

Results of the 2009 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,* K9EL

Despite 3% fewer countries being available in 2009 and sunspots still in hiding, the 2009 CQ DX Marathon was anything but dull. Based on how close the scores were at the top of both classes, the 2009 DX Marathon was the most exciting yet! Participation was up 70% over 2008, so there were more participants chasing fewer countries. Logs were received from 320 stations in 48 countries and 23 CQ zones—all significantly more than for the 2008 Marathon. Club competition was noticeably up this time, especially in Brazil, where DX Marathon participation was up over 500% from 2008! Once again we are especially thankful to all those who participated in the Marathon for the first time.

The lack of DX and sunspots did not affect the Formula Class scores too much, with average scores only 3% less than in 2008, exactly matching the available country reduction. Approximately 70% of all logs submitted were in the Unlimited Class, where average scores were down 10%, yet only 2 points separated the next 5 stations after the Unlimited Class winner! Competition in the top class was indeed fierce. Missing one country can quickly move an operator down the list.

As participation expands in the DX Marathon, unique competitions are developing. For 2009, there were 10 CW-only submissions and 29 SSB-only scores, both significant increases over previous years. W4VQ, the previous top CW scorer, increased his score by 6 points, yet was 1 point short of the top CW score of 299 submitted by W1JR. The top SSB score of 284 was also higher than in 2008 and was submitted by W4JS. CW clearly is not dead! W8QZA once again held the top spot for the low power (10 watts or less) group. The low bands proved popular, with K5NU submitting an 80-meters only score of 238, working 199 countries and 39 zones, only missing Zone 34.

For the DX Marathon Unlimited, the winning score of 321 points for 2009 was a total of 281 countries/40 zones and was accomplished by W9KNI from his Oregon QTH. Who says contests can't be won from the West Coast? In 2008, Bob tied the winner in terms of points, but lost out, as the date of his last country was later than that of winner OM3EY. This time Bob won with a small margin as runners-up

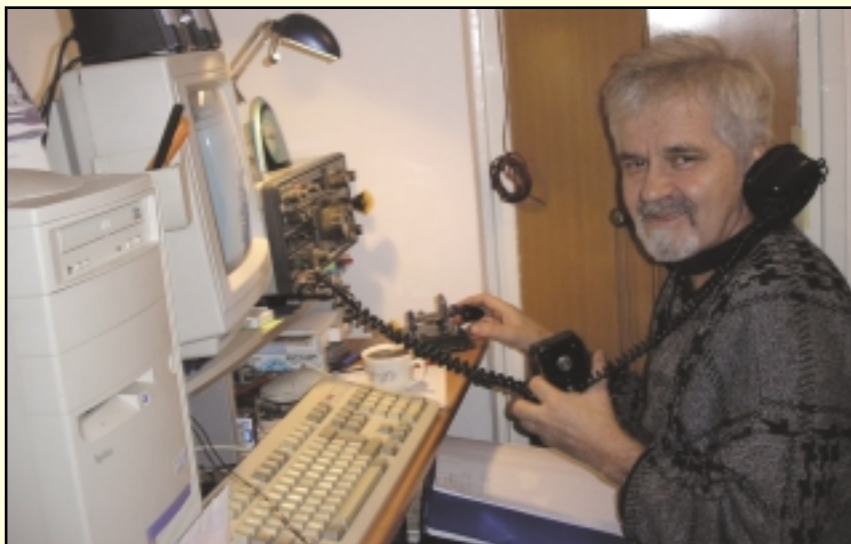
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Saulius Zalnerauskas, LY5W, one of three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, in his shack.

Winner Profile:

Slobodan "Bob" Sevo, E770
Formula Class Winner



Slobodan "Bob" Sevo, E770, 2009 Formula Class winner, in his shack.

Bob was first licensed in 1968 and operated mainly from YU4EJC and 4N4A. He received YU4SO in 1980 and has been chasing DX ever since. He needs only six countries to complete DXCC.

Bob made his career as a telecom engineer, but is now retired and operating primarily on CW. His equipment includes a well-used FT-101Z, while his antennas consist of inverted-Vees for 40/80 and a 20-meter ground-plane vertical. Other bands operate through a tuner to one of his two antennas. Bob enjoys cycling and nature walks with his wife and two daughters.



Sergey Smirnov, RU6YY, one of the three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, with his many awards.

