

# Results of the 2020 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,\* K9EL/VA3CDX

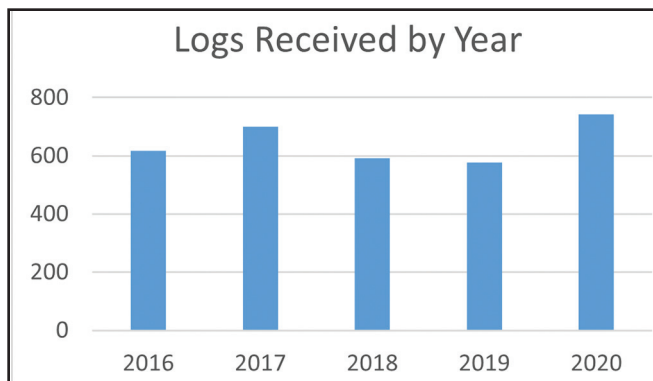
- "A good distraction to the troubles of 2020" - VK4CC*
- "I really enjoyed the challenge" - MØXLT*
- "Lots of fun as usual" - K1IU*
- "Great contest and a lot of fun!" - WD9DZV*
- "First time CQ Marathon" - AF9W, K2YYY, others*
- "Considering 2020 was such a lost year, CQ Marathon is always such fun" - N7RD*
- "A tough year on and off the radio" - ZL2IFB*
- "Working from home had its advantages this year" - N9TF*
- "DXpeditions and sunspots were missing this year, but I still enjoyed it" - IK5FKF*

The CQ DX Marathon is alive, well, and breaking records! Despite poor band conditions and the lack of DXpeditions after February due to the pandemic and many other problems facing us, the DX Marathon had its biggest year ever in 2020. Many of us stayed home and really appreciated the value of communication through amateur radio. Although there were 19 fewer countries available to work, the average country count was only down by 14 from 2019. Overall participation was up significantly, along with the number of total QSOs, despite the average scores being lower due to lack of DXpeditions. The DX Marathon kept us busy concentrating on DX and was a great way to reduce stress from the pandemic.

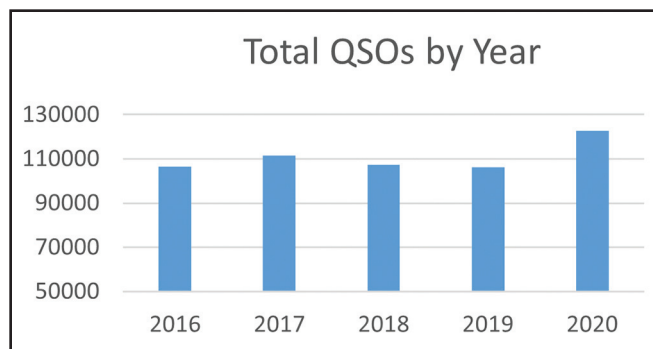
The participation graph (*Table 1*) shows the amazing growth in 2020. Total participants in the DX Marathon increased to over 16,400, the highest total in the last five years and a 14% increase over 2019.

We also had a record number of logs submitted and the highest-ever number of total QSOs as shown in *Table 2* and *Table 3*.

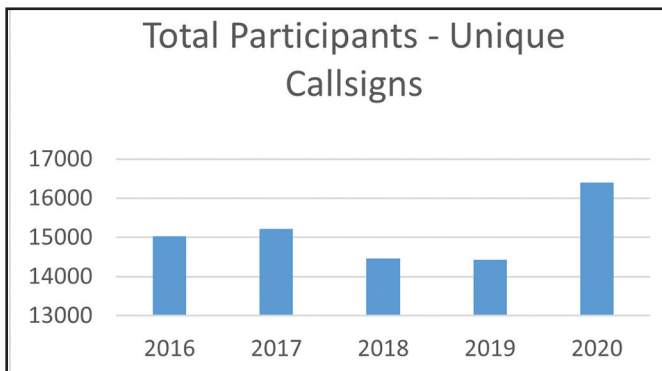
DX signals are weaker during low sunspot periods, but the multitude of digital modes with excellent weak-signal capabilities have allowed anyone to work DX and kept activity high in the DX Marathon. Digital modes accounted for 65% of all QSOs in the Marathon — an incredible increase from less than 20% in 2015. The FT4 and FT8 modes accounted for most of those digital contacts. *Table 4* shows the change over the last few years.



