2019 VHF Superconference
ARRL Contest Update

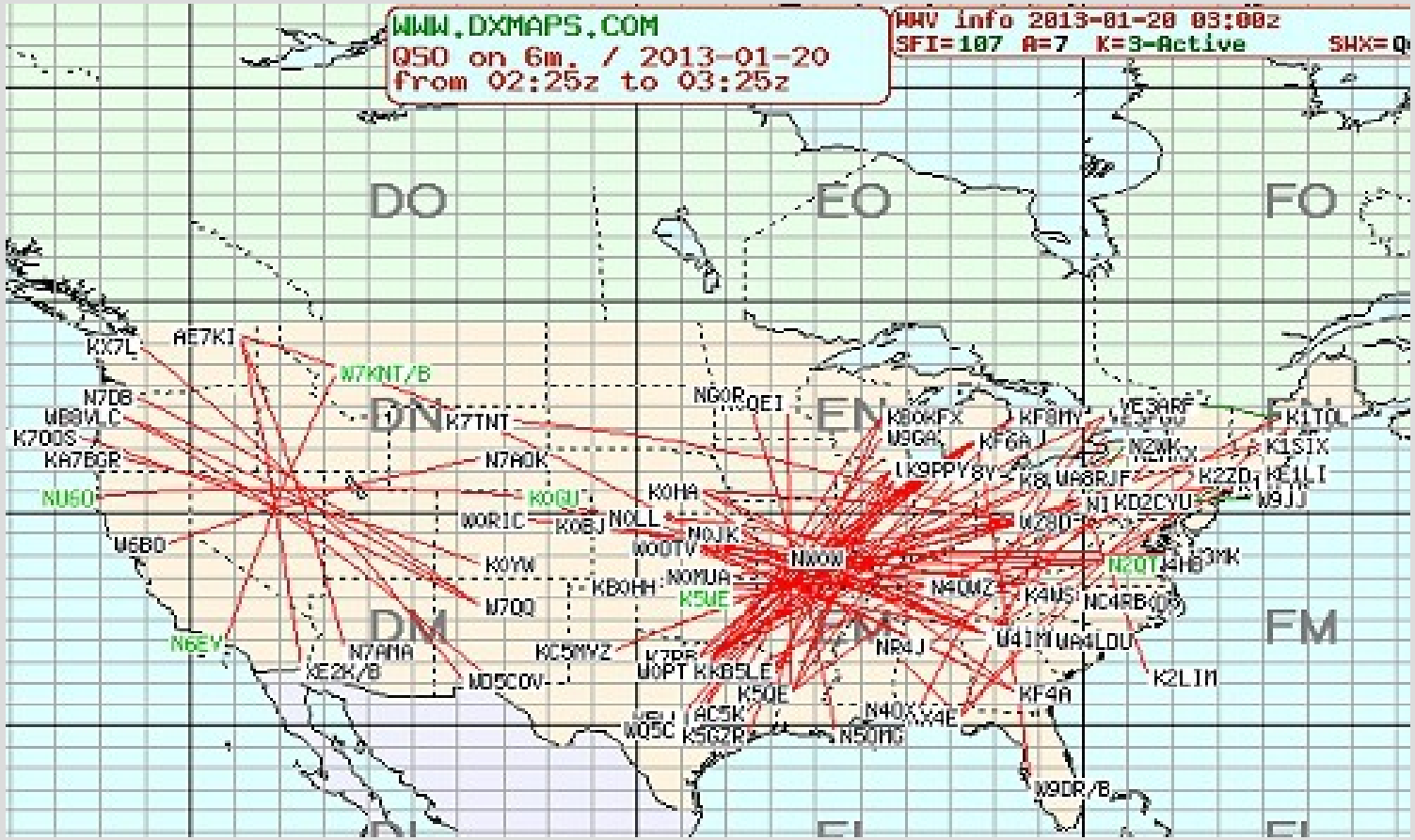

Image Courtesy dxmaps.com

By

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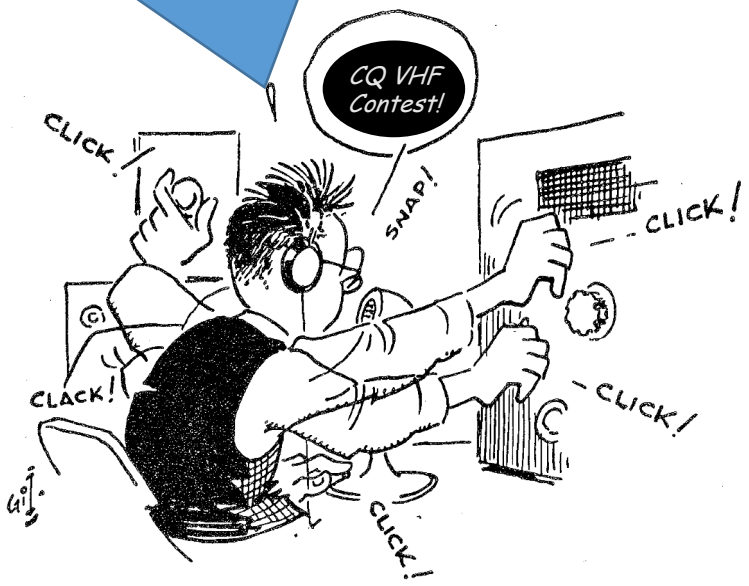
ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager

April 2019

What's the benefit of Contesting?

- **Promote** on-the-air activity
- **Push the boundaries** of propagation
- **Challenge** ourselves to build and improve
- Provide and encourage **competition**
- **Strengthen** our readiness for public service
- **Use** our valuable allocations
- **Enhance** international goodwill
- Have **fun** on the air!

VHF Contesting:
Okay, we will go next to 902, then 10 Gigs, then 1296, then 5760 …
HF was way easier!



World's Largest Radiosport Program

14 Primary Contests

* Plaques Awarded
\+ Gavels Awarded

1. January - RTTY Roundup * +
2. January - VHF Contest +
3. February - International DX Contest, CW * +
4. March - International DX Contest, Phone * +
5. June - VHF Contest * +
6. July - IARU HF World Championship
7. 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest +
8. August/September – 10 GHz & Up Contest
9. September - VHF Contest +
10. September/October/November – EME Contest
11. November - Sweepstakes, CW * +
12. November - Sweepstakes, Phone * +
13. December – 160 Meter Contest +
14. December – 10 Meter Contest +

9 other operating events

1. January - Straight Key Night
2. January - Kids Day
3. February - School Club Roundup
4. April - Rookie Roundup – Phone
5. June - Kids Day
6. June - Field Day (not a contest)
7. August - Rookie Roundup – RTTY
8. October - School Club Roundup
9. December - Rookie Roundup– CW

❖ *Plaques are available to be sponsored for the June VHF and other contests (see events at left with an asterisk). Cost is $75 each. Contact the ARRL Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org if interested.*

Did you submit your log?

Choices…

- Upload your Cabrillo-format log to the online web app