LY5W, OM3EY, and RU6YY each scored 319 points. Congratulations to Bob and the runners-up! I4TJE at 318 points and PP5EG at 317 points were not far behind. With fewer countries available in 2009, competition at the top was very close. A total of 289 countries were active and approved for the DX Marathon in 2009, a drop of 9 from 2008.

In Formula Class, Slobodan, E77O, held the top spot, working 218 countries and all 40 zones using verticals, dipoles, and 100 watts. SQ1EIX was close behind

at 217 countries and 39 zones, also using dipoles and verticals. The top North American scorer was K4WY at 230 points (191 countries and 39 zones) using an inverted-L antenna. Congratulations to Slobodan and all the Formula Class participants, as working DX with low power, wire antennas, and no sunspots is certainly a challenge!

Once again the plaques for the winners in both classes will be provided by the Northern Illinois DX Association. We sincerely appreciate the association's sup-

port for sponsoring the DX Marathon plaques. Winners of the 2008 contest have received their plaques, which now occupy a prominent position in their shacks.

Although many of the DX Marathon participants use computer logging and electronic tools to populate the DX Marathon Score Sheet, no program is perfect and each submission should be manually checked before sending it to the Marathon manager. A simple error in the callsign prefix can cause that contact to be disqualified. We understand that some DX stations use high-speed CW and 5H could be copied as HS, or E7 copied as EZ (common error). Many resources exist online to confirm the real callsign. However, the most common errors remain zone errors (especially Zone 2), and many stations once again lost one or more Zone points. The DX Marathon website (www.dxmarathon.com) has detailed information to determine if a station is in Zone 2, plus a listing of known Zone 2 stations. Other major deductions included lost credit for Zones 3, 4, and 5. Prefixes in the U.S. do not necessarily indicate the location of the station. If the operator has not confirmed his/her QTH, please use various online resources to verify an operator's QTH. Also please keep in mind that not all W8 stations are in Zone 4 and not all W4 stations are in Zone 5. The DX Marathon website has a link to the official CQ magazine Zone listing. Other significant zone errors included confusion over Zones 17, 18, and 19. Please check carefully before submitting your log.

2009 had its share of pirates, so the actual scores are less than the high-claimed scores posted on the DX Marathon website. The most "active" pirates were 3W2BV, 3YØQ, C31LJ/M, HV3VO, OD5GR, TU2FQ (CW), any ZD9, ZK3T, ZL9C, and ZL9AI. Any claimed QSOs with those stations and others were deducted from your score along with any "not in log" QSOs. Fortunately, NIL deductions were minimal in 2009. Other common errors (and thus deductions) included reversing the locations for the two JD countries and for the two Cook Islands. Many points were lost among these four islands. Quite a few stations claimed Kosovo credit with YU8 prefixes, but unfortunately all actually were in Serbia. The only approved operations in 2009 were portable stations early in 2009. Although it is frustrating to many, QSOs with 9Q/DK3MO and 5N/LZ1QK were not accepted by either the ARRL or DX Marathon in 2009. Both countries were active by approved stations.

Need some extra points for the 2010 Marathon? 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

DX Marathon Certificates Update

We are pleased to announce the certificate winners for the 2006 and 2007 DX Marathon as shown below. Certificates have been prepared and will be in the hands of the recipients very soon. Certificate winners for 2008 and 2009 will be available soon. Details and sample certificates can be found on the DX Marathon website.

2006 Certificate Winners for the top scores in the following categories:

#1 Country: DL5NAM, T94GB, EB1EWE, EC8AFM, F1JKJ, G1VDP, GUØSUP, I2WIJ, JA7OXR, LU2NI, LZ3FN, OK1BLU, OM3EY, PAØMIR, PT7VB, SM6CNN, SP5CGN, SV1DPI, TA3J, RU6YY, VE3ZZ, VK3FM, KØARY/VP9, NØFW

#1 Zone: W6RLL, NØFW, W1JR, PT7VB, LU2NI, SM6CNN, OM3EY, RU6YY, SV1DPI, JA7OXR, VK6HG, VK3FM, EC8AFM

All SSB: KE4MBP

All CW: W4VQ

All Digital: GUØSUP

20M Single Band: KØARY/VP9

2007 Certificate Winners for the top scores in the following categories:

#1 Country: DL5XL, T94GB, EA4EQD, EC8AFM, F1JKJ, G4IY, GUØSUP, HA1CW, HC2SA, 7Z1HL, I4TJE, JAØDAI, LA6CF, LU2NI, LZ1VB, OH5VG, OK2PAY, OM3EY, ON4ON, OZ7YY, PAØMIR, PY2OMS, SM6CNN, SP5CGN, SV1DPI, TA1DX, RU6YY, US7MM, V5/DL5XL, VE3ZZ, VK4AN, NØFW, YU3A, YV6BXN, ZS6DXB

