The DX Marathon Program

Danish DX Group

June 3, 2023

What *is* DX Marathon?

THE FASTEST GROWING HAM RADIO DX PROGRAM TODAY!

What *is* DX Marathon?

An annual DXCC + WAZ chase

One big advantage: confirmations are *not* required

An excellent reason (excuse?) to get on the air and work DX

Compete with others or with yourself: beat last year's score

No complicated rules, just a few categories

As a year-long global event,
geographical & other disadvantages even-out

DX Marathon

Originated in 1939 by Radio Magazine, CQ's predecessor

Suspended in 1940 due to WWII

Resumed by CQ staff in 1948

Dropped in 1949
due to CQWW and DXCC

**Resurrected in 2005 by
K9EL and CQ Magazine
to encourage activity by DXers
who have worked 'em all**

The DX Marathon
Board of Directors

WC3W   Mark Wohlschlegel- Chairman
- ZL2IFB   Gary Hinson
- PY5EG   Atilano Oms
- KB0EO   Dan Soderlund
- K2ZJ   John Carioti
- N3SL   Steve Larsen
- K9NU   Paul Defelice

- W9KNI   Bob Locher   (Emeritus)
- K9EL   John Sweeney (Emeritus)

August 2022

The DX Marathon
Operating Managers

- Program Administrator & CEO WC3W Mark Wohlschlegel
- Scoring Manager WO7R Larry Loen
- IT Manager KI2D Sebastian Delmont
- Communications Manager K2CIB John Samuels
- Rules & Compliance Manager W4OX- Doug McDuff
- Awards Manager TBD

The DX MARATHON
Advisory Board of Directors

- Africa   CT3MD Jose Vasconcelos
- Asia   JA0DAI Shin-Ichi Watanabe
- Middle East   A92GE David Smith
- Middle East   A92AA Fawaz Sulaibeekh
- Europe   OK2PAY Lada Prajsner
- Europe   PA2LO Gert van Loo
- North Am   KI1U Michael Corey
- North Am   K0XM Chuck Kraly
- Oceania   YB5QZ   Anton Iriawan
- Oceania   VK3KTT   Steve Maggala
- South Am   CX6VM Jorge Diaz Furest
- CQ Mag   W2VU Rich Moseson
- CQ Mag   K2MGA   Richard Ross

August 2022

Why participate?

Let's face it: for us, ham radio *is* DXing

DX Marathon challenges us to
work the world every year

No multipliers or complicated formulas,
no QSL cards required

Provides that *extra* incentive to remain active

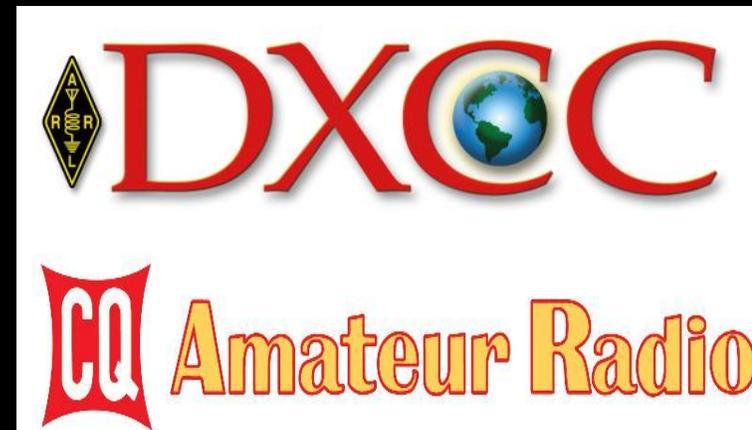Ideal for clubs … but competition is optional:
self-improvement is the main goal

How does it work?

