

Good Propagation Predicted for 2013

Amateur Radio

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COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

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CQ

- **Contesting from China, p. 13**
- **Results: 2012 CQ WPX SSB Contest, p. 18**
- **Route 66 On the Air, p. 34**
- **Marshmallows and DX, p. 83**

On the Cover:
Mike Warren, WØWG,
of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.
Details on page 26

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Alaska: Why Judicial Districts instead of Boroughs?

Plus Awards from Scandinavia, Russia, and Indonesia

Alaska is unique among American states in that it does not use the traditional county (or parish) as a political subdivision. Instead, Alaska is divided into 18 "boroughs" and 11 "geographical census areas." The borough is probably the closest by analogy to a county, but even then, because of the very low population of most of Alaska, boroughs comprise less than half of the area of the state. The rest of the state is composed of census areas which were established for the 1970 Federal Census. There is a good chart on the website of the National Association of Counties (<http://www.naco.org/>) which gives an official list of both boroughs and census areas together with population and square miles covered by each. One of the least populated areas is Central Alaska (Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area), which has a density of one person per 26 square miles.

The USA-CA award was developed not long after Alaska became a state on January 3, 1959. I don't have any information in the USA-CA archives regarding the decision to use the four judicial districts instead of boroughs, but can only imagine that this was a logical existing unit that nicely divided the new state into reasonably even pieces for the award.

How hard would it be to achieve USA-CA if we required the use of boroughs and census areas instead of the judicial districts? I invite any of our

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The Scandinavian Open CW Award (SOCWA) is a new award that is limited to contacts in 2013, CW contacts with some depth, such as 10 minutes worth.

USA-CA Honor Roll

500

F5POJ.....3595	UX1UA.....3598
9A3ST.....3596	VE6VLV.....3599
K9AAN.....3597	

1000

F5POJ.....1837

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3077. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$6.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$12.00. To qualify for the special subscriber rate, please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. Initial application may be submitted in the USA-CA Record Book, which may be obtained from CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA for \$2.50, or by a PC-printed computer listing which is in alphabetical order by state and county within the state. To be eligible for the USA-CA Award, applicants must comply with the rules of the program as set forth in the revised USA-CA Rules and Program dated June 1, 2000. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending an SASE to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 12 Wells Woods Road, Columbia, CT 06237 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

Alaskan award hunters to consider sponsoring an award based on boroughs and census areas. It might be revealing to see who would be the first to work all 29 of them. Any volunteers to create this award?

The Scandinavian Open CW Award (SOCWA)

Let's start off 2013 with a new award that is limited to contacts in 2013, and not just hello-goodbye QSOs, but CW contacts with some depth, such as 10 minutes worth. It shouldn't be too difficult. Or will it be?

The object of The SOCWA is to inspire amateur radio operators in Scandinavia and elsewhere to increase CW activity on the HF ham radio bands. The intent of the award is to encourage and reward amateurs to carry on sustained CW conversations rather than short-duration CW signal reports. The award sponsors are the Öland Island Radio Amateur Society, SK7RN and The Scandinavian CW Activity Group, SCAG.

Participants: SOCWA encourages CW communication by and between licensed amateur radio stations in the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The prefixes OY, JX, JW, OH0, and OJ0 also count as Scandinavian countries.

Amateur radio operators from non-Scandinavian countries who register on the award website listed below are welcome to participate and qualify for the award. In this regard, qualified QSOs must involve a station in the aforementioned Scandinavian countries.

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Period of activity: This award will be available to successful participants during calendar year 2013, starting on January 1. The SOCWA encourages unlimited CW activity between participating stations. The award will be available to those stations and operators who register and report confirmed contacts as described below. The program may be extended beyond calendar year 2013.

How to register: SOCWA participants register on line at www.socwa.se.

Bands: According to the IARU's HF band plan.

Call: A response to calling "CQ SAX" will initiate contact with a station within the SOCWA sphere.

Logging: QSOs should be logged at the SOCWA home page. To qualify for the award, QSOs must a minimum of 10 minutes. Both stations have to log the QSO on the website. The time stamp (GMT) of each station logged on the website must match each other.

General rule: Repeated QSOs between two stations are permitted as long as there is no more than one QSO every 24 hours but on different HF bands. Band variation is desired and encouraged. Always consider the CW speed of your contacted station. If your counter party is sending at a lower speed, reduce your speed to reduce errors and to eliminate the risk of confusion.

Fees: For Scandinavian radio amateurs, after 52 or more verified QSOs, the radio amateur will be awarded the SOCWA via postal means by payment of SEK50. The fee also entitles the amateur to participating in a lottery with many prizes. Each confirmed QSO earns one lottery ticket in the final draw. The lottery prizes are shown on the award website. The number of prizes will depend of the number of participants. Lottery tickets and prizes, however, are limited to Scandinavian radio amateurs. For non-Scandinavian radio

amateurs, after 52 or more confirmed and approved QSOs, you can print, free of charge, the SOCWA Award directly from the home page. Internet: <http://www.socwa.se/regler.php>.

Gallery of the Great Genius of Russia

This is a series of awards with certificates that are the most beautifully designed and executed ones I have ever seen from any sponsor. UA6MM based the series on famous Russian leaders of the past. The images are taken from works of art depicting these leaders and the parts they played in key battles in Russian history from the year 850 to 1813. Complete details of each of the seven awards can be found at: <http://www.dxawards.com/UA6MM.htm>. The awards are sponsored by the Amateur Radio Union of Russia "SRR," together with the Taganrog club "TDXEC" (Taganrog DX-Expedition club). Collectively, the awards are known as the Gallery of the Great Genius of Russia. This program offers a certificate for one set of requirements, and a plaque for additional requirements as noted in the rules.

There isn't enough room in this column for all seven, so I am presenting just one of them.

Anniversary of Peter I, the Great (the first Emperor of all Russia). This award is issued in connection with the 340th anniversary of the birth of "The Great Son of the Russian Land, the Emperor Peter the Great, Peter I" (1672-1725). He was the founder of the first Russian military base "port city," "Fortress of Taganrog" in 1698, and the new northern capital of the Russian Empire, the city of St. Petersburg, in 1703.

1. Russians need 20 QSOs and all others need 10 QSOs with any different stations in the following Russian regions or countries associated with the life of Peter the Great: UA1A, UA2F, UA3A, UA4, UA6L, DL, ES, EW, G, LY, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OZ, PA, SM, SM1, SP, TA, UR, UU, YL, 4K.