
Despite some “opening night” glitches, the CQ DX Marathon will be run again in 2007, with a few minor rule changes.

Announcing:

The 2007 CQ DX Marathon

The second running of the new CQ DX Marathon begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2007, and runs through 2359 UTC on December 31, 2007. The goal is to work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the calendar year.

There are a couple of changes from the 2006 rules: First, the restriction on counting contacts made on 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters has been lifted (see sidebar, “2006 CQ DX Marathon,” for explanation). Second, there will be no scoring matrix, but rather a downloadable Microsoft Excel® template which may be filled in and e-mailed to a special address as your log entry. Here are the 2007 rules for the CQ DX Marathon:

hibited antennas to initially secure the contact. Use of spotting nets such as a DX Cluster® is allowed.

b. Unlimited: Any antenna may be used, along with any power level for which the operator is licensed. As in the Formula class, all contacts must be made without assistance of any sort, including but not limited to lists and passes. Use of spotting nets such as a DX Cluster® is allowed.

4. Scoring: Each country worked is worth one point. Each CQ zone worked is worth one point. The total score is the sum of zones and countries worked, on any mode and any authorized band. There are no multipliers of any kind. Each country and zone count only once.

If in the course of the year you work 238 countries and 37 zones, your score is 275. If you work all 40 zones and 150 countries, your score is 190. The CQ DX Countries List and the CQ Zone List constitute the official lists. In the case of ties, the operator whose last scoring contact was earlier chronologically will be judged the winner. Decisions of the Marathon Manager are final.

5. Submissions: Submissions must be made electronically, via e-mail to <scores@dxmarathon.com>. A Microsoft Excel® template into which contacts may be entered is available for download from the CQ DX Marathon website at <<http://www.dxmarathon.com>>. All scores must be received by

Rules, 2007 CQ DX Marathon

1. Activity period: The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long activity, beginning at 0000 UTC January 1 and ending at 2359 UTC December 31. Each year's event is separate.

2. Frequencies: Any authorized amateur frequency may be used. Contacts through repeaters or satellites are not allowed for credit. All contacts must be made entirely over amateur radio frequencies; i.e., Echolink-type contacts do not count.

3. Categories: All awards are for single operator only. There are two entry classes, “Formula” and “Unlimited.”

a. Formula: An entrant may choose one of two options in this class: (1) All contacts must be made with a maximum output power of 10 watts, regardless of band or mode; or, (2) the operator may run a maximum of 100 watts output to a simple antenna, such as a vertical or dipole (see the appendix for further rules on antennas used in this class). An operator in Formula Class must select either QRP or 100 watts and limited antennas at the beginning of the year's DX Marathon, and may not switch between entry modes during the year. All contacts must be made without assistance of any sort, including but not limited to lists, passes or use of higher power or pro-

The 2006 CQ DX Marathon

The new CQ DX Marathon was run in 2006 for the first time since 1948, and with that long a layover, some startup glitches were inevitable. When we announced the revival of the Marathon in 2005, we anticipated having an interactive matrix into which entrants could enter and submit their contacts. It never happened. Instead, what we have (also quite belatedly) is a Microsoft Excel® template which contestants may download from the official DX Marathon website at <<http://www.dxmarathon.com>>. Scores should then be submitted by e-mail to <scores@dxmarathon.com>. The scores box on the website will be updated as new logs are submitted. Comments and stories may be sent to <comments@dxmarathon.com>, and questions may be directed to CQ DX Marathon Manager John Sweeney, K9EL, at <info@dxmarathon.com>. Logs for 2006 must be submitted by February 28, 2007.

WARC Bands

The only real complaint we received from participants during the first year about the rules of the DX Marathon related to the exclusion of credit for contacts made on the so-called “WARC bands” (30, 17, and 12 meters) and 60 meters. When we first planned the Marathon, we didn't know whether activity would be spread across the year or would come in contest-like “clumps” at the beginning and end of the year.

