

## Results:

# 2008 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,\* K9EL

In spite of no (or very few) sunspots for most of 2008, the 2008 CQ DX Marathon was anything but quiet! Competition this time was very fierce, and for the first time the top two finishers had identical scores. Overall participation was up 10% over 2007, and the total number of countries available to work was up three (298/295), although the winning score was actually one point less than the 2007. A total of 191 scores were submitted, representing 39 countries, up from 2007's 34 countries. We especially thank all of our first-time participants for submitting scores.

The Unlimited Class continues to be most popular, with 68% of the participants, which was up slightly from 2007. Competition in the top tier is always tough and in 2008, 27 people (14%) finished within 10% of the winning score, significantly up from 2007. The top 10% represents 11 countries on four different continents, so geographical location clearly is not a significant factor in the DX Marathon.

As the DX Marathon becomes more popular, more unique entries are submitted and 2008 was no exception. The top CW-only score was 292 and was once again submitted by W4VQ, while OZ1ADL took top SSB-only honors with a score of 281. Other interesting submissions include: top 20-meter-only score – 200 (RU3SE); top 160-meter-only score – 197 (LY5W); top mobile score – 189 (JA7OXR); top 10-watt score – 191 (W8QZA); top all-digital score – 161 (GU0SUP); top 15-meter-only score – 139 (JH7RTQ); and top 6-meter-only score – 62 (M1DUD).

Each DX Marathon score sheet must be checked for errors

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Anatoly Pivovarov, UY0MM, from Lisichansk, Ukraine in his shack with his Formula Class winner's plaque for the 2007 DX Marathon.

and use of the official electronic form speeds checking. We encourage the use of electronic tools, such as the DX4WIN DX Marathon tool by AD1C, which automatically populates the DX Marathon score sheet directly from a DX4WIN log. Use of these tools minimizes manual entry, which often causes minor errors. Each score sheet must be thoroughly checked for possible errors, and each year several participants lose points due to simple errors such as missing a let-



Drago Grabner, E73F (ex-T94GB), from Jajce, Bosnia-Herzegovina with his Formula Class winner's plaque for the 2006 DX Marathon.

### Sergey Bugaev, UA3QUO Formula Class Winner

Sergey was born in the Ukraine in 1957 and moved to Russia in 1977. He was licensed in 1983 as UA3QUO. Sergey has a son who is also licensed, RX3QVM. Sergey has worked 289 countries with 277 confirmed. He uses a Kenwood TS570 and a delta loop antenna.

### Club Challenges

Are you enjoying this year's 2009 DX Marathon? Want to add some additional fun to your DXing? Start a Club DX Marathon Challenge!

As an example, the Northern Arizona DX Association has challenged the Central Arizona DX Association to a group effort working the CQ DX Marathon for 2009. They want to get their members radio active and establish a friendly competition. Bob, KF7E, is suggesting that the NADXA put its 10 best club performances for 2009 against the 10 best from CADXA. The winning club would receive a token gift or homebrew trophy (I can only imagine what it will look like!). Clubs can set their own rules, except that all scores must be official DX Marathon scores as published in CQ magazine.

## Results 2008 DX Marathon

(Any comments appear beneath the line score of the entrant)