  contest-log-submission.arrl.org (support now for 10 GHz and EME)



- Mail your paper log to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111
  (*except for the 222 & Up Distance Scoring Contest)



What happened after your log was received?

- Email or web submission returns a **confirmation number** based on the receipt date and time (a number that increments upwards).
- The **acknowledgement** header summarizes your entry category.
- The **acknowledgement** reports any apparent format errors. (No QSOs are checked during log submission.)

READ YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS!!!!

- But what if your log is reported to have formatting errors?
  - **Review** your header and/or the QSO line errors if any right away
  - **Edit** your log in a text editor (e.g. *Notepad*), then SAVE your changes
  - **Re-upload** your edited log (if emailed, the SUBJECT must always begin with your call sign)
  - Your new, higher confirmation number supersedes earlier submission numbers
  - The new log overrides all previous submissions and will be used for log checking

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: <unreplyable@arrl.org>
Date: Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 11:59 AM
Subject: W9JJ
To: bjahnke@gmail.com

Congratulations, you've successfully uploaded your ARRL January VHF Contest contest log. Your confirmation number is
4405393.arrl-vhf-jan **YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER**

If you'd like to add soapbox comments associated with your entry, please use the following link:
http://contests.arrl.org/contestsoapbox.php?call=w9jj&id=4405393.arrl-vhf-jan **NEW – SOAPBOX COMMENTS LINK**

Thank you for entering the contest and submitting your log via the ARRL's web form. Please review the information listed below and, if necessary, resubmit your log to make any corrections. If you have any questions about your log, please contact the Contest section at contests@arrl.org.