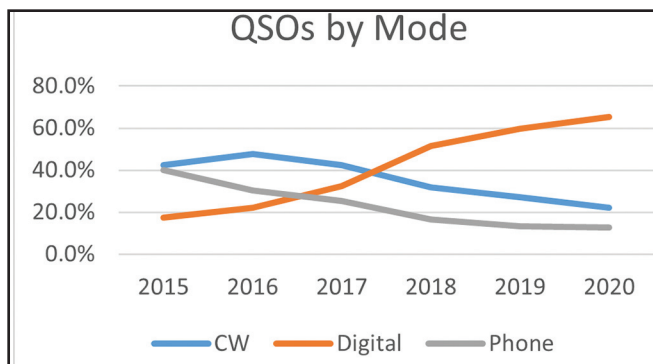
*Table 2.*



*Table 3.*



*Table 1.*



*Table 4.*

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The maximum possible score in 2020 was 308, a big drop of 19 entities from 2019, but still very impressive considering the world situation. Not a single person scored over 300 — another unfortunate result of the pandemic. We were surprised to see that ten all-time records were broken! Some happy hams now have their calls in the DX Marathon record books. Setting new records in 2020 is a great accomplishment. In terms of band usage, the higher bands saw big increases in QSOs.

### And the Winners Are

For the last few years, John, K2ZJ, has been among the top scorers and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 2019. 2020 was a great year for John as he took top honors in Unlimited Class with a score of 297. Competition was tough but John did not make a single error in his log, which put him above his competition. Building on this unusual year, we had a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place from

Japan with veteran marathoner JA2NDQ and newcomer JH1AJT tied at 294. Nice to see Zorro, JH1AJT, place so well in his first year of competition. Previous winners PY5EG and R6YY placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

James, K2JL, winner of Formula Class the last two years made the jump to Limited Class in 2020 and came out on top with a score of 267. James installed a new HexBeam for his change to Limited Class. Second and third place positions went to IK2RPE and TA4RC, with scores of 259 and 252, respectively. TA4RC repeated his 3<sup>rd</sup> place performance from last year. In Formula Class (100-watt option), Karel, OK2FD, was our winner with a score of 263. Armed with a wire antenna, 100 watts, and often poor conditions, this was a great accomplishment. Karel finished 2<sup>nd</sup> last year. IUØLFQ and YV5OIE finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. Working the Marathon with wire antennas is a difficult challenge, especially with few or no sunspots. Even more chal-

## TOP SCORES

BOLD = Plaque Winners  
 \* = Certificate Winners  
 Callsign is followed by Score

