

Results of the 2010 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,* K9EL/VA3CDX

Participation in the 2010 CQ DX Marathon was up significantly despite some of the worst band conditions in years! Excluding the new PJ countries, there were actually two fewer countries available compared to 2009. However, there were 58 countries with no activity at all in 2010! Overall not the best year for DXing, so the competition was as fierce as ever. There were significantly more people with higher scores, so those countries that *were* active were in many logs. In the end, taking into account the new PJ countries, the winning 2010 score in the Unlimited Class was identical to the winning 2009 score.

Logs were received from 62 countries and 28 zones—a nearly 30-percent increase over last year. Once again the majority of the logs (75%) were Unlimited Class. 60 percent of the logs came from three countries—USA, Brazil, and England—with participation from England up over 100 percent from 2009. We even had one SWL entry this year. The competition for certificates was especially exciting in 2010, as there was a 25-percent increase in the number of single-mode submissions and a 50-percent increase in QRP (10 watts or less) submissions. As the DX Marathon rules were not clear on multiple entries and multiple certificates, a clarification was published earlier this year. Please see sidebar.

And the Winners Are...

Once again Bob Locher, W9KNI, was the top scorer in the Unlimited Class with a score of 325. Bob worked 285 of the 291 countries that were available in 2010, as well as all 40 CQ zones. Congratulations to Bob on winning two years in a row! PP5EG, OM3EY, and NØFW were not far behind with scores of 323, 320, and 318, respectively. Bob's last new one was worked at 2200Z on December 31st, so he obviously was very active right to the end of the contest! Competition in Formula Class was just as competitive, with Bernhard Wittek, DL4CW, claiming the Formula Class plaque with a total score of 254, four points ahead of the runner-up, KØABC. Congratulations to all of our Formula Class participants.

Once again the plaques for the winners in both classes will be provided by the Northern Illinois DX Association. We sincerely appreciate their support for sponsoring the DX Marathon plaques.

Major certificate winners in 2010 include Joe, W1JR, who came out on top in the CW competition at 305 points; David, N3CDA, who took top SSB honors with a score of 286; and Mark, K7MTR, who topped the digital-mode competition at 237 points. Fantastic single-mode scores and all higher than 2009. Notable in the single-band competition was Mike, K5NU, who amassed an amazing score of 243 points (205 countries/38 zones) on 80 meters! We had our first 10-meter-only submission. Hopefully, we will see more higher band submissions as the sunspots improve.

Each year has its unique problems and 2010 was no different. Last year, many participants lost points due to incorrect call signs for zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, and 19. I am pleased to report that the number of zone errors was down by 90% this year.

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Hopefully, each of our participants will continue to use the information available on the DX Marathon website (www.dxmarathon.com).

Unfortunately, a new problem evolved in 2010—incorrect postings on DX spotting networks. Please listen carefully to the station you are working, as the call on the cluster may not be right. Many submissions included “JX/G3PJT,” which was called in many times. Unfortunately, G3PJT was actually at J6. 5N7M



Bernhard Wittek, DL4CW, took home top Formula Class honors in the 2010 CQ DX Marathon with a total score of 254 points.

Bernhard Wittek, DL4CW Formula Class Winner

Bernhard became interested in radio at a very young age, listening to shortwave broadcasts on his parents' tube receiver. At age 12, he attempted an amateur license but was distracted by other interests. After many years of SWLing, Bernhard finally got his ham license in 2004. His passion for SWLing quickly turned to a passion for DXing. Bernhard operates an IC-751A transceiver to all homebrew antennas. Currently his antenna farm consists of a 33-foot vertical and a 90-foot Zepp. Bernhard operates primarily CW and RTTY and is an avid QSL collector. He is also licensed in the U.S. as N4FC. Bernhard said he came across the DX Marathon accidentally a few years ago, noticed that his score was quite good and made a real effort in 2010.

Bernhard is an active participant in SOTA (Summits On The Air) and the photo in this article shows Bernhard on one of his expeditions in Austria.

TOP SCORES Single-Mode

Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score	Comments
CW				
W1JR	265	40	305	Certificate Winner
OH6MW	258	40	298	
W4VQ	258	40	298	
Digital				
K7MTR	197	40	237	Certificate Winner
SP3BGD	172	39	211	
GU0SUP	129	37	166	
SSB				
N3CDA	246	40	286	Certificate Winner
M0URX	243	40	283	
PY2ADR	234	40	274	
Low Power				
W8QZA	186	39	225	5 Certificate Winner
ND0C	182	38	220	5
IV3AOL	162	31	193	5
Single-Band				
K5NU	205	38	243	80 Certificate Winner
K4VSC	41	14	55	40 Certificate Winner
VE8DW	43	17	60	20
W9KVR	125	38	163	17 Certificate Winner
PU2ELP	156	34	190	10 Certificate Winner
K4MM	68	15	83	6 Certificate Winner