Analysis of your uploaded log:
Contest: ARRL-VHF-JAN
Call Sign: W9JJ
Category: Single Operator, 3 Band
Operator: SINGLE-OP - Created from: Number of operators question (Answer: Only one)
Mode: MIXED
Power: LOW - Created from Highest power question (Answer: 50/144: 100W or less, 222/432: N/A, 902 up: N/A)
Band: VHF-3-BAND
Transmitter: ONE
Station: FIXED
Location: CT
Club: North East Weak Signal Group - Created from club question
E-mail: bjahnke@gmail.com
QSOs in Log: 65
Confirmation: **4405393.arrl-vhf-jan** **YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER AGAIN**

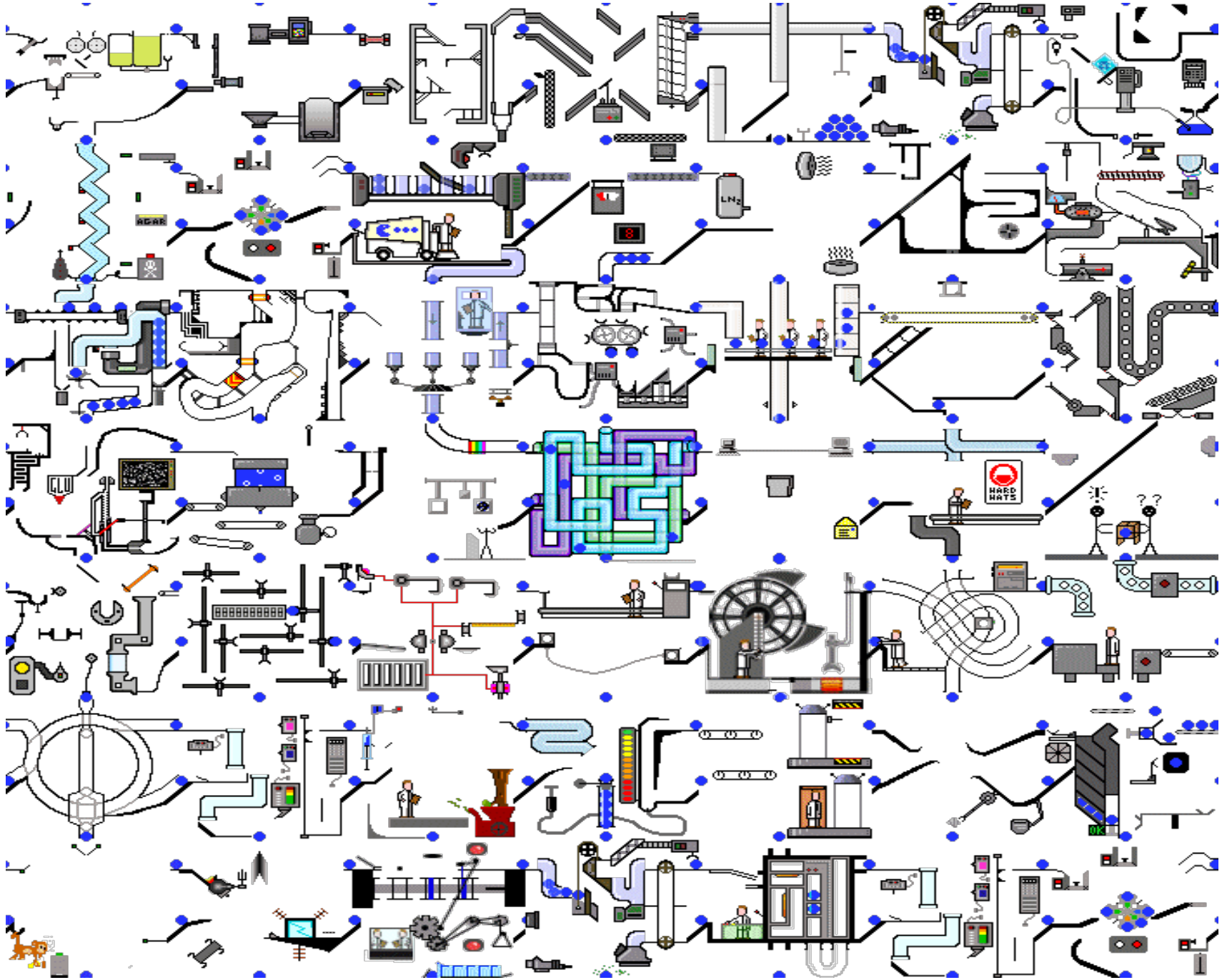
Log received at: 2019-01-21 16:59:33 UTC

Then what happens?