#1 Zone: VE8DW, K6TA, NØFW, W1JR, HC2SA, PY2OMS, LU2NI, OZ7YY, OM3EY, RU6YY, SV1DPI, 7Z1HL, JAØDAI, VK6HG, VK4AN, EC8AFM, ZS6DXB

All SSB: LU2NI

All CW: W4VQ

All Digital: OH5VG

6M Single Band: VE2PIJ

20M Single Band: DK8JB

40M Single Band: N9TF



Eduard Melcer, OM3EY, last year's winner and one of three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, with his DX Marathon plaque proudly displayed.

(European Turkey), IT (Sicily), IG9/IH9 (African Italy), and others. For complete details, go to <www.dxmarathon.com>.

QRM

With good levels of activity, a few band openings and several superb expeditions, this was an amazing year for working DX. Thanks for keeping this activity alive. . . . **N8BR**. Great operating incentive. Added about 12 more entities over last year. Wait till next year. . . . **W4QN**. Thanks for this contest. I doubled my score from

last year and managed to crack 100 DX entities. . . . **W9KVR**. This is my third year and every year my score increases. The Excel file is excellent and can be used for private statistics. . . . **DJ9ZB**. I really enjoyed taking part in this excellent competition. . . . **PP1CZ**. Another reasonable year with not so good conditions. . . . **N0FW**. Thanks for a wonderful season again. . . . **KD8GOX**. Not much improvement over last year because of the low sunspots, but another enjoyable contest nevertheless. . . . **G4MUL**. Results were not as good as 2007/2008, but acceptable considering my antenna CC&R lim-

2009 Top Scores

#1 Country: 4W6FR, 9A2GA, BD1TCC, CE3PG, DP1POL, CT1AHU, DL5AN, DU1IVT, E77O, EA4KD, EI7CC, F5CQ, G3WW, GA4PRB, MW0CRI, I4TJE, JA0DAI, JT1BZ, W9KNI, WP3GW, LA6CF, LU3JVO, LX1ER, LY5W, OH6MW, OK2SG, OM3EY, ON4ON, OZ7YY, PA0MIR, PP5EG, PY0FF, RU6YY, S51DX, SM5DJZ, SP3BGD, SV1DPI, TA1HZ, UY0MM, V31TB, V51YJ, VE1DX, VK8PDX, VU2PTT, T6AF, YO9HP, YU1PC, ZL2IFB

#1 Zone: W9KNI, N0FW, W1JR, V31TB, WP3GW, PP5EG, CE3PG, LU3JVO, ON4ON, LY5W/OM3EY (Tie), RU6YY, YO9HP, T6AF, VU2PTT, JT1BZ, BD1TCC, JA0DAI, DU1IVT, 4W6FR, VK8PDX, VK2MWG, ZL2IFB, V51YJ

All SSB: W4JS

All CW: W1JR (CW Submission)

All Digital: IK5FKF

6M Single Band: K4MM

10M Single Band: YO9HJY

20m Single Band: K7MTR

40M Single Band: K4VSC

80M Single Band: K5NU

Club Competition Update

Last year, the Northern Arizona DX Association challenged the Central Arizona DX association by comparing the top 10 scores from each club in the 2009 Marathon. Dave, W7FYW, reports that the CADXA accepted the challenge and won the competition. Congratulations to AA7A, N7CW, K7MTR, W8AEF, NQ7R, W7RV, KF7E, K7WP, and K7CMR!

