

Results 2024 CQWW 160 Meter Contest

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160 Contesting during the top of the sunspot cycle has its challenges. The geographically favored coastal stations are usually the top scorers and this year was no exception.

Highlights

IG9/S57DX had by far the top score. Operation from Lampedusa Island was challenging and not without some tragedy and controversy.

With conditions once again marginal due to high SFI and absorption, scores were even more suppressed than in 2023. There were only 3 scores over 1 Meg after log checking, all on CW:

IG9/S57DX	1,625,740
CT9ABO	1,193,808
P33W	1,065,500

And the 2 highest scores on SSB were (Single-Op assisted):

OK7K	569,390
LY4A	532,068

Also of note are the repeat trophy winners in their respective categories from 2023. Congratulations to the following stations as repeat “contenders”:

VE3JM, K3ZM, NA8V, P40AA, KH7A, P33W, TA3D, K1LT, KD4D, OL1A, W8KA, ND8DX, ED8W, OK1LRD, N2CEI, HG8DX

CW Results

What stands out immediately is the effort of Kevin N5DX who operated remotely using the N2QV station in NY. Kevin was able to squeak by perennial winner K3ZM for the USA Single-op victory. Congratulations Kevin!

N5DX	664,734
K3ZM	642,524

The strategically placed operation from Madeira, CT9ABO by Jozef OM3GI, was the top scorer in the contest, only surpassed by the multi-op score at IG9/S57DX.

Last year’s winner Bob GU4YOX from MJ5E, operated from home as MU5E and managed second place.

CT9ABO	1,193,808
MU5E	883,663

In the highly competitive multi op category, the team at IG9/S59DX ran away with the high score. The next three places were very close. OM7M entered as a multi-op after many years in the single-op category with fine results.

IG9/S57DX	1,625,740
PJ2T	998,016
OM7M	973,777
S50C	945,174

Read more about IG9/S57DX later in this article.

Jim W8WTS describes the first night at PJ2T:

The contest starts during full sunlight at PJ2T, so the first hours are not particularly productive. We listened to the European stations working each other, and the USA stations starting to nip at the Europeans, but no one is able to hear us South Americans. We worked the other Caribbean stations in short order, making the first QSO with PJ4DX at 2202Z, then P40AA, ZF5T, WP3C, NP2J and YV4ABR in the first 10 minutes. Then we settled in to listen to everyone else making QSOs. For the rest of the first hour of the contest we made only 14 additional QSOs, all K/VE. Unexpectedly, the 2300 hour was the

best hour of the contest with W8WTS making 87 QSOs. K8ND and I operated three hour shifts throughout the first contest day. Jeff had a great hour at 0100 with 79 QSOs.

In the highly competitive Multi-op USA category, the claimed scores shifted a bit after log checking. Congratulations to W2GD and the N2AA crew for another victory from their seaside QTH. The final results are a good example of how log accuracy plays a big role in the order of finish.

N2AA	680,720
K1LZ	660,920
K3LR	633,180

The low power scores are markedly down this year, but still very close. Congratulations to Michel ON7EH for his victory as OP3T using only an inv L 16.9m high.

OP3T	352,716
SP3HLM	315,495
YT8A	265,650

And in the USA, the top Low Power scores were from the east and central parts of the country.

KD4D	257,748
N0NI	192,780

In case you are wondering what happened to the 160 King VY2ZM, Jeff has returned to Massachusetts, and gotten the QRP bug.

K1ZM won top honors in the USA on both modes QRP. You must have a lot of patience for QRP on 160!

Andy YL2QN operating from 4U1A took top QRP using a dipole up 75M AGL. He managed to log a handful of NA stations at EU sunrise with only 5W!

In the always competitive Canadian section, congratulations to repeat winner Vlad VE3JM.

