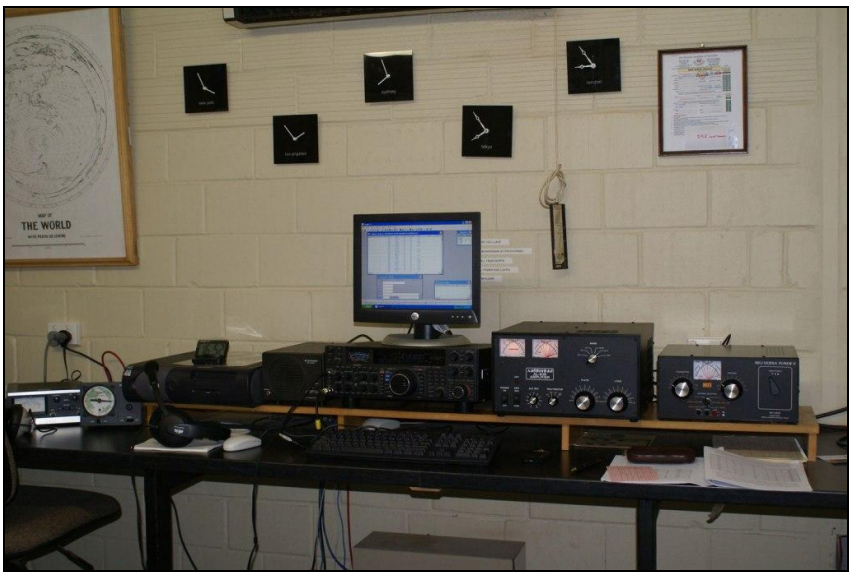
THE OCEANIA DX CONTEST

2009 Results



This impressive station belongs to the Northern Corridor Radio Group in Perth. Bernd VK2IA used the VK6AA call sign with this station to set a new record in the Oceania CW Single-Op ALL Band category. The station was also used by Steve VK6IR to win the Oceania PHONE Single-Op ALL Band category.

Summary of 2009 Results

1. Introduction

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 Oceania DX (OCDX) Contest, even if only to make a one or two QSOs.

We had a fantastic turnout for the 2009 event. A total of 999 logs were processed which sets a new record for participation in the contest. This is a big step up from the previous record of 783 logs in 2008. The increased participation is very encouraging, especially considering that conditions were not much better than those experienced in 2008. Of particular note is the growth in the number of logs from Europe, increasing from a total of 383 logs in 2008 to 532 logs in 2009. Oceania activity was also up - from a total of 166 logs in 2008 to 187 in 2009. As well as the more common **VK**, **ZL, YB** and **KH6** stations there were a number of rarer Oceania entities active including **3D2**, **9M6**, **DU**, **FO8**, **KH2**, **P29**, and **T88**.

The conditions were still good enough for several new records to be set in the 2009 contest. Of particular note is the outstanding performance from **VK6AA** (operator Bernd Langer VK2IA) in the Oceania CW Single-Op ALL Band category. Bernd's score of 7.17 million easily beats the previous record of 5.60 million set by KH7X in 2003, and has significantly raised the bar in this category. Also of note is the performance of the **VK4KW** team in the PHONE Multi-Multi category. Their score of 8.86 million is well ahead of the previous record of 4.99 million set by ZL6QH in 2003.

A summary of the results and trends is provided below. More details are provided in the appendices at the end of this report. The PHONE and CW score details are in Annexes 1 and 2, soapbox comments are in Annexes 3 and 4, and information about the equipment and antennas used is in Annexes 5 and 6.

2. PHONE Results

The leading stations and top scores from each continent in the PHONE section are listed below in Tables 1 to 4.

Category	Asia	Europe	North America	Oceania	South America
SO ALL	JA7NVF	UU7J	K3ZO	VK6IR	HK3JJH
SO 160M				ZL4R	
SO 80M	JM4WUZ	SP3POZ		YB1WR	
SO 40M	JO1WKO	UA3MIF	K3TW	VK3EW	PY2ADR
SO 20M	RZ9UI	SP4XQN		VK8PDX	R1ANC
SO 15M	JA6WFM	YO2R	KS4X	YC1FWO	
SO 10M	JA2MWV			VK4NEF	
MS	RK9JWV	SN2K		VK6NC	
MM	RW0A	UZ1H		VK4KW	
SWL	UA0-107-181	LZ1G42	W1-7897		

Table 1: Continent Winners in PHONE Section

Country	SO ALL	SO 160M	SO 80M	SO 40M	SO 20M	SO 15M	SO 10M	MS
Australia	VK6IR			VK3EW	VK8PDX	VK4FJ	VK4NEF	VK6NC
East Malaysia	9M6YBG							
Fiji						3D2MJ		
Guam			KH2INC	KH2JU				
Hawaii			KH6QJ					
Indonesia	YB4IR		YB1WR	YC6EN	YB0BCU	YC1FWO		YE1ZAL
New Zealand	ZL1T	ZL4R		ZL2CC	ZL1BYZ			
Palau						T88OM		
Papua New Guinea	P29CW							
Philippines	DV1JM				DU1AV	DU1EG	DX1EVM	

Table 2: Oceania Country Winners in PHONE Section

Call	Country	Category	Score
VK4KW	Australia	MM	8855975
VK6IR	Australia	SO ALL	3525525
VK6NC	Australia	MS	2761875
VK2APG	Australia	SO ALL	1671678
VK6DXI	Australia	SO ALL	1646304
VK3EW	Australia	SO 40M	1567165
VK4ZD	Australia	SO ALL	856830
VK2IM	Australia	SO 40M	839535
KH2JU	Guam	SO 40M	674800
VK4HAM	Australia	SO ALL	656205

Table 3: Top Ten Oceania Scores in PHONE Section

Call	Country	Category	Score
JA7NVF	Japan	SO ALL	91884
UU7J	Ukraine	SO ALL	54375
RS3A	European Russia	SO ALL	50165
JA7COI	Japan	SO ALL	38295
UA3EKG	European Russia	SO ALL	28535
YL2BJ	Latvia	SO ALL	18232
UZ1H	Ukraine	MM	17110
JA3EY	Japan	SO ALL	16588
RW0A	Asiatic Russia	MM	16284
JA2BNN	Japan	SO ALL	13872

Table 4: Top Ten Non-Oceania Scores in PHONE Section

3. CW Results

The leading stations and top scores from each continent in the CW section are listed below in Tables 5 to 8.