Call	Class	Countries	Zones	Score										
<b>OM3EY</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>328</b>										
<b>Winner Unlimited Class</b>														
W9KNI	U	288	40	328	K1SND	U	208	40	248	WA4JUK	U	137	33	170
WK3N	U	287	40	327	W4CU	U	210	38	248	W0RIC	U	137	31	168
K8NA	U	286	40	326	K7ACZ	U	209	38	247					All SSB
K8SIX	U	283	40	323	I2WIJ	U	206	40	246	DK8JB	U	133	33	166
W1JR	U	283	40	323	LX1ER	F	209	37	246					All 20m SSB
OZ7YY	U	279	40	319	VE1WT	U	206	39	245	CE3PG	U	137	28	165
YT5Z	U	278	40	318	W9OA	U	206	39	245	BV4VR	U	133	31	164
ON4ON	U	274	40	314	DL4CW	F	206	38	244	WA2VQV	F	134	28	162
N0FW	U	272	40	312	N0RB	U	207	37	244	GU0SUP	U	127	34	161
UY0MM	U	272	40	312	E72U	F	205	38	243					All Digital
PP5EG	U	268	40	308	WC5M	U	204	39	243	W3ZGD	U	130	31	161
AA4S	U	266	40	306	N3CU	F	204	38	242	E71DX	F	131	28	159
K6TA	U	266	40	306	K3MSB	U	197	40	237	W7ABC	U	126	33	159
SM5DJZ	U	266	40	306	DJ9ZB	F	197	39	236	NC4MI	U	128	30	158
W0HT	U	266	40	306	W3GQ	U	199	37	236					All SSB
W4QN	U	265	40	305	VU2PTT	U	196	38	234	KT7G	U	126	31	157
WT8C	U	265	40	305	JN3SAC	U	195	38	233	W4KS	U	128	29	157
N8BR	U	264	40	304	K8UT	U	193	38	231	AA5JG	F	123	32	155
K3KO	U	262	40	302	VK6ARA	U	196	35	231	K9DDO	U	127	28	155
ON5SY	U	261	40	301	ZL2IFB	U	192	39	231	KE4PT	F	128	26	154
LX1EA	U	260	39	299	WA6JRZ	U	190	39	229					Indoor antenna
5B4AHJ	U	258	40	298	VK3FM	U	191	37	228	OM3TLE	F	121	33	154
JA0DAI	U	258	40	298	KS1Y	U	187	40	227	AA4FU	F	124	28	152
K4UTE	U	258	40	298	K8SM	U	186	40	226					All CW
SM6CNN	U	257	40	297	WA1Z	U	188	38	226	KC3RT	F	120	29	149
PT7VB	U	255	40	295	PY2IQ	U	187	38	225	NT0F	U	121	28	149
N1BAA	U	254	40	294	E73F	F	183	35	218	W4PFM	F	120	28	148
W1SKU	U	254	40	294	K8CQ	F	181	35	216	DH5MM	F	116	31	147
IW0HOU	U	253	40	293	LU5VV	U	177	38	215	AD1C	F	116	30	146
AA4SC	U	252	40	292	WA2SEI	U	179	35	214	KD4SM	F	116	29	145
K0XB	U	252	40	292	W9OA/9	U	170	40	210	OP4A	U	116	26	142
W4VQ	U	252	40	292	OK1BA	F	172	37	209	EA8MQ	U	130	11	141
					PY2SEX	U	171	37	208	JA1NLX	F	108	33	141
					W3OA	U	173	35	208					10 watts
					K3XO	U	166	39	205	ON6LY	F	113	28	141
					K9UQN	U	170	35	205	JH7RTQ	F	106	33	139
					SM7BHM	U	169	35	204					All 15m
					K4WY	F	160	40	200	N4QVM	U	112	26	138
					RU3SE	F	164	36	200	EA8DD	F	111	26	137
														All SSB
														All 20m
					W9ILY	U	169	31	200	PY1SX	F	112	25	137
					K3JT	U	163	35	198	G6OKU	F	101	25	126
					K3NK	U	163	35	198	YO9CWY	F	97	26	123
					LY5W	U	157	40	197	ON3AD	F	100	21	121
														All 160m
					K6TTT	F	159	34	193					10 watts
					PA0MIR	U	155	38	193	K2BBQ	F	93	25	118
					W8QZA	F	158	33	191	W2GHD	F	93	24	117
														All Digital
					JA7OXR	F	151	38	189	N6DIT	F	86	27	113
														All SSB
					KS1J	U	156	33	189	VA3RNJ	F	90	23	113
					YB1TJ	U	151	37	188	EB3FLY	F	94	18	112
														All Mobile
					All SSB					M0OKT	F	84	21	105
					BX4AQ	F	150	35	185	VU2LBW	U	75	24	99
					PY6HD	U	148	35	183	ON70REDSTAR	U	75	23	98
					W4DTA	U	149	34	183	OO9O	F	72	23	95
					N1AM	F	152	29	181	VE3MCF	F	70	20	90
					K8AO	U	147	33	180	W4DDR	F	64	19	83
					V51YJ	U	145	35	180	W2VU	F	66	16	82
					NU4I	F	147	32	179					All SSB
					W1CDX	U	144	35	179	KW0U	F	57	23	80
					NU4B	F	148	29	177					All 20m SSB
										ON7SS	F	64	16	80
					G4MUL	F	144	31	175	W9KVR	F	51	20	71
					JA3HZT	F	142	33	175	WB9TFH	U	50	20	70
					VK6HG	F	140	33	173	KP4BT	F	50	18	68
					KD8GOX	U	139	33	172	PY5WH	F	44	19	63
					LY3BY	U	137	35	172	M1DUD	F	55	7	62
					N7WO	U	137	35	172					All 10watts & 6m
										EA4BBB	F	35	10	45
					OK1BLU	F	141	31	172					5 watts
					ON6FC	F	138	32	170	KC9NIY	F	20	14	34
										N4QX	U	17	12	29
										N2TDT	F	17	8	25

