



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 VHF - UHF - μ W Newsletter

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IARU ATV contest 2016

Thanks to the good work of Chris PA3CRX, the VERON had already published the results of the ATV contest on the IARU-R1 website. You can find it here:

http://www.iaru-r1.org/images/VHF/atv/IARU_ATV_results_2016.pdf

Chris also made an analysis of the contest and you can find his comments here:

Dear ATV operator,

Many stations joined the IARU ATV activity weekend/contest in June.

I especially call it 'activity weekend' since it is that for the majority of the participants the most important reason to join. To have the highest score is for most of us not important. In fact, not everyone and every country have the same possibilities to reach the highest score due to:

- different authorisation of band usage,
- different troposphere conditions,
- flat country or with mountains,
- path over sea,
- difference in antenna allowance,
- possibility to go portable,
- etc.

However, the activity should be all about joining and having fun! The other purpose is to stimulate ATV activity, experimenting, showing our presence on the bands; 'use it or loose it'.

This is very well understood by countries that joined and sent in their logs for this activity weekend (again): welcome to Sweden and Germany.

Highlights:

- 70 cm band is hot.
- Enormous distances!
- D-ATV is also upcoming, even with reduced bandwidth (RB).
- Use of TVsharp is increased.
- Several portable stations,
- Some stations make contacts on one band, others on five.

The number of stations that sent in their logs:

- in 2014: 33,
- in 2015: 42,
- In 2016 it is **52!**

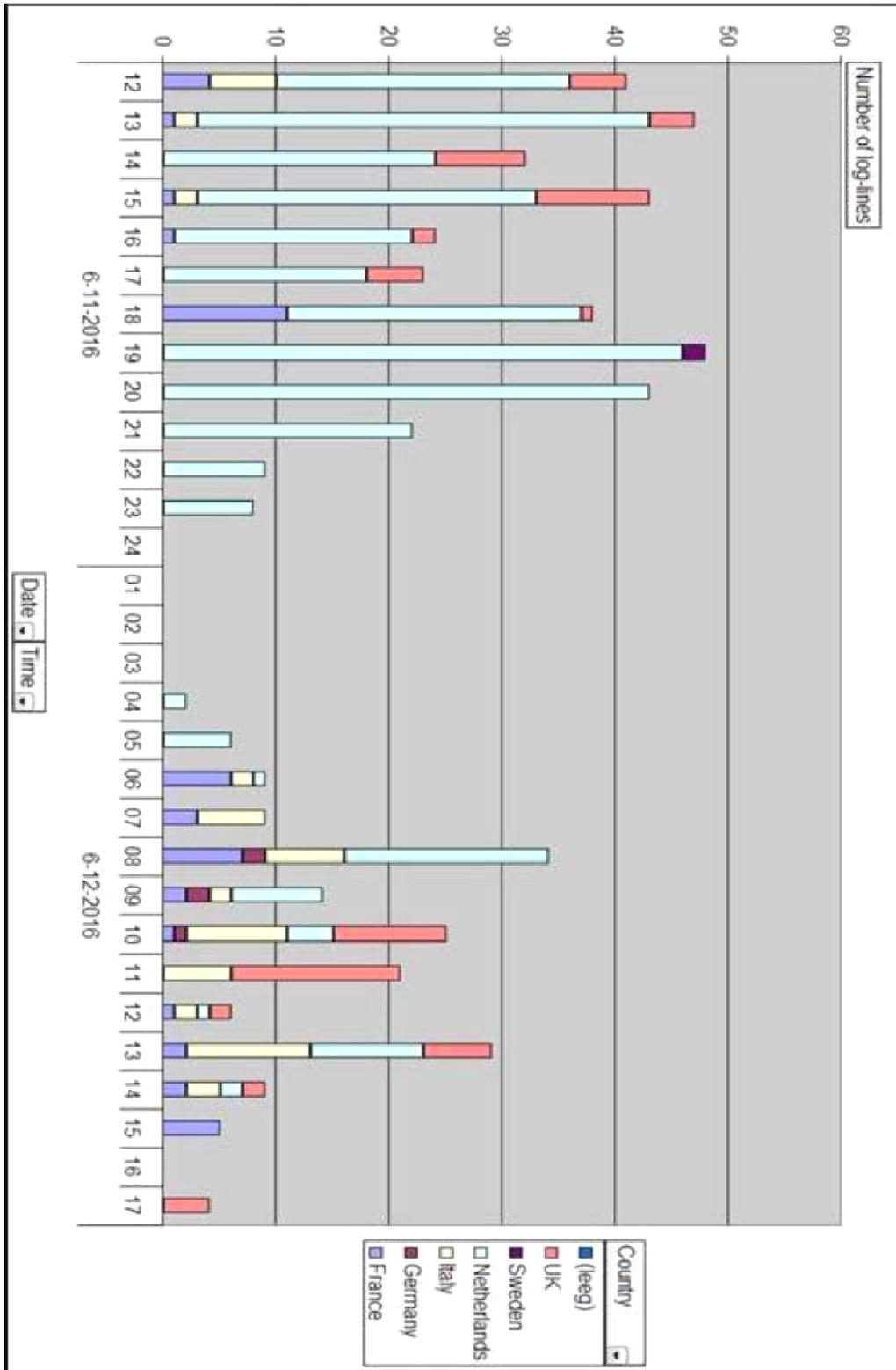
We should consider this as a promise for next year; Spain already promised me they will join next year also.