**Participation is easy:
get on the air and chase DX as usual**

At the end of the year, complete the entry form and upload to the DX Marathon website

DXCC *plus* 6 WAE entities:

1. Italian Africa – IG9/IH9 AF-019/AF-018
2. GM/Shetland Islands EU-012
3. IT – Sicily EU-025
4. TA1 – European Turkey
5. 4U1VIC – ITU in Vienna, Austria
6. JW – Bear Island IOTA EU-027

Eligible/Ineligible Frequencies

- Any authorized ham radio frequency from 2m-160m including WARC bands

- Contacts through repeaters or satellites are not allowed for credit

- Contacts with maritime or aeronautical mobile stations not allowed

- All contacts must be made entirely over amateur radio frequencies

DX Marathon classes

Unlimited
- Full license limits

Limited
- 100 watt maximum
- Yagi's with booms no longer than 16 feet, mounted no higher than 50 feet e.g. typical 3 ele tribander

Formula 100
- 100 watt maximum
- No gain antennas: simple wires and verticals

Formula 5
- 5 watt maximum
- Same antennas as Limited

DX Marathon categories

Single band / All band

- **Focus on a single band 6 through 160 meters, including 60 meters**

Single mode / All mode

- Challenge yourself or friends by maximizing your score on CW, phone or digital.
  - Digital includes RTTY, PSK, JT and FT modes – and anything else that might be invented!

Club leagues

- An excellent tool to motivate and up-skill club members
- Compete among members and against other clubs

DX Marathon simplicity

Simple rules

- Use a single TX/RX site (station location)
- No multiple sites, no multiple remotes, no web SDR receivers
- A remote site is OK so long as it is the only site you use
- Operating your home station locally or remotely is OK provided it is your only site
- If you use than one site during the year, you can submit scores separately for each site

Simple scoring

- Simply count up the total number of countries and zones logged in the year
- No multipliers, bonuses or subtractions

See
www.dxmarathon.com

DX Marathon New Website

Entry form

Your callsign, name & address

Claimed score calculated by the form

Your class

Station info

Takes ~15 mins!

QSO data (date, time, band, mode & callsign) can be harvested from your ADIF log by DX Marathon tools

2022 CQ DX Marathon Score Sheet

SUBMISSION INFORMATION				YOUR SCORE	
Callsign	**Name**	**Street**		**Countries**	0
				Zones	0
City	**State/Province**	**Country**	**Postal Code**	**TOTAL**	0
				1. Save file as *YOURCALLSIGN* .XLS	
CQ Zone	**Email Address**	**Club Name**		2. Enter comments at bottom of form.	
				3. If you are seeking a single band or single mode endorsement, enter QSO's for *only* that band or mode. Those endorsement independent of Cl	

NOTE: All Formula and Limited Class entries must provide a detailed antenna description - type, height above ground and length. *ENTER BELOW*	Indicate your Class Here ====> Enter "X" in only ONE box.	UNLIMITED		4. Formula and Limited Class submissions without adequate antenna descriptions will be re-classified to Unlimited Class.
		LIMITED ≤ 100 Watts		
		FORMULA ≤ 100 Watts		5. Please submit this form no later than January 5, 2023 at www.dxmarathon.com/logupload
		FORMULA ≤ 5 Watts		

PREFIX	ENTITY/ZONE	DAY	MON	UTC	BAND	MODE	CALLSIGN
		DD	MM	HHMM	2,4,6,10,12,15,17,20, 30,40,60,80,160	CW, Phone, or Digital	
1A0 (unofficial)	Sov. Mil. Order of Malta						
1S (unofficial)	Spratly Is.						
3A	Monaco						
3B6, 7	Agalega & St. Brandon Is.						
3B8	Mauritius						
3B9	Rodrigues I.						
3C	Equatorial Guinea						
3C0	Annobon I.						
3D2	Fiji						
3D2	Conway Reef						
3D2	Rotuma I.						
3DA	eSwatini						
3V	Tunisia						
3W,XV	Vietnam						
3X	Guinea						
3Y	Bouvet						
3Y	Peter I I.						
4J,4K	Azerbaijan						
4L	Georgia						
4O	Montenegro						
4S	Sri Lanka						