In 2009, more than fifty PY stations competed in the DX Marathon as part of the Araucaria DX Group. PY5EG reports that they have established a website where members can upload their scores and compare their scores to others throughout the year. Check out their website at: <<http://maratona.gadx.org>>

Let's hear from some other clubs that are using the DX Marathon as a basis for club competition. Send your updates to: <comments@dxmarathon.com>.

itations. . . . **K8CQ**. Missed a couple of countries on CW, but did better than I expected. Already working on this year's Marathon. It keeps me interested. . . . **W4VQ**. Thanks for the great fun, will try to do much better in 2010. . . . **IK2DJV**. 2009 was quite nice for me as I received my DXCC endorsement for 20m. TCSWAT activities will go on fully in 2010 with details to be announced on the website. . . . **TA1HZ**. Thanks again for a great contest. It keeps the year interesting. . . . **W4CU**. This



The view from the antenna of Bob Locher, W9KNI, winner, Unlimited Class.

of 200 points this year. . . . **N1AM**. The DX Marathon is a really great contest. I hope that more African stations will enter in 2010. . . . **V51YJ**. If only I had a SteppIR and an amplifier. . . . **K9DDO/4**. All QSOs were mobile so not a very high score, but it was fun, especially the CW contacts. . . . **WA7QCC**. There was a lot of good DX out there, but some of them were on when there was no propagation to the SE states. . . . **W4JS**. Could have added a few more but I was traveling a lot remodeling a vacation home. . . . **K4MQG**. Happy to enter the CQ DX Marathon contest again. . . . **JA3HJT**. I have a restricted license, so all QSOs are only 28 MHz, SSB, but I don't recommend to anybody sharing the radio with their father. . . . **YO9HGY**. Who would have thought you could work 113 DXCC countries, phone only, with 100 watts in only 9 months with a 135-ft off center fed dipole at 25 ft.? Thanks for a great contest. . . . **KA3ITJ**. My entry is a low score because it is QRP and 50 MHz only. . . . **M1DUD**. All contacts were with 100w and an all-band indoor antenna. Please keep the rules as they are as the contest is fun, and a great incentive to work DX. . . . **KE4PT**. I am already collecting new countries and zones for 2010. . . . **PP1CZ**. The contest I started with in our club year had 30 entries for 2009. We are giving away nice prizes so we hope to have more participants. . . . **AA4SC**. Thanks for the work you do for all of us. . . . **W0HT**.

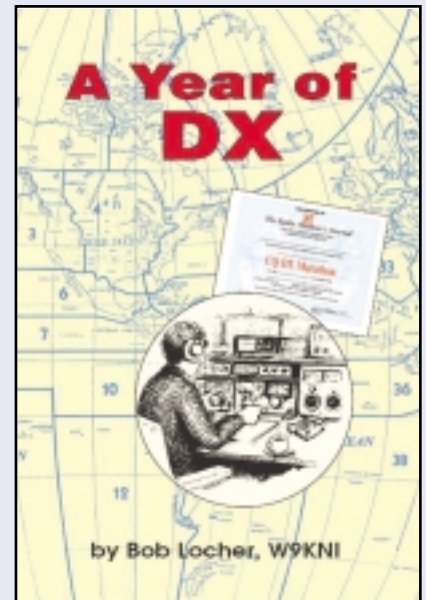
was my first time in the event and really had fun exclusively QRP. I had hoped to break 200, but there's always next year. . . . **ND0C**. Thanks for the contest. It was a bit challenging to get a good score. . . . **VK8HPB**. I enjoyed the contest this year. All QSOs were worked while mobile. . . . **JA7OXR**. Surprising what can be worked without sunspots. . . . **K3KO**. It was a really great year considering the lack of sunspots. The big fall DX contests were a superb source of the rare ones plus a number

of DXpeditions to the far ends of the earth helped a lot! See you in 2010. . . . **K4WY**. This is really a cool event and helped motivate me to stay active DXing throughout the year. I'll be plugging away at it again in 2010, as time allows. . . . **ND0C**. What a great pleasure to participate for the very first time in the DX Marathon. I was very excited with this competition and I worked as many stations as I could. I was surprised to work more than 260 entities. . . . **PY2EL**. Great contest, exceeded my goal



Mike Mauldin, K5NU, in his shack. Mike had the amazing 80-meters-only score of 199 countries and 39 zones. Mike uses a 4-square in southern Texas.

**New DX Marathon Book
Now Available**



A copy of the book cover for W9KNI's new book on the DX Marathon.

Bob Locher, W9KNI, this year's Unlimited Class winner and 2008 runner-up, has completed writing a new book about his participation in the 2008 Marathon. It is entitled *A Year of DX*. Bob made an all-out effort to win the contest, and the book chronicles many of his methods, his success (and disappointments) during his year-long DX effort. Bob is the author of other DX books, including *The Complete DXer*. His books are published by Idiom Press.