VE3JM	774,615
VE3DZ	736,668
VE3AT	672,084

This is a good example of how a few more 10-point QSOs can make all the difference. Yuri VE3DZ had more QSOs and mults, but not a higher score:

VE3JM	774,615	1124	57	56
VE3DZ	736,668	1130	57	57

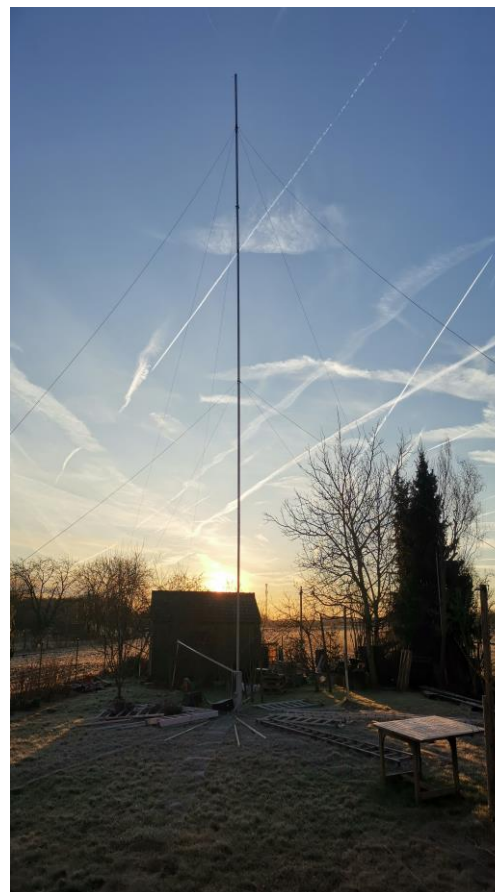


Figure 1. Antenna system, of Michel ON7EH operating as OP3T

In Canada Low power, once again Brian VE3MGY with a “strong” showing: See the photo below:

VE3MGY	217,951	669	53	14
VA30KG	93,960	361	50	4



Figure 2. Brian VE3MGY looks very satisfied with his score

In the USA zone 3 race, where 10 pointers are hard to come by, it was John W4IX operating at the ND7K superstation in Arizona edging out last year’s zone 3 winner W8KA.

ND7K	223,270	872	55	28
W8KA	181,197	734	55	26

Here are some of John’s comments:

First JA was on the log in the 0700 hour and they slowly trickled in until I quit at 1430Z. The first night yielded 26 JA Q’s, a few NA and SA and no Eu and only KH7. 2nd day started slowly also but the noise stayed pretty low the entire night. Continued to run with a few nice mults calling in. Around 0300Z was called by CT9 and thought maybe a few EU’s might make it in the log. No other EU’s until the 0500 hour.

Another repeat winner is Andy LZ2HM operating from the P33W superstation. He was closely followed by Pavel OK1GK @OK7K.

P33W	1,065,500
OK7K	973,658

Pavel had the following comments:

First night started with worse pileups than I expected. After few hours my TRX FT-1000Mark-V died so I had to exchange it for backup radio. I wasted 20 minutes of time. One hour later Mr. Murphy visited me again and RX/TX antenna switch box stopped working. There was no time for checking what exactly happened and finding fault, so I simply moved my chair to the other table with full setup - need only switch all antennas to this site, turn on the computer and I was back in race. But wasted another 20 minutes of time. First night ended at 07UTC, it was too early and band was still alive, but I had to follow rules for maximum 30 operating hours in Single OP category and I was forced to switch off the radio and go for rest. In the log was 710 QSOs, 174 NA stations and unfortunately not any JA.

SSB Results

SSB contesting on 160 Meters is always a challenge, especially at this part of the sunspot cycle. Scores are noticeably down, and it takes a lot of patience to stick it out for the whole contest. Bad weather and storms in the USA proved to be a challenge as static crashes were difficult to copy through.

Congratulations to those stations who put in the effort to win their respective categories.

Peter K3ZM won top single-op spot in the USA for the second year in a row:

K3ZM	382,027
WU2X	297,445
ND8DX	239,289

ND8DX again takes the top score from Zone 4 USA. Karl has been winning Zone 4 single-op since 2020 and this was his 25th consecutive entry in the CQ160 Contest!