SCORING

Submitted logs are entered into a custom software program

Logged callsigns plus country and zone data are added to a large database

Each submission is checked for completeness

Most QSOs are validated automatically

Suspect call signs, incorrect zones etc. are manually checked by the DX Marathon staff

VERIFICATION
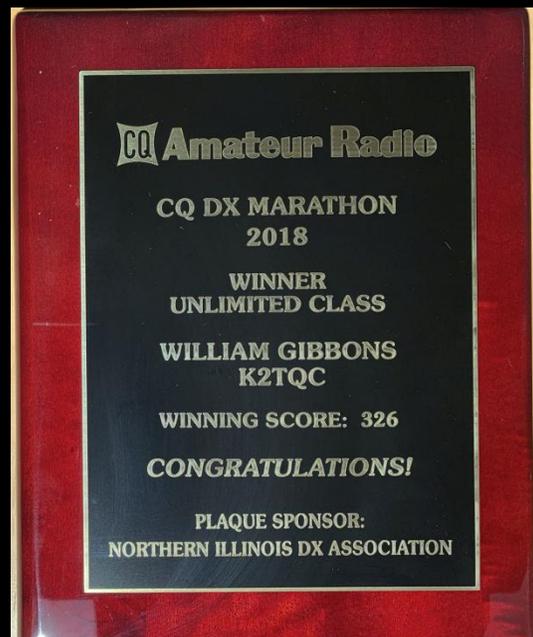
Honor system with very few infractions

DX stations may be contacted to verify logged QSOs if no online log exists

Any participant who violates the rules risks disqualification

When scoring is complete, the annual results write-up and plaques & certificates are prepared

Awards

30 wooden plaques

120 certificates

These are free *annual* awards,
thanks to our generous donors

Wall plaques

- Unlimited, Limited, Formula 100w & Formula 5w classes
- Continental winners
- 6 through 160 meter band leaders
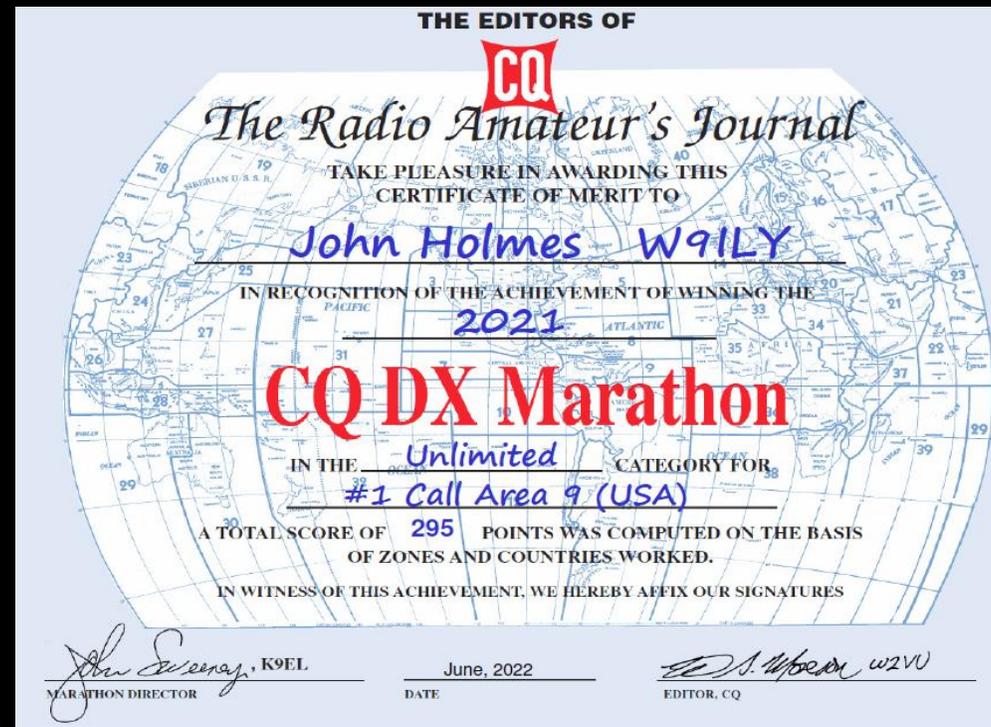- Top CW, phone and digital scores
- Top NA CW score
- Top EU CW score