Category	Asia	Europe	North America	Oceania	South America
SO ALL	JO1WKO	RX4HZ	N6RO	VK6AA	R1ANB
SO 160M				ZL2AGY	
SO 80M	JA1PS	UA3MIF	W8IQ	ZL1AZE	
SO 40M	JR9NVB	SN2K	K3TW	VK2IM	
SO 20M	JK1LUY	RA3EG	K6DBG	ZL1BYZ	R1ANC
SO 15M	JA7DOT	RA3UT	K7SS	YD1XUH	PY4XX
MS	RK9JWV	UZ1H		ZM2M	
MM				ZM1A	
SWL	UA0-107-181	SP7-003-24			

Table 5: Continent Winners in CW Section

Country	SO ALL	SO 160M	SO 80M	SO 40M	SO 20M	SO 15M	MS	MM
Australia	VK6AA			VK2IM	VK2AYD			
East Malaysia					9M6YBG			
French Polynesia	FO8RZ							
Hawaii	KH6ZM							
Indonesia	YB2UTX		YC1COZ			YD1XUH	YE1ZAL	
New Zealand	ZM2B	ZL2AGY	ZL1AZE	ZL3TE	ZL1BYZ		ZM2M	ZM1A
Papua New Guinea	P29CW							
Philippines	DU1BP			4F1AL				

Table 6: Oceania Country Winners in CW Section

Call	Country	Category	Score
ZM1A	New Zealand	MM	7838356
VK6AA	Australia	SO ALL	7178724
VK6DXI	Australia	SO ALL	4733550
VK4EMM	Australia	SO ALL	4366908
KH6ZM	Hawaii	SO ALL	2435563
ZM2B	New Zealand	SO ALL	2392959
ZM2M	New Zealand	MS	2305064
VK2IM	Australia	SO 40M	1625055
ZL1TM	New Zealand	SO ALL	880856
VK3TDX	Australia	SO ALL	691808

Table 7: Top Ten Oceania Scores in CW Section

Call	Country	Category	Score
N6RO	United States	SO ALL	36564
JO1WKO	Japan	SO ALL	33522
RX4HZ	European Russia	SO ALL	31416
UA0CM	Asiatic Russia	SO ALL	29852
UU7J	Ukraine	SO ALL	28578
JA7COI	Japan	SO ALL	24000
RT3T	European Russia	SO ALL	21750
YL3FT	Latvia	SO ALL	20349
RA9FTM	Asiatic Russia	SO ALL	19720
RK0LWP	Asiatic Russia	SO ALL	16860

Table 8: Top Ten Non-Oceania Scores in CW Section

4. Awards

The recipients of the trophies and plaques for the 2009 contest are listed below in Table 9. Certificates will be awarded to the top scoring station in each category for each continent and country, subject to the station having made at least ten QSOs. Certificates will also be awarded to every station in the PHONE or CW sections that made at least 100 QSOs.

Award	Recipient	Sponsor	2009 Recipient
OCEANIA Ron Wills ZL2TT Memorial Trophy	Top entrant from Oceania in PHONE Single Operator ALL Band category	ZL2GI, ZL2AL, Wellington Amateur Radio Club, NZART	VK6IR
AUSTRALIA Single-Op ALL Band PHONE Plaque	Top entrant from Australia in PHONE Single Operator ALL Band category	VK3VTH	VK6IR
AUSTRALIA Frank Hine VK2QL Memorial Trophy	Top entrant from Australia in CW Single Operator ALL Band category	WIA Federal	VK6AA
AUSTRALIA Club Plaque	Local club from Australia with the greatest number of member stations participating in the Oceania DX Contest	VK Contest Club	Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club
ASIA Single-Op ALL Band PHONE Plaque	Top Entrant from Asia in PHONE Single Operator ALL Band category	VK8PDX (ex-VK5HRT)	JA7NVF
ASIA Single-Op ALL Band CW Plaque	Top Entrant from Asia in CW Single Operator ALL Band category	W3SE / ZL3TE	JO1WKO
NORTH AMERICA Single-Op ALL Band PHONE Plaque	Top Entrant from North America in PHONE Single Operator ALL Band category	N6RO	K3ZO
NORTH AMERICA Single-Op ALL Band CW Plaque	Top Entrant from North America in CW Single Operator ALL Band category	Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc	N6RO
EUROPE Single-Op ALL Band PHONE Plaque	Top Entrant from Europe in PHONE Single Operator ALL Band category	Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc	UU7J
EUROPE Frank Vander Drift VK3COF Memorial Plaque	Top Entrant from Europe in CW Single Operator ALL Band category	VK6DXI	RX4HZ

Table 9: 2009 Trophy and Plaque Winners

The Australia Club Plaque is awarded to the local club from Australia with the greatest number of member stations participating in the contest. In order for a club to be eligible there must be at least five logs submitted by member stations, with each log containing a minimum of 50 valid QSOs. Only two clubs met this requirement in 2009 - the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club with 6 logs (VK3AVV PH, VK3KIS PH, VK3QI PH, VK3QI CW, VK3TZ PH, VK3TZ CW) and the Northern Corridor Radio Group with 5 logs (VK4KW PH, VK6AA CW, VK6HZ PH, VK6HZ CW, VK6IR PH). The rules state that there must be three or more clubs competing in order for the plaque to be awarded but the plaque sponsor (VKCC) has decided to waive this requirement for the 2009 contest, in the interest of continuing to encourage clubs to support the contest.

The ongoing sponsorship of plaques is critical to the future growth and success of this contest. The Contest Committee welcomes new sponsorship offers and invites anyone who is interested in becoming a sponsor to contact the Committee. The cost of sponsoring a plaque is approximately AUD $50.00 per annum, to cover the expenses associated with the manufacture and delivery of the plaques.

5. Band Conditions

Chart 1 shows the annual trend in the total number of QSOs logged by Oceania entrants (excluding SWL logs), while Chart 2 and Chart 3 show the trend broken down by band for the PHONE and CW sections respectively.

Although the number of logs submitted in 2009 is significantly higher than in 2008, the total number of QSOs logged in 2009 is slightly less (approximately 3%) than that recorded in 2008. This outcome suggests that the band conditions in 2009 were generally poorer than those experienced in 2008.