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## Eduard Melcer, OM3EY Unlimited Class Winner

Eduard has been an active operator since 1969 when he was first licensed as OK3TCA. He later upgraded to OK3EY and then OM3EY. Eduard, 63, is a retired cargo-ship captain and made many trips up and down the Danube River visiting many countries along the way. He has many DX awards and his favorite band is 160 meters. However, he is active on all bands with an FT-1000MP and homebrew 1-kw amp. He also uses an IC-756PRO. His antenna farm includes mono band Yagis for the 28, 24, 21, and 18 MHz bands 18 meters high, and a 6-element 14 MHz Yagi 22 meters high. On 10 and 7 MHz, Eduard uses slopers. A 29-meter high vertical is used for 3.5/1.8, along with a K9AY receiving system.



Eduard Melcer, OM3EY, from the Slovak Republic in his shack.



The antenna system of Eduard Melcer, OM3EY, Unlimited Class winner of the 2008 DX Marathon.

ter in the callsign. Electronic tools virtually eliminate those errors. In addition, if your logging program has an up-to-date country and zone file, you will eliminate the majority of the country and zone errors that show up each year.

Once again, the largest single error that caused many participants to lose points was incorrect submissions for Zone 2.<sup>1</sup> Nearly 10% of all Zone 2 submissions contained callsigns of stations that were not in Zone 2. A list of known good Zone 2 stations will be published on the DX Marathon website for use in 2009. Check your Zone 2 submission carefully! Another significant reduction in 2008 was for stations submitting YA contacts. The majority of the stations operating in Afghanistan do not have official permission. In 2008, only contacts with YA4F and T61AA were valid for YA credit. In addition, a few stations lost points for contacts with pirate stations. There are many resources available on the internet to check out callsigns that seem suspicious.

A total of 298 countries and all 40 zones were available in 2008 for a maximum possible score of 335 points. For 2008 we had two winning entries: Both OM3EY and W9KNI finished the 2008 Marathon with the top score of 328! Since the scores were identical, we had to use one of the lesser-known DX Marathon rules to select the winner: "In case of ties, the operator whose last scoring contact was earlier chronologically will be judged the winner." W9KNI logged his last country on December 28th, while OM3EY logged his last country on December 21st, so OM3EY is our 2008 DX Marathon winner! Eduard has been runner-up the last two years, and we thank him for his strong support of the DX Marathon. Congratulations to both OM3EY and W9KNI for their top scores!

In the Formula class, UA3QUO had the top score of 254, followed by HA1CW at 251 and LX1ER at 246. The top 10% of the scores represented six countries, five of which were in Europe. The Formula class has a much higher percentage of non-USA participants. This year, the DX Marathon judges studied the antenna types of all Formula Class submissions and several entries were changed to Unlimited Class. Please read the DX Marathon rules very carefully to make sure your antenna qualifies your submission for Formula class.

The plaques for the winners in both classes for the 2006 and 2007 DX Marathons are now in the winners' hands, and we want to acknowledge the support of the Northern Illinois DX Association for sponsoring the DX Marathon plaques.

#### Note

1. Zone 2 includes VO2 (Labrador), the portion of VE2 Quebec north of the 50th parallel, and Nunavut Territories east of 102 degrees (includes the islands of King Christian, King William, Prince of Wales, Somerset, Bathurst, Devon, Ellesmere, Baffin,

and the Melville and Boothia Peninsulas, excluding Akimiski Island, Bear Islands, and East Pen Island in Hudson Bay).