Certificates

6m and 160m winners

Top in each zone

Top in each continent by mode

Top score in each participating country

Top VE by call area

Top USA by call area and class

Sponsors

Unlimited class: Northern Illinois DX Association
Limited class: Northern Illinois DX Association
Formula class, 100 Watts: Northern Illinois DX Association
Formula class, 5 watts or less: Jeff, KE9V

Top CW-only score: The CW Operators Club
Top phone-only score: Collins Amateur Radio Club in Memory of Art Collins, W0CXX
Top digital-only score: The NN6NN Digital Team

Top score in Africa: Dane Norvarlic, S53T
Top score in Asia: John Bastin, K8AJS
Top score in Europe: Gert, PA2LO
Top score in North America: The Metro DX Club
Top score in Oceania: Col, VK4CC
Top score in South America: ARAUCARIA DX GROUP - ADXG

Top CW-only score in North America: The CW Operators Club
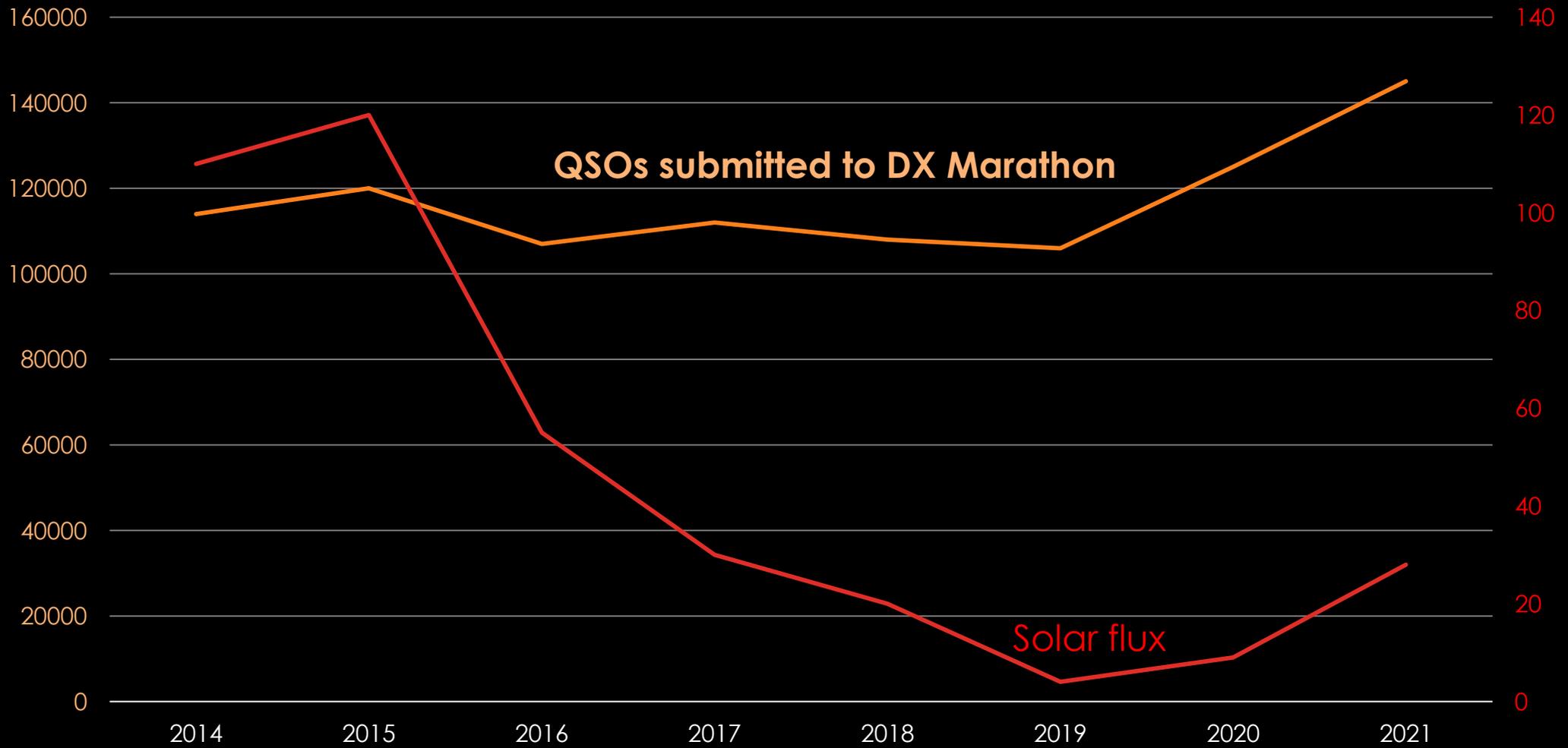**Top CW-only score in Europe: The CW Operators Club**