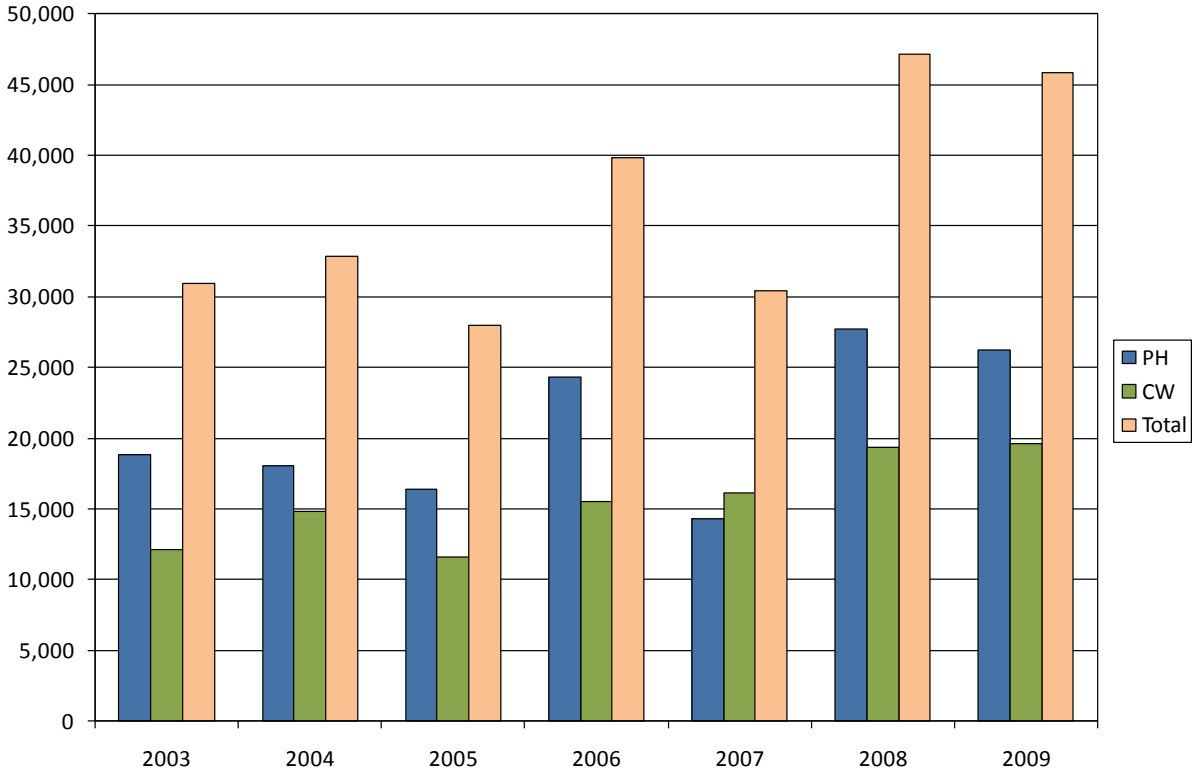


Chart 1: Number of QSOs in Oceania Logs

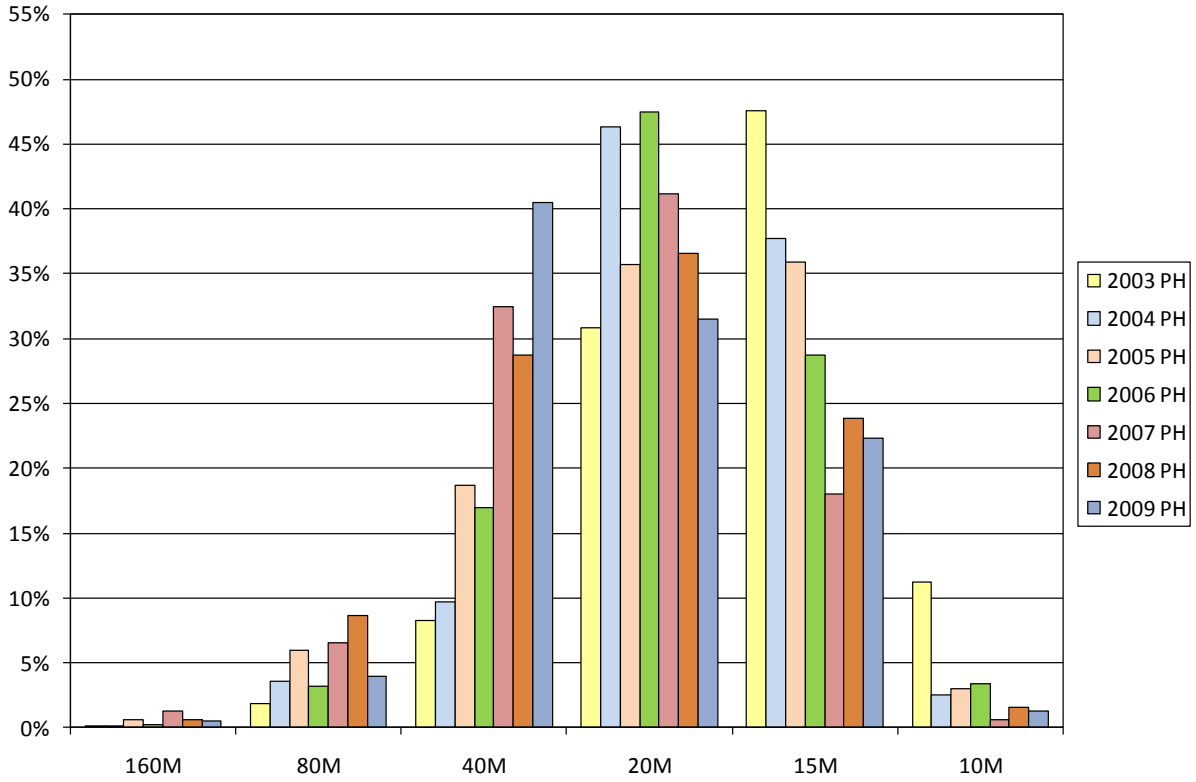


Chart 2: Band Analysis of PHONE QSOs in Oceania Logs

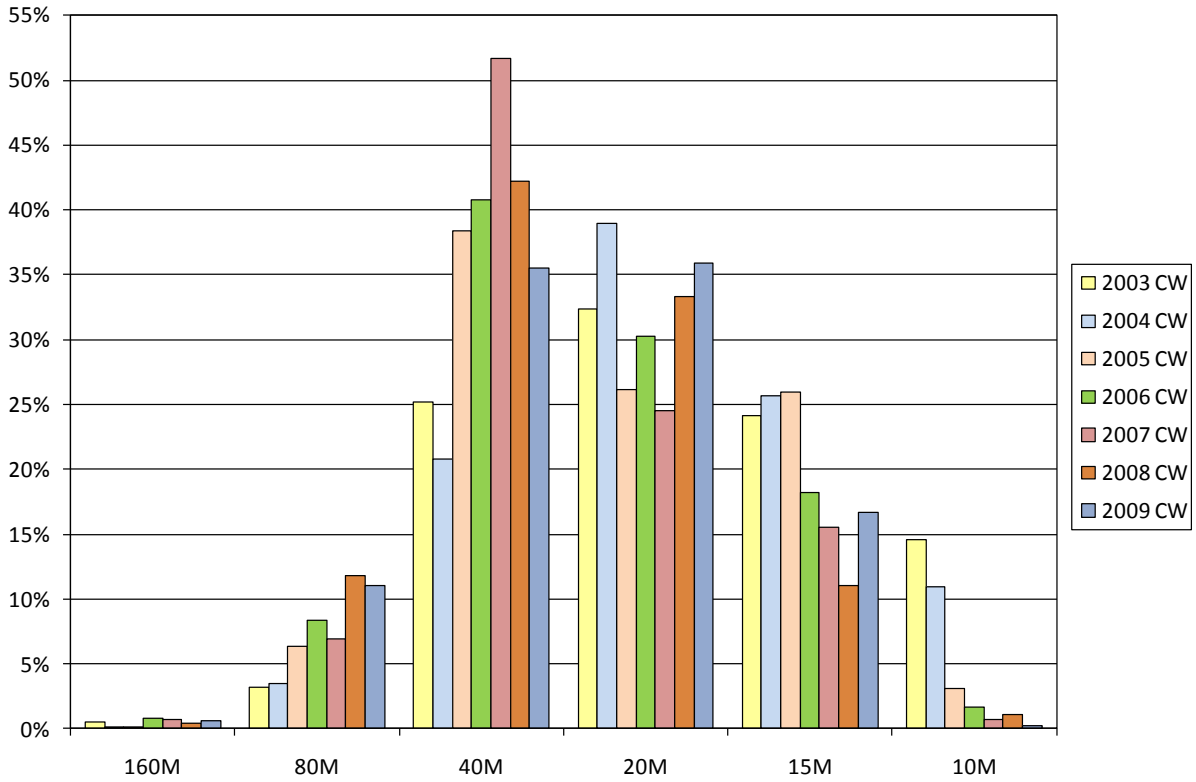


Chart 3: Band Analysis of CW QSOs in Oceania Logs

Charts 2 and 3 indicate that most of the action was on the 40M and 20M bands, followed by 15M, 80M, 10M and then 160M. The conditions on 15M were better in the PHONE section than the CW section, but the overall activity on this band was still low compared to earlier years when the solar flux was much higher. The conditions on 10M were poor and even worse than those experienced in 2008. The 10M activity was largely confined to QSOs between Oceania and Asian stations, and ZL stations could only make a few QSOs with each other. The low level of activity on 80M in the PHONE section was due to high levels of atmospheric noise, but the conditions were much improved in the CW section. Conditions on 160M seemed poor with activity on this band being mainly limited to QSOs between Oceania stations, plus a handful of QSOs with North America and Eastern Europe.

