

June ARRL VHF Contest 2012 Results

Sporadic E pleased some and teased others.

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In the weeks preceding the contest weekend, 6 meters was showing great promise as sporadic E (Es) was abundant and people were making transcontinental and intercontinental contacts by the dozens. The “205 Morning Report”¹ compiled by Stan, KA1ZE, had daily reports of 6 meter openings including the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe and Asia. Last year’s event with its strong 6 meter Es was also still fresh in many operators’ minds. Some rovers fretted that with the opportunities on 6, stations would not QSY “up the bands” with them, while other well equipped stations with microwave capability thought that all the efforts to get those bands working and ready would be for naught. Pete, K1PXE, mused, “If 6 meters is wide open and the higher bands have a band closing, I’ll probably read a good book.”

On June 3, a week prior to the contest, the sad news of the passing of Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, VHF guru and raconteur extraordinaire was shared with the Amateur Radio community. Two new VHF contest operating awards honoring Gene, W3ZZ, were created just in time for the ARRL June VHF Contest, his favorite VHF+ operating event. Tim, K3LR, and Dave, W9ZRZ, are sponsoring the brand-new W3ZZ First Log Award for the

¹205MorningReport is available from ka1zenr11@hotmail.com

top Single Op, Low Power score made on a minimum of two bands by an operator submitting a log in the contest for the first time (there is no limit on how long the operator has been licensed). The initial winner of the award is Bill Glynn, WAØARM of Topeka, KS, who operated from a hilltop on a cattle ranch in EM19, submitting a score of 68,875. In addition, since Gene was a long time member of the K8GP Grid Pirates who frequently operated in the Limited Multioperator category, the ARRL Contest Branch has renamed the Overall Limited Multioperator plaque the Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ Memorial Plaque. Thanks go to Jeff, K1TEO, who graciously gave up his sponsorship of the plaque to the ARRL Contest Branch.

Just three days prior to the event, the ARRL released a bulletin announcing that the event formerly known as the June VHF QSO Party would have a new name. The starting gun sounded promptly at 18:00 UTC on June 9 for the first *June ARRL VHF Contest* and the fun began.

Many operators found 6 meters open right from the start, only for it to fade within minutes. There were very short periods of recurrence where they could find one or two more distant grids. Stan, KA1ZE, reminds us in his report that it is called *sporadic E*. Many others had the same comment. Larry WØPAN, added, “Now I know what is meant by sporadic E — in and out in one minute or less.”

Yet the story of the weekend would be perseverance, as there were recurring opportunities to add grids and contacts from near and far on all bands. It was especially true if you were on the East Coast or in the Pacific Northwest where conditions were some of the most intense. Marshall at K5QE in Texas lamented that they watched the propagation maps and were rewarded with some action on Saturday and a good run on Sunday afternoon, but nothing that came close to the



This was the June VHF Contest, right? At 6400' elevation, the seasons can change rapidly as Gene, KB7Q discovered! [Photo courtesy of KB7Q]

Top Ten	
Single Operator, Low Power	Multioperator
K2DRH 354,063	W2SZ 1,638,400
KØSIX 297,434	K8GP 1,036,917
AF1T 232,407	W3CCX 687,354
WB1GQR 230,850	K5QE 543,996
NØLL 214,599	N6VI 509,922
K9MU 210,441	K9CT 380,952
K1KG 140,901	K3YTL 341,598
W3SZ 140,650	KBØHH 309,396
VA6AN 130,968	VE3WCC 278,496
KC9BQA 126,474	WØKVA 253,946
Single Operator, High Power	Rover
K1TEO 682,641	W6XD/R 272,500
WDØT 461,154	K16FGV/R 256,875
WØUC 417,890	K6AH/R 249,067
WB9Z 234,415	N6HD/R 243,906
NN1N 226,996	WA6WTF/R 218,845
K1TR 219,360	K9AOG/R 215,895
W3PAW 201,520	VE3NPB/R 107,100
K8MD 193,224	KF8QL/R 58,320
W9RM 184,758	AG4V/R 45,480
WØGHZ 180,840	W9FZ/R 37,060
Single Operator Portable	Limited Rover
N6NB 136,840	AL1VE/R 115,116
W1MR 84,760	WB2SIH/R 63,066
WD5AGO 38,016	K2QO/R 50,828
N8XA/P 28,196	WAØVP/J/R 47,215
KJ5RM 17,836	K9AKS/R 39,936
W9SZ 16,732	WW7D/R 38,950
NØJK 12,802	N5RZ/R 26,384
KB5WIA 12,555	VE7JH/R 24,735
W4RXR 7,847	WØETT/R 24,219
N7QF/7 7,700	K9JK/R 21,097
Limited Multioperator	Unlimited Rover
K1WHS 762,745	WA3PTV/R 51,597
K9NS 698,030	KJ1K/R 13,014
K2LIM 409,360	KCØP/R 10,962
W4IY 326,186	NØHZO/R 2,619
AA4ZZ 280,224	NV6C/R 1,411
W4NH 249,660	AF5CC/R 806
NØEO 233,280	KL3JI/R 546
N8ZM 229,017	VE3KGC/R 270
W2LV 208,624	
VE3CX 131,408	

