2006 IARU HF World Championship Results

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Editor, National Contest Journal (NCJ)

“"I am kind of new to contesting, so with each new event I try to do just a little better than I did with the last event.”" — TG9ANF

“This was my first IARU contest. Had a blast and hope to see you next year.” — AH6RR

“It was my first experience in a HF world championship and I really enjoyed it.” — IZ2HAN

“I was for the first time in the contest. For fun and I had a lot!” — F6FYA

Who said contesting was a dying sport? It certainly wasn’t any of the 2800-plus participants who turned in logs for the 2006 running of the IARU HF World Championship. Even being near solar minimum between Cycles 23 and 24 didn’t deter the participants.

Twenty meters again turned out to be the workhorse band (as it probably will for the next couple of years), with almost twice as many QSOs as its closest challenger, 40 m. Fifteen closely followed 40 with the third-most number of QSOs. The moral here is to make sure you have a good 20 m antenna if you want to compete in this contest.

And of course the running of WRTC2006 within the IARU contest was an added bonus to spark even more interest. The 46 teams, using special 2 x 1 Brazilian call signs, spiced up the event with challenges (and awards) by the WRTC organizing committee to work all 46 teams.

As evidenced by the many comments in the Soapbox similar to the ones highlighted at the beginning of this article (www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/), the IARU HF World Championship is a great way for newcomers to get their feet wet. It’s also a great way for experienced contesters to bridge the contest-season gap from spring to fall.

Participation Statistics

ARRL HQ received 2897 logs (includes 36 check logs) for the 2006 event. This is down a bit from last year’s record number (3038), but still shows the great popularity of this summer contest.

Participants sent in logs from 50 ITU zones. This is pretty normal, as previous years have bounced between a low of 48 and a high of 53. As expected from previous results, Zone 28 (Central and Eastern Europe) led the pack with almost 28% of the logs. This percentage is a bit down from last year, but it still stands head and shoulders above the second place percentage of about 16% from Zone 8 (East Coast of North America). Zone 29 (mostly European Russia) came in a close third at about 15%.

The most popular category was CW Only Low Power, with almost 23% of the logs. Following close behind were Phone Only Low Power (about 20%) and Mixed Low Power (about 19%). The fourth most popular category was Mixed High Power at around 10%. If you don’t have an amp, you’ll be in good company in the IARU contest!

New Records — World

Even though the 2006 running of the IARU contest was around solar minimum, five World records were broken.

In the HQ category, the team at R9HQ ended up at 26,342,498, beating the old record (20,559,840) by 28%!

The other four record-breaking efforts came from Hungary. In Phone Only Low Power, HG3M (HA3MY op) smashed the 2005 record of 949,843 with 1,581,930. In Phone Only QRP, HA8JV squeaked by the old record. In CW Only Low Power, HA8DU keyed his way past his 2005 record.

In CW Only QRP, HA5KDQ (HA7ANT, op) beat the record held by fellow Hungarian HA5IW. This certainly was a good showing by the HA operators!

New Records — W/VE

Four W/VE participants ignored the lack of sunspots and battled their way to new records.

In Mixed LowPower, K1XM used his mic and key effectively to outdistance the 2005 record set by W5ZL. In Mixed QRP, N0KE set the new record with a 20% increase. In Phone Only QRP, KC5R beat the 2005 record held by KO1H. And in CW Only Low Power, W1RM narrowly beat the record set by K07B.

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bested the old record held by VE3DZ.

Congratulations to all those holding new records.

**Battle of the HQ Stations**

Fifty-two stations battled for first place in the HQ category. R9HQ came out on top, and set the new World record to boot. Although they had less Qs and mults than the top, and set the new World record to boot, making the difference.

In the battle of the ARRL stations, the NU1AW/8 team edged out the W1AW/4 team. The NU1AW/8 team had fewer Qs, but their multiplier total more than made up for this. For the interesting story of the W1AW/4 operation, please read K4RO's feature titled *The WI/AW/4 IARU 2006 Story* in the November/December 2006 issue of *N.C*.

See the ARRL Web site for the table.
of World and W/VE records.

Close Races

In the Mixed Low Power category, LY9A inch by T96C by only 5.8%. LY9A had 553 fewer Qs, but 48 more multipliers. This again shows that running is not the only strategy needed to win — you have to chase more multipliers with fewer QSOs. Again, the winning factor was having more multipliers with fewer QSOs.

In the Mixed High Power category, K1XM edged out NR3X by only 7.1%.

Strategy needed to win — you have to chase more QSOs, but fewer Qs, and make up for the lesser amount of mults. KU1CW won by 7.8% higher than KU1CW’s QSO total, and this close races — VX3AT’s QSO total was higher than KU1CW’s QSO total, and this made up for the lesser amount of mults.

2007 Contest

Come join in all the fun in this year’s event, which will be run on July 14-15, 2007. Be sure to check out the announcement in the April QST, along with the full rules at www.iaru.org/contest.html.

W/VE Region Winners

For Class: A = Mixed Mode, B = Phone Only, C = CW Only, D = Multioperator.

For Power: A = QRP, B = Low, C = High

Edu, EA8URL, made 700 Qs during this year’s IARU Contest.

K3AT piloted VX3AT to 1,633,248. This was only 7.8% higher than KU1CW’s score of 1,514,700. The winning factor for VX3AT was the reverse of the previous two close races — VX3AT’s QSO total was higher than KU1CW’s QSO total, and this made up for the lesser amount of mults.

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Continental Results

For technical and ordering information, see HAMWARE.DE

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High Power Remote Antenna Tuner from Hamware.de

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New Products

- HIGH POWER REMOTE ANTENNA TUNER FROM HAMWARE.DE
  - The AT-515 from Hamware.de is an automatically controlled antenna tuner. This tuner is designed for remote matching of balanced HF antennas. The AT-515 features automatic selection of tuning settings based on transmitted frequency, and no special cabling or adapters are required. It is rated for 1500 W SSB/CW from 1.8 to 30 MHz, and it can be used in either automatic or manual mode. The matching circuit consists of a remotely tuned balanced π circuit designed to provide flexibility and harmonic suppression.
  - Price: AT-515 tuner, $1699.95; power supply, $119.99; control cable, $38.95 per 30 ft; control cable connector (mounted), $30.
  - For technical and ordering information, see www.hamware.de. USA Representative: Dillon RF Systems, dillonel@mtaonline.net

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