Top scores for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80m: ARAUCARIA DX GROUP - ADXG
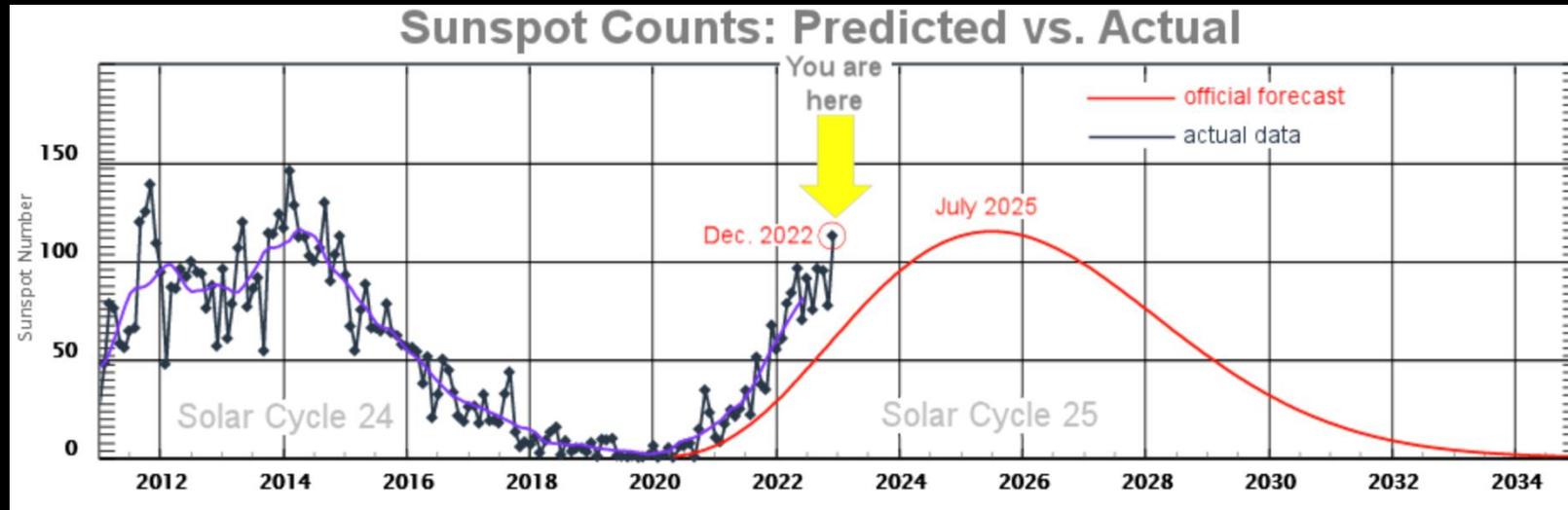**Top score for 60m: anonymous sponsor**

Thank you!!!

