band operators showed remarkable stamina by completing the full 36 hours
- The average Single Operator operating time landed at 11.9 hours, a slight dip from 12.3 hours in 2025

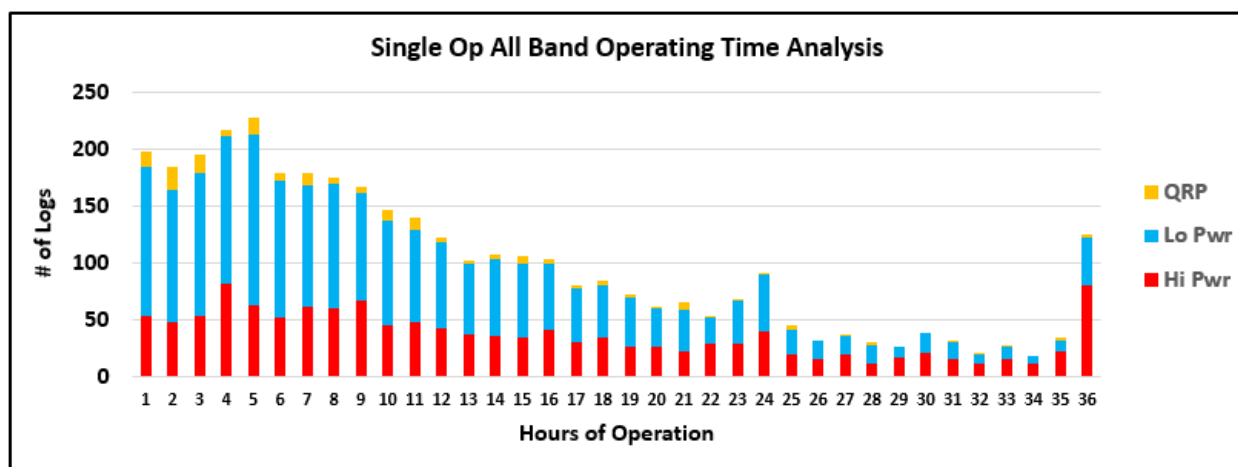


Figure 4. Single Op All Band Operating Time Histogram

The Single Operator All Band title went to [CR3DX](#) (OM3RM), capping a standout performance for Jozef with his personal best score in CQ WPX CW and his third first-place finish. P3X (5B4AMM) claimed second place and added even more drama by setting an Asian continental record. [P44W](#) (W2GD) delivered one of the event's most determined efforts after arriving in Aruba the Monday before the contest to discover that the top 30 feet of one tower had snapped off. John turned the setback into a comeback, lashing a mast to the remaining tower sections and installing a 40M wire beam to Europe. The recovery paid off in a big way: he won the Single Operator All Band Low Power category. Kudos also go to 9Z4BM (N2TTA), who surged from ninth place last year to second place this year in the Single Operator All Band Low Power category. RU3A (RA3AUU) made an unforgettable debut in the Single Operator All Band QRP category, operated the full 36 hours, and captured first place. IZ3NVR, a familiar CQ WPX CW competitor in most years since 2008, broke the 2 million point mark for the first time in any category and secured second place in the Single Operator All Band QRP category.

The Single Operator Single Band categories delivered plenty of headline-worthy highlights and achievements:

- [IT9BLB/IH9](#) – 80M Low Power World score record
- 4Z4KX - 80M Low Power Asian Prefix record
- OL4W (OK1IF) – 80M QRP sixth win
- OK6OK – 40M QRP third win
- YT1NP - 20M High Power World prefix record
- [N5RZ](#) – 20M Low Power North American Prefix record
- K5RX – 20M QRP North American score and prefix records
- ED3Q (EA3O) – 20M QRP World prefix record and second consecutive win
- HG1S (HA1DAE) – 15M QRP fourth consecutive win
- [PT5J](#) (DJ4CW) – 10M High Power second win

Single Operator Overlays: Big Battles, Breakthroughs, and Record Participation

The Single Operator Tribander / Single Element (TB-Wires) Overlay brings together stations built around a common antenna configuration: one feedline for the antenna used on 20, 15, and 10 meters, plus single-element antennas on 160, 80, and 40 meters. Separate receive antennas are not permitted. For additional guidance regarding eligibility for this Overlay, please refer to the frequently asked question, “Is my Station eligible for the Tribander / Single Element category,” available at https://cqwpwpx.com/rules_faq.htm. This was the most popular Overlay of 2026, drawing an impressive 670 participants, as shown in Figure 5. The High Power TB-Wires Overlay belonged once again to [ZF2SS](#) (K07SS), whose massive 15M productivity powered him to a third consecutive win. CT3KN moved up one position from last year to claim second place in the High Power TB-Wires Overlay. In Low Power, TM29X (F5MUX) jumped into the TB-Wires Overlay for the first time and delivered instant drama, narrowly edging out [DK6SP](#) in a scoreboard battle that stayed exciting to the finish.

The Classic Overlay celebrates the challenge of one radio, no QSO-finding assistance, and a score built from the first 24 hours of operating time. The category continued to surge, attracting 556 entries—the second-highest total ever—with 81 operators reaching the full 24 hours of operation. Since the Classic Overlay began in 2020, KP2M (KT3Y) has become one of its defining competitors, and in 2026 he captured the High Power title for the fourth time. WI9WI at [PJ2T](#) kept the pressure on with continuous running throughout his operation and finished second in High Power Classic Overlay. In Low Power, II4M (IK4VET) made a spectacular first appearance in the Classic Overlay, setting a new Europe continental record and narrowly overtaking DJ5MW.

The Rookie Overlay continues to inject fresh energy into the contest by spotlighting newer contesters licensed for three years or less. **In 2026, Rookie Overlay participation reached an all-time high of 71 entrants.** The field included 15 operators in their final year of eligibility, 42 in their second year, and 14 in their first year. IT9KQU turned a 15M single-band effort into the top High Power Rookie Overlay score, while [NV1U](#) battled through multiple antenna problems and still pushed through to claim second place in High Power Rookie. On the Low Power side, AC4NK operated nearly the full 36 hours to secure the win, with BG0ETY finishing as runner-up. Adding another fascinating twist, every first- and second-place finisher was in their second year of Rookie Overlay eligibility.

The Youth Overlay showcased the next wave of contesting talent, bringing together operators aged twenty-five or younger. Participation climbed to 45 operators, one more than last year, with ages ranging from 11 to 25 and an average age of 18.1 years. The High Power Youth Overlay produced one of the tightest races of the entire contest, as EI0Y (F4IEY), age 25, narrowly outpaced EI7M (EI5LA), age 19. In Low Power, DL7PIA, age 19, returned for a third Youth Overlay attempt and powered her way to victory. BH6IE (BD6IUT), age 20, continued his strong run as well, earning second place for the second year in a row.

	Continent						Average per Entry			
2026 Category	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	All	Op Time (Hours)	Score Reduction	All 2025
High Power Overlay Entries										
TB-Wires	1	28	110	93	14	3	249	16	9%	267
Classic	2	13	78	37	3	5	138	15	9%	137
Rookie	0	0	4	2	1	0	7	9	25%	5
Youth	0	2	4	1	0	0	7	20	17%	5
Low Power Overlay Entries (Includes QRP)										
TB-Wires	1	63	196	137	10	14	421	13	10%	473
Classic	3	66	230	91	15	13	418	11	10%	424
Rookie	0	28	19	16	0	1	64	9	22%	55
Youth	0	10	19	3	6	0	38	7	9%	39

Figure 5. Single Op Overlay Participation Summary

Multi-Op: A Record-Breaking Showdown

Figure 6 captures the excitement of Multi-Op participation by category and continent. **This year delivered an all-time CQ WPX CW milestone: 225 multi-operator logs—the highest total ever recorded.**

[P40L](#) surged to first place in the Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power category, driven by a hybrid team of onsite and remote operators—even with Aruba internet issues cutting into the remote effort. The [RL3A](#) Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power team climbed into second, moving up one notch from 2025. [UN4Q](#) captured the Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power category, repeating their 2022 success and setting a new Asian continental record. [TM6M](#) was close behind [UN4Q](#) and reset the European continental record, adding even more intensity to the category. The team at [LZ5R](#) delivered a powerhouse winning entry, breaking the Multi-Operator Two Transmitters European records for score, prefixes, and 60 minute rate. The [LP1H](#) crew stayed right on [LZ5R](#)'s heels for a thrilling battle all the way to the end. In the Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitters category, first place went to the [CN3A](#) team, continuing their winning ways from 2023 and 2024; the [9A1A](#) team took second after battling through a long stretch of Day 2 QRN caused by weather. Congratulations to the [OP0HQ](#) team for breaking the Multi-Distributed Category World record. Second place went to [9H1A](#), powered by a focused four-operator lineup.

High-Speed Runs, Big Points, Multiplier Hunts, and Precision Wins

Figure 7 puts the spotlight on the fastest 60-minute rates across every category and overlay. Callsigns shown in blue boxes earned a coveted spot on the all-time Top 20 list for their categories. A huge congratulations goes to the [TM6M](#) team, whose blistering pace set a world-record rate in the Multi-Single Low Power category.