- Your Web App or Robot entry is listed on the ARRL Logs Received Page:
  - www.arrl.org/logs-received
  - Select the event and view the list of logs received - sorted by call sign.

- Once the log deadline is reached, work behind the scenes begins:
  - Electronic logs are sent to the log checker for the respective contest.
  - Paper logs are entered into a database file for appending to our Master Data Base.

Here is what that process looks like…


AGAR
LN2
HARD HATS
OK

What do the log checkers do?

Log checkers analyze and cross-check all logs against each other.

In simplest terms, they are checking for:

- Broken calls
- Bad exchanges
- Not in log
- Incorrect band or mode
- Verify that correct date or times are reported (time within reason)

  [Beginning with 2019 September VHF, during Log-Checking, QSO-time matches must be within 10 minutes]

- Exceed event hours or band change limits (HF)

Then what happens?

- Results data (scores, QSOs, multipliers, and more) is sent back to ARRL to be added to the Contests - Master Database.
- Contest results tables are generated: Top Ten, Regional Leaders, Continental Winners, Division Winners, Club Competition
- Tables are sorted by each category: Single-Op (High / Low power), Single-Op Portable, FM-Only, 3-Band, Rover / Limited Rover / Unlimited Rover; Limited Multioperator and Unlimited Multioperator. Some events have Assisted / Non-Assisted (eg Unlimited) Categories.
- Tables and the results data are forwarded to the Contest Results Author(s)

Next – full results are published online & summarized in *QST*!

Who's behind the curtain?

For each contest, outside authors create the *QST* and online results. You have seen their names in *QST*, and you have worked them on the bands. But here's their names by event (Author/Editor):

- January - RTTY Roundup – Jeff Stai WK6I / Ward Silver NØAX
- January - VHF Contest – James Duffy KK6MC / Doug Grant K1DG
- February/October – School Club Roundup – Lew Malchick N2RQ / Ward Silver NØAX
- February - International DX Contest, CW – Charlie Caroll, K1XX / Kelly Taylor VE4XT
- March - International DX Contest, Phone – Charlie Caroll, K1XX / Kelly Taylor VE4XT
- April/August/December – Rookie Roundup (online scoring by Bruce Horn WA7BNM)
- June - VHF QSO Party – Phil Koch, K3UA / Ward Silver NØAX
- July – IARU HF Championship – Bob Raymond, WA1Z / Doug Grant K1DG
- August/September – 10 GHz & Up Contest – Jeff Wadsworth KI5WL / Ward Silver NØAX
- September - VHF QSO Party – Ralph "Gator" Bowen, N5RZ / Ward Silver NØAX
- September/October/November – EME Contest – Rick Rosen K1DS / Ward Silver NØAX
- November - Sweepstakes, CW – Kelly Taylor VE4XT / Ward Silver NØAX
- November - Sweepstakes, Phone – Bruce Draper AA5B and Scott Davis K5TA / Ward Silver NØAX
- December – 160 Meter Contest – Mark Beckwith, N5OT / Doug Grant K1DG
- December – 10 Meter Contest – Scott Tuthill K7ZO / Ward Silver NØAX

When you see the above contributors at conferences, hamfests, DX or HF conventions, please consider thanking them extraordinary work they do behind the scenes to provide these great write-ups in *QST* and on the ARRL web!

More unsung heros:

You've also heard these folks in the contests, and have seen their names in print as well, but honorable mention is deserved to these extraordinary contest branch contributors and volunteers:

