

Results of the 2012 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,* K9EL/VA3CDX

As participation in the DX Marathon grows, so does the competition, and 2012 saw some very fierce battles! Six stations were within two points at the top of the Unlimited leader board, and the CW competition was also very close. In 2012, a maximum of 338 points was possible, up five from 2011. As a result, scores were up as well, although no one worked all available countries. As usual, there were a handful of countries with very short operations and only a small number of QSOs were made. Based on the submissions, it appears that 15 meters was your favorite band in 2012 and CW your favorite mode. Ten meters was disappointing, as propagation was clearly down from 2011. Beginning in 2011, we began offering plaques for single-band/single-mode winners, and in 2012 over 25% of the entries were for single-band or single-mode competitions, up significantly from 2011.

Overall submissions were up over 2011 with Unlimited Class now accounting for 75% of your entries. Worldwide participation is growing, which helps everyone's scores, as the USA/Brazil totals dropped to 55% compared to last year's 60% of the total submissions. With participation in the Marathon growing each year, we introduced new scoring software courtesy of Alex, VE3NEA, that was developed to address the increased volume of submissions.

And the Winners Are . . .

Since the DX Marathon was inaugurated, participation from Brazil has been significant; each year Brazil has the second highest number of entrants. Leading that group in Brazil for several years has been Oms Atilano, PP5EG. Oms won the Phone category last year and this year he went all out to win . . . and he did! But his winning score of 330 was just one point ahead of this year's runner-up, K2TQC, who finished at 329 and only two points ahead of the next four stations, VE1DX, OM3EY, N3XX, and EA1DR, who all finished with a score of 328. Their position in the standings was based on the earliest date of their last country worked. Congratulations to Oms and all the top scorers.

Although the number of participants in Formula Class was down from last year,

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Congratulations to Sam Sorkin, UT9FJ, 2012 Formula Class winner. Sam is an active contester, as can be seen from his many awards. He has been licensed since 1984 and is in the IT business. His primary interests in radio are DXing and contesting—perfect for the DX Marathon! Sam prefers CW and RTTY and used a vertical and dipoles to win Formula Class. Sam moved in early November to a new QTH that will permit better antennas and will now compete in the Unlimited Class.

COUNTRY CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score	LX1CW	202	37	239
XV4Y	171	37	208	LY9Y	273	40	313
4Z4DX	255	35	290	LZ2STO	258	40	298
7P8PB	87	32	119	OE1WEU	259	39	298
9A2EU	269	40	309	OH2BEN	278	40	318
9H1SP	271	40	311	OK2SG	282	39	321
A65CA	269	40	309	ON4ON	267	39	306
BV1EK	151	37	188	OZ7YY	275	39	314
CE2WZ	167	37	204	PA0MIR	188	39	227
CO6HLP	182	37	219	PJ5J	83	30	113
CT1AHU	85	25	110	S51DX	263	40	303
CT3HF	202	39	241	SM5DJZ	283	40	323
DL5AN	278	40	318	SP6T	276	39	315
DV1/JO7KMB	162	37	199	SV1DPI	184	39	223
E73Y	218	38	256	SV9COL	240	39	279
EA1DR	289	39	328	TA1DX	131	36	167
EI2GLB	258	40	298	UA3AGW	275	40	315
F5CQ	282	39	321	UA9AGX	136	37	173
FG4NO	11	5	16	V51YJ	205	37	242
FS/K9NB	120	33	153	VE1DX	288	40	328
G3VKW	269	38	307	VK3HJ	262	40	302
GO4PRB/GM	40	9	49	VU2PTT	226	38	264
GU0SUP	162	38	200	YB1AR	264	34	298
GW4EVX	100	27	127	YI1RZ	156	39	195
HA0HW	261	40	301	YO9HP	261	39	300
HB9CBR	81	26	107	YV5EN	163	34	197
HC6EP	66	26	92	ZS1D	43	22	65
IZ2AMW	278	40	318				
KH6OA	30	18	48				
WP4U	231	39	270				
LA9DFA	274	40	314				

Note: Top scorers in some countries received Plaques. Complete listing of all Country leaders is available on the CQ website.