Note: Expanded Top Scores boxes may be found in the Expanded scores section on the CQ website.

was called in as HN7M, 5T7M, 5U7M, and several other variations. WH6R was called in as WH8R as another example. Although actual pirate activity was down in 2010, there is still confusion with the E51 prefix and European Turkey. Please check callsigns carefully for the correct country! Many stations claimed credit for various EZ stations, but neither the DX

Marathon committee nor the ARRL has been able to receive any official information regarding the validity of the EZ stations that are currently active. For 2010, the lack of approval for EZ contacts did not have any significant impact on the final results.

Many submissions were received marked as Formula Class, but were actu-

Zone Certificate Winners

Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score
VE8DW	43	17	60
N0FW	278	40	318
K5EK	274	40	314
RA9OO	121	37	158
VK6HG	147	37	184

Note: Top scorers in other zones received Top Country Score certificate.

Country Certificate Winners

Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score
XV4TUJ	88	27	115
9A2EU	215	40	255
A65CA	246	40	286
BV1EK	111	32	143
BD1EFO	113	36	149
CE2WZ	160	38	198
CO2OT	73	18	91
CT1CQK	147	35	182
DJ9ZB	267	40	307
DU1IVT	119	36	155
E73PY	105	33	138
EA4KD	271	40	311
EC8AFM	181	36	217
EI7CC	221	40	261
F5CQ	254	40	294
FS/K9NB	88	25	113
G4PTJ	260	40	300
MD0CCE	271	40	311
GJ4PRB	76	17	93
GU0SUP	129	37	166
GW0VSW	90	17	107
HA8TI	189	40	229
HB9ALO	250	40	290
HC6EP	71	26	97
7Z1HL	199	37	236
IZ2AMW	266	40	306
LY5W/IT9	92	34	126
JH2UVL	260	39	299
WP3GW	162	31	193
LA2LI	194	39	233
LU5VV	165	38	203
LY9Y	252	40	292
OH2BEN	258	40	298
OK2SG	264	40	304
OM3EY	280	40	320
ON4ON	270	40	310
OZ7YY	263	40	303
PA3FQA	273	40	313
PP5EG	283	40	323
R6YY	275	40	315
S51DX	215	40	255
SM5DJZ	260	40	300
SV1DPI	251	40	291
SV9COL	227	40	267
TA1HZ	121	30	151
UA9FAR	260	40	300
US7MM	263	40	303
V51YJ	192	40	232
VE1DX	265	40	305
VK3HJ	224	39	263
VU2PTT	183	39	222
T6AF	104	32	136
YB1AR	175	38	213
YI1RZ	117	32	149
YO9HP	252	39	291
YU1PC	151	37	188
YV6BXN	135	29	164
Z2-AC7GP	103	25	128
ZL2IFB	248	40	288
ZS1D	27	18	45



Oms, PP5EG, proudly displaying two of his DX Marathon certificates. Oms was runner-up in the 2010 Marathon Unlimited Class.

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Slobodan "Bob" Sevo, E770, 2009 Formula Class Winner proudly displaying his plaque.

ally Unlimited Class based on the types of antennas used. Simply limiting power to 100 watts does not necessarily qualify a station for Formula Class. Please read the DX Marathon rules carefully regarding the types of antennas and power allowed for Formula Class. And finally, don't forget that the CQ countries list includes additional valid countries that are not part of the ARRL DXCC program. Since most logging programs use the ARRL list, don't forget to work TA1 (European Turkey), IT (Sicily), IG9/IH9 (African Italy), and others. For complete details, please go to <www.dxmarathon.com>.

See our expanded results on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com) web for QRM and additional score breakdowns.
 73, John, K9EL/VA3CDX

**DX Marathon Clarification
 on Multiple Entries and Awards**

For those of you who may have missed this in the April issue, the following clarification to the CQ DX Marathon rules is effective immediately.—ed.

Each entrant may submit one log each year per operating location. Plaques are awarded for the top score in Unlimited Class and in Formula Class. In addition, certificates are awarded to qualified participants in this order:

- Top Score—Country
- Top Score—Zone
- Top low power (10 watts or less) score in Formula Class
- Top Score—Single mode entry (SSB, CW, Digital)
- Top Score—Single band entry

Plaque winners are not eligible for certificates. Only one certificate will be awarded per entrant. In the case of a participant qualifying for more than one certificate, that participant will receive a certificate for the highest level based on the above order. At the discretion of the DX Marathon Committee, a certificate may then be awarded to the next qualifying entrant(s) in the additional category.