In total - 551 lines in the logs.

Duration of the contest

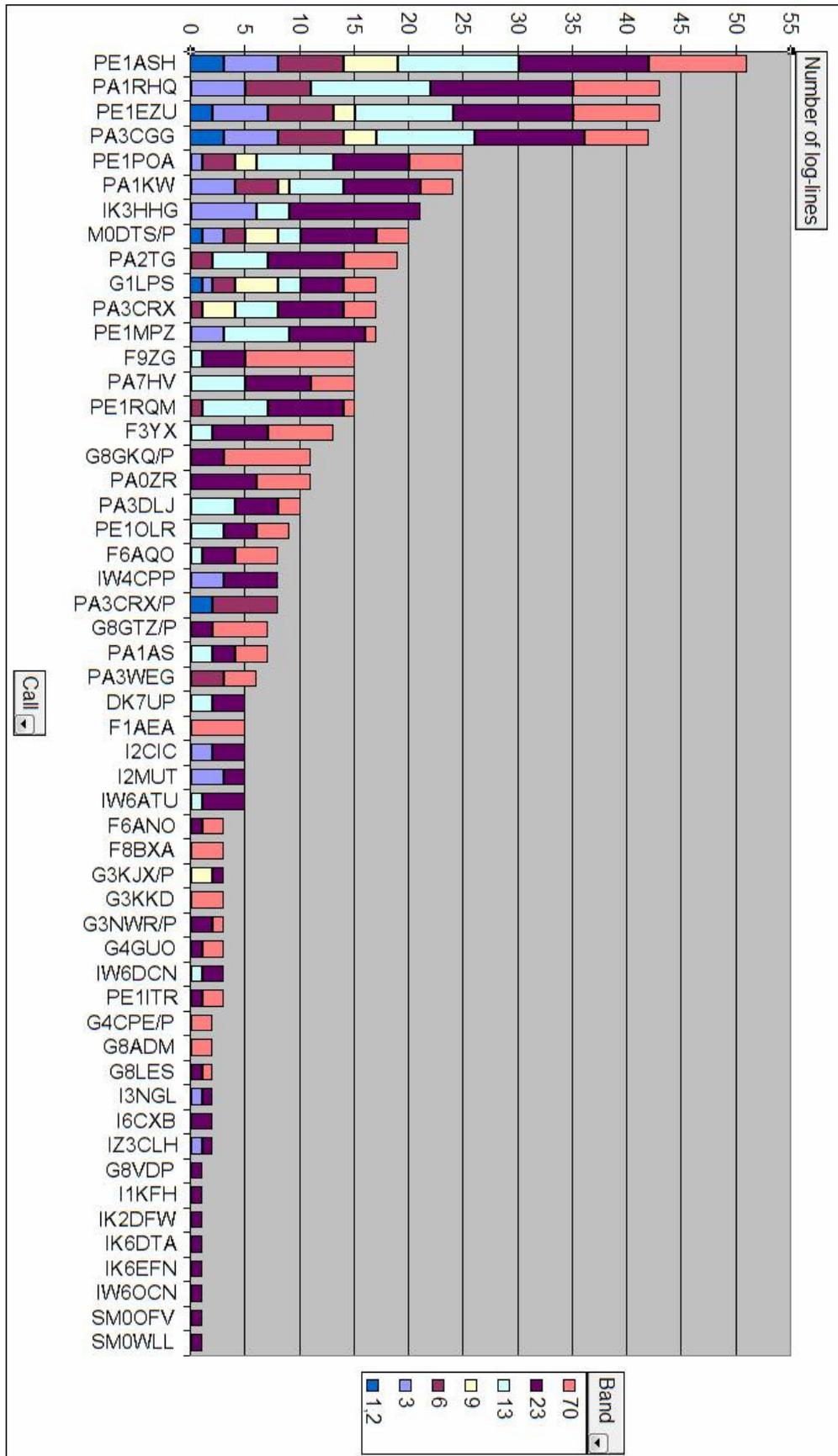
Some stations wonder if the time period is too long. I investigated when stations in what country are active - the impression is in the following graph. (Keep in mind that if a log is received from both stations of a contact, of course the contact contains two log-lines with the same time).

Five portable stations ensured activity on both days, since they were active on Saturday from one location and on Sunday from another location. (This is allowed, if this is practised in accordance with the contest rules).



Who was active on what band?

(Number of log-lines per band, not the number of points)



The results.

Good to see different countries score high on the individual bands. Number one earned the most points in the 13 cm band while number two earned them in the 70 cm and 23 cm band. Number three in the 23 cm band. It is a close finish!

As you can see **PE1ASH** has the most overall points this year. Congratulations to him with this result!

