

K0DXC Visits K3LR - CQ WW CW 2008

by Cal Darula, K0DXC

I spent the CQ WW CW this year at the as part of the K3LR Multi/Multi team. (Our totals below in Table 1)

At first, when Tim invited me I was scared that I would not be able to go. I was stunned that Tim asked me come and even more thrilled later on when my grandpa, K9MMS, came out to Tim's house to operate. Things worked out very well when Al, N5UM was in the area I was staying in when my family and I went to Michigan for Thanksgiving so I was able to get to Tim's house nice and early before the contest started. Thanks once again to Al for making this possible.

When I first got to Tim's house, I first thought, "Wow! We're here!" Then my stare was quickly captured by one of his towers up over 200 feet! It was the first time I had ever seen an Amateur tower up so high that it had to have lights up at the top so no airplanes would run into it! I could see the thing all the way from the hotel we were staying at!

It was great finally meeting Tim once we went inside. He is a great guy, and very nice person to be around. I went downstairs and took a look at his shack and was as amazed at it as I was by his "farm"! 11 stations of the finest equipment all set up and ready to operate simultaneously!

Soon after that, the other operators started arriving. Al (N5UM) and I were the first to get there besides John, N2NC. Then I followed Tim outside to check up on how his new 40 meter four-square was coming for the 40 meter "mult" station. I then went back inside to help out with a few things that needed to get finished before the contest started. After a few tasks were finished up, I was able to get on 15 meters and work a few stations.

Dinner was eaten about an hour before the contest started and everyone went downstairs to wait for the 'test to begin. Finally, 00:00 UTC rolled around and the CQ's/tuning began! I was the operator at the 10 meter mult station. Friday evening we worked an LU station but that was about it in terms of multipliers. Soon after that, the other 10/15 meter operators I was staying in a hotel with said it was time to go and get some sleep for tomorrow. I made the mistake of staying behind hoping for an opening on 10 or 15! Tim corrected this, and so my grandpa ended up driving me to the hotel so I could sleep! Once I got there I thought I would never be able to fall asleep, but I did soon enough and the next thing I remember is springing out of bed at 5:00 a.m. to catch 10 meters at sunrise. (We ended up getting there about an hour before the sun rose, nice to be early.)

Unfortunately, nothing really happened on 10 meters throughout the duration of the contest. As you can see by the breakdown, we only made 68 Q's for 10 zones and 13 countries. However, things went well on 15 meters. They had a few nice runs and even worked some JA's in the middle of the afternoon! I also got to operate on some of the other bands when the primary operators were sleeping or taking breaks. I spent a few hours on 40 meters throughout the contest; it was a lot of fun! I was on 40 during the middle of the afternoon so I didn't get any runs going (EU was too loud to other EU stations) I did pick up a few needed multipliers and work some DX. I also spent about a half hour on 20 meters one evening with Kirk, K4RO. This was a lot of fun; he is a great operator and very easy to work with. We spent that time hunting down another needed multiplier.

I learned a lot at K3LR. Everyone there is a great operator and I took in all the information I could. Tim had me listen to him on 160 meters one evening and it was truly something to listen/watch him tune the bands and go through stations. He has great ears to be able to pick out some of those stations and you really need to have a lot of patience to work the DX on 160 when waiting for the signals to peak. Lali, VE3NE can run stations like crazy. All afternoon long I would watch the 20 meter rate keep growing higher and higher and I would try to pay attention to what he was doing. I learned that you need to always be tuning the band and paying attention to how good propagation is and when the band is generally opening. There was so much information to take in that I can not possibly type it all.

Anyways, the contest flew by way too fast. Afterwards, Tim held a dinner and then everyone left at their own pace to go back to a hotel or start the drive back to their homes. The CQ WW CW 2008 was a very memorable time for me. I met a bunch of really great people and I had an awesome time. It was great to be a part of the K3LR team and I will always remember it.

I would like to say thanks again to Tim, K3LR for inviting me. Good luck to all in the rest of the 'test season!

73, Cal, K0DXC

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

Call: **K3LR**

Operator(s): K3LR, K3UA, K8CX, N2NC, KL9A, W3TX, VE3NE, K4RO, K9MMS,
N3GJ,

N3SD, N5UM, K0DXC

Station: K3LR

Class: M/M HP

QTH: West Middlesex, PA

Operating Time (hrs): 48

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
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160:	381	24	90
80:	1451	35	133
40:	1968	38	153
20:	2145	36	150
15:	693	32	112
10:	68	10	13

Total: 6706 175 651

Total Score = **15,032,374**

K0DXC Photo Gallery - Operating at K3LR