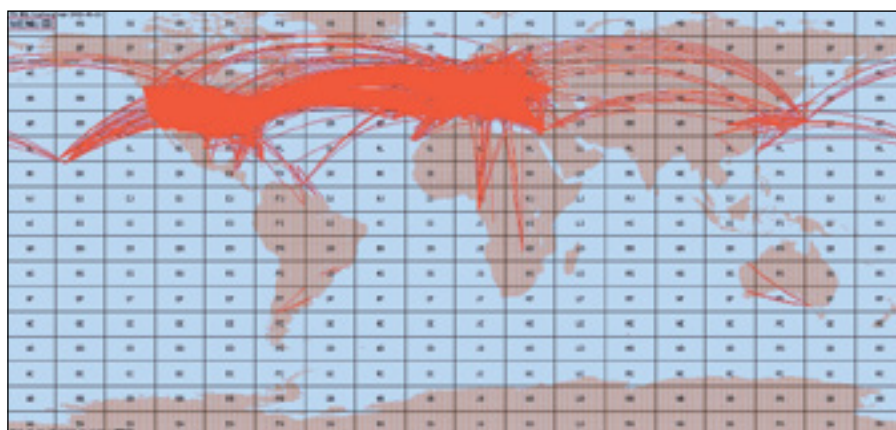
more northern openings or what they had experienced last year. Many of the stations across the south from Florida to Texas were disappointed with the conditions, as they’d had high expectations. Jim, WD5IYT, in Austin, TX predicted that the excellent openings of the previous weekend guaranteed crummy propagation for the contest and he wasn’t disappointed. He found flat conditions on the higher bands and 6 meters was mediocre with very spotty openings. Up in Maine, the K1WHS crew was taking Saturday easy, but realized Sunday with the great openings across the US and the Atlantic that they could pile up points.