Why not consider every ATV contact (especially with a new station) as a winning contact! So in fact, **congratulations to everyone with your reached results**. The results can also be found at <https://vhf-uhf.veron.nl/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/IARU-ATV-results-2016.pdf> and likely soon on the IARU R1 website. Included is also the map with all participating ATV stations in the ATV contest of 2016.

Check-out www.dxspot.tv especially during the contest (you can look back half a year). Especially handy to find each other, also on other days than the activity weekend. Several countries also have additional ATV activity weekends, spread over the year.

Hopefully you all enjoyed this ATV activity weekend and spread it around so we have next year even more participants. More ATV stations could lead to more fun!

To get others enthusiastic, you have to SHOW that ATV is fun! Not only in HAM meetings or ATV magazines, but you could send also a picture with your ATV activity and some additional text to your national HAM magazine. If you need the results in other format (Excel, Word) for publication, please let me know.

See you next year,
Chris van den Berg PA3CRX

Moving Beacons in the 50 MHz band

During the conference in Sun City (2011) we decided to move all the beacons in the 50 MHz band from 50.000-50.099 to 50.400-50.499, except for the 'new' synchronised beacons (SBP). The deadline was end 2015, and this was confirmed during the conference in Varna 2014.

The move was evaluated and confirmed during our interim meeting in Vienna 2016. Now, we are in 2016, there are still beacons active in the old sub-band, and they block increased QSO usage.

We need further progress to complete this change and also support the new propagation research that is envisaged (as some beacons will be modernised to support this in 50.4 as well as the SBP).

Please ensure your country has made progress and prepare for this in the upcoming conference.

Digital Voice repeaters: a jungle?

Digital voice (and data) is booming. I don't know how it is in your country but in Belgium there are a lot of new Digital Voice repeaters active. D-STAR was the first, but it was then taken over by DMR. Now we have Fusion (C4FM). All these different modes take a lot of frequencies in our band planning. This is one part of the problem.

Nearly all those DV repeaters are connected with internet, so in principle it is easy to contact some OM in Barcelona, while you are in London. There is only one problem: you need to be in a region where the sysop of the repeater is connected with the right other repeater, and that your friend subscribed also to this network (especially for DMR).

Personally I already have a D-STAR and a C4FM portable but most of my friends have DMR. So I also need a handheld DMR to contact them. But this is not the end, the DMR networks are different and they don't communicate. So as an individual HAM I'm doomed to the settings of the local sysop.

I think that we have the duty to make some guidelines to preserve the individual rights of the radio amateur to choose who and how he wants to contact without any restriction.

I think that the IARU must encourage to find a way (and a standard) to interconnect the different digital voice repeaters if the individual amateur want this and this with no restriction due to the different systems.

We did it in the past with things like packet radio and contest software: why not with the digital communications, without constraints for future experimentations.

We can start a discussion on our Wiki

ON4AVJ

Personal opinion

Contest news

Working group

All the submitted contest logs are in an electronic format and there are many automatic contest log cross-checking software programmes in use by national societies to ease the contest adjudication and to shorten the time to publish contest results.

We decided in Vienna for a working group to collect information on the way the contest robots are working in the different countries. The group will propose a new chapter for the VHF Handbook about **Automatic Contest Adjudication Software**. Robi, S53WW is leading this group.

Collecting logs from subregional contests

All member societies are invited to upload the results of the subregional contests on the IARU-R1 contest robot and also on the server of SP7NJX: you can find this on this URL: <http://sp7njx.pk-ukf.org.pl/news.php>

Changes in the EDI format

All programmers of contest applications are invited to use following keywords in the Psect section:

- Section SINGLE (SO, SINGLE, SINGLE-OP)
- Section MULTI (MO, MULTI, MULTI-OP)
- Section 6 HOURS SINGLE (SO-6H, SINGLE-OP-6H)
- Section 6 HOURS MULTI (MO-6H, MULTI-OP-6H)
- Section SINGLE with MGM (SO-MGM, SINGLE-OP-MGM)
- Section MULTI with MGM (MO-MGM, MULTI-OP-MGM)

Results Export

In Vienna we agreed to make it possible to export the results in CSV format so that member societies can use it for their publications. This is now possible.

Cloud application for the C5 Committee

Marko, 9A8MM, has installed on the IARU-R1 server a cloud application. We are testing it now. If it is reliable it will be used to prepare the upcoming conference.

Use of the IARU R1 C5 Wiki

This Wiki can be a good tool for discussing and preparing our meeting in Vienna and future conferences. There are some improvements on the interface. Now you can reset you password, if you forgot it. If you are an official Member Society representative, but have no login and you want to participate to the discussions on the Wiki, please write a mail to ON4AVJ@uba.be.

Useful Information

Website:	http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf
Handbook:	http://iaru-r1.org/index.php/documents/Documents/Newsletters/VHF-Newsletters/VHF-handbook-Vers-7.0/
Newsletters:	http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/documents/Documents/Newsletters/VHF-Newsletters/
Wiki	http://iaruwiki.oevsv.at
Contest robot	http://iaru.oevsv.at/v_upld/prg_list.php