

THE NUMBERS GAME: DISTRIBUTION OF DXCC HOLDERS

When I received DXCC Certificate No. 12,189 on July 22, 1971, several questions occurred to me concerning the history of this award, how many DXCC members are in each of the 10 U.S. call districts, how many certificates have been awarded to amateurs in various foreign countries, how many countries does the "average" DXCC-holder have credited, and so forth. Then with the arrival of the December QST it became apparent that I could get the answers to some of these questions if I were willing to devote some time (and eyestrain) to counting the calls in various categories of the Annual DXCC List printed on pages 95-100 of that issue. True, the annual list contains just slightly under 20% of the total number of certificates awarded, but it is felt that the sampling is sufficiently large to at least indicate current trends.

Table I
Number of DXCC Members by Number of Countries Confirmed (in Increments of 25 Countries and 50 Countries).

NO. COUNTRIES CONFIRMED	NO. DXCC HOLDERS	NO. DXCC HOLDERS
100-125	1,062	1,396
126-150	334	
151-175	297	562
176-200	265	
201-225	277	464
226-250	187	
251-275	215	450
276-300	235	
301-325	277	589
326-350	312	
TOTALS	3,461	3,461

Before commenting on the results of my curiosity, let me hasten to make the following disclaimers:

1. No guarantee is made as to the accuracy of any of the numbers presented. Counting and addition errors are certain to have been committed. Each column and page was totalled individually so the errors made should not be too gross (say less than 10 calls), but certainly small errors do exist, and possibly some of greater magnitude. The reader is invited to check any of the categories he is interested in, or to extract data for other groupings.
2. No conclusions are intended or implied from the data; particularly no *valid* con-

Table II
The number of DXCC-holders in each continental United States call district and also the number of 2-letter call members.

U.S. CALL DISTRICT	NO. DXCC MEMBERS	PERCENT OF U.S. TOTAL
2	340	15.8
4	300	13.9
6	278	12.9
9	240	11.1
8	201	9.3
3	187	8.7
1	182	8.4
5	168	7.8
10	163	7.5
7	99	4.6
TOTAL U.S. MEMBERS	2,158	100.0
NO. 2-LETTER CALL MEMBERS	332	15.4
MEDIAN NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COUNTRIES OF DXCC MEMBERS - 180		

Table III
Number of DXCC Members
in Six Foreign Countries

COUNTRY	NO. DXCC MEMBERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Germany	222	6.4
Canada	121	3.5
Japan	114	3.3
U.S.S.R.	76	2.2
England	62	1.8
Brazil	49	1.4
TOTALS	644	18.6

clusions are possible as to the "best" or "most active" DX area. The number of DXCC certificate holders in any given area may be one "yardstick" to be used in settling this hotly debated question, but obviously many, many other factors would have to be considered, among them the distribution of the entire amateur population, the average age of DX amateurs in the localities in question (retirees have more time for DXing), geographic, political, and language barriers, legal restrictions on power in some countries, time zone disparities, economic affluence, etc., etc., etc., ad infinitum.

- Time did not permit counting DXCC totals for every country (approximately 12-15 hours were spent at this task at odd moments). Hence, some countries with a significant number of DXCC-holders are not listed in the results.

