2012 ARRL UHF Contest Results

The Quest to rise above 250 log submissions continues!

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The chart showing “QSOs by Band” from 2007 through 2012 tells the story — while still not over the 200-log threshold of 2009 and 2010, the 171 logs received for 2012 did rise from last year’s disappointing count of 142.

Most of the increase was in Single Operator, Low Power logs with 94 (compared to 71 in 2011). With the rise in logs submitted, the total number of QSOs reported in this year’s logs grew as well, with just over 8800 QSOs reported.

Where the Action Was

Among stations submitting logs, a total of 113 grid locators were represented and contacts were reported with 168 different grid squares in 2012. The three most reported grid locators were FM19 (549), FN20 (500) and FN42 (432).

Fixed stations were active from 81 of the 113 grids with 56 uniquely represented by fixed stations. FN42 was the most popular locator for fixed stations with 10 logs received listing 475 QSOs. FN20 and EM86 were next with eight logs each but FN20 stations reported 367 QSOs compared to 166 QSOs from EM86.

The 115 grids activated by Rovers included 32 that were visited only by Rovers — an average of five grids were activated by each Rover. Four Rovers that visited DM13 reported the highest QSO total for a given locator with 173. FN00 was a close second for Rover QSOs with 172 reported by three Rovers that activated the grid. DM04 and CM97 were both visited by five Rovers, with 153 and 112 QSOs reported, respectively.

When Did Contacts Happen?

As usually happens, the busiest hour was the first, in which just shy of 1400 QSOs were logged, a little over 15% of the total QSOs reported in the contest. The chart of “QSOs by Hour” shows that strong activity continued in the following three hours, netting over one third of the total QSOs in the first four hours of the contest. Sunday morning started off slowly with under 200 QSOs between 1000 and 1159 UTC but activity grew and remained steady at over 400 QSOs per hour from 1200 UTC until the end of the contest time.

Top Scorers by Category

In Single Op, High Power, Phil, K3TUF claimed the top spot for 2012 from his Eastern Pennsylvania station. Second place in the “B” category went to Maryland-DC’s Dave, K1RZ. Another Maryland-DC station, Owen, K3CB, claimed the third spot in SOHP.

What can be said about a score of 111,111? It seems unlikely that Paul, W3PAW was trying to achieve that specific score but that placed his effort from Western Pennsylvania atop the Single Op, Low Power category. Following Paul in SOLP were Roger, W3SZ from Eastern Pennsylvania and...
Warner, K1KG from Eastern Massachusetts.

In the Multioperator category, Paul, W0UC teamed up with K9MU and battled the bands from Paul’s Wisconsin station to claim the top spot. The K2LIM “2LIM Amateur Radio Group” was at their favorite Western New York location and claimed the second spot (as they had in 2011). Gary, KB0HH (along with KA0KCI and KD5EKX) operated from Gary’s Oklahoma bunkhouse station and finished in third place.

The Rovers from Southern California returned to activity in 2012 with Wayne, N6NB claiming the national top score in the category (and top score overall for this year). Wayne was closely followed by Art, W6XD. Carrie, W6T1A and Jason, N6EY (+W6TE). Outside of Southern California, the top scoring Rover was Steve, N2CEI from Florida, with over 200 QSOs from traveling through eight grids with eight bands. Brian, N3IQ in the Unlimited Rover category had the highest QSO total of all entrants (735) from the nine-band station he piloted. One other entrant joined Brian in Unlimited Rover, Joe, WA3PTV who travelled through four grids with his eight-band station.

In Limited Rover, your author, John, K9JK reclaimed the top spot for 2012, visiting four grids in Illinois with three bands. Second and third places in Limited Rover were the same as in 2011 except that they traded spots; Darryl, W7D and John, WA0VPJ (+A10Z) earned second and third respectively.

Regional Highlights

The Northeast continues as the log count leader among the regions with 53 logs total; 22 from the Atlantic Division, 20 from the New England Division and 11 from the Hudson Division. The Northeast was also the place to be for top scores among Single Op fixed stations.

After the lowest count of logs (20) among the regions in 2011, “the South rose again” with 33 logs from the Southeast region; with 14 from the Southeastern Division, 10 from the Delta Division and nine from the Roanoke Division. Like “the South(east),” the Central Region also rose again with 29 logs (eight more than 2011); 14 from Central Division, 12 from Great Lakes Division and three from Ontario.

The West Coast Region was the source of 29 logs this year (down from 33 in 2011). The Northwestern and Pacific Divisions each contributed 11 logs plus there were six logs from the Northwestern Division and one from British Columbia. Midwest Region participants submitted 27 logs in 2012, comprised of 11 from the Dakota Division, seven from the Midwest Division, six from the West Gulf Division and three from the Rocky Mountain Division.

What About the Clubs?

Of this year’s 171 logs, 101 of them listed an Affiliated Club name in their Cabrillo log file. With six logs submitted, the Southern California Contest Club won the Medium Club gavel. Seven members of the Bristol (Tennessee) Amateur Radio Club submitted their logs to claim the Local Club gavel. See the table for complete Club Competition results.

Rising!

The ARRL UHF Contest will definitely rise again in 2013, starting at 1800 UTC on August 3, 2013. Rising above 250 log submissions won’t be easy but I still believe we CAN do it. Closing once again with Bill Seabreeze’s famous (infamous?) directive to “listen for the weak ones!” and taking a bit of liberty with the statement I attribute to Lloyd NE8I, let’s MAKE the activity rise!