BD1SI	U	133	35	168				10 Watts					All SSB	
NU4I	F	137	31	168	PY1ZV	F	68	24	92	EA4BBB	F	57	10	67
CE3PG	U	135	30	165	VE3MCF	F	70	21	91				All 40m SSB, 10 Watts	
KK9O	U	133	31	164	JT1BZ	F	70	19	89	VK8HPB	F	48	17	65
KA9MOM	F	131	30	161	T6AF	F	69	19	88				All SSB	
RA3QH	F	127	34	161	DV1UBY	F	63	22	85	N4NW	U	41	21	62
				All Digital					10 Watts	MW0CWJ	F	51	10	61
OO9O	F	125	34	159	W4DDR	F	65	17	82	WA7QCC	F	41	20	61
W9IXX	U	124	35	159	M5AEF	F	66	15	81				All Mobile	
W9KVR	F	127	32	159					1 Watt	M1DUD	F	48	5	53
AJ4FM	U	128	30	158	K4VSC	F	61	18	79				6m only	
N6DIT	F	129	29	158					All 40m SSB	PU4HUD	F	34	16	50
NI5F	U	121	37	158	9A2GA	U	65	11	76	RW3AI	F	34	8	42
W0QQG	F	127	31	158	PY2DEZ	F	52	23	75				10 Watts	
WB2TFM	U	131	27	158	W2VU	F	57	18	75	GA4PRB	F	27	7	34
				All 20m SSB					All SSB	CA3OEV	F	23	9	32
WA2VQV	F	125	30	155	ZL3DW	F	51	24	75				All 40m SSB	
AA5JG	F	123	31	154	CT1AHU	F	52	21	73	YO9HJY	F	22	5	27
IV3AOL	F	128	26	154					All SSB	YT7AO	F	19	7	26
				5 watts	2E1OKT	F	56	12	68	W9LD	F	12	12	24
PU9OSB	U	121	33	154	KE7FXF	F	49	19	68					
PU5AAD	U	122	30	152										
VE3GYL	U	118	34	152										
WP3GW	U	127	25	152										
PY5QW	U	120	31	151										
				All SSB										
KT7G	U	118	32	150										
SJ7M	U	119	31	150										
W7FYW	U	116	34	150										
W3EC	U	116	33	149										
W8RIT	U	121	27	148										
DH5MM	F	119	28	147										
PT7ZAP	U	119	28	147										
N4TL	U	116	30	146										
NC4MI	U	118	28	146										
YO9CWY	F	116	29	145										
KA3ITJ	U	113	31	144										
				All SSB										
TA1HZ	F	111	33	144										
				All SSB										
N2EIK	U	115	28	143										
KA1C	U	117	25	142										
OK2BNC	F	114	28	142										
				All CW										
PP2RON	F	109	31	140										
PY5IP	F	112	28	140										
DL8ZAJ	U	111	27	138										
W4WNT	F	111	25	136										
AA4FU	F	106	28	134										
				All CW										
DL1APX	F	106	27	133										
PY5AKW	U	106	27	133										
DU1IVT	U	99	33	132										
N4LF	F	109	23	132										
W2GHD	F	104	26	130										
PU5ATX	U	100	28	128										
W9VA	U	99	29	128										
NK0S	U	98	28	126										
PY5ZD	U	101	25	126										
				All SSB										
VA3RNJ	F	98	24	122										
W7KAM	F	94	28	122										
				All SSB										
4W6FR	F	92	28	120										
AA7DK	F	95	25	120										
				All SSB										
PY2AC	U	92	27	119										
AJ4JD	U	93	24	117										
N3XRU	U	88	29	117										
K6LE	F	94	22	116										
ON3AD	F	97	19	116										
				5 Watts										
K7PAP	U	91	23	114										
				All SSB										
KA9JAC	F	91	23	114										
W1IG	F	89	25	114										
PT7TT	U	91	21	112										
PY2BN	U	89	23	112										
V31TB	U	87	24	111										
KT9B	F	81	29	110										
N0KMA	F	87	20	107										
SA6AQP	F	83	20	103										
PY4LH	F	74	27	101										
G6OKU	F	80	16	96										
K4MM/6	U	77	19	96										
				6m only										
N2SO	F	71	24	95										
BH1EFO	F	70	23	93										