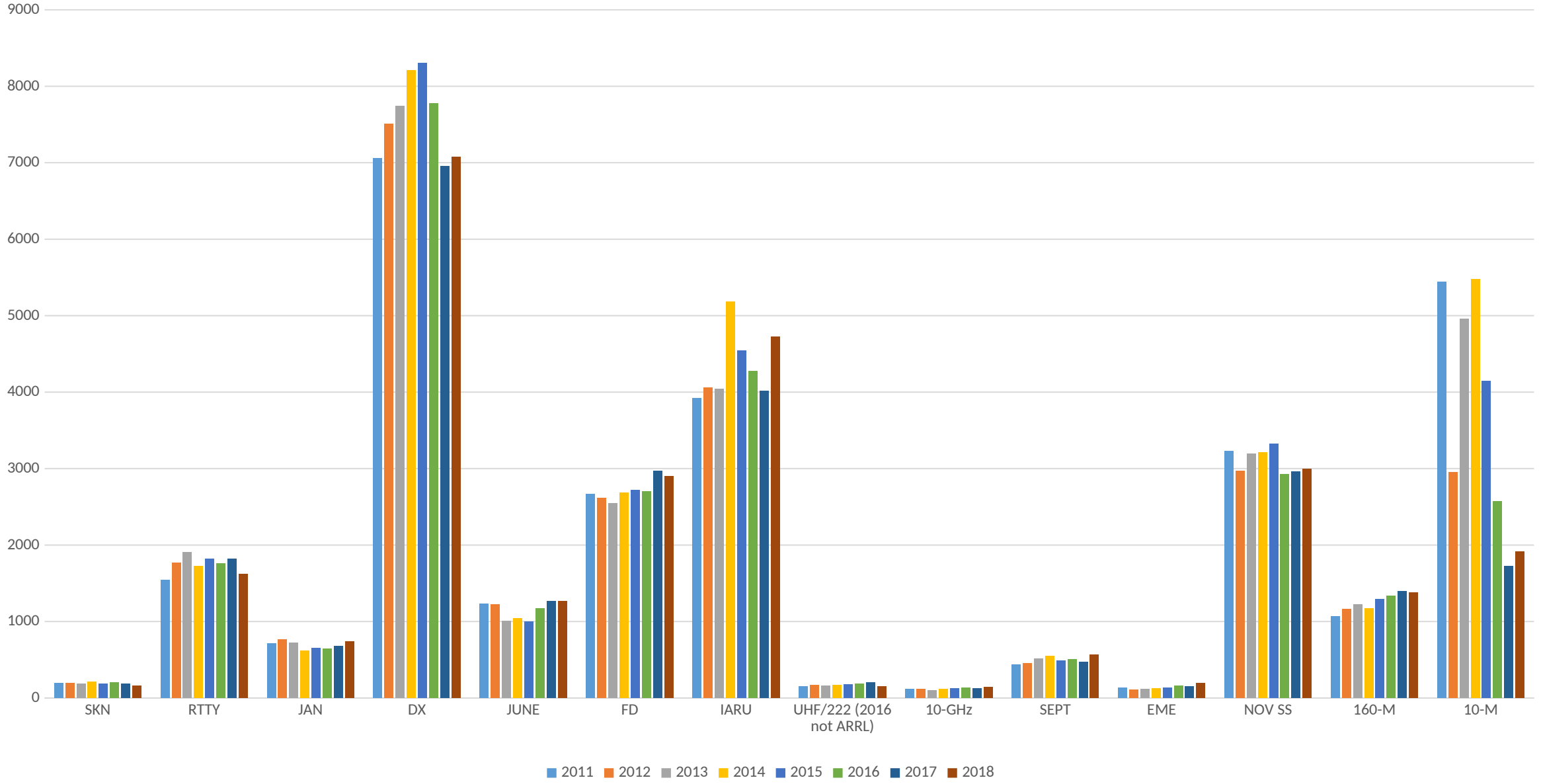
- Ward Silver NØAX - in addition to writing a bounty of material for *QST* and other ARRL Publications, including the contest results editing mentioned earlier, what you may not know is that for many years Ward has helped Contest Branch Managers orchestrate the complex ebb and flow of contest data, log checking, and results authoring and editing.
- Trey Garlough N5KO and Bruce Horn WA7BNM – Trey is the man behind the scenes for the robot operations, while Bruce has created the web app for uploading logs. Bruce also hosts the ARRL event web pages for Frequency Measuring Tests and Rookie Roundup.
- Brian Moran N9ADG handles the Contest Update and Bruce Draper AA5B handles Contest Corral
- We'll withhold the names, but we deeply appreciate the volunteer efforts our volunteer log checkers, and volunteer paper-log entry folks.
- And we have our contest staff assistant Kathy Allison (KA1RWY) who not only assists with contest processes but also do yeoman duty in the LoTW, DXCC and Awards programs!

Please thank these folks - when you see them in person, have email exchanges with them, or hear them on the air - for the tireless efforts of these contributors to our contest community!