### Unlimited Class

<b>K2ZJ</b> .....	<b>297</b>
JA2NDQ.....	294
JH1AJT.....	294
PY5EG.....	293
R6YY.....	293

### Limited Class

<b>K2JL</b> .....	<b>267</b>
IK2RPE.....	259
TA4RC.....	252
EA8DHH.....	241
TA1CM.....	239

### Formula Class - 100w

<b>OK2FD</b> .....	<b>263</b>
IUØLFQ.....	249
YV5OIE.....	237
HA7LJ.....	232
SV1AZL.....	232
PP2RON.....	232

### Formula Class - 5w

<b>OK2AP</b> .....	<b>260</b>
CO2QU.....	198
IZ3NVR.....	193
K8ZT.....	192
W8QZA.....	175

### CW

<b>OK2PAY</b> .....	<b>274</b>
LY5W.....	269
KBØEO.....	266
PA3FQA.....	254
K5BG.....	239

### Phone

<b>W4HY</b> .....	<b>240</b>
PY5QW.....	222
MIØBHX.....	205
PY4JW.....	196
KL7KK.....	194

### Digital

<b>HA1RB</b> .....	<b>270</b>
OM5XX.....	265
IK2RPE.....	259
5P1KZX.....	255
4X4MF.....	254

### Africa

<b>CT3MD</b> .....	<b>269</b>
EA8DHH.....	241
ZS2EZ.....	238
ZS6HON.....	211
ZS6SKY.....	119

### Asia

<b>JA2NDQ</b> .....	<b>294</b>
JH1AJT.....	294
JAØDAI.....	279
A92GE.....	266
OD5YA.....	256

### Europe

<b>R6YY</b> .....	<b>293</b>
DJ3AA.....	284
CT1IUA.....	282
MØNKR.....	280
OM3EY.....	277

### North America

<b>K2ZJ</b> .....	<b>297</b>
NØFW.....	288
VE3VEE.....	287
WN4N.....	286
K3RA.....	285

### Oceania

<b>YB5QZ</b> .....	<b>280</b>
VK3GA.....	279
VK3BDX.....	265
ZL2IFB.....	262
VK2PW.....	249

### South America

<b>PY5EG</b> .....	<b>293</b>
PY5GA.....	276
PP5JR.....	263
PY4AZ.....	261
ZW5B.....	255

### 6 Meters

I4EAT*.....	146
F6GCP.....	145
LY2IJ.....	129
IW2CAM.....	115
LU5FF.....	50

### 10 Meters

<b>9A2EU</b> .....	<b>183</b>
PU2UAF.....	179

PU5BOY.....	172
HZ1SK.....	151
PU5FJR.....	101

### 12 Meters

<b>PY2TC</b> .....	<b>205</b>
PY2TUA.....	188
PY5DD.....	121
PU5YDD.....	66

### 15 Meters

<b>PY2LCD</b> .....	<b>247</b>
PU2VLW.....	239
PU2WSQ.....	228
PU9OJZ.....	209
PU5YSV.....	196

### 17 Meters

<b>LY5O</b> .....	<b>241</b>
LY5M.....	187
PY5IP.....	182

### 20 Meters

<b>VE3VEE</b> .....	<b>287</b>
PY4AZ.....	261
KC1BB.....	217
YB2HAF.....	200
PY4JW.....	196

### 30 Meters

<b>DL7JAN</b> .....	<b>187</b>
KF6MK.....	155

### 40 Meters

<b>PP5JR</b> .....	<b>263</b>
W9KNI.....	255
K9CJ.....	182
PP1WW.....	172
ON6SAT.....	160

### 60 Meters

<b>W1NG</b> .....	<b>183</b>
W4UM.....	162
OK6DJ.....	151
AF5CC.....	64

### 80 Meters

<b>N3QE</b> .....	<b>157</b>
YC6JRT/0.....	110
PU5PGK.....	4

### 160 Meters

LA3MHA*.....	187
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K7ZV.....	156
TCØX.....	110
PY5XH.....	31
TC3D.....	24

### CW – Europe

OK2PAY.....	274
LY5W.....	269
PA3FQA.....	254
I2IFT.....	212
PAØINA.....	211

### CW – North America

<b>KBØEO</b> .....	<b>266</b>
K5BG.....	239
W4JS.....	235
W4QN.....	232
N7US.....	221

### Zones

1.....	KL7KK*	194
3.....	N6WT*	281
4.....	NØFW*	288
5.....	K2ZJ	297
8.....	CM2RSV*	200
9.....	HK3W*	252
11.....	PY5EG	293
12.....	CE7KF*	168
13.....	CX3AL*	215
14.....	DJ3AA*	284
15.....	OM3EY*	277
16.....	R6YY	293
17.....	R9AB*	198
20.....	SV2AEL*	274
21.....	A92GE*	266
22.....	VU2AE*	236
24.....	BV1EK*	202
25.....	JA2NDQ	294
27.....	4F3BZ*	187
28.....	YB5QZ	280
29.....	VK6DW*	161
30.....	VK3GA*	279
32.....	ZL2IFB*	262
33.....	CT3MD	269
38.....	ZS2EZ	238
40.....	TF3JB*	204

Note: Top scorers in some zones received Plaques or Country Certificates.

lenging is working DX with QRP power, so congratulations to Milan, OK2AP, for a repeat win in the QRP category with an impressive score of 260 points! CO2QU finished in second place with a score of 198.

