

In 2001 CQ sponsored a one-time, full-year operating award to welcome the new millennium. Here's our wrap-up report.



Wrap-up:

The CQ Millennium Award

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

The idea behind the CQ Millennium Award goes back to 1947 and the CQ DX Marathon, a year-long activity designed to encourage DXing as most of the world was finally getting back on the air after the virtually worldwide shut-down of amateur radio during World War II. The CQ World-Wide DX Contest grew out of the 1947 DX Marathon, and from it, all of our other contests and operating awards.¹

One element of the original DX Marathon has been lost over the years, however, and that is the full-year timeframe. Our contests pack their activity into a few weekends each year, and our awards are open-ended; if it takes 30 years to make the necessary contacts and collect the QSLs, then it takes 30 years. When we started planning our Millennium Award, we wanted something a little different—an activity with a beginning and an end, but not the pressure of a 48-hour weekend contest. So we went back to the original concept of the DX Marathon and settled on a full year in which to qualify for the award.

The CQ Millennium Award

For those of you who missed the original award announcement (or forgot the details), amateurs or short-wave listeners could qualify for the CQ Millennium Award by meeting the basic requirements (minus QSL cards) for any one of our regular operating awards during calendar year 2001—the *real* first year of the 21st century/third millennium. In other words, if you could work or monitor 100 countries (CQ DX Award), 40 zones (WAZ Award), 300/400 prefixes (single-mode/mixed-mode WPX Award), or 500 US counties (USA-CA Award) between 0000 UTC January 1, 2001, and 2359 UTC December 31, 2001, you were in.

The Envelopes, Please

We figured it would be at least a month before the first applications arrived. We were wrong. The first completed application, from Don Christensen, W8WOJ, landed on my desk

before the second week in January was out, postmarked January 8th. Don had worked the required 100 countries for the DX portion of the award in just eight days! Overall, we had six applications mailed in January, including the first two of four separate filings by John Miller, WA2MUA. John eventually ended up qualifying for all four award segments, but did it six different ways, working the DX and WPX Award contacts on *both* SSB and CW, along with mixed-mode efforts for USA-CA and WAZ. Wow!

John was one of 24 applicants from six countries who qualified for all four award segments, out of a total of 178 valid applications from hams and SWLs in 25 countries. The top five countries were the US, Canada, Japan, Germany, and Belgium. The DX Award segment was the most popular, with 158 applicants, followed by WPX (68), WAZ (44), and USA-CA (30). This adds up to more than 178, because about one-third of the applicants qualified for multiple endorsements. The first ham to qualify for all four segments was Lou Hodges, W9IL, on March 12th. The first SWL to meet the requirements for all four endorsements was Dave Glow of Townsend, Massachusetts, just a few days later. Actually, Dave took longer to compile his logs than to monitor the required numbers of stations. He finished *that* task in just three weeks, logging his 500th county on January 21st.

The first DX station to qualify for all four award components was June Sim, VK4SJ, of Queensland, Australia, who finished on April 16th. June reports, "I spent a lot of hours in the shack, 'glued' to my rig, to get all four parts and jumped for joy when I got the last zone."

Highlights

First of all, being on the receiving end of the logs gave me a much greater appreciation for the tremendous amount of work put in by our volunteer award managers, month after month, year after year. Here, I was dealing with fewer than 200 total applications over the course of 15 months and I still had trouble keeping current. In fact, I often fell behind (as any award recipient will tell you) and am at least six months late with this report. My apologies to all who had to wait, and

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Four-Star Winner Profiles

In our initial award announcement, we said we would provide special recognition to those participants who qualified in all four award categories. We are going to do that in two ways, first with a listing of their names and call signs elsewhere in this article, and second, with brief profiles of the operators and their stories of chasing and catching the contacts they needed. We'll start this month with our mobile 4-star operator, Ace Jansen, N3AHA, of Leesburg, Virginia. —W2VU

Ace Jansen, N3AHA Ace Mobile Operator

Here's my story about achieving the Millennium Award:

I think it was mid-February when I saw an announcement about the award in the 425 DX e-mail newsletter. When I first read about it, I thought, "Wouldn't it be a tremendous accomplishment if I could qualify for the Millennium Award by all four ways while operating mobile?" When I found the information on the CQ magazine website, it said "special recognition if you qualify on the basis of more than one award program's requirements, and particularly if you achieve the nearly impossible feat of "qualifying all four ways." Now I felt challenged and I was pretty confident no one else would try to accomplish this from the mobile.