Chart 4 shows the annual trend in the average level of 10 cm solar flux radiation[1] for the Oceania DX Contest weekends. The 2009 values of 71.5 (PHONE) and 70 (CW) are very similar to what we experienced in 2007 and 2008. There is still no noticeable evidence of the rise in flux that is anticipated as we head for the next peak in the solar flux cycle. Hopefully we will see some evidence of this, along with improved conditions, in the 2010 contest.

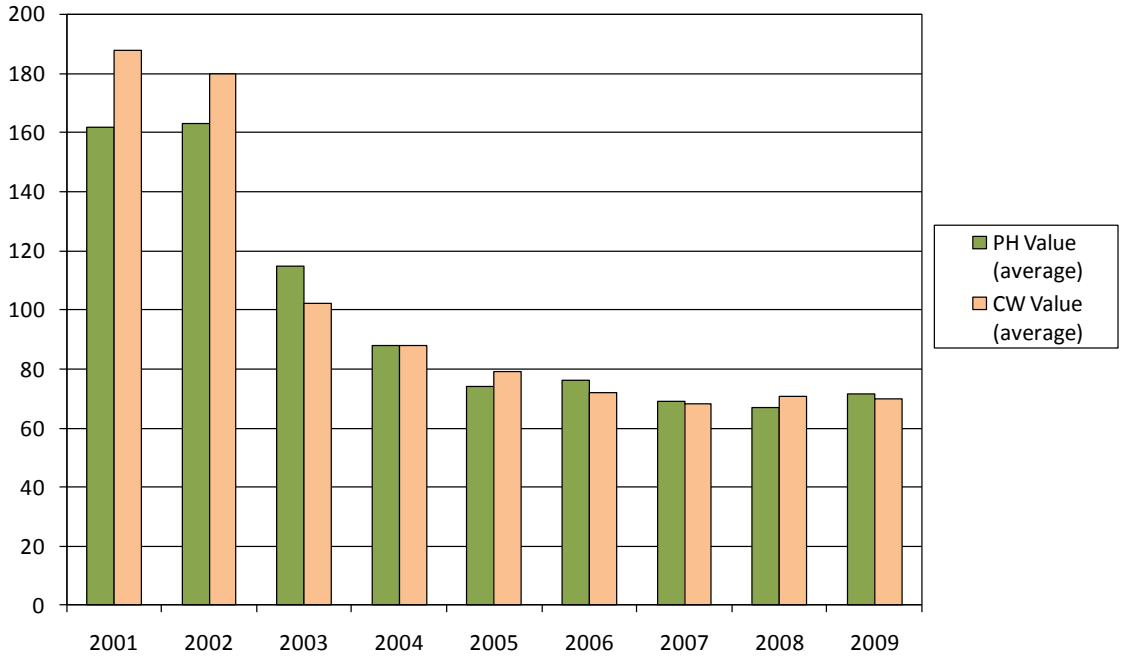


Chart 4: 10.7 cm Solar Flux Trend (Source: NOAA)

6. Participation

Chart 5 shows the trend in the number of logs submitted (including check logs) since 2000. Charts 6 and 7 provide a breakdown of this trend by continent for the PHONE and CW sections respectively. Charts 8 and 9 provide a breakdown of the trend by country within Oceania. Chart 10 identifies and compares the top 20 countries that submitted the most logs for the 2009 contest.