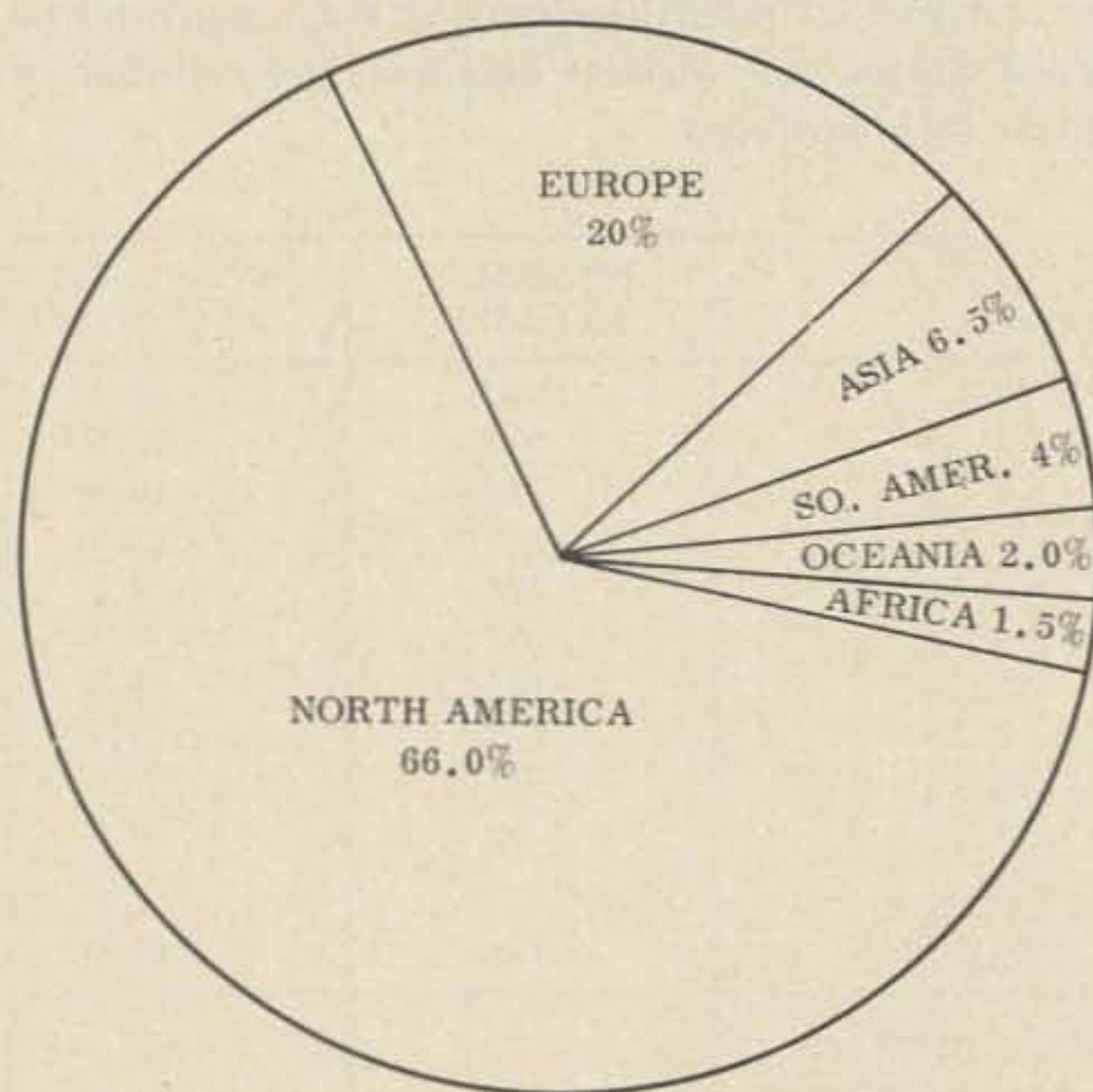


Fig. 1. In pie-chart form the approximate percentages of DXCC members by continental area.

Now on to the results. The first part of the job was to count the total number of calls listed in the general listing on pages 95-98 (mixed CW and phone - sorry, no results for phone-only listing). My count was 3,461. Next, I determined that the median point (1,730) fell in the grouping of 180 countries confirmed. Therefore, half of the DXCC members have less than this number of countries, and half have more. Since the columns on each page were counted individually, it was relatively simple to arrive at the number of DXCC members by numbers of countries confirmed. Table I shows these results in increments of 25 countries and 50 countries. The right-hand column of this table provided my first surprise result. As expected, the number of members decreases in a rather normal progression as you read down this column, until the last entry, where you find that 589 DXers have more than 325 countries credited, a sub-group exceeded only by the sub-group of members who have 100-150 countries confirmed.

...WA9VGS

Editor's Note:

Distribution of Licenses

According to the Callbook the distribution of amateur licenses falls about in this proportion:

Call District	Percentage
1	7.4%
2	12.5%
3	7.5%
4	13.4%
5	9.4%
6	14.2%
7	7.0%
8	10.2%
9	9.4%
Ø	9.0%

Thus there would seem to be some slight advantage to operating from certain parts of the country, if we assume that approximately the same number of amateurs will be devoted to DXing in all parts of the country. The number of DXCC winners is higher than the overall percentage of amateurs in the W2-W9-W4 areas, while it is less in the W7-WØ-W5 areas.