TOP SCORES

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

Unlimited Class

PP5EG	330
K2TQC.....	329
VE1DX.....	328
OM3EY.....	328
N3XX.....	328
EA1DR.....	328

Formula Class – 100w

UT9FJ	316
W4TV.....	304
HA1ZH.....	298
SQ1EIX.....	298
N3CU.....	287

Formula Class – 10w

*WG5G.....	296
W8QZA.....	259
IV3AOL.....	250
ND0C.....	229
YO4AAC.....	215

CW

IK0OZD	314
W1RM.....	312
W1JR.....	307
JA0FVU.....	298
F5IN.....	295

Phone

N3CDA	300
PY6HD.....	276
PY1SX.....	275
PT7ZT.....	274
EA8MT.....	253

Digital

N5ZM	282
R6YY.....	270
IK5FKF.....	259
IK0PEA.....	244
SP3BGD.....	229

Africa

EA8MT	253
V51YJ.....	242
CT3HF.....	241
EC8AFM.....	211
7P8PB.....	119

Asia

JE1FQV	316
JA0DAI.....	315
A65CA.....	309
JA0FVU.....	298
4Z4DX.....	290

Europe

OM3EY	328
EA1DR.....	328
SM5DJZ.....	323
F5CQ.....	321
OK2SG.....	321

North America

K2TQC	329
VE1DX.....	328
N3XX.....	328
W4QN.....	325
K3WC.....	323

Oceania

ZL2IFB	309
VK3HJ.....	302

YB1AR.....	298
VK4CC.....	289
VK3FM.....	263

South America

PP5EG.....	330
PP1CZ.....	304
PY4ZO.....	299
PY4HO.....	294
PY5KD.....	290

6 Meters

*W3UR.....	86
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10 Meters

SM0MPV	265
PU2LEP.....	243
DL4AAE.....	144
PU2KXM.....	96

12 Meters

M0TTB	244
K7MTR.....	238
N0CKC.....	124
LY5W.....	86

15 Meters

VE3CRG	261
K3NK.....	241
K4MM.....	236
W8BBQ.....	227
VE1OP.....	221
NW3H.....	173

17 Meters

LY5M	273
W1WBB.....	260
K7WA.....	96

20 Meters

SP3BGD	229
K2RK.....	196
YB9WZJ.....	175
CO2VE.....	168
N4UEZ.....	168

30 Meters

N9CM	252
PY2WC.....	213

40 Meters

W9KNI	312
K9CJ.....	232
K9DDO/4.....	173
CO2HA.....	58

80 Meters

OH6MW	252
N8MZ.....	167
W9KVR.....	40
FG4NO.....	16

160 Meters

*N4IS.....	179
K7ZV.....	144
NX4D.....	127
K4IQJ.....	120

Club Scores

*Araucaria DX Group.....	5,895
Carolina DX Assn.....	4,740
Potomac Valley RC.....	2,196
Lone Star DX Assn.....	1,659
Yankee Clipper CC.....	1,581



Joe Reisert, W1JR, of Amherst, NH, displays the inaugural DX Marathon plaque for Top CW score in 2011.



Tom Vinson, NY0V, of Chatfield, MN, shown here with his 2011 DX Marathon plaque for top score in North America. Who says you can't win from the Midwest?

the scores certainly weren't! This year's top Formula Class honor goes to Sam, UT9FJ, with an amazing score of 316. Even more impressive is that Sam moved in early November to a new location that is no longer eligible for Formula Class, so his last DX Marathon QSO was October 26th. W4TV was this year's runner-up with an equally impressive score of 304. HA1ZH and SQ1EIX were tied for third with a score of 298. Congratulations to all of our Formula Class participants.