Regional Leaders

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)		
AF1T	232,407	A	N4QWZ	114,608	A	K2DRH	354,063	A	KØSIX	297,434	A	VA6AN	130,968	A
WB1GQR	230,850	A	KX4R	82,752	A	K9MU	210,441	A	NØLL	214,599	A	WJØF	70,044	A
K1KG	140,901	A	N3LL	69,732	A	KC9BQA	126,474	A	NØPOH	91,520	A	NQ7R	67,680	A
W3SZ	140,650	A	K5RPD	48,087	A	N9ISN	84,560	A	WAØARM	68,875	A	K7BG	49,773	A
NA2NY	92,140	A	AD4Z	44,160	A	N8BI	75,548	A	KØNR	62,040	A	N7XU	42,560	A
K1TEO	682,641	B	W4ZRZ	118,188	B	WØUC	417,890	B	WDØT	461,154	B	W7EW	164,952	B
NN1N	226,996	B	K4PI	103,356	B	WB9Z	234,415	B	W9RM	184,758	B	K7CW	150,654	B
K1TR	219,360	B	W3IP	83,475	B	K8MD	193,224	B	WØGHZ	180,840	B	N7CW	81,796	B
W3PAW	201,520	B	N4BP	74,655	B	W9GA	162,042	B	NDØB	176,204	B	VA7FC	56,304	B
W3EP	118,128	B	KN4SM	66,216	B	KB8U	94,927	B	K5TR	150,015	B	KG6IN	50,268	B
W1MR	84,760	Q	W4RXR	7,847	Q	N8XA/P	28,196	Q	WD5AGO	38,016	Q	N6NB	136,840	Q
WB2AMU	7,488	Q	N3AWS	6,344	Q	W9SZ	16,732	Q	KJ5RM	17,836	Q	KB5WIA	12,555	Q
N2SPI	2,850	Q	WØPV	1,938	Q	KDØEBT	1,431	Q	NØJK	12,802	Q	KE7UQL	1,960	Q
N1PRW	1,720	Q	KC8KSK	975	Q	K8AX	1,050	Q	N7QF/7	7,700	Q	K6TUJ	280	Q
NK1N	390	Q	KC5FWE	210	Q	WBØIWG	988	Q	WØDJM	1,938	Q	KI6TQT	98	Q
K1WHS	762,745	L	W4IY	326,186	L	K9NS	698,030	L	NØEO	233,280	L	N7NW	119,730	L
K2LIM	409,360	L	AA4ZZ	280,224	L	N8ZM	229,017	L	WØLSD	93,150	L	WA7JTM	110,208	L
W2LV	208,624	L	W4NH	249,660	L	VE3CX	131,408	L	KCØVFO	35,960	L	W7MEM	93,600	L
VE1SKY	99,603	L	N3MK	91,698	L	NØEDV	94,446	L	WØFRC	26,880	L	K7TM	60,750	L
W1QK	90,792	L	W5ANR	49,731	L	W9RVG	41,340	L	WØVB	19,456	L	N6ML	25,080	L
W2SZ	1,638,400	M	K8GP	1,036,917	M	K9CT	380,952	M	K5QE	543,996	M	N6VI	509,922	M
W3CCX	687,354	M	K4HZ	37,076	M	VE3WCC	278,496	M	KBØHH	309,396	M	W6TV	141,564	M
K3YTL	341,598	M	K1KC	30,552	M	K8MM	146,744	M	WØKVA	253,946	M	K7AWB	101,010	M
W3SO	153,690	M	W5ZN	25,216	M	N9UHF	93,612	M	NØMA	159,111	M	K7ZS	57,057	M
N1JEZ	149,100	M	K4MM	23,754	M	N8UR	52,515	M	N5JB	56,550	M	K6ST	41,724	M
NN3Q/R	30,586	R	AG4V/R	45,480	R	VE3NPB/R	107,100	R	W7QQ/R	28,783	R	W6XD/R	272,500	R
K1DS/R	24,766	R	W5VY/R	4,524	R	KF8QL/R	58,320	R	WØZQ/R	14,008	R	KI6FGV/R	256,875	R
WA2BTR/R	22,355	R	N3TG/R	100	R	W9FZ/R	37,060	R	KCØIYT/R	11,247	R	K6AH/R	249,067	R
W3HMS/R	16,131	R						AE5P/R	5,282	R	N6HD/R	243,906	R	
NJ1F/R	10,998	R						WAØRKQ/R	4,235	R	WA6WTF/R	218,845	R	
WB2SIH/R	63,066	RL	WA4JA/R	1,900	RL	K9JK/R	21,097	RL	AL1VE/R	115,116	RL	WW7D/R	38,950	RL
K2QO/R	50,828	RL	K6PFA/R	1,820	RL	W9YOY/R	12,408	RL	WAØVPJ/R	47,215	RL	VE7JH/R	24,735	RL
W3TM/R	5,406	RL	AD4IE/R	1,288	RL	K8DOG/R	11,245	RL	K9AKS/R	39,936	RL	K6BRW/R	15,631	RL
W3ICC/R	4,074	RL	WA5KBH/R	117	RL	VA3ELE/R	6,732	RL	N5RZ/R	26,384	RL	KE6QR/R	12,956	RL
N2GKM/R	1,960	RL						WØETT/R	24,219	RL	KI6CG/R	9,490	RL	
WA3PTV/R	51,597	RU						KCØP/R	10,962	RU	NV6C/R	1,411	RU	
KJ1K/R	13,014	RU						NØHZO/R	2,619	RU	KL3JI/R	546	RU	
								AF5CC/R	806	RU				

I guess that for many without specific expectations, the contest conditions were a big crowd pleaser. Welcome newcomer Dave, KC9CLM, explained, "This was my first radio contest of any kind and I found it was more interesting and fun than I thought. The more contacts I made the more I wanted! [The] main thing was I enjoyed myself." John, N3AM, said, "Six was a blast with new directions popping up right to the end of the contest." Charlie, KX7L, reported, "Holy cow! Unbelievable! The propagation just wouldn't quit!" George, WA2VNV, commented, "I have never before heard such piled up station activity all the way up to about 50.275." For those operators who favor the lower segments of the band and CW, the results were also fulfilling. Matt, K7BG, reported that he stayed on 50.080, and in a 3 hour stretch on Sunday ran almost 200 QSOs in that period. Jim, K1TN, in EN55 reported that about 90 percent of his QSOs were on CW.

