

2009 ARRL UHF Contest Results

Roving goes viral... August 1-2, 2009

John (JK) Kalenowsky, K9JK

hamk9jk@ameritech.net

This just in from the Center for Contest Disease Control (CCDC) in Newington, Connecticut: The “R-ZERO-V-E-R Virus” has been identified with significant regional breakouts in the upper Midwest and Southwest during the ARRL’s UHF Contest. According to CCDC spokesperson Mike Rowave an unprecedented 67 logs were submitted by Rovers out of 244 logs, over 27% of the total log count for the event. While there have been higher counts of Rover logs in January, June and September VHF Contest events, the percentage for this year’s August test is twice the highest percentage of any of those VHF contests, which include two additional bands. (An extended version of this article, including complete regional coverage, is available online at www.arrl.org/contests.)

In addition to the 67 Rover and 177 fixed stations from which logs were received, activity was logged by another 14 call signs with an /R suffix (and active from two or more grid squares) and over 500 additional fixed stations were among the more than 17,000 QSOs submitted. This is the highest total of QSOs reported in any UHF contest, though remaining shy of the top log counts of 249 that were received in 1999 and 1994. Among the Fixed Stations, 16 were Multi-Operator, and the 161 Single-Op logs were split: 103 Low Power and 58 High Power. Within the 67 Rover logs, 44 were Classic Rovers, 20 Limited Rover, and 3 Unlimited Rover.

CCDC analyst Yoo H. Effer provided some additional information on the “where”

of the R-ZERO-V-E-R outbreaks. Of the 221 grid squares from which activity was reported in this year’s contest, rovers activated 119 of them (with 366 total activations or an average of three per rover, though a number

of the rover logs reported ten grid activations) and Fixed Stations were active from 183. Figure 1 shows the grid squares from which contacts with Fixed Stations were reported along with the relative numbers of stations in each locator. A second map in the Web version of this article shows grid squares visited by Rovers. In the Midwest, EN34, EN35, EN52 and EN62 were the most visited. An area in southern California (EN03, EN04, EN05, EN13, EN14, EN15, EN16, EN24, EN25 and EN26) was also popular.



Single Operator Low Power

Call	Score
K2DRH	233,595
W3PAW	72,657
KC9BQA	47,874
AF1T	46,197
W0UC	45,840
K2K1B	44,793
K1KG	41,958
KB9J	27,156
WB2SIH	26,730
W9SZ	19,812

Single Operator High Power

KM0T	558,012
WW8M	243,312
K1TEO	194,691
WA2FGK	155,916
(K2LNS, op)	
K1RZ	96,120
K1GX	84,825
W4WA	57,960
K0VXM	41,040
WB4SLM	39,516
K8TQK	33,768

Multi-operator

W0AUS	528,660
K5QE	26,226
W0EEA	23,562
KA2LIM	12,672
N1KAT	11,385
AA4ZZ	11,214
W3KWH	8,979
W1XM	3,933
KB0HH	2,574
N6SJV	2,496

Rover

N6NB/R	466,128
W6TAI/R	452,400
W6XD/R	450,216
N6MU/R	443,040
AF6O/R	440,634
KK6KK/R	435,744
W0ZQ/R	186,120
W9FZ/R	166,320
W9SNR/R	69,948
KC0YT/R	64,233

Limited Rover

W6YLZ/R	83,106
N2CEI/R	36,039
K4SME/R	21,240
WA0VPJ/R	17,931
K9JK/R	15,606
N9GH/R	12,576
N1LF/R	3,654
N0EDV/R	1,989
K9TMS/R	1,974
KB2BSL/R	714

Unlimited Rover

W6TE/R	447,432
W3HMS/R	40,890
KR0VER/R	14,694

Top Scorers by Category

The “streak” of Single-Op, High Power first, second, and third place finishers being Mike, KM0T; Don, WW8M, and Jeff, K1TEO, continues for what is now a sixth consecutive year! Bob, K2DRH, continues his very familiar first place spot in Single-Op, Low Power. Paul, W3PAW, claimed second place and Todd, KC9BQA, claimed the third spot to finish out the “Top 3” for Single-Op, Low Power.

In the Multi-Op category, five members of the Northern Lights Radio Society assembled at Buck Hill, just south of the Twin Cities and ran their first UHF Contest as a club effort. They also inaugurated their recently issued club call sign, W0AUS, in memory of long time NLRS member Bob Wesslund. Their effort established a new Dakota Division record for Multi-Op. Second and third places for Multi-Op were claimed

CARRIE TAI, W6TAI



That’s not a drive-in movie; it’s a group of eight rovers sharing a Southern California overlook!

Activity by Band, 2006 through 2009

Band	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations
222 MHz	3229	152	2767	130	2700	156	3913	190
432 MHz	4618	189	4204	165	3741	192	4845	240
902 MHz	1037	90	850	77	906	88	1778	115
1.2 GHz	1613	131	1520	108	1378	137	2328	154
2.3 GHz	585	67	414	51	679	73	982	80
3.4 GHz	337	49	306	40	489	48	725	54
5.7 GHz	222	36	181	27	353	24	644	44
10 GHz	389	56	316	43	567	50	811	64
24 GHz	38	14	28	11	11	7	13	9
47 GHz	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3
Light	1	1	0	0	10	6	11	5

Participation by Number of Bands, 2006 through 2009

Bands	2006 Logs	2007 Logs	2008 Logs	2009 Logs
1	26	26	27	40
2	32	36	32	52
3	40	21	35	35
4	25	24	29	34
5	8	15	20	22
6	18	16	15	15
7	12	4	16	9
8	19	18	15	33
9	10	2	3	1
10	0	4	2	3

Club Competition Results

Medium Club Category

Club	Entries	Score
Southern California Contest Club	11	2,793,978
Northern Lights Radio Society	31	1,502,667
Badger Contesters	16	397,782
North East Weak Signal Group	8	351,684
Society of Midwest Contesters	9	303,852
Potomac Valley Radio Club	4	174,225
Florida Weak Signal Society	10	146,709
Contest Club Ontario	4	48,129
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	9	26,268
Northern California Contest Club	3	4,410

Local Club Category

Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	3	10,749
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	7	4,398

by K5QE and W0EEA, respectively.