The single-mode competitions continue to attract additional participants and there was no shortage of top scores in all modes. Soundly winning the Phone competition, N3CDA led the group with a score of 300. The Digital leader for 2012 was N5ZM with an amazing score of 282! But the big competition was in the CW category. Last year's Unlimited Class winner, IK0OZD submitted a CW-only entry and bested the competition with a score of 314. W1RM and W1JR were close behind with scores of 312 and 307, respectively. Additional plaque winners for individual band top scores and the Continental Plaque winners are listed in the Top Scores chart elsewhere in this article. As always, we sincerely appreciate the tremendous support of all of our plaque sponsors.

Certificates once again will be given to the top scorers in each country and zone, plus the 6- and 160-meter top scorers, for

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Congratulations to Oms Atilano, PP5EG, of Florianopolis, Brazil, who is the 2012 Unlimited Class winner. Oms is a huge supporter of the DX Marathon and has been a major factor since its inception. Oms is shown here with his plaque as worldwide phone winner in 2011.

those who did not already qualify as a plaque winner. If you or someone you know would like to become a DX Marathon plaque sponsor, please contact the author directly.

As participation in the Marathon grows and competition for top placements increases, we no longer are accepting some of the errors we did in the past. The 2012 overall error rate was 2.35%, with almost half of those errors due to the wrong country or wrong zone entered for a valid callsign. Once again, the majority of zone errors were in zones 2, 3, 4, and 5. Not all VE2 stations are in zone 2, and USA stations could be located anywhere, regardless of the prefix. We strongly suggest that you keep your logging program databases up to date, and if you don't use computer logging, use any of the many online resources to check callsigns before submitting your log.

The other half of the errors were due to invalid callsigns, with a large number of those being “busted” calls. Very often, letters or numbers are wrong on DX spots, so please check the callsigns carefully before entering them. One of the biggest errors was entering Ø for O or O for Ø. Pirates also continue to be a problem and we publish known pirates on the DX Marathon website, so please check the website before submission. There are also other hints on the website on how to improve your score and avoid deductions. This year, pirates were active before and after the official dates of some expeditions and points were lost.

Besides detailed checking of submissions, our new software also provides some very interesting data, since every QSO and its details are in a database. For example, the most popular band in 2012 was 15 meters, accounting for 24% of all QSOs! Ten meter conditions were clearly down from last year, as only 12% of the QSOs were on 10. CW remains the most popular mode, with 52% of all QSOs on that mode. Phone totals were 31% and Digital 17%. Digital submissions were up significantly in 2012. Fifty-nine percent of all Marathon QSOs occurred in the

first three months of 2012, but October and November were the next most popular months, likely due to the CQWW contests. Twenty-five percent of all QSOs took place between 1400–1800 UTC, with a smaller peak at 2200 UTC.

Out of the 298 countries that were active (and approved) in 2012, there were nine countries active with less than twenty contacts submitted: 9U, CEØZ, FO(M), KH9,

T31, TL, TU, TZ, and VP8 (South Georgia). All of the leaders worked at least a few of these. In terms of zones, over 30% of the submissions did not include zones 2, 23, and 29, so be sure to work those zones when you hear them!

The results of the 2012 Marathon is also the first year we are reporting club scores, and we are pleased to announce that the Araucaria DX Group from Brazil is our first

DX Marathon Club winner! Top scores are listed in this article, with the full club listing on the CQ website, as well as more expanded results (www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

For complete details about the DX Marathon, awards, submission requirements, country lists, etc., please go to www.dxmarathon.com. Good luck in 2013!
—John, K9EL/VA3CDX

