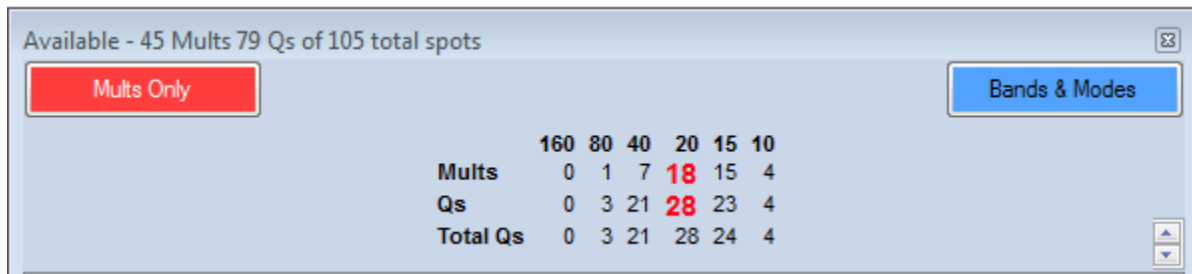Initial conditions
- running N1MM
- Mult and Q window open
- Entering assisted category of contest
- connected to a cluster or the RBN

N1MM fills the top of the M&Q window with how many mults and q's are available on each band. Keep an eye on it.

Available - 45 Mults 79 Qs of 105 total spots

Mults Only

Bands & Modes

	160	80	40	20	15	10
Mults	0	1	7	18	15	4
Qs	0	3	21	28	23	4
Total Qs	0	3	21	28	24	4

This time in the sunspot cycle 10 and 15 are not open very often, but if they do spots will begin to appear there giving you a chance to catch mults on an unexpected band opening.

I often ask myself could I get better rate by switching bands? The parallel to that is can I get some quick mults there and return to this band and keep my rate up? The M&Q window gives me an insight into what those other bands are like to help make that decision. Yes, rigs with band scopes help with that too. But I don't have a band scope. I've used a Flex before, but it didn't tell me if those signals I saw on the other band were stations I had already worked or not. (Times change fast so maybe they have that capability now, but they didn't the last time I used one.)

Using the M&Q window is best done by being active with it. It isn't just a set the parameters and forget kind of thing. For example, I filter the window sometimes to only show me spots of available mults on the band of interest in the bottom section so I get a feel for what my chances are of working those stations if I did switch bands. I filter it by beam direction to show me what stations are available in the direction I'm pointing so I can work them out first before turning the rotor.

Two key things I've learned about it. Set up your cluster filter to only allow spots from your region. Otherwise the shown available mults and q's might include spots from Europe or Japan which are mostly meaningless to us here in W4 land. And be very skeptical of how many mults it says are available during major contests like the CQWW CW. The RBN isn't fine tuned yet and reports one heck of a lot of busted calls which show up as unique mults for you to work -- but they aren't. They are just busted spots trying to make you point and click your way into having penalty points taken away from you.

Kevan

N4XL