I have operated mobile for many years. My latest accomplishment was contacting all 3076 US counties (my second time) mobile-to-mobile. It took me 13 years to accomplish that feat. I had contacted 100 countries while operating mobile for the ARRL's Millennium award in 2000. Before hearing about CQ's award, I had contacted D68C on seven bands while operating mobile. So I felt pretty confident with the county and DX parts of the award, but wasn't sure about WPX or WAZ. I was particularly concerned about contacting all 40 zones from the mobile. I determined early on that the most difficult zones from northern Virginia would be zones 22, 23, 24, 26, and 37. As it turned out, zones 22 and 24 were #38 and #39, but it was zone 27 that would be #40.

Here are the details of my mobile achievement:

USA-CA: I contacted 500 counties on 6 September. I continued to log 50 counties (10%) for margin. Of the 500 contacts, 254 (51%) were on CW.

CQ DX: I contacted 100 countries on 7 April. I continued to log all new countries. I had contacted 138 as of 11 December. Of the 100 country contacts, 73% were on CW.

WAZ: I contacted zone #40 on 25 November. I had contacted zone #37 on 24 May, and didn't get #38 and #39 until 31 August and 2 September. It took me almost three more months to finish WAZ. Of the 40 contacts, 29 (72%) were on CW.



Ace Jansen, N3AHA, posing next to his van, from which he made mobile contacts with over 500 US counties, more than 100 countries, over 400 prefixes, and all 40 CQ zones—about half on CW—during 2001 to qualify for all four components of the CQ Millennium Award. Congratulations, Ace!

WPX: I contacted 400 (mixed) prefixes on 31 July. I continued to log an additional 24 prefixes for margin. Of the 400 prefix contacts, 198 were on CW (50%).

I feel very good about the mobile achievement and that more than 50% of the contacts were on CW. All of the contacts were made in Virginia (most in northern Virginia) with a Yaesu FT-900 (100 watts) and a Nott Screwdriver antenna.

I've been a ham since 1978 (23 years) and I'm 38 years old. So far, I have contacted 275 DXCC countries while operating mobile. I've been writing a bi-monthly column on county hunting for *Worldradio* for the past 10 years. Thanks for the challenge!

73, Ace, N3AHA/mobile

my undying admiration for N4UF, K5RT, WN5N, and K1BV, who keep their award programs running smoothly despite having to keep track of a lot more paperwork.

The second highlight from my perspective was the extent to which so many of the participants "got into" the program—from people such as W8WOJ who finished up in barely a week to Ace Jansen, N3AHA, who qualified for all four award segments *while operating mobile*, and the several people, such as WA2MUA, who made all contacts for a particular endorsement using only SSB—and then went and *did it again* using CW! Many of the applicants completed their requirements using a single mode or a single band, and even though the rules never specified anything about mode endorsements, we added a note to that effect to certificates whenever it was requested or we could tell from the log that only one mode or band was used. Likewise, we noted all-QRP efforts when that was requested.

Finally, I was tremendously impressed by the lengths to which many hams, especially county hunters, were willing to go to help their fellow hams qualify for this award. Time after time, as I went through logs—again, especially those quali-

fying for the USA-CA portion—I saw the same call signs over and over. Often they were mobile, suggesting that these people had gone out on special trips to remote locations just for the purpose of helping someone else collect another county for the Millennium Award and presumably, for the USA-CA Award as well. Thanks, everyone. This is the true ham spirit in action.