[1] Propagation conditions on the higher HF bands are dependent on the level of ionization in the ionosphere due to incoming X-ray and ultraviolet emissions from the sun. There is a correlation between 10 cm solar flux radiation measurements and the level of ionization, with higher levels of flux generally representing increased ionization and improved propagation.

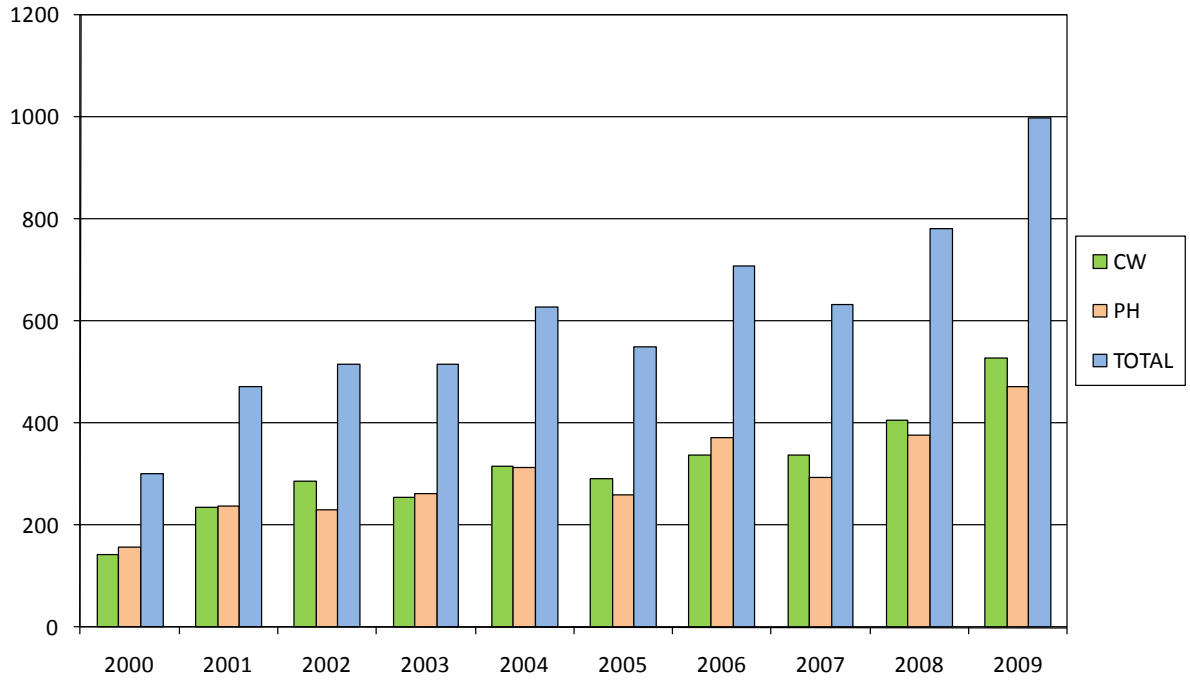


Chart 5: Number of Logs Received (including check logs)

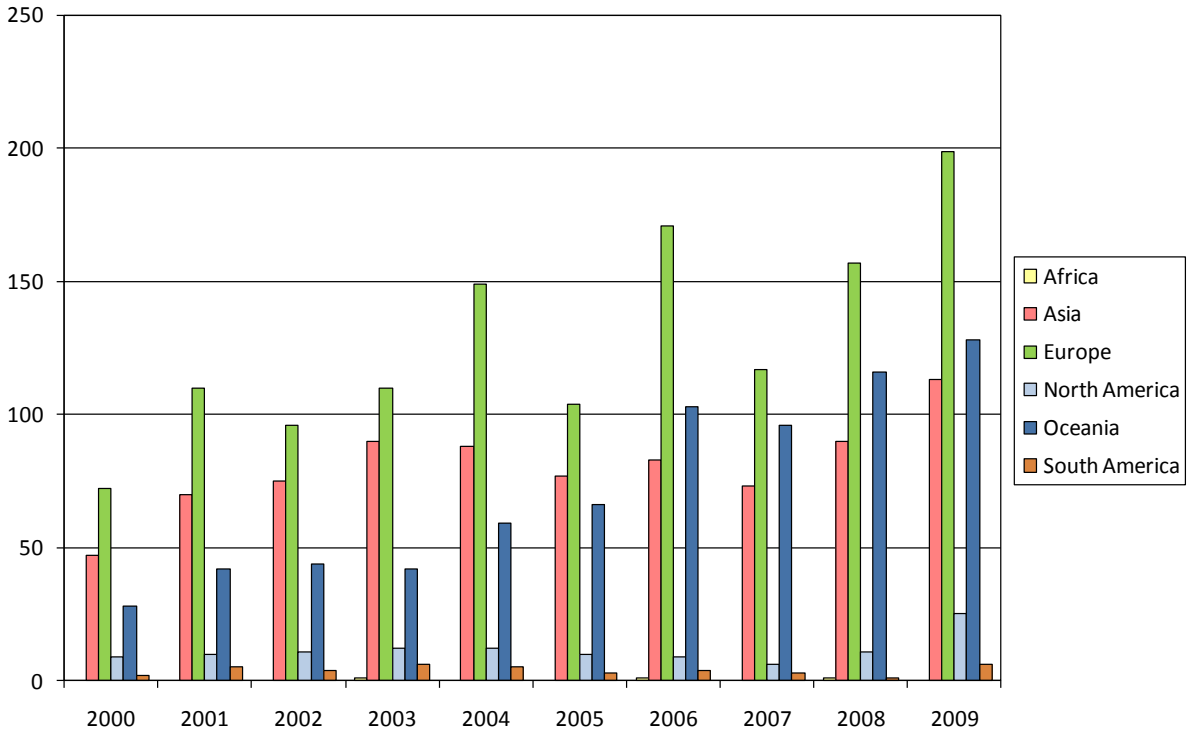


Chart 6: Number of PHONE Logs Received - Grouped by Continent

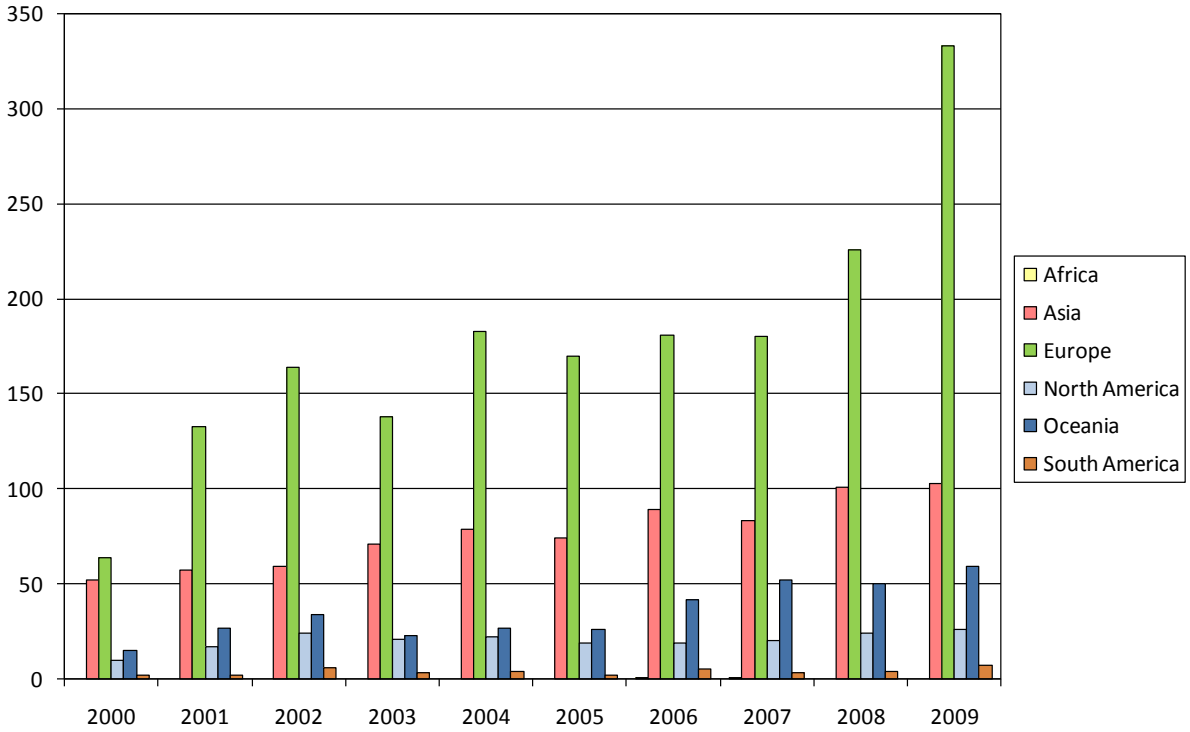


Chart 7: Number of CW Logs Received - Grouped by Continent

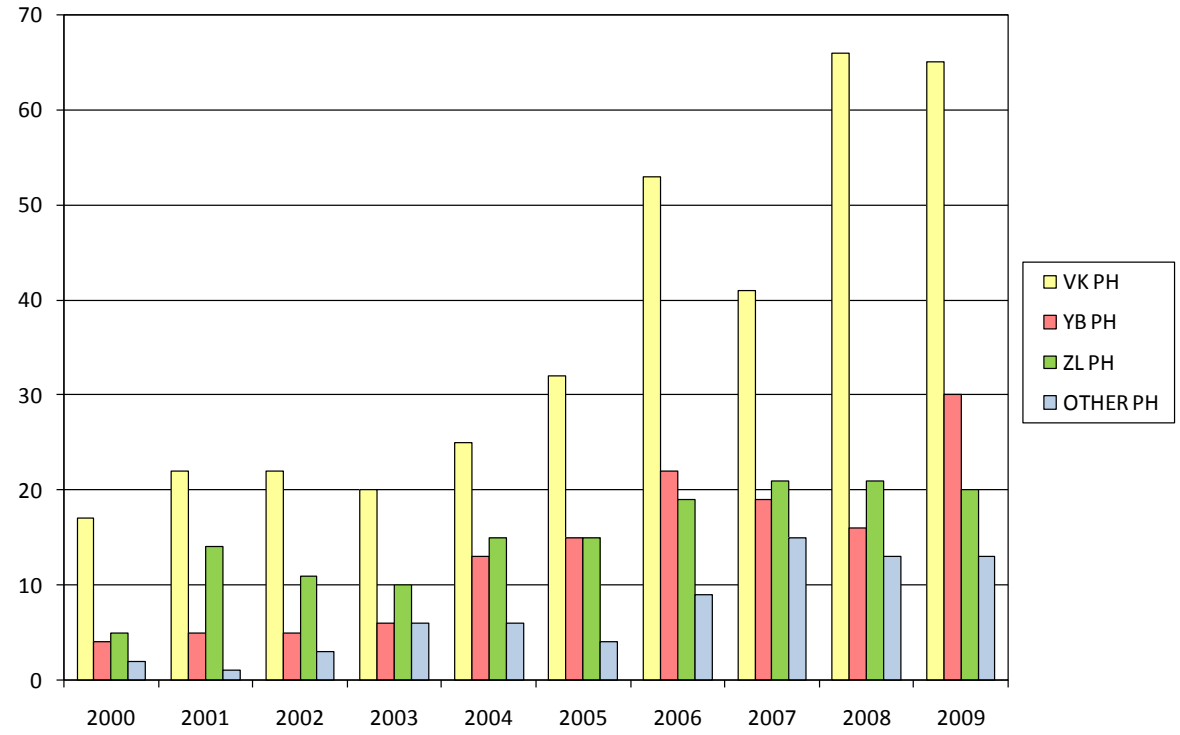


Chart 8: Number of Oceania PHONE Logs Received - Grouped by Country

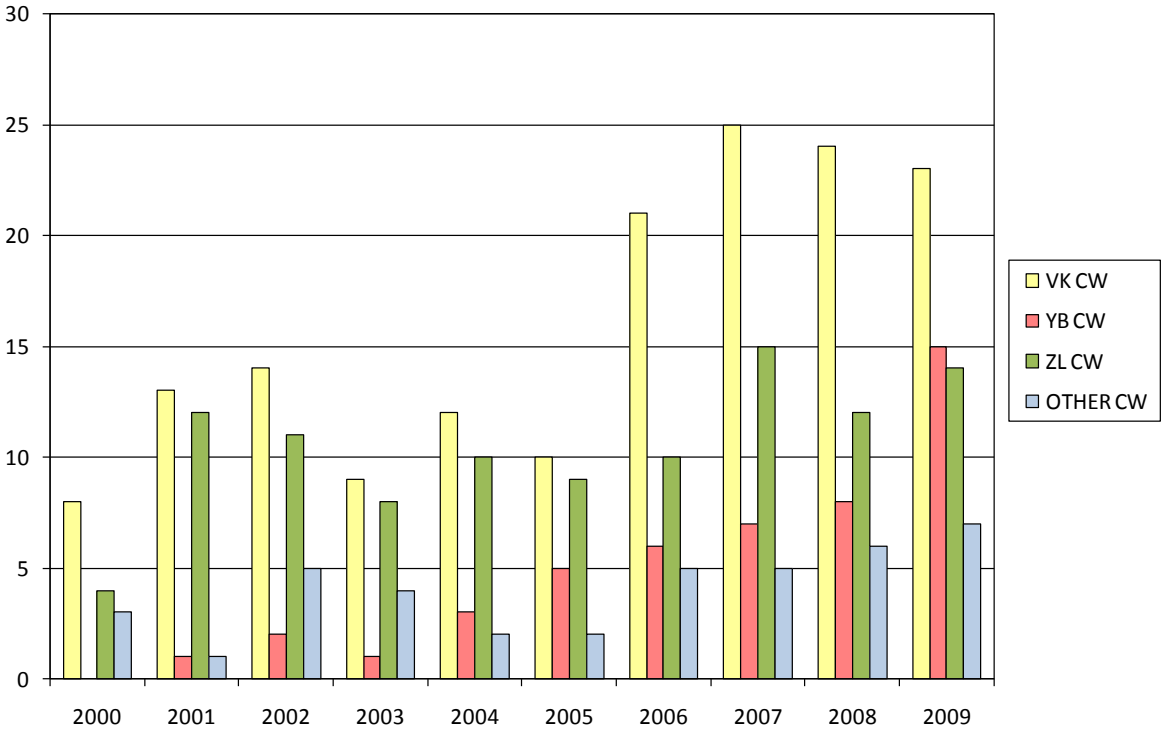


Chart 9: Number of Oceania CW Logs Received - Grouped by Country

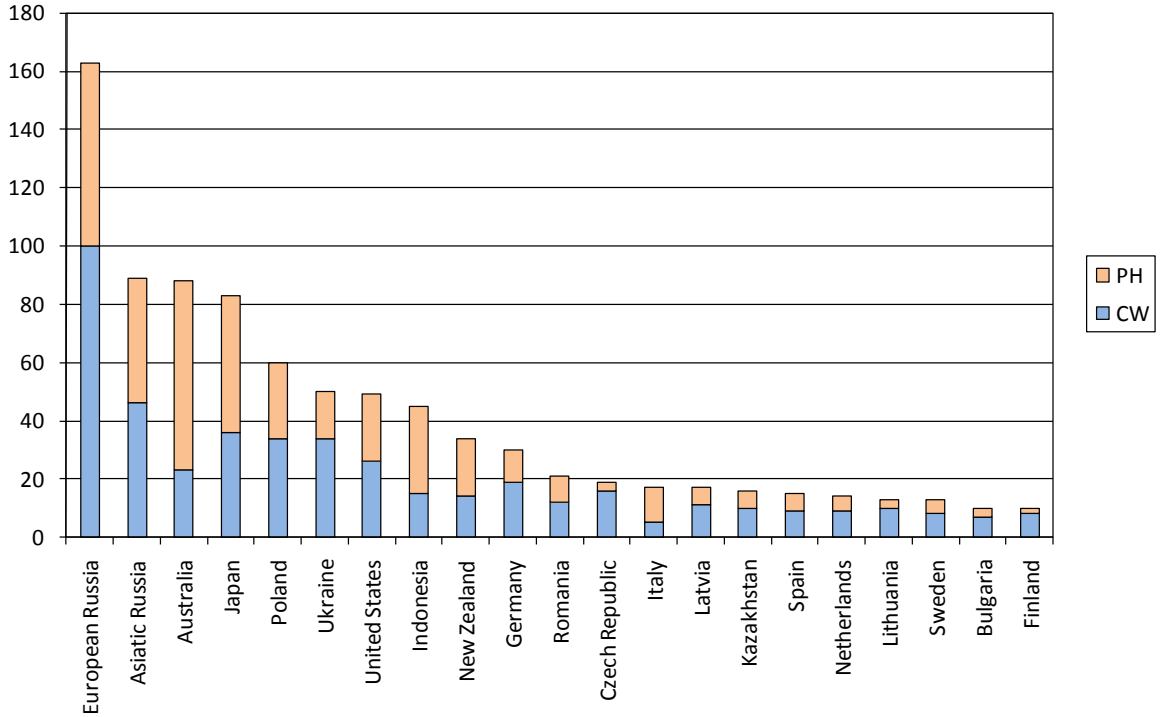


Chart 10: Number of Logs Received – Top 20 Countries

A total of 999 logs were processed for the 2009 contest. This sets a new record and represents an increase of 28% when compared with the previous record of 781 logs in 2008. As shown in Table 10 below, other than Africa, all of the continents contributed to this increase. The main contributor was Europe with the number of European logs increasing by 39% from 383 logs in 2008 to 532 in 2009. The majority of the European logs were from stations in European Russia, Poland and Ukraine. Also of note is the increase in the number of Oceania logs from Indonesia - up from 24 in 2008 to 45 in 2009. The number of Indonesian logs now exceeds that submitted by New Zealand stations.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	North America	Oceania	South America	Total
2008	1	191	383	35	166	5	781
2009	0	216	532	51	187	13	999
Change	-1	25	149	16	21	8	218

Table 10: Number of Logs Received in 2008 and 2009

The significant increase in participation is most encouraging, especially considering that HF conditions for the 2009 contest seemed to be no better than those in 2008. The increase is probably attributable to a combination of factors, including the availability of new plaques and the increased promotion of the contest.

As usual, the actual activity was much greater than that indicated by the number of logs submitted. There were at least 375 stations in the PHONE section and 272 stations in the CW section that made ten or more QSOs without submitting logs.

The OCDX Contest Committee continues to investigate options for increasing participation in the contest. The Committee has received many requests for the introduction of a true 'Multiple-Operator Single-Transmitter' category and a low power category. After carefully considering these requests, and in the interests of encouraging participation, the Committee has decided to make the following changes to the entry categories for the 2010 contest:

- The SINGLE-OP entry category is split into High Power (SINGLE OP HP) and Low Power (SINGLE OP LP) categories. Total output power must not exceed 100 Watts in the Low Power category.

- The MULTI-SINGLE entry category is deleted. It is replaced by the MULTI-ONE and MULTI-TWO entry categories. The MULTI-ONE category only permits one transmitted signal at any time. The MULTI-TWO category permits a maximum of two transmitted signals at any time on different bands. These new multi-operator categories are consistent with the changes that have also been recently introduced for the CQ WPX Contest.