Each year about 25% of the DX Marathon participants choose to submit scores for a single mode. In 2020 we saw a slight decrease in digital-only submissions, but a 30% increase in phone-only submissions, reversing phone's downward trend of the last few years. Lada, OK2PAY, continues his love of CW and

is now a six-time CW-only plaque winner, topping the world with his CW-only score of 274. Saulius, LY5W, came in second with a very impressive score of 269. The top North American CW score went to Dan, KBØEO, with a score of 266. Both Lada and Dan will soon hold a beautiful DX Marathon CW plaque for their efforts. The digital-only category continues to show big scores with the winner, Janos, HA1RB, finishing just 4 points below the top CW score at 270. DX Marathon veterans OM5XX and IK2RPE finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respec-

tively, with scores of 265 and 259. A lot of competition for the digital-only plaque. Phone-only submissions were up this year although average scores were far below the CW and digital scores. Julio, W4HY, who finished second last year, moved to the number-one position with a score of 240, while PY5QW came in second at 222. Thanks for keeping phone DX alive.

In addition to the overall and mode plaques, each year we award plaques to the top score on each continent plus the highest score on each of the 10-through 80-meter bands. Top honors for Africa went to repeat winner CT3MD with his score of 269; second place went to EA8DHH with 241, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to ZS2EZ with 238. In Asia, it was an exciting contest between JA2NDQ and first time DX Marathon participant JH1AJT, with each scoring 294 points. In the case of a tie, the win goes to the participant with the earliest date of their last valid QSO. Congratulations to Hiro, JA2NDQ, for earning the Asia plaque. JAØDAI came in 3<sup>rd</sup> at 279 points. In Europe, last year's overall Unlimited Class winner, Serge, R6YY, came in first again with an impressive score of 293. DJ3AA finished second at 284. In Oceania, Anton, YB5QZ, once again took top honors with a score of 280, very closely followed by a previous Oceania winner, VK3GA, at 279. The top North American score was by K2ZJ at 297, who was the Unlimited Class plaque winner. Pete, NØFW, came in second at 288. Oms, PY5EG, one of the top DX Marathon winners since the beginning of the Marathon, took home top South America honors with a score of 293.

About 10% of DX Marathon participants submit single-band scores each year and 2020 was no different. For 2020, we added the 60-meter band. However, the band mix was quite different this year. For the 2020 single-band competitions, we saw a big increase in 10-, 15-, and 20-meter-band submissions, while there was a decrease in 30- and 80-meter-only submissions. Clearly the new sunspots were welcomed by all. 9A2EU won first place on 10 meters with an amazing score of 183. PY2TC had the top 12-meter score of 205. The 15-meter winner was PY2LCD at 247 points. Top score on 17 meters was from LY5O with a total of 241 points. Despite the lack of DXpeditions, the top scores on the 10-, 12-, 15-, and 17-meter bands were all significantly higher than in 2019. VE3VEE still reigns as the king of 20 meters with his top score of 287. Twenty meters remained the hot band for 2020,



*John, K2ZJ, has been placing better each year in the DX Marathon and now claims the number one spot for 2020! John is shown here in his shack where he spent many hours to win Unlimited Class in 2020. John was licensed in 1973 and recently retired, giving him more time to chase DX. He has an extensive antenna system that he put to good use. John enjoys his rural location where the noise levels are low.*



*Jose, CT3MD, has been an active DX Marathon participant for many years and provides CT3 QSOs for many hams. Jose is a consistent top performer and is shown here with his plaque for the highest score from Africa in 2019.*