John, NØJK, in Kansas had various difficulties in keeping antennas up in the wind, and with his 10 watts and a 2 element Yagi managed to snag CT1HZE and VO1TA. Modest stations like ABØRX, operating portable at a campsite on Missouri's highest point, Taum Sauk Mountain, was able to work 94 grids on



Justin, K9MU/P, captured 6 meter spots from the ON4KST website for the first 24 hours of the contest. [Graphic courtesy ON4KST]

6 meters, despite having his antenna totally surrounded by dense forest. Fred, KH7Y, in Hawaii had openings to BY, JA, HL and to W6, W7 and W8 land on Sunday. Bob, MDØCCE, on the Isle of Man reported, "Best opening to North America of the season so far, great signals!"

Jeff, K1TEO, noted fewer rovers with micro-

wave gear this time, hurt the 903 MHz and up scores quite a bit. Dick, WA2AAU, with the Mt. Greylock Expeditionary Force, W2SZ, reported that the higher bands had less activity than usual with everyone on 6 meters much of the time. They found some nice signals on 2, 3 and 5 GHz out to the west on Sunday evening at about 250 miles; when only a few hours earlier they'd had a hard time working the

same station at a substantially better location only 230 miles away. Joe, N5QYC, says the highlight of his weekend came when he was able to complete his first out of state contact on 1296 MHz, a new band for him. The distance of 98 miles on 1296 MHz gave him as much of a thrill as working his first DX on 10 meters.

Logs

The number of logs received was 1222, 11 fewer than last year, but there was a good geographic distribution. Many DX stations sent in their logs as the conditions were unique and call signs not previously recorded in the past 10 years showed up in the listings. There was also an interesting change in the number of operators in each of the categories. There was a drop in the submitted Single Operator logs from 931 last year to 888 this year, but an increase in the number of Unlimited Multioperator (MU) station logs from 103 to 140. The number of submitted QRP Portable logs increased by 25% this year, from 37 to 46. This seems to be a fun category for those who pack their gear and head out to a good spot. The other category that saw a modest loss was the number of Classic Rovers, down from 49 in 2011 to 34 in 2012. As always, the number of logs submitted is far less than the total number of participants; WDØT shows 1486 QSOs in his 6 meter total, and of course, groups of operators participate in the Multioperator and many of the Rover categories.

Based on a review of the submitted logs, another 33 section and eight division scoring records were set this year. This continues a pattern where we saw 39 scoring records set in 2010 and another 43 in 2011. The previous contest score records are available for review on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/contest-records and will be updated with the new records set in 2012, thanks to Curt, K9AKS.

DX

Christopher, 9Y4D, from Trinidad and Tobago managed 27 6 meter QSOs in 14 grids. The Multiop team at C6ABB from the Bahamas had a total of 265/107 on 6 meters. Cuban station T43S showed 223/90 on 6 meters and 24/9 on 2 meters with a score of 19K while T48K had a 42K score with 391/108 on 6 meters alone. Operators at CO2QU with 25/17 and CO8LY 229/83 satisfied many with those calls in their logs.

Thanks to K1DS

This is Rick's final June VHF writeup. The ARRL wishes to thank him for his years of service to the contest and VHF+ community as a contest writeup author!

VP2MRT in Montserrat had a result of 38/25. HA5PT reported only one QSO. JP1LRT had 4/4 6 meter contacts. Logs from Hawaii included KH6HI scoring 53/27 and KH7T with 29/18. The Canadian participation was high with 70 logs submitted. Six stations in Mexico submitted logs. Zalo, XE3N, led the charge with 328/116, while the LM team at XE2K scored over 33K using four bands. YW4B managed to have nine 6 meter QSOs. The logs represent North America, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, the Pacific and Asia.

Single Operator

The mainstay of the activity belongs to the Single Operators. Bob, K2DRH, in IL has a multiband stations with a big tower and plenty of aluminum in the air and has been a perennial first-place station in the Single Operator, Low Power category. This year he paced the crowd with a score of 354K, using bands through 3456 MHz although he had only a total of three contacts between 2.4 and 3 GHz. His solid efforts on the lower four bands, plus a handful of contacts and multipliers on 902 MHz and 1296 MHz helped him lead the way. With 297K, Vince, KØSIX, from Minnesota placed second with a huge effort on 6 meters, collecting 1101 contacts in 229 grids plus several more contacts and multipliers on 2 meters and 70 centimeters. In third place was Dale, AF1T, from NH with a score of 232K, based on an 11 band operation. He started with a nice 6 meter total and complemented it with contacts and multipliers on bands through 24 GHz. Mitch, W1SJ, operated the WB1GQR station from a great mountaintop in Vermont and came in fourth with a score of 230K, using all bands up to those needing dish or horn antennas. Larry, NØLL, in Kansas came in 5th with 214K on the strength of an excellent 6 meter total of 892/215.

In the Single Operator, High Power group we again find Jeff, K1TEO, on top with a score of 682K. