

AWARDS

BY CQ STAFF

CQ DX Marathon: A Ham Radio Centaur

Awards Editor Update

As of press time for this issue, we'd spoken with several prospective editors for this column. All appear to be well-qualified so now we just need to make a decision. Hopefully, by next month, there will be a new byline on this column. Thanks to all who inquired. – W2VU



The centaur, a creature from Greek mythology, is half man and half horse. The CQ DX Marathon is something of a ham radio centaur ... half contest and half award.

The broadest goals of any amateur radio award program are to encourage more on-air activity and recognize the accomplishments of those who achieve the specific number and/or type of contacts set out in the award rules. Except for limited-term awards in recognition of a specific event or activity, most award programs are open-ended in terms of how long you can take to meet the requirements.

The ham radio version of a centaur, the CQ DX Marathon combines elements of both a contest and an award program.

Ham radio contests have the same basic purposes: Encourage more on-air activity and recognize the accomplishments of those who achieve the highest scores according to the contest's rules. Most contests are of very limited duration, from a few hours to a complete weekend.

The ham radio version of a centaur, the CQ DX Marathon combines elements of both a contest and an award program. Like a contest, there are different categories and those with the highest scores in each category win plaques and certificates. And the competition is time-limited and starts from zero each year. On the other hand, the operating period for the CQ DX Marathon is a full year and all amateur bands may be used, including 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters, which are

USA-CA Update

500 County Level

NF5KF – Award number 3790 dated November 14, 2020

1000 County Level

KQ3F – Award number 1932 dated October 30, 2020

1500 County Level

KQ3F – Award number 1591 dated October 30, 2020

2000 County Level

KQ3F – Award number 1473 dated October 30, 2020

2500 County Level

KQ3F – Award number 1391 dated October 30, 2020

generally off-limits for weekend-long contests. The goal is to work as much DX as possible, on as many bands as possible, over the course of a calendar year. It's a marathon, not a sprint, and in that way it more closely resembles an award program than a contest.

Double Duty

One of the benefits of the CQ DX Marathon is that you can get credit for many contacts made in pursuit of other awards. For the DX Marathon, your first contact each year with a given country (DX entity) or CQ zone gives you a point. So if you're chasing the Flora and Fauna On The Air award and contact qualifying stations in France and Italy, you also earn 4 Marathon points (one for each country; two more for Zones 14 and 15).

The DX Marathon offers a variety of operating categories based on power and antennas. They're explained in detail in the 2021 rules, which you'll find in November's issue of CQ and on our website at <<https://tinyurl.com/y5lb6u4b>>. You can also find a lot more information, as well as tips and techniques, on Marathon Manager K9EL's webpage, <www.dxmarathon.com>.

Reminder: Logs from the 2020 CQ DX Marathon are due by January 5, 2021!

Happy Hunting and Happy New Year!

CQ Awards and Logbook of the World

As many of you know, ARRL's Logbook of the World program (LoTW) has long supported CQ's WPX and Worked All Zones (WAZ) awards. We haven't forgotten about USA-CA and the CQ DX Awards, but with all the recent changes in leadership and top staff in Newington, discussions on LoTW support for the rest of CQ's awards have moved to a back burner. It is our hope that during 2021 we will be able to resume those discussions and get back on track for LoTW support of the complete CQ award program. – W2VU