The final certificates were mailed out in June 2002, less than three months after the deadline for submitting logs on March 31. Our thanks to all who participated and to all who helped them in their quest.

Note

1. CQ's current contests and awards include:

Contests: CQ World-Wide DX Contest, CQ World-Wide WPX Contest, CQ World-Wide 160 Meter Contest, CQ World-Wide VHF Contest, CQ/RJ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest, CQ/RJ World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest, CQ National Foxhunting Weekend.

Awards: CQ DX Awards, CQ Worked All Zones Awards, CQ WPX Awards, USA-CA Award.

CQ Millennium Award 4-Star Winners

The following 24 people—listed in the order in which their logs were received at CQ—qualified for all four categories of the CQ Millennium Award, contacting or monitoring at least 100 countries, 300 prefixes, 40 zones, and 500 US counties:

Call	Name	QTH	Date
W9IL	Louis Hodges	IL USA	3-12-01
SWL	Dave Glow	MA USA	1-21-01 (log submitted 3-17)
W4VQ	Robert Beatty, III	FL USA	3-19-01
K4XI	Kermit Gay	FL USA	3-20-01
WA2MUA	John Miller	NY USA	3-27-01
N4MM	John Kanode	VA USA	3-30-01
W4HR	Bob Hudson	SC USA	2-10-01 (log sent 4-5)
VK4SJ	June Sim	Australia	4-16-01
LU2NI	Carlos Ribas	Argentina	5-21-01
W4YDY	David Langley	NC USA	5-26-01
K7INA	Russell Fish	WA USA	5-26-01
K8MW	Richard Larsen	MI USA	7-28-01
AD1C	James Reisert	MA USA	9-8-01
W1TW	Joseph Agins	MA USA	10-21-01
YBØDNK	William Tanujaya	Indonesia	10-26-01
K7ZA	Jon Zabel	WA USA	10-28-01
WA3GNW	Bruce Gibson	SC USA	11-11-01
N3AHA/Mobile	Ace Jansen	VA USA	11-25-01
W4GP	Mark Behrens	VA USA	12-1-01
G3LZQ	John Dunnington	UK	12-16-01
NØYYO	Donald Unruh	KS USA	12-15-01
SWL	Steve Carter	BC Canada	12-17-01
WA5VGI	William McFarlen	CA USA	12-25-01
AI6Z	Richard Thompson	CA USA	Unclear (log sent 3-24-02)

Three-Category Winners

The following 13 people, listed alphabetically by callsign, qualified for three of the four categories of the CQ Millennium Award. Congratulations on your achievements as well!

Call	Name	QTH	Categories Achieved
GW3JSV	Derek A. S. Holmes	Wales	CQDX, WPX, WAZ
K9UQN	Don Backys	IL USA	CQDX, WPX (All CW & All SSB), WAZ
KC2AFK	David Ruth	NY USA	CQDX (CW/QRP), WPX (QRP), USA-CA
KC8HWV	Lorraine Peerenboom	OH USA	CQDX, WPX, USA-CA
LZ1CY	Angel Gugov	Bulgaria	CQDX, WPX, WAZ
N4OT	Andy Harris	VA USA	CQDX (CW), WPX (CW), WAZ (CW)
VE3CFK	Chet Latawicz	ON Canada	CQDX, WPX (All SSB), WAZ (All SSB)
VE6ZT	Don Carlgren	AB Canada	CQDX (All CW & All SSB), WPX (All CW & All SSB), WAZ
9A4KA	Mladen Katic	Croatia	CQDX, WPX, WAZ
SWLs:			
DEØGFM	Gunter Franke	Germany	CQDX (All CW), WPX (All CW), USA-CA (All CW)
DEØTMD	Thomas Mlotzek	Germany	CQDX (All CW), WPX (All CW), WAZ
WO-20276	Gary Szucs	MI USA	CQDX, WPX, WAZ