	Continent							Average per Entry		
2026 Category	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	A11	Op Time (Hours)	Score Reduction	A11 2025
Multi-Single HP	1	18	46	26	2	8	101	35	12%	86
Multi-Single LP	1	17	27	6	3	2	56	26	11%	54
Multi-Two	0	6	21	13	1	1	42	36	11%	43
Multi-Multi	1	4	9	6	0	0	20	39	13%	18
Multi-Distributed	0	3	2	0	1	0	6	41	10%	6

Figure 6. Multi-Operator Participation Summary

QSO Points/QSO by Stations Operating 35 or More Hours												
Category	Africa		Asia		Europe		N. America		Oceania		S. America	
Single Op AB HP	CR3DX	3.70	P3X	3.10	OM7K	2.77	TO3E	3.24	YB2VSH	3.67	XR3A	3.31
Single Op AB LP	-	-	J11RXQ	2.58	DK6SP	2.51	XM3T	3.15	-	-	P44W	3.62
Single Op AB QRP	-	-	JH7UJU	2.13	DK7HA	2.27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Single Op SB HP	5Z4A	2.96	R9AE	2.66	OK1Z	3.24	K2SSS	2.27	-	-	-	-
Single Op SB LP	-	-	-	-	IF9/IT9PPG	1.79	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-Single HP	-	-	RA9Y	3.10	DP6A	2.50	VE9ML	3.44	VK1A	3.65	P40L	3.44
Multi-Single LP	-	-	UN4Q	3.35	9A7T	2.51	VE3EID	3.31	-	-	-	-
Multi-Two	-	-	UC9A	3.20	OM7M	2.39	VC7X	2.78	-	-	LP1H	3.42
Multi-Multi	CN3A	3.61	JA3YBK	2.53	9A1A	2.30	NR4M	2.61	-	-	-	-
Multi-Distributed	-	-	VR2CC	1.99	OP0HQ	2.26	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 8. Turning QSOs into Big Points. The strongest QSO point-to-QSO ratios for Multi-Operator, Single Operator All Band, and Single Operator Single Band categories are highlighted in blue.

Prefixes Worked/Total Prefixes (%) for Stations Operating 35 or More Hours												
Category	Africa		Asia		Europe		N. America		Oceania		S. America	
Single Op AB HP	CR3DX	60%	P3X	58%	II2Q	60%	WU2X	52%	ZL7IO	40%	HC8M	39%
Single Op AB LP	-	-	JA1BJI	35%	HG5D	49%	XM3T	40%	-	-	9Z4BM	40%
Single Op AB QRP	-	-	JH7UJU	10%	RU3A	39%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Single Op SB HP	5Z4A	42%	R9AE	37%	YT1NP	54%	K2SSS	47%	-	-	-	-
Single Op SB LP	-	-	-	-	IF9/IT9PPG	40%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-Single HP	-	-	RA9Y	49%	9A7A	62%	VA2WA	53%	VK1A	49%	P40L	54%
Multi-Single LP	-	-	UN4Q	44%	TM6M	54%	WP4X	40%	-	-	-	-
Multi-Two	-	-	UC9A	46%	LZ5R	71%	NH8S	57%	-	-	LP1H	60%
Multi-Multi	CN3A	71%	JA3YBK	53%	9A1A	70%	NR4M	59%	-	-	-	-
Multi-Distributed	-	-	VR2CC	32%	OP0HQ	64%	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 9. Winning the Prefix Hunt. The top Multi-Operator, Single Operator All Band, and Single Operator Single Band prefix capture rates are highlighted in blue.

Call	Rate	Call	Rate	Call	Rate
Single Op High Power		Single Op Low Power		Single Op QRP	
CR6K (CT1ILT)	251	YT8A	166	OL4W (OK1IF)	82
P3X (5B4AMM)	235	KP3Z (NP4Z)	151	AA1K	81
CR3DX (OM3GI)	235	II4M (IK4VET)	137	UZ5DM	76
LX7I (DK6XZ)	234	OY1CT	136	IZ3NVR	76
EF5Y (EB5A)	224	KQ1F (K1XM)	136	Multi-Distributed	
K1LZ (YT6W)	212	XM3T (VE3DZ)	135	OP0HQ	332
II2Q (IK2PFL)	210	P44W (W2GD)	133	99H6A	276
NU5A (K5GN)	208	NN7CW	128	VR2CC	157
9A5Y (9A7DX)	206	KP4NZ (W0EAS)	126	BA3TC	94
AA3B	203	DJ5MW	126	7A1A	78
Classic High Power		Classic Low Power		Multi-Single High Power	
KP2M (KT3Y)	177	II4M (IK4VET)	137	RL3A	194
NA8V	165	NN7CW	128	KM7W	194
WN2O (N2GC)	148	DJ5MW	126	9A7A	189
K1ZZ	148	ED1R (EA4AOC)	120	II9P	186
EC5K	145	WQ0RVO (NN7CW)	118	S58A	176
Rookie High Power		Rookie Low Power		Multi-Single Low Power	
NV1U	73	R3MDM	81	TM6M	163
ES3YJ	62	R3MDT	60	UN4Q	146
IT9KQU	55	BI1TPF	52	3Z1K	121
DL2XU	33	W0DOS	50	WP4X	120
LN2G (LB9WJ)	12	BG0ETY	50	E7CW	95
Youth High Power		Youth Low Power		Multi-2	
EI7M (EI5LA)	146	BH6IE (BD6IUT)	101	LZ5R	348
EI0Y (F4IEY)	145	Y08OLY	98	LP1H	250
NN1AA (W1ZL)	119	Y08MTY	81	OM7M	245
R8CI	101	UB4WDD	80	NI4W	244
R4WCQ	73	DL7PIA	75	OH5Z	227
TB/Wires High Power		TB/Wires Low Power		Multi-Multi	
UP4L (UN7LZ)	172	KP3Z (NP4Z)	151	CN3A	526
CT3KN	168	TM29X (F5MUX)	125	9A1A	455
EU8U	157	UR6EA	114	ES9C	415
ZF2SS (K07SS)	149	SD6F (SM6JWR)	112	NR4M	403
NB1N	149	UT4LW	111	DR1A	395

Figure 7. Fastest 60-Minute Runs. Stations in the blue boxes stormed onto the All-Time Top 20 Rate List for their categories.

QSO point production is where speed, strategy, and smart band choices come together. The biggest scores are built by operators who can balance raw rate with high-value intercontinental QSOs—especially in Europe and North America, where chasing DX can mean walking away from booming local activity. Figure 8 showcases the stations that turned that tradeoff into a competitive advantage, highlighting the top QSO point producers in each category and on each continent.

Log checking uncovered 2,345 valid prefixes, and Figure 8 shows which stations were most successful at capturing them. CN3A and LZ5R led the charge by finding 71% of all available

multipliers, with 9A1A right on their heels at 70%. That level of prefix hunting takes persistence, sharp operating, and the ability to keep momentum when every multiplier matters.

Figure 10 celebrates the operators who paired performance with precision. Accuracy proved to be the deciding edge in I4IKW's Single Operator, High Power, 160M victory, showing just how powerful clean logging can be when the competition is tight. Extra recognition goes to WN2O (N2GC), IT9KQU, and DL7PIA, who also delivered standout Peak 60 Minute Rates in Figure 7. Across the field, average score reductions rose to 10.2% for single-operator entries and 11.8% for multi-operator entries, up from 9.5% and 10.1%, respectively, in 2025—an important reminder that speed can be thrilling, but accuracy protects the score.

Call	QSOs	Call	QSOs	Reduction	Category	Call	QSOs	Reduction
Best 10, No Reduction		Best 10, Single Op, >1000 QSOs			Best Multi-Op by Category, >500 QSOs			
RA4CL	426	SP1AEN	1,346	1.3%	Multi-Single HP	HG6N	4,665	3.0%
K1WAT	280	K4RUM	1,431	1.5%	Multi-Single LP	YT4L	652	5.5%
PA2VS	250	RX7T	1,064	1.6%	Multi-Two	LY4L	2,606	3.2%
RC0L	225	DA3M (DL3UB)	1,584	1.7%	Multi-Multi	W1FM	775	6.5%
J11BBN	224	SP1D	1,092	1.7%	Multi-Distributed	9H6A	4,585	8.1%
SM5CIL	221	WN2O (N2GC)	1,842	1.8%	Best Youth and Rookie, >500 QSOs			
LZ3NY	177	WX8C	1,801	1.8%	Youth	DL7PIA	1,414	2.6%
JG2LGM	175	JG1LFR	1,191	1.8%	Rookie	IT9KQU	780	9.5%
YB0ECT	174	DA0BCC (DJ2MX)	1,002	1.8%				
EW1EA	163	OG6N (OH6NIO)	2,016	1.9%				

Figure 10. Precision is a Competitive Discriminator. Exemplary Log Accuracy

New Score, Prefix, and Rate Records Take Center Stage!

Figure 11 spotlights 28 new [Score](#), [Overlay Score](#), [Prefixes](#), and [Best 60 Minute QSO Rate](#) records at the World and Continental levels. Congratulations to every new record holder on these remarkable achievements! LZ5R and P3X delivered especially impressive performances, each setting new continental records for score, prefixes, and rates. Adding to the excitement, IT9BLB/IH9, K5RX, TM6M, and VK1A each captured two continental records. Use the hyperlinks to dive into record information at the World, Continental, and Country levels, and explore <https://cqwpw.com/recordsthisyear.htm> and <https://cqwpw.com/overlayrecordsthisyear.htm> to see the score records set each year.

The Powerhouse Clubs of 2026

Club competition continues to be one of the biggest engines of excitement in the CQ WPX SSB and CW contests. In 2026, nearly half of all participants—an impressive 46%—contributed their scores to a club, fueling a spirited race across 218 clubs with four or more entries. Once again, the Club Category winners were defined by the strength, depth, and turnout of their members, and the 2026 results delivered plenty of momentum. Congratulations to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), which powered its way to a dominant USA Club victory for the second year in a row with 197 entries. The Frankford Radio Club claimed second place with 134 entries. On the DX side, the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC) turned a remarkable 278 entries into its fourth consecutive DX Club win, while the Italian Contest Club (ICC) secured runner-up honors for the second straight year with 197 entries. And BCC did not stop there: the club also captured the World Triathlon Award for

the FIFTH year in a row, combining outstanding WPX RTTY, SSB, and CW scores into another standout achievement!