## COUNTRY WINNERS

<p>Callsign is followed by score * = Certificate Winners</p> <p>4F3BZ ..... 187 4X4MF ..... 254 5P1KZX* ..... 255 9A2EU ..... 183 A92GE ..... 266 BI8CKU* ..... 197 BV1EK ..... 202 CE7KF ..... 168 CM2RSV ..... 200 CT11UA* ..... 282 CT3MD ..... 269 CX3AL ..... 215 DJ3AA ..... 284 EA1DR* ..... 268 EA8DHH* ..... 241 EI7CC* ..... 191 EV1R* ..... 264 F4ESV* ..... 254 GUØSUP* ..... 206 GW4EVX* ..... 138 HA1RB ..... 270</p>	<p>HB9DDZ* ..... 178 HK3W ..... 252 HZ1SK* ..... 151 IT9BLB* ..... 182 IZ8MXB* ..... 266 JA2NDQ ..... 294 K2ZJ ..... 297 KL7KK ..... 194 LA3MHA ..... 187 LU2JCV* ..... 214 LY5W* ..... 269 MØNKR* ..... 280 MIØBHX ..... 205 OD5YA* ..... 256 OE1SGU* ..... 223 OH2BLD* ..... 249 OK2PAY ..... 274 OM3EY ..... 277 ON6NL* ..... 260 PA3FQA* ..... 254 PJ2/W9VA* ..... 89 PJ7AA* ..... 94 PYØFF* ..... 98 PY5EG ..... 293</p>	<p>R6YY ..... 293 R9AB ..... 198 SM6A* ..... 190 SQ8N* ..... 270 SV2AEL ..... 274 SV9COL* ..... 197 TA1CM* ..... 239 TA4RC* ..... 252 TF3JB ..... 204 UR7FM* ..... 220 VE3VEE ..... 287 VK3GA ..... 279 VU2AE ..... 236 YB5QZ ..... 280 YO4AAC* ..... 173 YV5OIE* ..... 237 ZL2IFB ..... 262 ZP5DNB* ..... 171 ZS2EZ ..... 238</p>
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Note: Top scorers in some countries received plaques.

as Marvin's 20-meter only score put him in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall worldwide. DL7JAN took top 30-meter honors with a score of 187. PP5JR once again took the top 40-meter spot with a score of 263. He was followed closely by W9KNI with his score of 255, which was earned without using digital modes — a very impressive accomplishment. Starting in 2020, we are now awarding a single-band plaque for the 60-meter band. This inaugural plaque was won by Ken, W1NG, with a very impressive score of 183. The 80-meter plaque was won by N3QE with a score of 157. Congratulations to all the single-band plaque winners. The impressive 160-meter score of 187 will earn LA3MHA a nice certificate for taking top honors on top band. I4EAT was once again king of 6 meters with his score of 146.

In addition to the 2020 plaque winners, we are awarding 98 Certificates of

## CLUB SCORES

Club	Score	Club	Score
CDR Group ..... Brazil	10557	Belarus Contest Club ..... Belarus	264
Northern Illinois DX Association ..... Illinois, USA	7287	Baltic Contest Club ..... Lithuania	262
Rio Dx Group ..... Brazil	7281	ARNSW ..... Australia	249
Western Washington DX Club ..... Washington, USA	6267	DUZRAD ..... Turkey	243
Araucaria DX Group ..... Brazil	5631	South East Contest Club ..... USA	242
Willamette Valley DX Club ..... USA	4444	URE ..... Canary Islands	241
Mother Lode/DX contest Club ..... USA	3944	Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers ..... USA	229
Carolina DX Association ..... USA	3563	Mile High DX Association ..... Colorado, USA	225
YB Land DX Club ..... Indonesia	2010	FT8DMC ..... Austria	223
East Tennessee DX Association ..... Tennessee, USA	1953	Grand Mesa Contest Club ..... Arizona, USA	221
Italian Contest Club ..... Italy	1827	Magalies Radio Amateur Klub ..... South Africa	211
CabreuvaDX ..... Brazil	1699	RSGB ..... Great Britain	211
Yankee Clipper Contest Club ..... USA	1574	Icelandic Radio Amateurs ..... Iceland	204
Society of Midwest Contesters ..... USA	1301	DARC P30 ..... Germany	200
CMDXGROUP ..... Brazil	1184	Mulan DX Club ..... China	197
Vytautas Magnus University Radio Club ..... Lithuania	1138	Southern AZ DX Association ..... Arizona, USA	197
LU Contest Group ..... Argentina	998	Minas Dx Group ..... Brazil	196
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club ..... Arizona, USA	940	Bolingbrook ARS ..... Illinois, USA	195
NERG (North East Radio Group) ..... Australia	884	Southwest OH DX Association ..... Ohio, USA	195
UBRO ..... Brazil	777	North Coast Contest Club ..... USA	192
Radio Club Venezolano ..... Venezuela	771	NSRC ..... USA	192
VU Contest Group ..... India	771	Valley Radio Club of Oregon ..... Oregon, USA	192
TRAC ..... Turkey	758	MDXG ..... Argentina	191
Florida Contest Group ..... Florida, USA	734	Nixa Amateur Radio Club ..... USA	190
SCCC ..... USA	712	SK6HD ..... Sweden	190
Bavarian Contest Club ..... Germany	684	Tennessee Contest Group ..... Tennessee, USA	188
CDXC ..... Europe	684	Ham Society of the Philippines, Inc. .... Philippines	187
Associaçao Dos Radioamadores Do Parana ..... Brazil	614	Northern California DX Club ..... California, USA	187
Potomac Valley Radio Club ..... USA	592	Maritime Contest Club ..... Canada	184
Salt City DX Association ..... USA	564	Croatian Contest Club ..... Croatia	183
Southern California Contest Club ..... California, USA	550	ARIPA DX Team ..... Sicily	182
Team Papa ..... Turkey	535	Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club ..... USA	176
Metro DX Club ..... Illinois, USA	509	WACOM ..... Pennsylvania, USA	175
Bahia Dx Group ..... Brazil	490	Just For Fun Contest Club ..... Germany	174
CWOPS ..... CW ops	486	Duzce Amateur Radio League ..... Turkey	173
Lone Star DX Association ..... Texas, USA	457	YO DX Club ..... Romania	173
Mad River Radio Club ..... USA	436	SP DX Club ..... Poland	160
ARI ..... Italy	418	Bradley County DX Association ..... USA	157
CDXA ..... USA	415	ICC Italian Contest Club ..... Italy	156
Central Arizona DX Association ..... Arizona, USA	411	SSA ..... Sweden	156
Clipperton DX Club ..... France	411	REP ..... Portugal	146
GDXC ..... Cuba	398	Kentucky Contest Group ..... Kentucky, USA	145
Radios Sportklub Puspokladany ..... Hungary	387	CRASMO ..... Brazil	143
Lighthouse ARA ..... USA	363	Orari Lokal Jakarta Timur ..... Indonesia	142
Black River Radio Ops ..... USA	357	Contest Club Ontario ..... Canada	138
CADXA ..... USA	331	GITRAD ..... Turkey	129
Chilean Pacific DX Group ..... Chile	291	KARTS ..... South Africa	119
GPDX ..... Portugal	282	URAD Hamradio Club ..... Turkey	63
Minnesota Wireless Association ..... Minnesota, USA	266	São Paulo Contest Group ..... Brazil	47