Among the 44 Classic Rover entrants, the top three scorers were from a group roving around southern California: Wayne, N6NB; Carrie, W6TAI, and Art, W6XD. Each of them activated 10 grid squares with a complement of eight bands, 222 MHz through 10 GHz. The top Limited-Rover score for 2009 was submitted by Mike, W6YLZ, who activated 10 grids in and around southern California. The second and third-place national scores in Limited Rover were by Steve, N2CEI, and Sandra, K4SME, who traveled through eight grid squares in southeastern Georgia and east of the Florida Panhandle. With only three entries in Unlimited Rover, they were the "Top 3" nationally; Dave, W6TE (along with John, K6MI), traveled with eight bands through ten grids in southern California to lead the category. John, W3HMS, activated three grids in southern Pennsylvania with eight bands and Eric, KR0VER, visited six grids in eastern Colorado with seven bands to claim second and third, respectively.

Broken Records

Three division records were reset in the Single-Op, Low Power category. In the Hudson Division, it was done by James, K2KIB. Dale, AF1T, set a new top score for the New England Division and Bob, W2BZY, recorded a new best for Southeastern Division.

In the Multi-Op category, two divisions had records reset. The five operators of W0AUS accomplished the feat in the Dakota Division, while W0EEA's effort in the Rocky Mountain Division raised the bar there.

For Limited Rover, initial records were established in the Hudson, Southeastern and

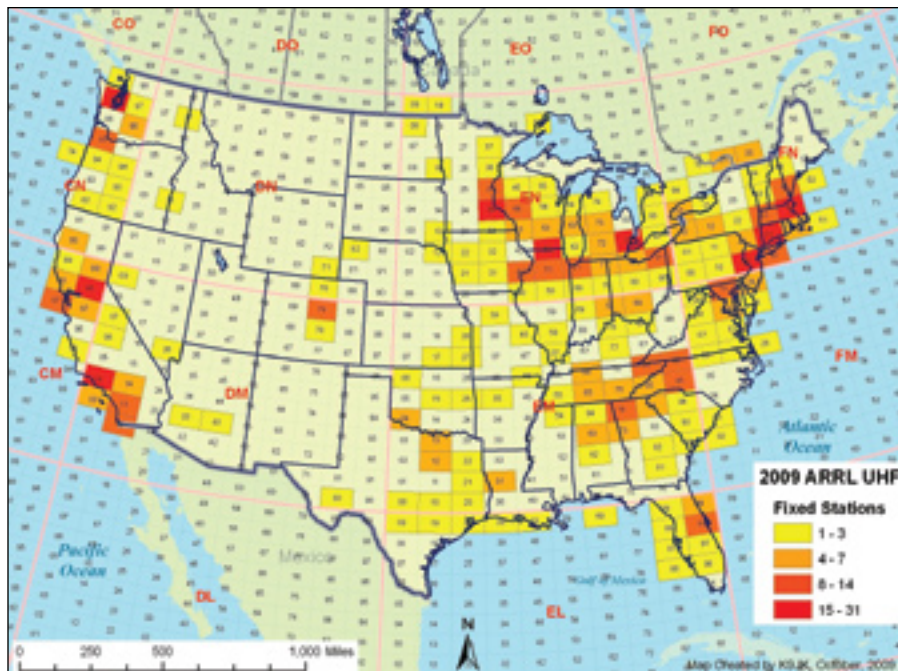


Figure 1 — Grid square map showing grids reporting fixed station activity and the number of stations active in the grid.

Southwestern Divisions by Gary, KB2BSL; Steve, N2CEI, and Mike, W6YLZ. A record established last year for the Dakota Division was bettered by John, WA0VPJ (+Mark, AI0Z). Initial records for Unlimited Rover were established by John, W3HMS; Eric, KR0VER, and Dave, W6TE (+John, K6MI) in the Atlantic, Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Divisions, respectively. In Classic Rover, Bruce, W9FZ bettered a mark that had stood for 10 years in the Central Division and Wayne, N6NB, shattered the prior best Rover score for the Southwestern Division.

What Else Happened in 2009?

This was the inaugural year for Affiliated Club Competition in the UHF Contest and definitely appears to have been a factor in the increase of log submissions (does that suggest that clubs are *viral*?). Of the 244 logs submitted, 147 listed a valid Club Name in their entry.

Congratulations to the Southern California Contest Club for their capture of the first Medium Club gavel with an aggregate score of 2,793,978 from 11 logs. The Northern

Lights Radio Society deserves mention for number of entries with 31 and an aggregate score of just over 1.5 million. The Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs claimed the first gavel in the Local Club category with an aggregate score of 10,749 from their three scores. See the table for the complete Club Competition results.

"200 Logs" Accomplished

Dare I start a new mantra to urge that more than 300 logs be submitted? Would 100 log submissions from Rovers be possible in a UHF Contest? That's probably a bit optimistic, but it definitely seems within the realm of possibilities that the threshold of 249 log submissions from 1994 and 1999 can be crossed: That would only require six more logs than this year.

The first full weekend in August falls on the 7th and 8th in 2010 and that weekend is set aside on my calendar — how about yours? Start planning now and get some practice in January and June. Most of all, let us remember Bill Seabreeze's famous directive to "listen for the weak ones!"