		New Record		Previous Record		
Category	Region	Call	Parameter	Call	Parameter	Year
Scores (Points)						
Single-Op Low Power 80M	World	IT9BLB/IH9	1,339,821	F1UVN (F1AKK)	1,312,158	2021
Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power	AS	UN4Q	11,517,876	UN4Q	7,613,994	2022
Single-Op High Power All Bands	AS	P3X	23,056,698	P3X (5B4AMM)	18,357,884	2021
Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power	OC	VK1A	13,211,088	AH2R	11,541,420	2001
Multi-Distributed	EU	OP0HQ	19,794,000	OP0HQ	19,476,864	2021
Multi-Op Two Transmitters	EU	LZ5R	30,685,008	ES9C	28,739,926	2025
Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power	EU	TM6M	11,211,683	IO6T	8,794,090	2024
Single-Op QRP 20M	NA	K5RX	543,456	KA4RRU	504,138	2022
Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power	OC	VK1A	13,211,088	AH2R	11,541,420	2001
Classic Overlay Low Power	EU	II4M	3,375,946	MU2K	2,959,180	2021
Classic Overlay High Power	OC	ZL30CW	4,870,538	ZL25NZ	4,787,910	2021
Youth Overlay Low Power	OC	YD2UWF	729,114	YD2UWF	415,053	2023
Prefixes (Count)						
Multi-Distributed	World	OP0HQ	1,500	WW1X	1,487	2021
Single-Op High Power 20M	World	YT1NP	1,270	YT3X	1,263	2021
Single-Op QRP 20M	World	ED3Q (EA30)	725	EF30	717	2021
Single-Op High Power All Bands	AF	CR3DX (OM3GI)	1,409	CQ9A	1,347	2025
Single-Op High Power All Bands	AS	P3X (5B4AMM)	1,409	UP4L	1,228	2025
Single-Op Low Power 80M	AS	4Z4KX	417	4L2M	319	2017
Multi-Op Two Transmitter	EU	LZ5R	1,654	ES9C	1,642	2025
Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power	EU	TM6M	1,267	IO6T	1,205	2024
Single-Op QRP All Bands	EU	RU3A (RA3AUU)	912	DM2M	889	2025
Single-Op Low Power 20M	NA	N5RZ	810	N4ZZ	681	2005
Single-Op QRP 20M	NA	K5RX	459	KA4RRU	438	2022
Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power	OC	VK1A	1,146	KH7XX	984	2014
Best 60 Minute QSO Rate (QSOs/Hour)						
Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power	World	TM6M	163	VP5M	161	2024
Single-Op High Power All Bands	AS	P3X (5B4AMM)	235	H25A (LZ2HM)	217	2022
Multi-Op Multi-Transmitters	AF	CN3A	526	CN3A	469	2024
Multi-Op Two Transmitters	EU	LZ5R	348	LZ5R	342	2025

Figure 11. New World and Continental Records

WPX Oversight: New Rules, Log Checking Rigor, and Enforcement Actions

Rule changes arrived ahead of the 2026 CQ WPX SSB and CW contests, all aimed at keeping competition contemporary, transparent, and fair. First, the log submission deadline was tightened from five days to just two, a move designed to reduce last-minute submissions that have previously raised concerns about possible “log washing” or “category shopping.” Second, the outdated requirement for stations operating from a DXCC entity different from their callsign to sign portable was removed. With FCC callsign assignments no longer reliably indicating geographic location—such as KL7 prefixes no longer guaranteeing an Alaskan QTH—the old rule no longer fits today’s operating reality. Third, as automation and AI-driven features continue to expand, new requirements now make one principle unmistakably clear: **operators—not software—must control frequencies, initiate QSOs, and log contacts.**

The CQ WPX CW log checking results tell a powerful story, summarized in Figure 12.

	Raw	Final	Difference	Reduction
Score	4,130,166,090	3,678,130,269	452,035,821	12%
QSOs	2,525,846	2,407,705	118,141	5%
Mults	1,447,505	1,389,157	58,348	4%
QSO Points	5,924,607	5,346,336	578,271	11%

Disallowed QSOs by Cause	
Dupes	23,910
Busted Call	37,907
Busted Exchange	65,041
Not In Log	15,268
Band Change Violation	135
Out of Band	43

Notes:

1. 2,403,542 (95.2%) QSOs were checked against another log
2. Some QSOs were disallowed for multiple causes
3. The most frequently busted calls were LZ25W, NH8S, DP75HSC, ES9C and S58A

Figure 12. Log Checking Results

To put the log checking process to the test and reinforce confidence in the results, 297 top-scoring entries received preliminary reports to help identify and resolve systemic issues. An additional **306 checklogs** added even more depth and strength to the review process.

Rule Violation Investigations: Reports of potential rule violations grew from 19 in 2025 to 27 in 2026. The alleged violations included:

- self-spotting
- operation outside authorized frequency
- excessive unverifiable QSOs
- robotic operations

After thorough reviews, the CQ WPX Committee issued **21 warnings** and **5 disqualifications**. Self-spotting stood out as the most frequent violation. Some operators appeared to have self-spotting enabled in their logging software, so participants are strongly reminded to confirm that self-spotting is disabled before the contest begins. The Committee also confirmed one case of robotic operation, and that entry was disqualified.

Celebrating the 2026 CQ WPX CW Contest

The 2026 CQ WPX CW Contest came together thanks to an incredible volunteer team whose dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm made this event shine. My sincere thanks go to the following individuals for their outstanding contributions: BD4WM; BD4VGZ; DF4WC; F6BEE; G6NHU; HI8R; I2WIJ; JK3GAD; K1AR; K1DG; K1VT; K3WW; K5ZD; K0EJ; KM3T; LA6VQ; LZ8BE; N3QE; OH6LI; OK2VD; PA3AAV; S50A; SV1DPI; TA4SO; VE3TM, and YO3JR.

This year gave us plenty to celebrate:

- A record-setting number of Rookie Overlay entries, showing the bright future of contesting
- A record number of multi-operator entries, reflecting the energy and teamwork across the contest community
- Five new world records and 23 new continental records—an exciting testament to remarkable operating skill and determination
- Excellent participation levels, even with the shortened log submittal deadline—a strong display of commitment from operators worldwide

In closing, on behalf of the CQ WPX Contest Committee, I want to warmly thank the 6,473 operators whose enthusiasm, skill, and spirit made the 2026 CQ WPX CW Contest such a memorable success. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on 29 and 30 May 2027 for the 49th edition of the CQ WPX CW Contest.

73, with appreciation and excitement,

Bud Trench, AA3B

CQ WPX Contest Director

Stories from the 2026 CQ WPX CW Contest

Storms, Signals, and Strong West Coast Openings: 9A7A's CQ WPX CW Contest Story

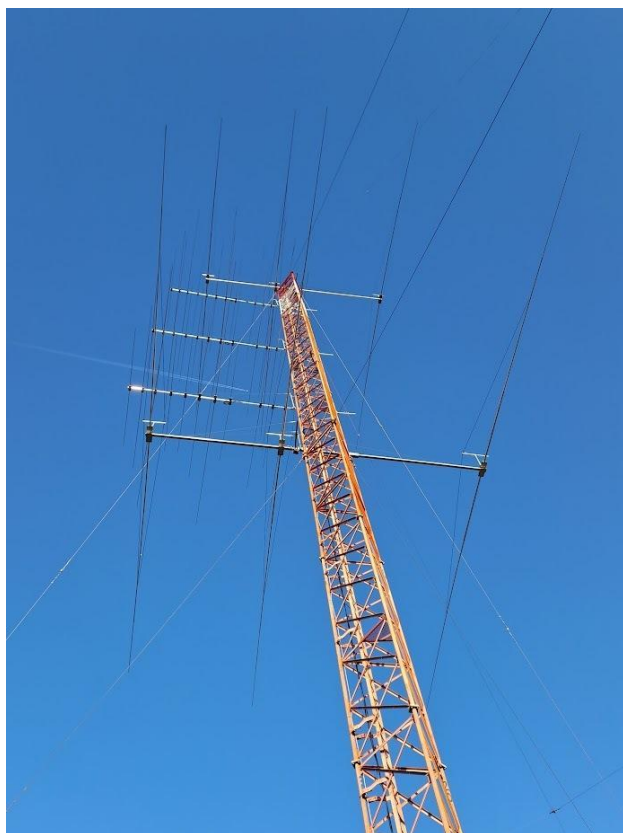
9A7A. Multi- Single, High Power. Operators: 9A3OS 9A3TR 9A3XV 9A5X 9A7V

The contest started promisingly, but the overall impression was that propagation conditions were generally poor. We knew not to expect significant activity on the 15m and 10m bands, but we hoped for better conditions on 40m, which unfortunately did not materialize. In this year's CQ WPX CW Contest, propagation on 10 meters was practically non-existent. The 15 meter band opened toward the east as expected, but openings toward the west were poor during both afternoons. An interesting exception was the opening toward the U.S. West Coast on the second day, with very strong signals on 15 meters.

The 20 meter band performed well as usual and was the band on which we spent most of our operating time. We had expected more activity on 40 meters, but we assume that the good propagation on 20 meters attracted most of the activity during the same periods. The ratio of DX to EU contacts was 53% to 47% (2285 DX to 2026 EU). On the first night, we encountered computer issues that took some time to resolve, unfortunately resulting in lower QSO rates during that period. On the second day in the afternoon, we lost about an hour of operating time due to a severe thunderstorm passing over our contest location. We sincerely thank RL3A, II9P, S58A, and others for the fun on the contest scoreboard and congratulate them on their excellent results. We were glad to hear S58A call on the air again because we know well Boris's contribution to HAM radio and the HAM radio community. And big thanks goes to everyone who contacted us during the event.



Thunderstorm approaching at 9A7A



9A7A Main tower holds 3 x OB11-3 tribanders and 2 x EF403 40-meter Yagis, both designed by YU7EF.