In Canada, Peter VE3PN edged out last year's winner Brian VE3MGY:

VE3PN	192,750
VE3MGY	138,709

In the "incredible amount of patience department" E77Y and K1ZM made great scores hoping someone can copy them with only 5 Watts. Well done guys:

E77Y	62,812
K1ZM	61,842

In Single-Op the highest scores were in the assisted categories:

Congratulations to Petr OK1BN and Rolandas LY4A for their usual great showings in this contest.

OK7K	569,390
LY4A	532,068

In the USA, congratulations to Adam N3TTT operating from his dad's great station AA1K; edging out

N3TTT	232,414
N4RV	204,840

John N4RV had these observations:

Marginal conditions with LOTS of QRN from lightning just off the East Coast. High powerline line noise towards the South made copy difficult.

In the unassisted Single op category, congrats to Dan EI3JZ operating at EI7M taking the top spot.

EI7M	464,736
LX1N0	371,871

In Single op low power, only the 4 scores listed below were able to break 100K points.

EI4KU	206,064
VE3MGY	138,709
OK1LRD	132,888
OE4RLC	100,416

Looks like EI was the place to be for this one! Congratulations to Stefan EI4KU who had these comments:

Good late morning openings into North America during a weekend of mixed martial arts hand-to-hand combat. The high-power stations with very wide signals due to the audio processors turned to '11', leaving little space for everyone else!

Congrats to Adam HA6AK operating at HG6K for the top honors Single-Op Assisted Low Power. It was a competitive field with the following all over 100K points:

HG6K	159,060
UZ7C	149,023
DR2T	128,640
S53TG	123,747
UA7K	122,176
HB0DX	113,067
9A3B	102,576
TA3NE	100,405

The battle in NA for low power was again won by Brian VE3MGY, with Ed N1UR chasing from VT.

VE3MGY	138,709
N1UR	93,130

Ed commented:

This is a personal best for me in this contest. Europe was strong both nights - especially Sunday morning pre-sunrise. 23 10-pointers the first night and 30 the second. 2/3rds called me CQing.

There were some good scores made in the Multi Op category, with EW5A emerging on top:

EW5A	420,835
HG8DX	402,538
DP6A	316,977
PJ4G	289,734
N2CEI	242,060
E7CW	207,060

Stephen N2CEI provided this comment on their operation:

We had 575 Q's the first night of which is a good start for us in this contest with Sandra absorbing the majority of the SSB abuse. ----- I mean, had the pleasure of operating the Local 8PM to Midnight Shift, experiencing all of the finest attribute's the 160M SSB contest can provide during the highest activity period! Dave and I just watched and kept the coffee pot warm.

Combined CW+SSB awards

Congratulations to the team at HG8DX for winning the combined multi-op trophy on both modes. Also, to Peter K3ZM for once again winning the combined Single op trophy. These trophies recognize the true dedication needed to operate both modes at a high level.

This year we introduced a new award inspired by Gene Gabry N9TF to recognize the operator who made the best combined score without a superstation.

“Single Operator Low Power - Operation limited to the use of single-element antennas such as a vertical, end-fed wire, or a dipole no more than 50 feet above ground at its highest point. The antenna may cover multiple bands, as in the case of multiband verticals and dipoles with fan or trap constructions.”

We are proud that old timer Tom OK2BFN using just a long wire and short vertical only 45 feet high in his garden was able to take the victory. Congratulations Tom!



Figure 3. Antenna system of Tom OK2BFN

IG9/S57DX in CQWW160CW 2024

The story below was originally written by Dane S57UN team leader of the operation and translated by Robert S53R.

Before reading, there should be some comments made on the 160m rules in Italy. There are rules that only 1830 to 1850 KHZ can be used. This rule has not been followed by Italian stations for many years. However, it is still in the books. After many discussions with the Italian amateur community leaders, we decided to let them handle this internally.

We were assured the matter would be clarified and going forward there will be a standard operating procedure for ALL Italian 160M operations.

The operation of IG9/S57DX was a last tribute to their good friend S57DX who passed away shortly after and was buried on Feb 9, 2024.