We are looking forward to these changes further boosting participation in the contest. In particular, the changes are intended to encourage more entries from low power stations, and from the smaller multiple-operator teams that have limited resources.

We are aware that the changes will result in the need for a significant additional quantity of certificates to be awarded. The total volume of certificates is expected to increase by around 50%. Our budget for printing and mailing certificates will not support this increase so we are planning to introduce an option for 2010 winners to download and print their certificates from the web.

The Committee is developing a list of the record scores that have been established in the OCDX Contest over recent years. These records will be published on the web site. It is hoped that the availability of this information will inspire further interest and participation in the contest.

7. Log Checking

Chart 11 shows the annual trend in the percentage of logs delivered via email and paper. The percentage of logs submitted via email continues to grow and reached 97% in 2009. Email logs have significantly reduced the burden on the log checking team, as well as improving the overall quality of the log checking process.

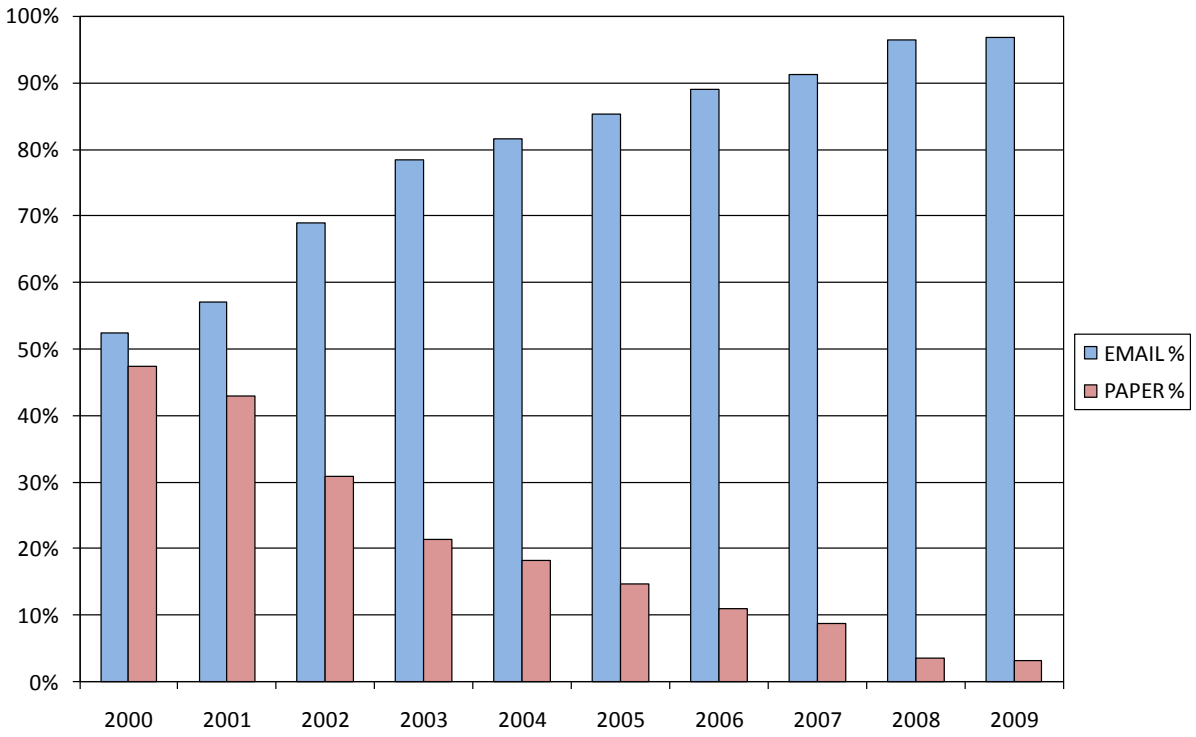


Chart 11: Log Delivery Trend

This is the fourth contest for which we have used the email robot to automate the reception and initial checking of the incoming email logs. Almost all of the 2009 email logs were submitted successfully to the robot without the need for any intervention from the log checking team.

Last year we adopted a new log checking software package that had been developed by Ken Wolff K1EA for the CQWW WPX and CQWW DX contests. This software was used again for the checking of the 2009 logs and worked without a hitch.

Individual entrants in the 2009 contest can submit a request to the Contest Committee for a copy of the log checking report that has been created for their entry. This report is prepared by the K1EA software and provides detailed information about any QSOs that have been removed from the score, including the reasons for their removal.

The Committee has noticed that some operators are submitting more than one entry and in different categories. The 2010 rules include clarification that only one entry is allowed for each operator or team of operators.

Entrants are reminded that **WA7BNM** provides an on-line web form that can be used by entrants to manually enter log data to produce a Cabrillo file and then submit it to the email robot. This form is intended for entrants who are using paper logging, or logging software that doesn't produce a Cabrillo file. The form is available at http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/ .

8. 2010 Contest

The 74th Oceania DX contest will be held on the first two full weekends of October 2010 as follows:

PHONE: 08:00 UTC Saturday 2 October to 08:00 UTC Sunday 3 October
CW: 08:00 UTC Saturday 9 October to 08:00 UTC Sunday 10 October

More information about the contest, including the rules, is available from the Oceania DX Contest web site at www.oceaniadxcontest.com . Specific inquiries should be addressed to info@oceaniadxcontest.com .

9. Acknowledgments

Thank you to the members of the Oceania DX Contest Committee who managed the various tasks for the 2009 contest. This is a significant effort, involving more than 150 hours of time each year from the Committee volunteers.

The Committee is most grateful for the support provided by:

- **NZART**, **WIA** and the **other sponsors of awards**.
- **K1EA** for the provision of the log checking software.
- **N5KO** for hosting the email robot.
- **WA7BNM** for the provision of the on-line Cabrillo web form.
- **ZL1AXG** for the hosting of the www.oceaniadxcontest.com web pages.

Finally and most importantly, thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 contest and made it such a success. We look forward to seeing you all again, along with new entrants, in the 2010 event. Let's hope for a few more sun spots and better conditions, and make it the biggest and best Oceania DX Contest party yet!

73 from

Oceania DX Contest Committee
ZL1AZE, VK3TZ, ZL3GA, VK7GN, VK2HN, VK4TI, VK6DXI, ZL2BSJ/PE7T

Andy UU4JMG at UU7J was the leading entrant from Europe in the PHONE Single-Op ALL Band category