9A7A Tower #2 holds a stack of 3 x EF204ARC antennas for 20 meters and a stack of 3 x EF155C antennas for 15 meters. These antennas are also of YU7EF design

CP7DX Bolivia: CQ WPX CW from Tarija

CP7DX. Multi-Single, High Power. Operators: LU3VED LU7HN LU8VCC

From May 26 to June 5, 2026, the Argentine team behind CP7DX activated Tarija, Bolivia, combining DXpedition experience, technical development and competitive operating at an international level.

For eleven days, CP7DX operated almost continuously with multiple stations covering CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, RTTY, SSTV and EME, providing thousands of contacts worldwide and bringing together operators with extensive experience in different areas of amateur radio.

The expedition also took part in the prestigious CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest in the Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power category, achieving an outstanding result:

- 1,660,960 points
- 1st place Bolivia
- 2nd place South America
- 66th World ranking in the category

The CP7DX team was formed by Argentine operators: José Luis (LU1FM), Alex (LU8VCC), Martín (LU3VED), Luis (LU3FR), Fernando (LU6FOV), René (LU7HN), Daniel (LU9FHF), Juan (LU1HF) and Sergio (LU1HWL).

The operation included a wide technical deployment with high-performance HF stations, custom-built antennas, advanced filtering systems, amplifiers and a dedicated EME station for VHF and UHF experiments. The antenna system deployed during the expedition included a 4-element JVP triband Yagi antenna, a vertical antenna for 40 meters, and an 80-meter dipole, providing reliable coverage across the main HF bands used during the operation.

The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest operation was carried out by three experienced Argentine operators: Martín (LU3VED), René (LU7HN) and Alex (LU8VCC).

Beyond the contest results, CP7DX represented the true spirit of amateur radio: teamwork, preparation, technical innovation and the exchange of knowledge among operators. Each member contributed equipment, experience and skills to create a reliable expedition station capable of operating under demanding international conditions.

The success of CP7DX once again demonstrates the strength of South American amateur radio and the ability of Argentine operators to compete and collaborate on the world stage.



CP7DX CQ WPX Operators LU3VED, LU7HN, LU8VCC

LP1H Goes Full Throttle

LP1H. Multi-Two. Operators: LU8EOT, LU5DX, LW6DG, LW5HR, LU5HM, CX6VM, and CX6DRA.

During the 2025 CQ WPX CW Contest, where LW5HR and LU5DX operated in the Multi-Two category, plans were made to enter the same category again in 2026, but with more operators and, for the first time, dedicated in-band stations.

The year went by quickly, and Ramón (LU5HM) started inviting operators well in advance. For the first time, CX6VM and CX6DRA would join the team.

An initial plan to install a multi-band vertical for the in-band stations was considered, but later Ramón decided to install a dedicated tower 300 meters away from the shack and the main antennas for use by the in-band stations.

There was an unused quad-band Optibeam OB17-4 (40–10 meters) that was intended to serve as the in-band antenna, but the tower crew encountered several challenges, and we ultimately ended up using a small KT34 instead.

The antennas used were the following:

- 80 meters: 4-Square
- 40 meters: 4-element full-size Yagi at 180 ft
- 20 meters: 5/5/6 stack
- 15 meters: 5/5/5/5 stack and a 6-element M2 Yagi
- 10 meters: 5/5/5/5 stack and a 7-element M2 Yagi
- In-Band Tower: KT34 at 45 ft

Receive Antennas:

- 80 meters: Two Beverage antennas (EU and NA)
- 40 meters: Two Beverage antennas (EU and NA)

Inside the shack, we used Icom IC-7800s and two Flex radios (a 6500 and a 6600) at the in-band positions. The Flex radios were brought by LW6DG.

The operators started arriving on Wednesday afternoon (CX6VM and CX6DRA), while the rest of the team arrived around noon on Thursday, just in time for the first of many BBQs hosted by Ramón.

A few adjustments were made on Friday to accommodate the two Flex radios, which were routed through a quadplexer and dedicated band-pass filters connected to the KT34.

For logging, we used DXLog.net, which proved very useful for coordinating the in-band interlocks.

The contest started very well on 20 meters. Forty meters was expected to be our primary nighttime band, and it proved particularly challenging. Furthermore, we did not have an in-band station available on that band. We could see the band map full of stations, but QSYing to call them would

often mean losing our run frequency, so we mainly focused on running stations on 40 meters during the first night.

On 20 meters, the in-band station was very active, and we found that it was even more fun than running stations.

During the first night, some QSOs were made on 80 meters, which is a very long haul from Argentina, but we were extremely pleased with the way the 4-Square performed.

During the daylight hours, beginning in mid-morning, the focus shifted mainly to 10 and 15 meters. We quickly noticed that propagation on 10 meters was not as good as it had been the previous year, but with only two bands open until around 20Z, we had little choice.

The second night was somewhat better on the low bands, with 80 meters wide open, but activity was low. We had a great signal, but we spent a lot of time calling CQ with only a few stations replying, giving the impression that the low bands were practically deserted. Fortunately, the weather was completely on our side, and we didn't have to deal with much static noise (QRN) on the low bands. Thanks to these quiet conditions, we managed to work several JA stations well past our sunrise, which is not very common.

It was very motivating to follow the scores in real time. At times, we were 3.5 million points behind our friends at LZ5R. Then, when conditions shifted to the high bands, we would reduce that gap to less than one million points. Having them post their score live kept us incredibly motivated until the very last minute, even though at some point we knew that catching up to them was going to be extremely difficult. Huge congratulations to the LZ5R crew for an outstanding performance!

A massive thank you to our incredible host, Ramón (LU5HM), for making this possible, opening his station, and keeping everyone well-fed with top-tier BBQs throughout the weekend.

We are already making plans for next year. Hope to CU all on the bands!



From left to right @ LP1H: LW5HR, LU8EOT, LW6DG, LU5DX, CX6VM, LW6DXD



LP1H Team – Front Row: LW6DXD, LU5HM, LU8EOT. Back Row: LU5DX, LW5HR, LW6DG, CX6VM, CX6DRA



LP1H – From left to right: LW5HR, LU5DX, LW6DG

Chasing Prefixes and Pileups: NN1AA's First WPX CW High-Power Adventure

NN1AA (W1ZL@K1IR), Single Operator, All Band, High Power + Youth Overlay

My first WPX effort has been a great learning experience. It was great to operate a high-power station with a variety of antennas while using a call with a rare prefix.

Unfortunately, K1IR's station was not in full working order: all the four-squares were either nonfunctional or working only as verticals; and one of the Mother Of All Switches had lightning damage, removing stack and BPF switching capability. With no SO2R controller and inoperable BPFs, SO2R operation was not possible. Since I was using a dual-receiver radio, I expected to do a lot of SO2V in this effort, but with the radio and logger not quite cooperating correctly, I ended up operating mostly SO1V. Despite all this, though, the contest was great fun!

Due to other obligations, I began operating about an hour late, but I managed to get a pileup going on 40, continuing to run until the rate started to slow down later in the night. I switched to S&P for a couple of hours, then went to bed. On Saturday, I mostly stayed on 20, periodically switching between running and S&P. That night, 40 and 80 were both very noisy, so I decided to try running on 20 and ended up working many UAs. I went to sleep, planning to wake up around dawn on Sunday, but I slept through my alarm! I hopped around 20, 15, and a little bit of 10 to work some mults. Twenty delivered a low rate, so I switched to 40 slightly earlier than I normally would have, allowing me to claim a nice run frequency and maintain a decent rate until the end of the contest.

I generally kept the cluster disabled, since at the beginning of the contest, a plethora of incoming spots slowed the computer and keying significantly. At around 2000z on Sunday, when the rate was low, I tried enabling it again and was surprised to see that it worked perfectly! I was able to work many mults this way.

One thing I learned is that while it is fun to run during high-rate periods, low rate creates room for tactical decisions to adapt to propagation conditions, find points, and get ahead of other competitors.

Overall, this was a very fun effort. I cannot thank Jim, K1IR, enough for the use of his station, and for his time, kindness, and hospitality.

73, Matt, W1ZL



NN1AA (W1ZL@K1IR)

OK2J's Low Power Dash for WPX CW Glory

OK2J. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operators OK3SN and OK4NEO

Two previous WPX CW Rookie plaque winners, Matyas, OK4NEO (Rookie World 2025) and Vojta, OK3SN (Rookie Europe 2024), joined forces in an attempt to break the Multi-Single Low Power record for Czechia and Slovakia (OK/OM).

We selected the Low Power (LP) category for two main reasons. First, the existing record felt within reach, as few local stations actively put in a full-time effort in this class for the full 48 hours. Second, our old Ameritron AL-811XCE amplifier maxes out around 500W, which is three times less than the High Power limit and would have left us severely underpowered for that class. We decided it was smarter to leave the amplifier off and run our Kenwood TS-480 barefoot at 100W.

The operation took place under the callsign OK2J from our club station, OK2KOJ, in Brno, which happens to be celebrating its 66th anniversary this year.

Band conditions were generally good, though 10 meters remained almost completely dead until Sunday. The downside of running only 100W was that even with our Hy-Gain TH-11DX mounted on top of a 40-meter-high student housing building, the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) wasn't picking us up in Japan and barely noticed us on the US East Coast. Consequently, daytime hours on the high bands were mostly spent doing Search and Pounce (S&P). Meanwhile, the low bands during the night were handled entirely by Matyas for all three stints, and huge kudos go to him for powering through!

In the end, we crossed the finish line with just over 4 million points, 1,800 QSOs, and 950 prefixes. We just hope the log-checking fairy will be kind to us this year.

Thank you for organizing such an awesome contest!

73, Vojta, OK3SN



OK2J. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operators OK3SN and OK4NEO

SZ4ØA: Forty Years of Radio and One Grand Finale in CQ WPX CW

SZ4ØA. Mult-Two. Operators: G0PZA SV1BJW SV1CIB SV1DKD SV1DPJ SV1JG

For most stations, CQ WPX CW was another major contest weekend. For Team SZ1A, it was the grand finale of a celebration that connected four decades of club history with thousands of radio amateurs around the world.