Jim, K2JL, won the Formula Class plaque in both 2018 and 2019. For 2020, he erected a new Hex Beam and switched to Limited Class. In his first year in Limited Class, Jim took top honors with his score of 267. Jim is shown here in his shack with his 2019 plaque for winning Formula Class.



Neto, PY7DJ, was one of many Brazilian stations to win single-band trophies in 2019. Although active on all bands, Neto concentrated on 80 meters in 2019 and is shown here holding his 80-meter top score plaque.

Achievement for various categories. Please consult the detailed listings for the calls of the certificate winners. Certificates are awarded for the highest 6-meter and 160-meter scores, top continental score for each of the three modes, top score in each country, top score in each CQ zone, top score in each Canadian call district, top score in each USA call area for each of the four DX Marathon classes plus the top single-mode score in the USA. Congratulations to all the 2020 certificate winners!

Despite a big drop in the maximum possible score due to the lack of DXpeditions, 10 all-time records were broken in 2020. New records included two new country records, four new USA call area records, two new continental mode records, and new records on the 6- and 60-meter bands. Even with reduced DX activity, breaking records is still very possible.

In the popular club competition, the CDR Group in Brazil once again took top honors with an aggregated score of 10,557. The battle for second place was remarkably close, with the Northern Illinois DX Association moving into second place by beating the Rio DX Group by just 6 points. NIDXA is the sponsor of the top three DX Marathon plaques. Don't forget to include your club's name on your 2021 DX Marathon submission.

### Some Operating Advice

Each year the DX Marathon website publishes a large amount of information to help participants minimize errors in their submissions. The Helpful Hints page can be accessed from the DX Marathon home page. In 2020, we published over 1,000 callsign exceptions and notes to help every participant reduce the number of errors in their submissions. We also recommend that you regularly update your logging program callsign database if it has one. Unusual callsign prefixes seem to multiply every year, so updating your program's database is critical to properly determine the DX location and/or zone.

