2010 ARRL UHF Contest Results

“Thirst for QSOs satisfied…”

John (JK) Kalenowsky, K9JK
hamk9jk@ameritech.net

A
fter the widespread episode of roving across the country in the August 2009 contest, the ARRL Contest Branch was on high alert for a possible repeat of UHF+ rovers in this year’s competition. After the dust had settled on the highways and byways, 2010 produced fewer rovers (41 total Rover logs versus 67 in 2009) but Southern California was still a hotbed of rover activity with 10 “slash-R” stations submitting logs.

A total of 222 logs were submitted, with those from fixed stations increasing to 181 compared to 177 last year. Single-Operator, Low Power remains the most popular category with 112 logs submitted, growing from 103 in 2009. The extra “A” category logs made up for slight year-to-year drops in log counts for High Power (56 down from 58) and Multioperator (13 down from 16). Even with this 9% drop in log counts, the total number of QSOs reported in this year’s logs, over 16,500, only dropped by about 5% from the approximately 17,400 over 16,500, only dropped by about 9% from the total of 206 grid activations, an average of 5 grids per log in 2009. The 41 Rover log submissions consisted of 33 classic Rovers, 7 Limited Rovers and 1 Unlimited Rover, representing a total of 206 grid activations, an average of 5 grids activated by each Rover.

Tables of “Activity by Band” and “Participation by Number of Bands” return for another year, now including and comparing five years of activity; 2006 to 2010.

Where the Action Was

Before detailing the “where” for 2010, the contest data analysts apologize for an error in last year’s article: grid squares in Southern California were identified with “EN” prefixes when they should have been “DM.” A regrettable error, but one not to be repeated in future write-ups.

Contacts were reported with 217 grid squares in 2010, which included three stations reporting contacts on 432 MHz with K2DY/MM out in FM39.

Among fixed stations submitting logs, a total of 95 grid locators were represented with 56 of them activated only by fixed stations. FN31 was most popular among the fixed stations with 9 logs received, followed in popularity by FN42 (7 logs), EM86 (6 logs), EN82 (6 logs) and FM19, CN87 and FN20 (5 logs). The 206 grids activated by Rovers included 91 unique grid locators with 52 of those visited only by Rovers.

As mentioned earlier, the highest area of Rover activity was in Southern California, with 10 Rovers visiting DM05 and DM04, 9 visiting each of DM05, DM13, DM14 and DM15, leaving CM95, CM96 and DM06 to be visited by “only” 8 of them. Those 9 grids represent almost 40% of the total activations. The next most popular grids among Rovers that submitted logs were EN35 (6 rovers visited), EN34 (5 visits), EN52 (5 visits) and FN03 (4 visits).

Top Scorers by Category

For what appears to be a UHF Contest first, Single-Op, Low Power has been won from Southern California as Steve, WB2W1K piloted the home station of N6NB to the top score in that category. Frequent top scorer Bob, K2DRH claims the second spot from Illinois followed by Paul, W3PAW from Western Pennsylvania.

The six year “chain” of Single-Op, High Power first, second, and third place finishers being Mike, KM0T, Don, WW8M, and Jeff, KITEO has been broken with no log received from WW8M in 2010. Mike, KM0T from his Iowa location, continues as “top dog” here. Jeff, KITEO moved up to second spot from Connecticut and Herb, K2LNS piloted Eastern Pennsylvania’s WA2FGK station to third in the category.

In the Multioperator category, Dave, K1WHS with assistance from N1JFU, operated from Dave’s hilltop in Maine to claim the top spot. Gary, KB0HH assembled a team at his Oklahoma station to wrap up second place and Ken, KA2LIM and four others took “The Limo” to their favorite Western New York location and achieved a third place finish.

Among the 33 classic Rover entrants, the top three scorers for 2010 are the same as for 2009, Wayne, N6NB, Carrie, W6TAI and Art, W6XD, all operating from Southern California. Wayne and Carrie added 24 GHz to have 9 bands and they single-op’d, activating 9 grids while Art was accompanied by Kate, K6HTN visiting “only” 6 grids and having a mere 8 bands. Among seven Limited Rover entries, Mike, W6YLZ repeats as top scorer.
activating 9 grids in and around southern California. Your author, John, K9JK claims the second spot here, having visited 6 grids in Illinois and Duffey, KK6MC (despite a fiery finish to his rover vehicle — he’s fine, though) finished in third place, visiting 8 grids in New Mexico. There was only one entry in Unlimited Rover in 2010, that being Joe, WA3PTV who piloted his 8 band station through 3 grids in Western Pennsylvania.

Division Records Continue to be Updated

A total of 13 Division records were bested in 2010. The Southeastern Division was the “busiest” with three hurdles being cleared; Bob, W2BZY betters a best for Single-Op, Low Power that he’d just set in 2009. Chuck, K0VXM joined in with a new level for Single-Op, High Power. With his 2010 effort in Rover, Steve, N2CEI now has the top Division score for Rover to add to the top Limited Rover score that he claimed in 2009.

Steve, WB2WIK’s top score in Single-Operator, Low Power is a new record for that category in the Southeastern Division and Todd, N4QWZ raised the bar for “A” category in the Delta Division. In addition to what Chuck, K0VXM did in Southeastern, Russ, K4QI set a new standard for Single-Op, High Power in the Roanoke Division.

With a shift of activity to be more in the San Joaquin Valley Section, which is in the Pacific Division, Wayne, N6NB’s high scoring effort for 2010 (which is also a new top score from all entries) now has him holding Rover category top scores for two Divisions; Pacific for 2010 and Southwestern for 2009.

Being newer categories, Limited and Unlimited Rover remain fertile for new records to be established or updated, with six entrants setting new standards here, including one in Unlimited Rover by Joe, WA3PTV for Atlantic and five in Limited Rover; John, K9JK for Central, Duffey, KK6MC for Rocky Mountain, Pete, N6ZE for Northwestern, Tim, KDS1KG for West Gulf and John, WB0KSL for Midwest.

Clubs Continue to be a Factor

With this being the second year for Affiliated Club Competition in the UHF Contest, it was again a positive factor for activity. While the count of logs submitted dropped a bit, the percentage of logs listing a club name, 137 of the 222 or just over 60%, is about the same as last year. Thirty-five different club “names” were submitted (after some massaging of spelling variations, still including the “NONE” Club). Only two names failed to match the ARRL’s official Contest Club List at www.arrl.org/contest-list.html. This left 33 possible clubs, but with the Club Competition requirements making a minimum of 3 logs to be submitted by a club to be eligible to race for the gavels, the number of competing clubs was reduced to 15 with 13 in the Medium category and 2 in the Local category.

Congratulations to the Bristol (TN) ARC for claiming this year’s gavel in the Local Club Category, with an aggregate score of 31,377 from their 4 entries. Eleven logs from the Southern California Contest Club resulted in an aggregate score of 3,566,940, repeating last year’s capture of the Medium Club Category gavel for SCCC. See the table for complete Club Competition results.

Summary

1800 UTC on August 6, 2011 will be here only too soon to begin another 24 hours of radiosport on the bands at 222 MHz and up. I’m already planning to be out roaming, hopefully with some additional bands (so no longer a “Limited” Rover)…how about you? Can we make the 250-log barrier fail? Adding to Bill Seabreeze’s famous directive to “listen for the weak ones!” I recently discovered Lloyd, NE8I’s statement that “Activity happens because we make it happen.” So, whether weak or strong, why don’t “we” make a lot of activity happen in 2011!