216505

Who needs sunspots?

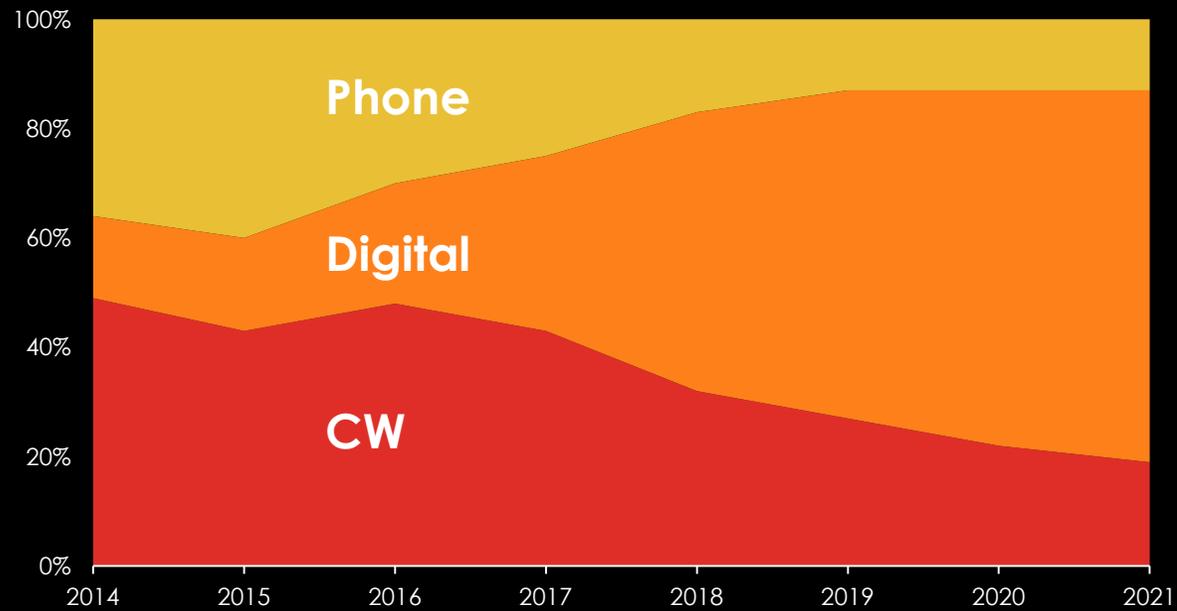QSOs submitted to DX Marathon

Solar flux
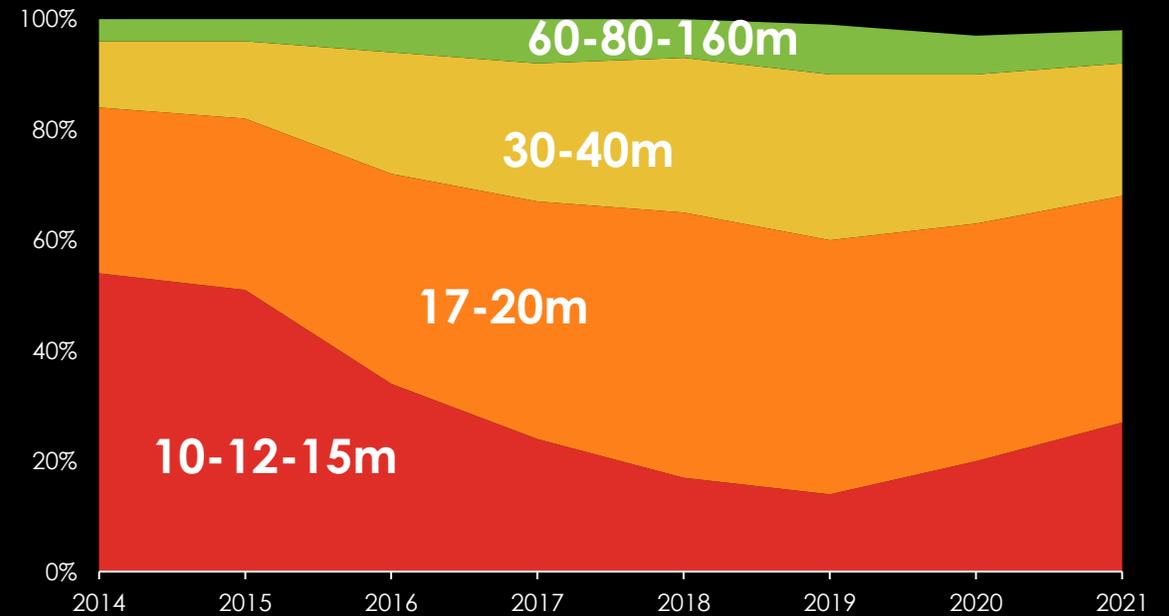
Cycle 25

Statistics

DX Marathon QSOs by mode

DX Marathon QSOs by bands

2021 results summary

- **807 logs with 144,805 QSOs**
- **(1182/216505 in 2022) +46% Increase**
- **274 entities + 40 zones = max score 314**
- **Overall error rate 1.5% - lowest ever!**
  - **Most frequent errors:**
    - **Wrong zone - 32%**
    - **Invalid calls - 27%**
    - **Wrong country - 23%**
    - **Busted calls - 14%**
- **71% were Unlimited**
- **9% were single-band**
- **27% were single-mode**

Unlimited	JH1AJT	306	30 Meters	K2TQC	259
Limited	K2JL	285	40 Meters	PY4AZ	269
Formula 100	OK2FD	291	60 Meters	W1NG	196
Formula 5	OK2AP	282	80 Meters	PP5JR	233
CW	OK2PAY	266	160 Meters	LA3MHA	174
CW-N America	K5BG	230	Zone 3	W7CD	281
Phone	W4HY	252	Zone 4	N0FW	299
Digital	OM5XX	284	Zone 5	K2ZJ	301
6 Meters	F4GGJ	162	Africa	CT3MD	279
10 Meters	9A2EU	201	Asia	JH1AJT	306
12 Meters	PY5EG	240	Europe	DJ3AA	299
15 Meters	PU2UAF	262	North America	K2ZJ	301
17 Meters	PY2TC	274	Oceania	YB5QZ	291
20 Meters	VE3VEE	297	South America	PY7ZZ	283

Top 3 Club Scores	
Rio DX Group, Brazil	15102
CDR GROUP, Brazil	10891
Western Washington DX Club	9733

2022 Preliminary Results

(1182/216000 in 2022) +32% Increase

- 267 Entities + 40 zones = max score 307
- Overall error rate 2.7%
  - Most frequent errors:
    - Wrong zone - 17%
    - Invalid calls - 21%
    - Wrong country - 12%
    - Russian Policy- 28%
- 65% were Unlimited
- 5% were single-band
- 36% were single-mode