Results 2012 CQ DX Marathon

UNLIMITED CLASS															
Callsign	Countries	Zones	Score												
PP5EG	290	40	330	AA4SC	264	40	304	K1SND	236	39	275	K3NK	202	39	241
K2TQC	289	40	329	PP1CZ	264	40	304	K9KK	237	38	275	W8AV	203	38	241
EA1DR	289	39	328	W4UM	264	40	304	PY1SX	235	40	275	W2YE	202	38	240
N3XX	289	39	328	AJ4RW	266	37	303	PY4RGS	235	40	275	WA9MAG	201	39	240
OM3EY	288	40	328	S51DX	263	40	303	SP1RKT	236	39	275	K2SX	200	39	239
VE1DX	288	40	328	W3GQ	264	39	303	PT7ZT	236	38	274	LX1CW	202	37	239
W4QN	285	40	325	WB4YDL	263	40	303	PY1ZV	236	38	274	W6GJB	204	35	239
K3WC	283	40	323	VK3HJ	262	40	302	K1UO	233	40	273	K7MTR	201	37	238
SM5DJZ	283	40	323	W0VX	262	40	302	LY5M	233	40	273	NC4MI	201	37	238
N6ML	283	39	322	W4OX	262	40	302	N7MQ	233	40	273	K4MM	201	35	236
F5CQ	282	39	321	HA0HW	261	40	301	ON4CAS	232	40	272	W4UFO	196	37	233
K6ND	282	39	321	K0XB	261	40	301	W2LE	233	39	272	DK3KD	196	36	232
OK2SG	282	39	321	LY3W	262	39	301	WA4DT	236	36	272	K9CJ	193	39	232
W2QO	281	40	321	W3ZJ	262	39	301	K3LB	236	34	270	KE3D	192	39	231
K5EK	281	39	320	W4HG	263	38	301	R6YY	230	40	270	PY2LED	192	39	231
DL5AN	278	40	318	N3CDA	261	39	300	WP4U	231	39	270	K8YC	191	38	229
I2ZAMW	278	40	318	Y09HP	261	39	300	DL9GFB	230	39	269	N5PG	189	39	228
OH2BEN	278	40	318	PY4ZO	259	40	299	PY2IU	230	39	269	PAØMIR	188	39	227
EA4KD	279	38	317	W1EBI	259	40	299	NØ7R	230	38	268	SM6FUD	189	38	227
K9NB	277	40	317	EI2GLB	258	40	298	G6NHU	228	38	266	W8BBQ	190	37	227
JE1FOV	279	37	316	JAØFVU	261	37	298	K7ACZ	225	40	265	KØARY	189	37	226
DJ9ZB	275	40	315	LZ2STO	258	40	298	NØRB	229	36	265	PY2ADR	189	37	226
JAØDAI	275	40	315	OE1WEU	259	39	298	N4MJ	225	40	265	WØEWM	190	36	226
K4UTE	275	40	315	W4DXX	258	40	298	SMØMPV	225	40	265	F6GPT	188	36	224
N5JR	275	40	315	W6GX	261	37	298	VU2PTT	226	38	264	PY3OZ	188	36	224
N5MOA	275	40	315	W6KK	258	40	298	K5ML	226	37	263	VA7ZT	186	38	224
SP6T	276	39	315	YB1AR	264	34	298	VK3FM	224	39	263	SV1DPI	184	39	223
UA3AGW	275	40	315	K6FW	257	40	297	N1EN	223	39	262	WA5KBH	189	34	223
IKØØZD	274	40	314	K5WAF	256	40	296	OH5RF	227	35	262	G3YBY	185	37	222
LA9DFA	274	40	314	KØADI	260	36	296	SP3S	223	39	262	KØ1BA	184	37	221
OZ7YY	275	39	314	F5IN	255	40	295	VE3CRG	221	40	261	VE1OP	183	38	221
LY9Y	273	40	313	K6XT	256	39	295	WØRIC	225	36	261	LX1EA	183	36	219
N4KW	274	39	313	W2LK	255	40	295	PY2MC	222	38	260	AZ2LI	180	37	217