In 2020, the number of participants with no errors increased to 25% from 22% in 2019. We were happy to see the improvement, but 75% of our entrants made at least one error. Unfortunately, the overall error rate for those who did make mistakes increased to 1.7% from 1.5% in 2019. The highest

### TOP SCORES: CONTINENTAL MODE, USA & CANADA CALL

<b>Phone</b>		W3 .....WA3WZR* .....175
VU2DED* .....111	W4 .....AA4R* .....190	W5 .....K5DC* .....218
MI0BHX* .....205	W6 .....K7QDX* .....203	W7 .....AF7NX* .....192
W4HY .....240	W8 .....WT8E* .....204	W9 .....W9RF* .....238
VK2BY* .....178		
PY5QW* .....222		
<b>CW</b>		
TA4MA* .....116	<b>USA Formula 100W</b>	
ZL1BBW* .....182	W0 .....AD1C* .....225	W1 .....W1NG .....183
PY4XX* .....187	W2 .....W2VU* .....44	W3 .....AI3KS* .....86
	W4 .....W4UWC .....225	W5 .....NE5W* .....219
<b>Digital</b>		W6 .....W7PC .....187
ZS2EZ* .....238	W7 .....WV7S* .....73	W8 .....KM8V* .....214
4X4MF* .....254	W9 .....KW9U* .....211	
HA1RB .....270		
W4UWC* .....225		
YB2TS* .....207		
PY5HOT* .....230		
	<b>USA Unlimited</b>	<b>USA Formula 5W</b>
W0 .....KB0EO .....266	W1 .....KA1PPV .....23	W3 .....KZ3I* .....132
W1 .....KX1X* .....229	W5 .....KG1GEM* .....61	W6 .....W8QZA* .....175
W2 .....K2ZJ .....297	W8 .....K8ZT* .....192	
W3 .....K3RA* .....285		
W4 .....WN4N* .....286		
W5 .....W5IF* .....273		
W6 .....N6WT .....281		
W7 .....W07R* .....275		
W8 .....N0FW .....288		
W9 .....N2BJ* .....283		
	<b>USA Limited</b>	<b>Canada</b>
W0 .....KD0WUQ* .....71	W1 .....KI1U* .....174	VE1 .....VE2BR* .....250
W1 .....K11U* .....174	W2 .....K2JL .....267	VE3 .....VE3VEE .....287
W2 .....K2JL .....267		VE7 .....VA7CRZ* .....189
		VE9 .....VE9VIC* .....184

\* Certificate Winners



Serge, R6YY, has been scoring in the Top 5 for many years, but 2019 was the first year he took home top honors in the DX Marathon, a feat he repeated in 2020. Serge has been chasing DX since 1968 and is very active on the bands and is shown here with his winning plaque for Unlimited Class in 2019.

error category was once again “wrong zone,” which accounted for a third of all errors made. The wrong zone error rate continues to increase each year. Confusion with USA zones is one of the biggest sources of zone errors. It is especially important to note that USA callsign numbers are no longer required to match their QTH. A W6 could be in New York, or a KL7 could be in Puerto Rico. In addition to the USA, there are many special callsigns in Russia that do not follow the traditional callsign mapping, thus creating many errors in zones 16, 17, 18, and 19. Zone 2 also continues to be a problem. Very few VE2 stations are in Zone 2 — most are in Zone 5. The DX Marathon website does list the most active Zone 2 stations. The next highest category was “invalid callsigns” — callsigns that were entered by participants, but do not actually exist. These accounted for 25% of all errors. Wrong country accounted for 23% of all score reductions. Busted call errors dropped from last year to 16%. There were many unique callsigns used in 2020 so it is critical to review your DX Marathon submission carefully. The number of bad spots on the DX Clusters remains a big problem.

When logging a QSO from a DX spot, listen carefully to the DX station to make sure the callsign is logged correctly. 41% of all point subtractions were due to busted or incorrect call-

signs. Some invalid callsigns may have been busted calls that were so bad that we could not determine the real callsign. Once again, there were many mix-ups between “Ø” (zero) and “O” (oh). The computer is not forgiving, so check your log carefully! The database that is used for scoring the DX Marathon includes start and end dates for all major expeditions, so please ensure that dates and times are properly logged along with the callsign, country, and zone for each QSO. NIL (Not In Log) reductions more than doubled in 2020. With more logs being posted online, it is easy to check if you are in the log before entering that QSO in the DX Marathon. We do publish a lot of helpful information on the DX Marathon website <<https://dxmarathon.com>>, but there is nothing we can do to ensure you are in the log.