“After a very successful expedition in 2023, a unanimous decision was made to return to IG9 the next year. Back in February 2023, when the whole team participated in CQWWSSB 160 from Silvo’s (S51V) contest location as S59A, we decided to use Slavko’s call-sign for the 2024 expedition – IG9/S57DX. While we suggested to use his call already back in 2020 and 2023, Slavko politely declined.

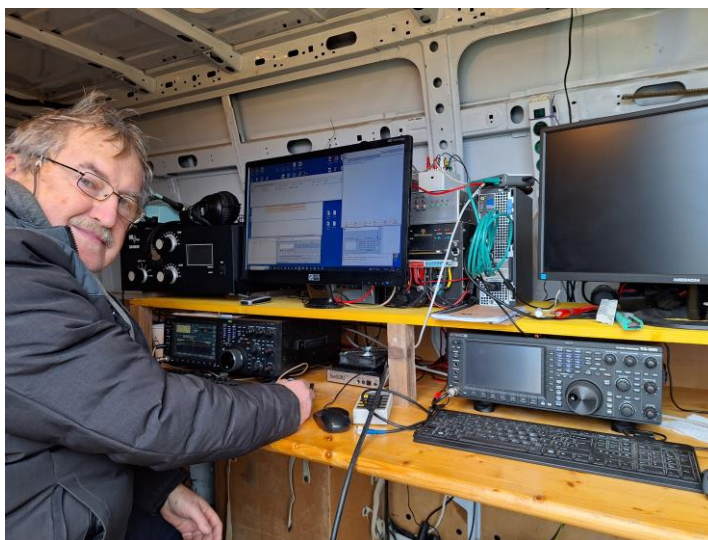


Figure 4. Drago Turin S59A

Building on our previous experience, we were meticulously planning throughout 2023 every smallest detail for this year’s expedition. And then in August, out of the blue, Slavko told us in his own calm way, that he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Despite the seriousness of his illness, he remained cheerful, highly optimistic and put all his energy into the project. Unfortunately, the day before departure, Slavko let us know that after the consultation with his doctor, it was best for him not to travel and avoid exposing his ailing body to additional stress.

The team was truly sad and disappointed, yet undivided and determined to put every bit of energy into Slavko’s vision and desire of winning the CQ 160 contest from Lampedusa again. We clearly understood it will be a very difficult endeavor, missing Slavko’s world-class CW operating skills, contest experience and nearly machine-like operating endurance. Despite missing him on the island, he was with us all the time. Every discussion around antennas, setup and operating strategy would usually end up like: “Slavko would do it this way; He would say so...” We all remembered his morning routine, sitting on the terrace, slowly sipping on the coffee he brewed to his taste and enjoying his first cigarette.

Not only was he present in our minds throughout the expedition, but we also communicated every day. During the contest he constantly monitored our progress, sending short and encouraging messages. By

the time the team returned home, Slavko was already very weak, and it was clear he has lost his fight with the treacherous illness. Nevertheless, he invited us to his home and despite very difficult situation we could see how happy he was with the team's accomplishment and another win in the prestigious competition. We handed over the equipment he meticulously prepared for the expedition and left hoping for the miracle to happen. Sadly, things did not turn for the better...

Only a few days later the painful and unavoidable news came. Slavcek, as Drago (S59A) often called him, reassured of our commitment, and having lived his ham radio dreams with undivided support from his family and friends, has calmly faded away. Despite the immense pain, the whole team feels at the loss of a friend, we are filled with satisfaction to have brightened up the last moments of his life."

Congratulations to the team of S57DX S51V S52OT S54W S57UN S56N S59A A65BB IG9ITO; And RIP to Slavko S57DX old friend.

Participation

The tables below detail the participation stats for the past 10 years. We hope the levels of activity will once again increase when the low band conditions return in a few years.