NØVØ	275	38	313	W9OA	255	40	295	W1WBB	220	40	260	WP3GW	180	35	215
W7UT	273	40	313	AI2C	254	40	294	G3KMQ	219	40	259	KB8KE	176	38	214
KØJGH	273	39	312	N5KM	255	39	294	IK5FKF	219	40	259	OP4A	176	38	214
K8OM	272	40	312	N8AGU	254	40	294	K8AJS	220	39	259	VK3TDX	177	37	214
N6AR	272	40	312	PY4HO	255	39	294	N5FG	219	40	259	PY2WC	176	37	213
W1RM	272	40	312	VE3ZZ	253	39	292	PY1ON	219	40	259	DF9DD	173	39	212
W2HTI	273	39	312	W9OP	255	37	292	SO9GAI	222	36	258	EC8AFM	175	36	211
W9KNI	272	40	312	N6QQ	253	38	291	PY3YD	219	38	257	PY6TS	177	34	211
9H1SP	271	40	311	4Z4DX	255	35	290	SM2CEW	221	36	257	KN4QD	175	35	210
N4BAA	271	40	311	K2UF	250	40	290	SM2LKW	217	40	257	VU2CDP	173	35	208
VE2BR	271	40	311	PY5KD	251	39	290	K5DHY	215	40	255	XV4Y	171	37	208
9A2EU	269	40	309	DL4CW	251	38	289	SM5CCE	217	38	255	CØ6LC	172	34	206
A65CA	269	40	309	EI7CC	249	40	289	AE5X	214	40	254	K6CTA	170	36	206
K9CT	271	38	309	VK4CC	249	40	289	N9LAH	215	39	254	LA8AW	172	34	206
K9NU	269	40	309	W9ILY	249	40	289	PY4XX	216	38	254	KJ4QDZ	165	40	205
N2BJ	270	39	309	K1SM	250	38	288	EA8MT	214	39	253	PY5IP	170	35	205
ZL2IFB	269	40	309	N4PQX	248	40	288	VK2MWG	217	36	253	PY6KY	168	37	205
K3WA	269	39	308	W4VQ	248	40	288	OH6MW	212	40	252	CE2WZ	167	37	204
UA9FAR	268	40	308	NØAH	247	40	287	OZ7RQ	213	39	252	VE5MX	165	38	203
UX1UA	268	40	308	ON5SY	248	37	285	YB1TJ	215	37	252	A65BD	167	35	202
EA7TG	268	39	307	N8BJQ	244	40	284	WD9DZV	214	37	251	DK3DG	165	37	202
G3VKW	269	38	307	K3TN	245	38	283	WA4JQS	211	39	250	NV4A	170	32	202
NØKE	268	39	307	AA9A	245	37	282	PY2PT	210	39	249	PY5WD	165	36	201
N8DE	269	38	307	N5ZM	242	40	282	W3OA	210	39	249	GUØSUP	162	38	200
W1JR	267	40	307	SP9AQF	245	37	282	JN3SAC	210	38	248	NKØS	166	34	200
W4VIC	269	38	307	W2JU	242	40	282	KZ2I	206	40	246	DV1/JØ7KMB	162	37	199
WX6V	267	40	307	W9OA/9	241	40	281	PY2KP	206	40	246	VE2JM	167	32	199
K4GHS	266	40	306	WA5VGI	243	37	280	EI4CF	208	36	244	DF5BX	163	35	198
K6YK	266	40	306	SV9COL	240	39	279	IKØPEA	206	38	244	N4MM	162	36	198
ON4ON	267	39	306	W4CU	242	37	279	MØTTB	205	39	244	W6ZO	162	34	196
WN4N	271	35	306	K8SM	238	40	278	F5VKT	203	40	243	PY5EW	160	33	193
K3KO	266	39	305	F8CRS	238	38	276	PU2LEP	204	39	243	9A2GA	153	37	190
WB2REM	266	39	305	IØMOM	238	38	276	DK4WO	203	39	242	BV1EK	151	37	188
				KC6AWX	239	37	276	V51YJ	205	37	242	CØ2IZ	154	34	188
				PY6HD	237	39	276	CT3HF	202	39	241	N7WO	150	38	188