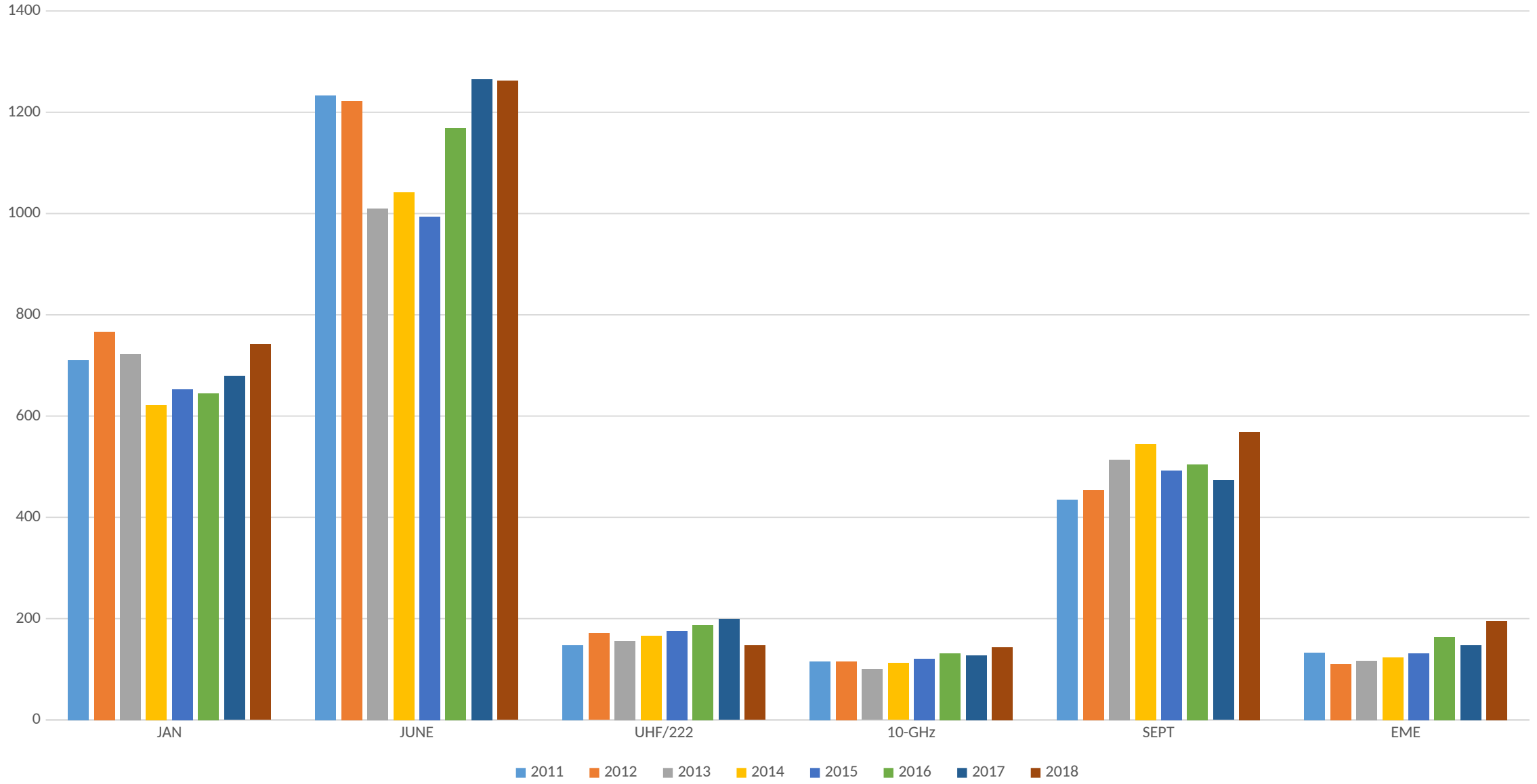
The end is near – Awards!

- Preparations for the next running of the event begins at HQ!
- Several weeks after *QST* hits the street and the ARRL web shares its bounty regarding each contest, while each participant is giving deep thought to what can be done differently or better the next time, ARRL is taking the next step - certificates and plaques!
  - For each category winner, ***now ON-LINE*** certificates are generated and for participants. Go to http://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php to see how many you have access to!
  - EME – in addition to category and band winners, everyone participating in the EME Contest also gets a certificate.
  - Plaques are ordered for category winners for which a plaque has been sponsored.
  - Club competition Gavels are ordered once per year for all events.

All Events - Contest Activity (Logs) Reported to ARRL 2011-2018



VHF + Contest Activity (Logs) Reported to ARRL 2011-2018



Three Keys to Contest Success

1. Get on the air!
2. Have fun!
3. Send in your contest logs!

Keep your logs coming after each event…



Go with the flow!

Whether Single-op





or Multi-op

Or even Rover



Keep those logs coming, and *Good Luck in the Contests!*

Thank you!