Year	cwsohp	cwsolp	cwqrp	cwsoass	cwmulti	cwcheck
2024	339	485	107	1062	91	82
2023	346	566	112	1101	107	88
2022	482	711	146	1381	135	98
2021	583	854	175	1502	146	118
2020	501	775	113	1362	166	134
2019	459	719	125	1166	166	105
2018	475	727	112	1064	160	153
2017	478	798	122	1014	139	110
2016	420	705	115	737	135	51
2015	446	709	116	698	119	96

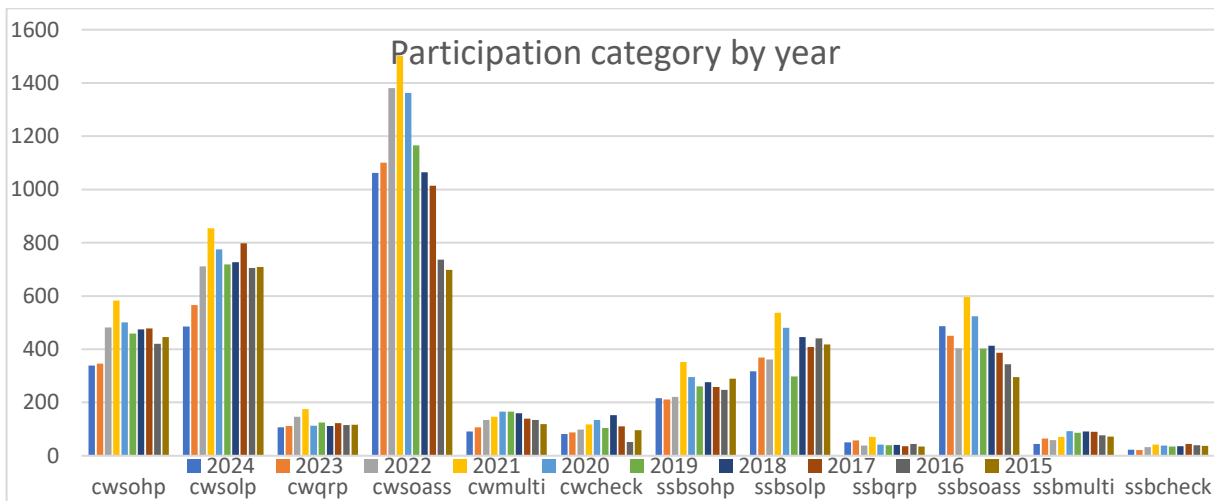
Figure 6. Entries by category for past 10 years of CQ 160 CW



Figure 5. IG9/S57DX operating team after the contest

Years	ssbsohp	ssbsolp	ssbqrp	ssbsoass	ssbmulti	ssbcheck
2024	216	317	50	487	44	23
2023	212	369	58	450	65	21
2022	221	362	38	404	59	32
2021	352	537	71	596	71	42
2020	295	480	42	524	92	38
2019	261	298	39	403	87	35
2018	276	446	41	413	91	36
2017	258	409	36	387	90	44
2016	247	441	44	343	77	39
2015	290	418	35	295	72	37

Figure 7. Entries by category for past 10 years of CQ 160 SSB



Obeying the rules

After each contest, the committee receives many questions and complaints from entrants. We wish to emphasize these violations in the hopes we can keep a level playing field in the future.

- Use of remote receivers outside 100KM (inside 100KM allowed in Multi Op only)
- Use of excessive power
- Use of QSO finding assistance by Single Op who claim Unassisted
- Excessively wide signals, including Key Clicks and splatter.
- Operating outside band limits (below 1810 in IARU region 1, and using band edges)
- Unsportsmanlike conduct (such as frequency fights).

Unfortunately, we found it necessary to disqualify RW7K for unsportsmanlike conduct. Using skimmer recordings of the entire spectrum, we were able to document the issues.

There were also some reclassifications due to power levels, also verified by RBN and other means.

Final Thoughts

In closing special thanks to all those helping out to make the contest a success, including N6TR (log checking), K1DG (trophies), and K5ZD (webmaster).

Certificates for everyone are available for printing on the website at CQ160.com.

If anyone would like a Log Checking Report, send an e-mail to N2NT at director@CQ160.com. Please specify which mode you are asking for and the call sign used.

Thanks to all for participating and see you in 2024!

Remember all CQ Contests have a 5-day deadline for submitting logs. Check out the rules on CQ160.com for the latest information.

73, Andy N2NT

Director CQ 160 Meter Contest