The story began in 1985, when a small group of radio amateurs in Western Greece came together with a shared vision. They wanted to build more than a local association. Their aim was to create a community where operators could learn, experiment, build equipment, support public events, and share their knowledge with the next generation. The Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece was born.

Over the following years, the association developed training activities, supported new licensees, maintained repeater infrastructure, and created a permanent home for amateur radio in the region. In 2004, the club adopted the callsign SZ1A, marking the beginning of a new era focused increasingly on contesting and station development.

Today, SZ1A is by far the largest club and contest station in Greece, however it is small compared to our European Big-Gun cousins, especially in the Balkans. That said, SZ1A has gradually developed a serious contest setup with five towers, mostly carrying multi-element monoband Yagis from 40 through 10 meters, plus a tribander used for in-band operation.

The low bands are supported by a full-size 80 meter vertical, a shunt-fed 160 meter vertical using one of the 21 meter towers, and several complementary wire antennas, including dipoles, a doublet, and a large inverted-L. Just recently, the station also acquired an Aziloop receive antenna and Hi-Z receive arrays to improve low-band receiving capability. Their installation is still pending.

Our location is both a strength and a limitation. The station sits in a mountainous region of Western Greece, where available space is limited and tower work is challenging. Higher towers and better takeoff angles are essential if we want to improve our future contest results, but installing and maintaining them is not simple. The local council has approved a new antenna position on a nearby hilltop, adding around 100 meters of elevation and offering clear views of the full horizon. It is by far the best antenna site available to SZ1A, an amazing location, and it represents the future of the station's development. Turning it into a working contest antenna site, however, remains a major technical and manpower challenge.

Inside the shack, SZ1A has been built close to broadcast standards, with extensive electrical, grounding, RF, and network infrastructure. The station uses a MOAS-II based RF switching architecture, including two 2x6 radio switches, a six-port A/B distribution switch, high-power LBS band-pass filters, and a large antenna distribution switch capable of assigning up to six antennas per band, all automated through MOAS-II. PST Rotator is also integrated with the rotator controllers for automatic antenna rotation.

The station has six operating positions, although only three are active because there are currently only enough antennas to support two run stations and one in-band station simultaneously. The current design is focused on Multi-Two and Multi-Single high-power operation. Remote operation is not yet supported and would require a future replacement of much of the amplifier and radio fleet.

SZ1A is not only a radio room. The station can accommodate large teams, with sleeping quarters and bunk beds for twelve operators, a large open kitchen and dining area, a lounge with a fireplace, shower and WC facilities, and an outdoor barbecue area. Contest weekends are therefore not only operating events. They are gatherings that bring together operators, technicians, cooks, visitors, supporters, and friends, often turning into a celebration of ham radio.

That same spirit became the foundation of the SZ4ØA anniversary activation.

From March 1 through May 31, 2026, SZ4ØA appeared across SSB, CW, and Digital modes on the HF bands. The goal was not simply to place a commemorative callsign on the air. The team wanted radio amateurs everywhere to become part of the anniversary.

An online award program allowed operators to track their confirmed contacts and qualify for Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum certificates across different mode categories. Before the final contest weekend had even begun, SZ4ØA had completed more than 12,600 QSOs, while 213 anniversary awards had already been issued.

The first major contest chapter came during CQ WPX SSB in March. The special prefix generated strong pileups, but it also created an unexpected operating challenge. Many callers had difficulty identifying the zero in SZ4ØA and repeatedly copied the callsign as SZ4A. Some contacts required several corrections, slowing the run rate and producing a large number of duplicates.

Despite the conditions and the callsign difficulties, the team produced a strong Multi-Two performance. After log checking, SZ4ØA finished first in Greece, tenth in Europe, and seventeenth worldwide. Reaching the European Top Ten had been a clear objective and holding that position in the final results confirmed the progress made by the team and station.

Two months later, SZ4ØA returned for its final appearance in CQ WPX CW.

The CW operation was demanding from the beginning. Only six operators were available for the full 48 hours, resulting in long shifts and limited opportunities to keep the in-band position continuously staffed. This reduced the team's ability to search aggressively for additional contacts and multipliers, but the available operators continued rotating through the positions and maintaining the main runs.

Propagation was moderate to good, with several interesting openings. Long and sometimes unusual paths toward the Far East appeared during the contest, followed later by useful openings toward North America. The low bands were not particularly easy, but several openings to North America provided valuable intercontinental contacts.

The team also noticed a clear increase in activity from Chinese stations. More BY callsigns appeared in the CW pileups, often with stronger signals than in previous years.

SZ4ØA itself was copied much more accurately than during the SSB leg. By the time of CQ WPX CW, the callsign had been added to the Super Check Partial database. This made a noticeable difference, reducing incorrect calls and allowing exchanges to move more efficiently.

Not everything went smoothly.

Interstation interference was a significant problem this time, something we had not experienced during the much cleaner SSB leg. It affected the team's ability to receive weak callers and will need careful investigation before the next major multi-operator contest.

The Run 1 radio also failed during an opening on 15 meters. The Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V suddenly went silent and had to be removed from service. Valuable time was lost while the team replaced it with another operational FT-1000 and restored the position.

The failure highlighted a reality that the station can no longer ignore. The SZ1A radio fleet has served the team for many years, but it is showing its age. Competing against modern multi-operator stations increasingly requires newer radios, improved dynamic range, and current-generation transceivers.

Still, the operators continued through the full weekend. The CW effort surpassed the SSB leg in both prefixes and claimed points, closing the activation with a strong final performance.

The importance of SZ4ØA, however, was never only about the score.

The station has always followed an open philosophy. Operators from Greece and abroad are welcome to join the team, and in recent years we have been proud to have members from the United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, and Germany permanently join our team and association, taking part in all major contests with us. That international spirit is now part of SZ1A.

Looking forward, our biggest challenge is not only equipment. Radios and hardware can be bought. Manpower is the real asset. The future of SZ1A depends on attracting younger operators, finding people willing to learn the technical side of station building, and developing the next generation capable of installing, maintaining, and improving complex infrastructure such as towers, antennas, feedlines, radios, and RF switching systems.

For three months, SZ4ØA carried the history of the association across the world. It represented the founders who created the club in 1985, the members who built the station, the technicians who kept it operating, and the operators who spent long hours inside the shack.

When the final CW signal left the antennas at SZ1A, the special callsign had completed its purpose.

CQ WPX CW 2026 closed the SZ4ØA chapter. The story of SZ1A continues.



SZ4ØA Team



SZ4ØA (SZ1A) QTH – Western Greece



SZ40A Team



SZ4ØA (SZ1A) Antennas

Caribbean Calling: V49X's CQ WPX CW Excitement from St. Kitts

V49X (WW6W). Single Operator, All Band, Low Power + Classic Overlay

WPX CW was a great experience in going with the flow. First time operating a contest outside of the US and it wasn't disappointing. The trip from North Dakota to anywhere is never easy and this was no exception. A diversion for weather in the first leg of the trip resulted in sitting in a hot plane on the runway in Shreveport LA for 4 hours instead of enjoying a barbecue dinner at DFW in Dallas. Luckily my flight to Miami was also delayed because of the weather and I was able to make it to Miami and not miss the once daily flight to St. Kitts the next morning.

Once on the island I got the K3 I brought set up and enjoyed a couple days of operating before the contest. Friday afternoon while getting a few pre contest contacts in the K3 finals decided they didn't want to play for the weekend and the scramble was on. There was a radio at the rental station, and I was able to get the virtual comports figured out for N1MM and everything set up shortly before the contest started.

Twenty meters was great the first few hours and when things slowed, I switched over to 40m. That's when the next gremlin decided to show up. An RFI problem somewhere disabled the virtual comports every time I transmitted on 40m. I called it a night at that point.

Twenty and 15 were in good shape on Saturday and I had a great time during the day. I took a break and decided that I needed to get something configured to get on 40m Saturday night. After trying every cable, filter and ferrite I had still no luck. Finally, I reduced the power and was able to make things work at 60 watts. Saturday night on 40 was a blast and the score took off with the double points.

I missed my goals for QSOs and multipliers but was more than pleased with the results, First place in NA for the low power CLASSIC overlay. Not too bad considering the events of the weekend and only a single 33' vertical for an antenna. There is something special about operating from the Caribbean.

I have already booked and looking forward to next year's CW WPX from St. Kitts!

73,

Markus, WW6W



V49X (WW6W)

Defying the Storm: LX7I's 2026 CQ WPX CW Battle from Luxembourg

LX7I (DK6XZ). Single Operator All Band High Power

This was one of the most challenging contest experiences I have had in recent years – not because of the operation itself, but because almost everything around it seemed determined to make life difficult.

Yet, looking back after the post-contest analysis, I believe this was actually a better contest performance than my 2025 effort.

The story started months before the event. After reviewing last year's operation, one conclusion became obvious: while the pure 2BSIQ dual-RUN strategy had produced excellent QSO rates, there was still room for improvement in multiplier acquisition. The objective for 2026 was therefore clear: preserve the strengths of dual-RUN operation while integrating more frequent Click & Pounce (C&P) multiplier excursions. Short, disciplined departures from the run frequencies would hopefully increase the WPX count without sacrificing too much rate.

The station had been thoroughly tested before the contest, and everything appeared ready. However, only a few hours before the start an automatic amplifier had to be replaced by another unit that had previously been in service. At that point, nobody expected this decision to become a significant factor later on.

The contest itself started brilliantly.

Running dual pileups on 20 and 40 meters, the first hour produced 238 QSOs – one of the highest opening hours ever achieved from Europe and among the strongest starts recorded in CQ WPX history. The operating rhythm felt natural, the pileups were healthy, and the revised strategy appeared to be working exactly as intended.