Unlimited	K2ZJ	307	30 Meters	LY5O	263
Limited	SV2AEL	303	40 Meters	W9KNI	271
Formula 100	OK2FD	297	60 Meters	HA5WA	194
Formula 5	WG5G	262	80 Meters	PP5JR	220
CW	OK2PAY	275	160 Meters	LA3MHA	138
CW-N America	K5BG	250	Zone 3	N6WT	303
Phone	W4HY	274	Zone 4	VE3VEE	303
Digital	PY7ZZ	298	Zone 5	K2ZJ	307
6 Meters	F5BZB	189	Africa	CT3MD	291
10 Meters	PU2UAF	283	Asia	TA2LG	302
12 Meters	K2TQC	293	Europe	IK0OZD	306
15 Meters	PY4AZ	295	North America	K2ZJ	307
17 Meters	PY2XU	278	Oceania	VK3GA	306
20 Meters	VE3VEE	303	South America	PY7ZZ	298

Top 3 Club Scores	
YB LAND INDONESIA	39003
RIO DX GROUP- BRAZIL	21784
CDR GROUP-BRAZIL	10229

Which logging programs support the Marathon?

***Any* logger that can generate ADIF log files** will work with AD1C's DX Marathon utility

Most loggers do not flag the extra 6 CQ/WAE entities by default (so keep your ears and eyes open!)

The **DXLabs suite** has a DX Marathon specific module and can generate the entry form directly

- See **www.dxlabsuite.com/dxkeeper/Help/Progress.htm** and **www.dxlabsuite.com/dxlabwiki/GenerateMarathonSubmission**

AD1C's DX Marathon utility

Fill in your station info

Describe your antenna/s (optional for Unlimited class)

Select your class, band and mode

Select your ADIF log file and blank form

Click Output to name your output file

Click Convert to generate your entry form

Free! Works with any logger!
ad1c.us/software/marathon

New Tool in Development
KI2D- Sebastian

Hints for a successful DX Marathon

- Work common countries throughout the year
- Track your progress (*e.g.* on Club Log), looking to fill all the 'easy' slots before the year ends
- Chase rare stations and DXpeditions keenly
- Double-check every callsign you log, *especially* DX!
  - Don't just trust DX spots!
- Update your logging program country database
- Preferentially claim QSOs that have been confirmed
- **?** ➡️ Use different QSOs to claim Zone and Country
- Check your entry form for simple errors
- Enter before the deadline!

Focus on a single band or mode to increase your chances of winning a plaque or certificate

Why Participate?

"For me, the Marathon is a great incentive to get on the air and work DX, even though I already have all entities confirmed, and have too many other fun activities to make a competitive effort. I'm very happy "running my own race" -- see if I can improve my results, add some Challenge band countries and digital contacts along the way, turn in a decent effort to support my local DX club's score, and keep the station running in top condition. I salute those of you who dedicate the time needed to compete for the awards!

Why do you participate in the Marathon? GL to all in 2023!"

73 Paula K9IR

Why Participate?

"I participate because it gives me a goal that keeps me operating all year round, but where I can also step away for a week or two and not miss much. I love contesting, but sometimes I try to get ready for one of the big ones only to have last minute change of plans because of family or work. With the Marathon it does not matter, as long as I keep working on it whenever I get a chance. It has driven me to improve my station, my setup, my operation workflow, my understanding of callsigns and zones, of dx clusters and propogation. I don't do it to win any of the categories. I'm far from being really competitive, but it might happen one day. And in the meantime, it's a great way to compete with myself and have a yardstick for continuous improvement."

KI2D Sebastian Delmont

DX Marathon resources

Visit the official website
www.dxmarathon.com

for the rules, country lists, helpful info, hints on bad spots and pirates, past scores, photos, all-time records and more

- **AD1C publishes useful info about the Marathon along with his ADIF conversion utility** ad1c.us/software/marathon

- **DXLabSuite has extensive help – valid even if you don't use DX Labs software** www.dxlabsuite.com

- **KI2D web-based tracking and submission tool** www.marathon.ham2k.net

- **Email- wc3w@dxmarathon.com**

- **USE OUR GROUP IO PAGE- Search "dxmarathon"**

Thank *you*!

Questions?

Email: wc3w@dxmarathon.com