As part of this article, you will find a complete listing of all scores plus a listing of the top scores in all available categories. The DX Marathon website will include additional information and details on the 2020 results plus photos of plaque winners as they become available. For any questions or comments about the DX Marathon, please contact the author at <[comments@dxmarathon.com](mailto:comments@dxmarathon.com)>.

### Special Thanks

The DX Marathon would not be possible without incredible assistance from so many people. The team effort makes the DX Marathon possible. I want to first thank CQ magazine for developing the Marathon and providing continuing support. One of the first hams to jump in was Alex, VE3NEA, who has created the DX Marathon scoring software. He continues to provide updates as required. Without his software, there would not be a DX Marathon. A special thanks goes to Jim, AD1C, who has created the very popular ADIF-to-DX Marathon software used by nearly 70% of all entrants. I also want to thank our many plaque sponsors who make our winners incredibly happy each year. Mike, ND9G, wrote our online submission and log-checking tool for which we are grateful. Dave, AA6YQ, has created powerful DX Marathon tracking tools in his DX Labs software that we really appreciate. John, W9ILY, creates the DX Marathon certificates — thank you, John. A special thank you goes to W9KNI and PY5EG for their incredible support of the Marathon and their constant encouragement over the years. Bernie, W3UR, has also been a tremendous supporter by including lots of DX Marathon in his *Daily DX* newsletter. I also thank Laurie, VK3AMA, for including DX Marathon support in his popular JT Alert software. Of course, none of this would be possible without you — our valuable readers and participants in the DX Marathon. Thank you for your participation in 2020 and best of luck in 2021!

#### UNLIMITED CLASS

Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score												
K2ZJ	257	40	297	YB5QZ	240	40	280	IZ8MXB	226	40	266	5P1KZX	216	39	255
JA2NDQ	254	40	294	MØNKR	241	39	280	OM5XX	227	38	265	ZW5B	218	37	255
JH1AJT	256	38	294	JA0DAI	239	40	279	VK3BDX	225	40	265	W9KNI	216	39	255
PY5EG	253	40	293	VK3GA	239	40	279	SV2HXX	225	40	265	PA3FQA	215	39	254
R6YY	253	40	293	OM3EY	237	40	277	EV1R	225	39	264	F4ESV	214	40	254
NØFW	249	39	288	PY5GA	239	37	276	PP5JR	223	40	263	4X4MF	215	39	254
VE3VEE	247	40	287	WE9V	237	39	276	K6RO	222	40	262	SV1CNS	216	37	253
WN4N	246	40	286	WØ7R	235	40	275	AA9A	222	40	262	IK5FKF	213	40	253
K3RA	245	40	285	K9NB	235	40	275	ZL2IFB	222	40	262	PC3T	213	40	253
K5EK	244	40	284	OK2PAY	234	40	274	LY7Z	222	40	262	W6OAT	212	40	252
DJ3AA	244	40	284	SV2AEL	234	40	274	PY4AZ	222	39	261	HK3W	212	40	252
K4ZO	243	40	283	W5IF	233	40	273	ON6NL	220	40	260	IKØXB	211	40	251
N2BJ	243	40	283	K7BV	234	38	272	NI3P	220	40	260	PY6HD	211	39	250
CT11UA	242	40	282	HA1RB	230	40	270	K9KE	220	40	260	N6RV	210	40	250
N6WT	241	40	281	SQ8N	230	40	270	W9MK	219	40	259	VE2BR	211	39	250
K9NU	241	40	281	LY5W	230	39	269	IZ5CML	220	39	259	NU8Z	210	40	250
W9ILY	240	40	280	CT3MD	229	40	269	NV9L	219	40	259	PY4OY	212	38	250
				EA1DR	228	40	268	WØRIC	221	38	259	OH2BLD	211	38	249
				A92GE	226	40	266	OD5YA	216	40	256	VK2PW	210	39	249
				KBØEO	227	39	266	DJ9ZB	216	40	256	W1AJT	208	40	248