Then reality intervened.

After only three hours, the 20-meter path toward North America began to collapse. Initially, I suspected normal propagation fluctuations, but instant analysis of MUF maps suggested something more fundamental. Luxembourg was sitting right on the edge of usable MUF values for the transatlantic path. As a result, North American participation on 20 meters became dramatically reduced compared with the first seven hours of my 2025 operation.

At exactly the wrong moment, another problem appeared.

The amplifier issue prevented the planned move to 80 meters, forcing operation to remain on 20 meters for several additional hours. During that period, the station simply could not exploit the normal low-band opportunities for compensation. Compared with the previous year, approximately 150–160 QSOs disappeared during this critical phase. At one stage, the deficit exceeded 600 QSOs compared to the previous year's pace, only partially recovering during Sunday's sunrise period across the Atlantic.

Then came the weather.

Beginning around 0400 UTC Saturday morning and continuing almost continuously until 0400 UTC Sunday, severe QRN dominated the operating environment. Signals were buried in atmospheric noise, concentration became difficult, and maintaining efficient dual-RUN operation required constant effort.

Nevertheless, the contest continued. The focus shifted toward disciplined multiplier hunting and extracting every possible point from less-than-ideal conditions.

Sunday morning brought another surprise.

The thunderstorm system that had previously been affecting the Brussels area (the airport was forced to close), roughly 120 kilometers away, moved directly over Luxembourg. Once again, severe atmospheric crashes caused by nearby thunderstorms disrupted operations. Yet even after the storms finally cleared and the bands became noticeably quieter, something still felt wrong.

The expected North American volume simply never appeared.

The post-contest numbers confirmed the observation. The real story of this contest was not QRN alone. The major factor was propagation.

The 15-meter North American path, usually a major source of volume from LX, suffered badly. Spots appeared continuously, but many stations could not be heard at all. Brief openings around North American sunrise offered a glimpse of what might have been, but they were short-lived. For most of the weekend, the transatlantic path on 15 meters underperformed dramatically. Iono-maps showed MUF 19-20 MHz.

Compared with 2025, the result was striking:

- 428 fewer QSOs on 15 meters
- 77 fewer WPX prefixes from the band
- 1,232 fewer QSO points
- roughly 50% fewer North American QSOs on 15 meters
- approximately twice as many Asian stations logged

An interesting side effect emerged, however. While North America was significantly weaker, the eastern paths were surprisingly productive. The number of Asian QSOs on 15 meters roughly doubled compared to the previous year. The problem was not quality – it was quantity. The shift eastward simply could not compensate for the missing North American volume.

Another unexpected highlight was a short Sunday morning opening on 10 meters. While it produced mostly European activity, it helped reduce some QSO losses and keep pace with some of the leading stations. A brief glimmer of hope appeared around US sunrise when N4EXA (E73M) called in on 10 meters, followed shortly by NI4W and NR4M. Unfortunately, the anticipated opening never materialized.

The most important conclusion only became clear after the contest.

Initially, I believed the disappointing QSO total was almost entirely caused by QRN, interruptions in cluster connectivity, and reduced spot flow. Yet the final analysis revealed something different. Despite approximately 450 fewer QSOs than hoped for, the multiplier strategy worked. The station operation produced a significantly higher WPX total and extracted more value from every available opening.

In other words:

The operating plan succeeded.

The conditions did not.

Special thanks go to Philippe, LX2A, for once again making it possible to enjoy operating the RadioLux superstation from the hills of northern Luxembourg. Thanks also to everyone who worked LX7I and helped make the event enjoyable despite the challenges.

Congratulations to Jozef, CR3DX (OM3GI), for an extraordinary effort under difficult conditions. Special thanks also to my fellow competitors whose online score updates added excitement throughout the weekend and kept the race alive.

Despite scoring 1.7 million points less than in 2025, the contest validated the strategic changes implemented during the past year. Greater emphasis on accuracy, multiplier acquisition, and disciplined Click & Pounce operation resulted in a significantly higher WPX count despite markedly poorer propagation. The highlight: 238 QSO`s logged in hour 00.

Sometimes the most satisfying contests are not the easiest ones, but those that force you to adapt.

73,

Suad, DK6XZ | E77XZ



LX71 (DK6XZ) and LX2A

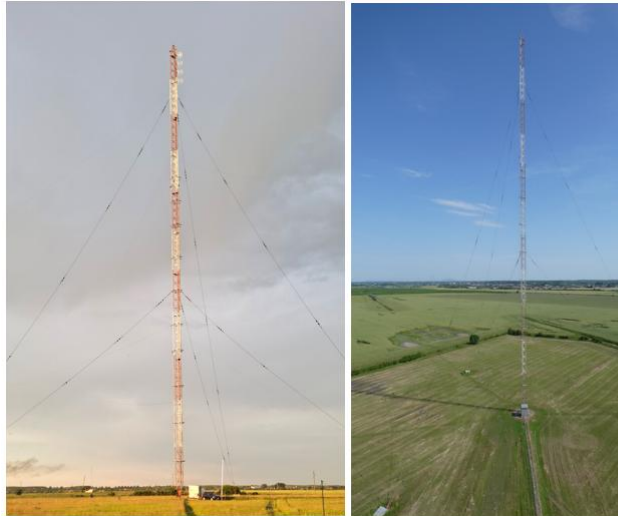


RadioLux Superstation

2026 CQ WPX CW Photo Gallery



9A5M. Single Operator, 80M, High Power



9A5M. 80M Phased vertical array with elevated radials



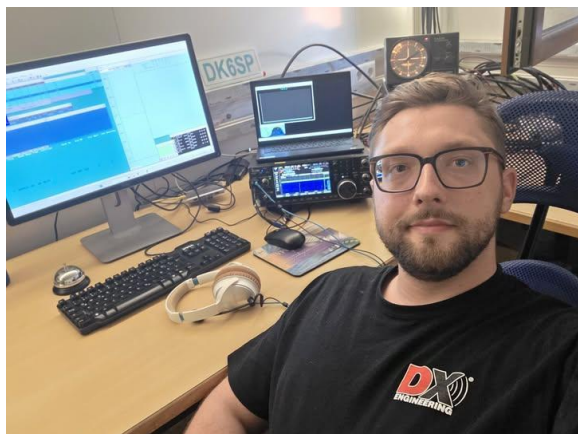
AA4NC. Single Operator, All Band, High Power



**CN3A. Multi – Multi. Operators: OK1DIX OK1DO
OK1FFU OK1GI OK1JKT OK1MV OK1NY OK1RI
OK5MM OM6NM**



**CT1GFQ. Single Operator, All Band, Low
Power + Tri-Bander / Wires Overlay**



DK6SP. Single Operator, All Band, Low Power + Tri-Bander / Wires Overlay



HA5UA. Single Operator, All Band, High Power + Tri-Bander / Wires Overlay



DP7D. Multi-Single, High Power. Operators DC9RI and DL1REM



ES9C. Multi-Multi. Operators: ES2MA ES2MC ES2RR ES4RD ES5MARI ES5NC ES5NY ES5QA ES5RY ES5TV ES7GM HA8TA LU1FAM LY6C OH2KW Power OM2ADM UR5ECW UR8UQ YL2VW YL3DW YL3JA YL3RZ



HA8L. Single Operator, All Band, High Power



HB0DX. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator DF8DX



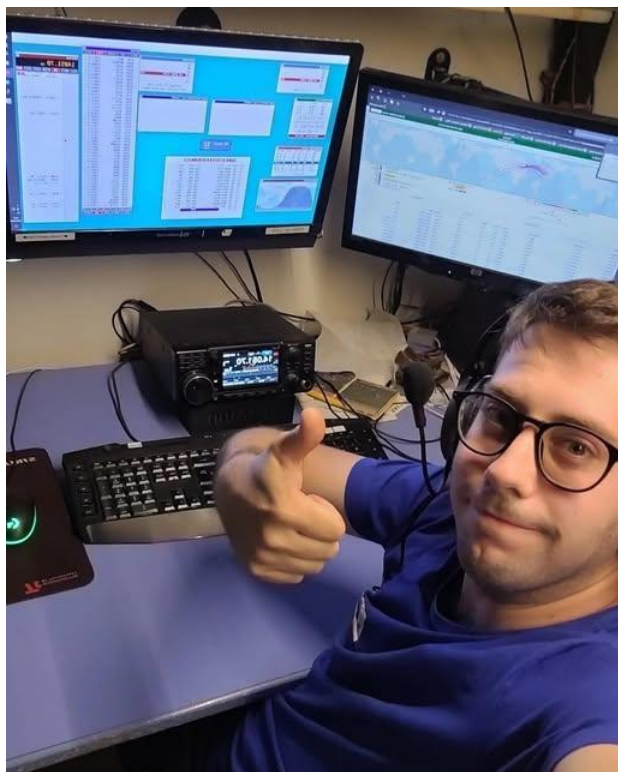
HB0DX. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator HB9EMP



HC8M (K2IN). Single Operator, All Band, High Power + Tri-Bander / Wires High Power Overlay