#### QRM

I love the contest! ... **W8QZA (QRP)**. I was not able to make my goal of 200 points this year but there is always 2009 ... **N1AM**. This is a great initiative that will keep the operators doing DX forever. I will participate every single year ... **PY2SEX**. The Marathon is gaining in popularity. Please add state winners ... **W8LU**. Suggest rules for all CQ contests encourage DX Marathon participation ... **DK8JB**. As a disabled amateur, the Marathon gave me something to look forward to each and every

#### Robert Locher, W9KNI Unlimited Class Runner-Up



Bob Locher, W9KNI, from Grant's Pass, Oregon, USA in his shack.

Bob has been licensed since 1956 and been active ever since, mostly on CW. He has written several books on DXing, is the founder of Idiom Press, and co-founder of Bencher, Inc. Bob was raised in Iowa but soon moved to Chicago, where he lived for 30 years. He now resides in Oregon, where he cultivates antennas. Bob uses an Elecraft K3 as his main rig with multiple Yagis for antennas. Bob was also one of the "guiding lights" behind the re-establishment of the CQ DX Marathon in 2006.



The antenna system of Bob Locher, W9KNI, Unlimited Class runner-up of the 2008 DX Marathon.

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day in 2008 ... **WK3N**. My score isn't the highest, but earned entirely on an indoor antenna! You can do pretty well with modest equipment. Please keep the rules as they are now ... **KE4PT**. I am amazed what can be worked at the bottom of the cycle ... **KD8GOX**. Rough year with far fewer zones in the log than last year but pretty good performance considering no sunspots ... **K4WY**. Minimum activity this year but will be more involved next year ... **PP5EG/PY5EG**. Was a fun exercise. Thanks for the event and here's to better bands in 2009 ... **KW0U**. First time entering. Interesting to see how I did throughout the year ... **KC3RT**. CQ Marathon is wonderful competition! See you in the next Marathon ... **IK5PWQ**. It was fun and I hope to get in the top ten. Please consider an award by state ... **K8SIX**. Just started a week before Christmas. My score was better than I thought ... **DJ2PJ**. Enjoyed the Marathon and looking forward to the 2009 Marathon ... **AA5JG**. It was a lot of work and propagation did not help much ... **I0MOM**. All QSOs worked while mobile ... **JA7OXR**. My score is low but I used less than 5 watts and only on 50 MHz ... **M1DUD**. It was fun and got me back in front of the rig ... **WB9EEE**. 2007 was a far better year! Next year I will fill in the 2009 sheet as I go ... **N6AR**. It was a good year in spite of my rain gutter and flag pole antennas which continue to amaze me. Finished with 216 although I had hopes for 225 ... **K8CQ**. My score is not high but I thank those who take to the air with key, microphone, or sound card ... **N4QX**. Who says that we need sunspots to work DX? Great fun and challenging. Leave the rules as they are ... **W4QN**. Really enjoyed the Marathon this year. Thanks for providing the incentive in this time of low solar flux ... **G4MUL**. I didn't do as well this year as in the past ... **W4VQ**. Enjoyed it with the new call ... **KG8P**. A rather poor year but all QSOs were on RTTY ... **GU0SUP**. It wasn't a great year for me ... **K7UA**. Had a blast working DX ... **KD8GOX**. Congratulations on this enjoyable contest ... **LX1ER**. First year participating. Allows "newbies" to become involved without the time pressures of a weekend contest ... **W9KVR**. Thanks for keeping my interest growing ... **VE1WT**. My last three scores of 248, 240, and now 248 again convincingly argue that the bottom of the sunspot cycle was 2007 ... **W4CU**. Just started in late December. Will chase more in 2009 ... **LU5VV**. This year my Zone 2 claim is OK! ... **I2WIJ**. Most QSOs were made in contests ... **YO9CWY**. Only ran 5 watts ... **ON3AD**. I did not have as much time this year, but thank you for the trophy for 2006 Formula Class ... **E73F (ex-T94GB)**. Fantastic year for working DX in spite of a non-cooperative sun. Next year should be even better ... **N8BR**.

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Picture is an artistic rendition to show the entire antenna.