Preferring to err on the side of caution, the 2006 rules did not permit contacts made on 60, 30, 17, or 12 meters to count toward an entrant's score, in keeping with the gentlemen's agreement to keep contests off of the “WARC bands.”

However, as the year played out, it became obvious that activity has been spread out in terms of both time and frequencies—more like what you'd see in going after a time-limited award than in a typical 48-hour contest. It turned out that we were denying credit for activity and contacts that were going to happen anyway, because some of the best DX of 2006 was on bands that didn't count for Marathon credit. Since the goal of this event is to encourage more activity, not to discourage it, we have decided to lift the band restrictions for 2007. All contacts on all bands (subject to limitations in Rule 2) will count toward your Marathon score in 2007.

Get Your Scores In!

Remember, you only have until February 28 to submit your logs/scores, and everybody starts over again from zero on January 1. We hope you had fun in the 2006 CQ DX Marathon and that you'll have even more fun in 2007 (now that we're a little better organized!). If you didn't participate last year, we look forward to your joining us in '07.

73 and Happy New Year—The CQ DX Marathon Committee

January 31 following the close of each DX Marathon.

6. Verification: QSLs are not required. The operator is expected to claim contacts only from stations the operator has every reason to believe are legitimate, and only to claim contacts in which an accurate two-way exchange was clearly accomplished (see Appendix for further explanation). Scores will be adjusted by the DX Marathon committee for claimed contacts with pirates or any station not considered legitimate. Submissions may be penalized or voided in cases of fraud or poor sportsmanship.

7. Clubs: Clubs are strongly encouraged to use the framework of this contest for intramural and regional competitions.

8. Claimed Scores: Competitors will be encouraged to post claimed scores to the DX Marathon Web page. These claims will be updated regularly, and may be published periodically in CQ magazine.

9. Results: The final listing of scores will be posted each year on the CQ website. In addition, CQ magazine will publish an annual summary of the winning scores and details.

10. Awards:

a. Certificates: Certificates will be issued to the winners from each CQ

zone and each CQ country. Where there is sufficient activity, additional certificates will be issued for other high scorers. In addition, downloadable certificates of participation will be made available to each participant. Other awards may be offered at the discretion of the DX Marathon committee.

b. Plaques: The CQ DX Marathon Committee anticipates that plaques will be given to major winners. Sponsors are solicited.

c. Special recognition: The CQ DX Marathon Committee is also examining the possibility of special prizes for DX stations that appear in the greatest number of submitted logs.

11. In all cases, the rulings of the CQ DX Marathon Committee and the CQ DX Marathon Manager are final.

Appendix:

a. Formula Class antennas: Antennas used in this category for operators choosing the 100-watt option must be either simple verticals or wire antennas lacking significant gain. No arrays are allowed, whether vertical or horizontal, nor are long wires exceeding 100 feet in length, except on 80 and 160 meters. Vertical antennas used must not be more than 33 feet higher than the station floor at their base, while dipoles or other wire antennas must not be more

than 60 feet above ground. Yagis, quads, or tower-mounted antennas (except wire antennas meeting the height limits above) may not be used in this category.

b. Operators selecting the 10-watt option are limited to antennas on a single tower whose height does not exceed 65 feet above ground elevation within 330 feet or 100 meters of the tower base. Wire antennas may also be used but must meet the criteria of the 100-watt option, and may be tower-supported at only one point.

c. Contacts: The DX Marathon Committee believes that each contact for a claimed country or zone must be a solid contact. The station claiming a contact with another station is expected to have had his or her callsign fully and accurately received and transmitted by the other station, and to have copied his/her own call being correctly sent by the other station. For example, K2MGA may not claim credit for a QSO with a DX station who had his call as K3MGA, even though in many cases the DX station would QSL the contact with the correction made (after receiving a card from K2MGA, realizing the error and correcting his/her log). For a contact to count, both stations must correctly copy all of both callsigns.