IP2A (IV3ZXQ). Single Operator, 15M, High Power



IU1LCU. Single Operator, 20M, High Power



KP4AA. Single Operator, 10M, High Power



**KM7W. Multi-Single, High Power.
Operators KL9A, K7NT**



LZ8E. Multi-Two. Operators LZ2BE LZ2XA



LZ8E. Multi-Two. Operators LZ2PL, Bella, LZ2XA



NH8S. Multi-Two. Operators KB9OWD K9QQ AB9YC WT2P K9CT K2DRH



NP3Y. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator NP3Y



NP3Y. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator KC2GOW



NP3Y. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator W2VQ



NP3Y. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator W4IPC



NP3Y. Multi-Single, High Power. Operator WP3C



OG7A. Single Operator, 20M, High Power



TM1A. Multi-Multi



**WP4X. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operator
KP4JRS**



**WP4X. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operator
KP3J**



**WP4X. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operator
NP3A**



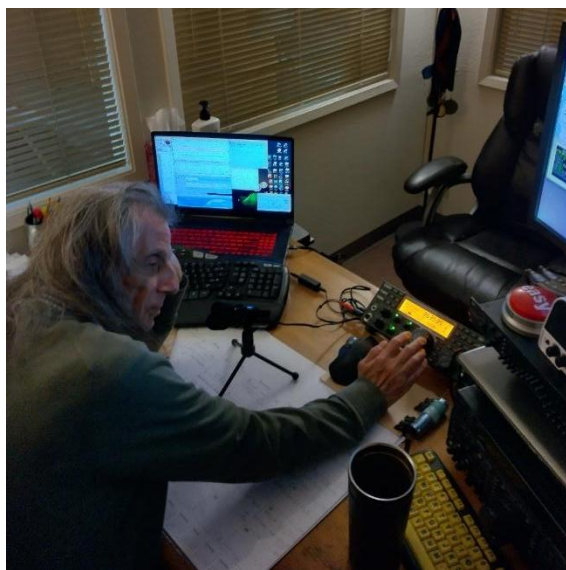
**WP4X. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operator
KP3N**



**WP4X. Multi-Single, Low Power. Operator
WP4TZ**



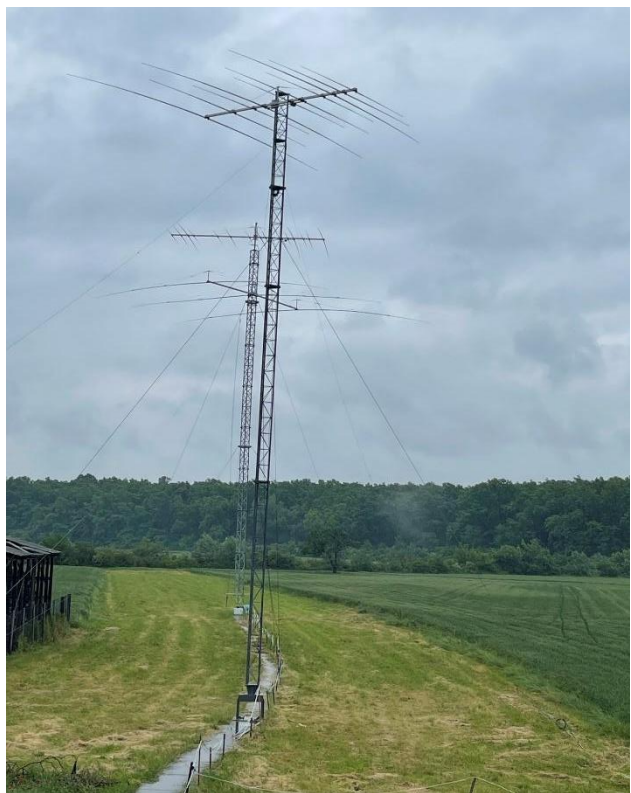
**WQ6X. Single Operator, All Band, QRP.
Remotely at W7AYT**



**WQ6X. Single Operator, All Band, QRP.
Operating remotely via W7AYT**



**YU9A (YT3D). Single Operator, All Band,
High Power + Classic Overlay**



Antennas at YU9A (YT3D)

Top Scores – WORLD

SINGLE OPERATOR

HIGH POWER

All Band

CR3DX (OM3GI)	27,495,226
P3X (5B4AMM)	23,056,698
CR6K (CT1ILT)	15,683,700
VA1EET (N5DX)	13,944,382
WU2X (N6MJ)	13,750,816
II2Q (IK2PFL)	12,545,852
9A5Y (9A7DX)	12,537,060
AA3B	12,217,128
K1LZ (YT6W)	12,006,648
HG8R (HA8JV)	11,988,750

28 MHz

PT5J (DJ4CW)	4,710,010
LT3E (LU6DOT)	2,564,453
CE3CT	751,128
YT1X	430,254
HA8FK	425,972
YT9W	415,484
YU0T	371,360
LU1DZ	318,458
EF6T (EA3AIR)	316,409
DD5Y (DH8BOA)	278,256

21 MHz

5Z4A (5Z4VJ)	5,781,984
9A5D (9A5DU)	3,900,804
S50K	3,829,926
TN8GD	3,474,152
YU9DX	3,282,237
4X7M	3,203,520
SN3A (SQ2GXO)	3,133,890
IP2A (IV3ZXQ)	2,955,042
YT9A	2,649,544
RU7M	2,513,604

14 MHz

C4E (5B4AMX)	7,913,856
YT1NP	6,687,820
SN2M (SP2XF)	6,070,680
HG5E (HA1AH)	6,040,496
4X6FR	5,899,872
OM8CW	5,578,326
K2SSS	5,160,981
II2S (IK2QEI)	5,054,829
4L8A	4,503,686
HG0Y (HA7GN)	4,498,629

7 MHz.

E77EA	6,339,840
EF9M (EA5EL)	5,599,346
OK1Z	5,149,000
4O3A	5,108,504

9A4V (9A3NM)	5,086,368
YT1A	4,663,340
EI7M (EI5LA)	4,421,352
KA1IS	4,312,764
G8X (G4FJK)	4,157,522
S52AW	3,948,612

3.5 MHz

9A5M	1,418,480
E72T	1,276,317
9A8M (9A3XU)	1,015,580
YL3FT	890,813
9A2AJ	851,838
SN3U (SP3GTS)	691,614
K1ZM	613,565
TA3NE	519,554
SP4G	424,125
EI6JK	306,768

1.8 MHz

I4IKW	178,500
I5MXX	173,880
S56X	160,740
EW1M	138,208
LZ66E (LZ1GU)	113,712
3V8LL	111,986

LOW POWER

All Band

P44W (W2GD)	8,154,837
9Z4BM (N2TTA)	6,957,335
XM3T (VE3DZ)	6,840,460
RT4F (UA4FER)	6,170,094
TM29X (F5MUX)	5,709,529
EF8R (EA8RM)	5,690,486
DK6SP	5,512,019
SO9I (SP2R)	5,399,676
OL9R (OK6RA)	5,330,626
ED7W (EB7A)	5,234,691

28 MHz

PY1XW	590,814
EA1R	294,862
XQ3WD	247,696
LZ4TX	208,010
EI3Z (EI6JK)	115,412
JK2RCP	115,227

21 MHz

EX2M	1,987,005
CE1WGM	1,649,970
ED7O (EA7EU)	1,428,336
9A7RR	1,221,472
UZ2HZ	853,800

YD2UWF	729,114
YD1FRU	716,071
BI8CZM	711,399
JE1CKA	704,816
YC9FAR	702,100

14 MHz

9A3SMS	2,908,480
IF9/IT9PPG	2,362,832
UF7L (UN6LN)	2,216,325
N5RZ	2,062,260
E73B	2,020,304
DQ2A (DL2SAX)	1,668,465
RA9AP	1,586,382
RZ9AM	1,375,462
YU5M	1,115,625
ZM3WW (ZL3WW)	1,027,299

7 MHz

YL7X (YL2LY)	2,723,172
HG9X (HA6PJ)	2,558,336
ED3O (EA3CX)	2,534,280
E79Q (E70Y)	2,024,630
4Z5PN	1,732,464
OE3WMA	1,193,870
HB9HTF	1,161,297
YT9VM	1,157,772
DM100CHE (DL6KWN)	1,124,448
LZ7DX	1,011,129

3.5 MHz

IT9BLB/1H9	1,339,821
4Z4KX	794,475
LY7Z	735,126
YO5AVN	715,920
ME6W (G3WW)	601,188
UW7X (UT7XX)	521,066
HA6NL	496,839
G6A (G3VDB)	450,394
OL5J (OK1RZ)	428,608
SN9S (SP9DLY)	294,254

1.8 MHz

UW1U (UT7UA)	92,232
S51W	61,073
DR6T (DL3RAR)	51,590

QRP

All Band

RU3A (RA3AUU)	3,076,176
IZ3NVR	2,225,385
DK7HA	1,834,020
IZ8JFL	1,171,320

HA5BA	945,388	SINGLE-TRANSMITTER		7A1A	1,506,438
LY5G	721,817	HIGH POWER		BA3TC	1,199,556
LZ8T (LZ2DF)	700,056	P40L	18,165,966	9M2J	507,111
N7IR	465,678	RL3A	15,627,544	ROOKIE	
UW3WU	389,790	HG6N	15,608,264	HIGH POWER	
SP2DNI	362,296	NP3Y	14,926,080	IT9KQU	905,240
28 MHz		9A7A	14,788,130	NV1U	199,677
4F3OM	69,805	VA2WA	14,131,324	ES3YJ	133,893
BV3FG	38,190	II9P	14,093,068	DL2XU	27,232
N4IJ	27,120	PW2F	13,411,487	W1HLP	3,192
HG5O (HA5OB)	14,112	VK1A	13,211,088	LN2G (LB9WJ)	1,092
JK1CNL	12,696	S58A	13,081,614	LOW POWER	
21 MHz		LOW POWER		AC4NK	503,470
HG1S (HA1DAE)	745,235	UN4Q	11,517,876	BG0ETY	339,849
UA9UR	243,984	TM6M	11,211,683	RO3ZM	243,100
UX9Q	163,699	WP4X	7,006,890	UR5WAQ	193,210
JQ1NGT	112,189	E7CW	5,198,596	W0DOS	153,999
E70NA	105,462	SO4M	4,452,954	R3MDM	149,568
14 MHz		VE3EID	4,107,915	YT2FW	135,797
ED3Q (EA3O)	1,046,900	YU1Q	3,945,700	R3MDT	116,928
K5RX	543,456	OK2J	3,787,056	VE6VOX	98,912
SF0A (SM0LPO)	320,896	AC6ZM	3,732,352	DL1FOB	95,046
RC3W (RA5W)	289,863	HG26TISZA	3,580,542	CLASSIC	
S51Z	258,965	MULTI-OP		HIGH POWER	
4L5P	211,200	TWO-TRANSMITTER		KP2M (KT3Y)	9,295,110
K8MV	209,300	LZ5R	30,685,008	PJ2T (WI9WI)	7,608,645
HH2K (N3BNA)	166,145	LP1H	27,878,330	P30A (RA3CO)	7,195,566
SM0OEK	156,433	OM7M	19,274,142	YU9A (YT3D)	5,832,460
YT2A (YU1LM)	110,593	HG7T	17,158,977	S53MM	5,627,440
7 MHz		OL3Z	16,178,244	K1ZZ	4,846,394
OK6OK	535,500	NI4W	16,048,035	DJ7M (DK8ZB)	4,486,980
OM0RX	396,752	G9W	14,971,360	S53R	4,413,286
RK3Y	269,568	NH8S	14,844,711	XR3A (XQ4CW)	4,237,683
AA1K	261,699	SX9V	13,312,564	WN2O (N2GC)	4,122,602
S53AR	234,957	S50W	12,227,760	LOW POWER	
VE3CT	211,860	MULTI-OP		II4M (IK4VET)	3,375,946
SP3CW	201,212	MULTI-TRANSMITTER		DJ5MW	3,200,016
K3OO	159,444	CN3A	53,976,456	ED1R (EA4AOC)	3,145,281
S57EA	112,224	9A1A	30,475,809	LY5W	2,911,284
DJ2RG	107,847	ES9C	26,170,240	UZ2M (UR0MC)	2,810,882
3.5 MHz		DR1A	24,228,820	PC0A	2,574,000
OL4W (OK1IF)	478,016	LZ25W	22,265,298	RG5A	2,298,630
E71A	335,965	NR4M	18,703,386	V49X (WW6W)	2,073,286
YU3DX	254,529	DP9A	18,414,539	RV1AW	2,053,930
TM8F (F8IPH)	221,760	OZ5W	16,217,130	DM5EE	1,982,400
1.8 MHz		JA3YBK	13,611,005	TRIBANDER/WIRES	
UR5FEO	34,038	TM1A	12,831,840	HIGH POWER	
DL1AOB	12,402	MULTI-OP		ZF2SS (KO7SS)	11,724,372
MULTI-OP		MULTI-DISTRIBUTED		CT3KN	10,786,182
		OP0HQ	19,794,000	UP4L (UN7LZ)	10,267,656
		9H6A	12,278,695	ZL7IO (ZL3IO)	7,961,749
		VR2CC	2,983,582		

7,933,810
6,797,442
6,510,882
6,198,075
5,460,000
5,384,228

SP9XCN	3,101,160
EC3A	2,385,918
IZ3NVR	2,225,385
DJ9DZ	2,123,158

YOUTH

HIGH POWER

5,709,529
5,512,019
4,055,724
3,960,576
3,426,762
3,211,200

EI0Y (F4IEY)	4,492,740
EI7M (EI5LA)	4,421,352
NN1AA (W1ZL)	4,135,377
BY4SA (BA4QNR)	217,404
R8CI	174,272
R4WCQ	95,550
DA1NEN	14,356

LOW POWER

DL7PIA	2,688,686
BH6IE (BD6IUT)	1,701,090
YD2UWF	729,114
YO8OLY	301,109
VE3OMV	152,592
BG4IDK	123,627
UB4WDD	57,200
M7NMP	27,375
9A9TJ	23,058
YO8MTY	19,750

QSOs/Prefix Breakdowns by Band

Call	160M	80M	40M	20M	15M	10M
WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BANDS - HIGH POWER						
CR3DX	28/4	232/15	1140/367	2012/642	1606/327	261/54
P3X	17/0	372/85	838/262	1897/615	1355/351	292/56
CR6K	3/2	314/81	1009/325	1600/583	1274/331	264/58
VA1EET	8/0	356/92	1050/369	1433/513	671/159	50/20
WU2X	0/0	257/64	999/399	1493/530	893/202	87/31
II2Q	11/10	222/71	912/424	1477/556	852/295	107/40
9A5Y	17/6	329/51	1097/432	1510/567	679/261	40/21
AA3B	0/0	320/90	906/353	1594/581	688/149	107/29
K1LZ	0/0	177/31	893/383	1322/509	995/244	39/29
HG8R	31/5	247/72	1041/446	1459/646	478/207	30/14

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BANDS - LOW POWER						
P44W	0/0	30/0	673/451	583/176	814/197	381/83
9Z4BM	0/0	0/0	434/249	739/316	830/284	326/86
XM3T	0/0	162/36	592/207	1173/553	392/139	0/0
RT4F	3/1	107/22	552/291	1066/504	701/284	82/32
TM29X	0/0	70/24	731/346	1060/526	319/156	36/17
EF8R	0/0	25/8	497/390	561/215	618/221	59/32
DK6SP	15/3	279/142	608/332	810/445	291/147	27/12
SO9I	13/5	335/158	723/327	772/406	276/139	6/3
OL9R	38/11	245/112	728/442	727/380	212/135	12/11
ED7W	1/1	67/26	436/224	1096/542	503/196	121/34

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BANDS - QRP						
RU3A	0/0	88/46	451/299	602/373	315/185	41/9
IZ3NVR	0/0	115/85	482/334	429/291	119/47	24/8
DK7HA	0/0	101/60	470/343	410/208	129/66	60/13
IZ8JFL	3/3	58/51	385/279	345/236	131/93	43/19
HA5BA	0/0	184/86	278/159	335/201	123/54	40/8
LY5G	11/6	98/54	275/142	386/212	148/46	14/3
LZ8T	24/14	129/96	285/131	336/222	0/0	0/0
N7IR	0/0	0/0	82/26	290/196	177/114	65/33
UW3WU	19/6	86/35	183/120	201/153	82/51	2/1
SP2DNI	0/0	165/90	185/116	123/102	63/50	0/0

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER - HIGH POWER

P40L	0/0	9/1	827/316	1541/611	1369/275	445/58
RL3A	38/8	221/28	1008/391	2106/539	1558/428	370/35
HG6N	3/3	418/28	1229/437	1805/639	1049/294	161/20
NP3Y	0/0	57/13	1054/536	1532/432	1052/235	56/32
9A7A	4/4	166/59	883/465	1842/540	1236/355	53/22
VA2WA	6/1	164/51	1068/436	1489/566	627/173	39/25
II9P	12/2	182/32	892/266	1654/611	1490/436	318/64
PW2F	0/0	20/12	551/251	1080/399	1074/425	552/154
VK1A	0/0	0/0	896/245	1150/484	810/363	299/54
S58A	16/12	287/74	1048/506	1731/522	816/226	82/18

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER - LOW POWER

UN4Q	8/1	232/23	683/164	1170/405	1189/412	67/21
TM6M	4/4	128/39	1054/402	1428/582	746/201	214/39
WP4X	0/0	0/0	701/369	1088/397	634/159	43/10
E7CW	10/3	145/45	645/299	988/484	372/186	20/11
SO4M	63/20	191/108	600/323	849/401	247/131	51/24
VE3EID	0/0	80/16	533/362	690/354	213/58	24/15
YU1Q	32/11	133/47	707/431	676/329	252/117	0/0
OK2J	55/22	318/169	475/268	552/294	337/171	33/12
AC6ZM	0/0	8/1	612/260	833/441	278/103	41/27
HG26TISZA	65/22	191/99	339/152	953/513	348/128	141/28

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER

LZ5R	45/2	647/46	1694/463	2914/702	2380/390	619/51
LP1H	0/0	159/31	1101/336	1642/565	1687/281	1165/202
OM7M	0/0	356/39	1304/396	2460/786	1156/257	114/21
HG7T	96/23	361/105	1248/351	1971/636	1219/326	245/32
OL3Z	77/13	502/172	1358/366	1834/592	820/210	338/43
NI4W	0/0	252/80	1171/449	1940/598	1228/176	140/32
G9W	26/11	427/97	1191/412	1908/592	972/230	174/24
NH8S	7/0	165/15	1217/404	1954/678	987/201	185/39
SX9V	17/5	232/25	938/379	2315/747	704/231	142/42
S50W	47/19	364/141	1024/353	1517/472	1039/334	266/41

		WORLD	MULTI-OPERATOR	MULTI-TRANSMITTER		
CN3A	202/38	804/163	1368/305	2832/557	2551/450	1173/161
9A1A	394/85	965/164	1859/386	2512/602	1678/353	621/61
ES9C	316/69	660/141	1619/403	2852/611	2089/323	786/41
DR1A	283/48	918/222	1698/386	2319/559	1191/259	531/66
LZ25W	283/71	729/145	1540/312	2527/623	1597/323	483/55
NR4M	7/2	455/112	1359/428	1986/571	1047/218	293/60
DP9A	321/79	776/171	1498/408	1845/473	1130/268	372/42
OZ5W	361/63	693/169	1527/417	1713/487	913/232	204/22
JA3YBK	0/0	90/6	551/83	1645/475	1583/561	438/122
TM1A	134/44	613/154	1323/390	1612/443	800/195	268/34

		WORLD	MULTI-OPERATOR	MULTI-DISTRIBUTED		
OP0HQ	132/56	502/148	1466/383	2274/555	1146/320	326/38
9H6A	20/6	311/107	1027/368	2002/593	935/219	290/28
VR2CC	0/0	0/0	125/29	716/305	928/355	252/53
7A1A	0/0	0/0	57/29	480/316	308/144	110/58
BA3TC	0/0	16/3	142/25	334/157	541/272	195/65
9M2J	0/0	0/0	54/17	248/175	228/146	34/25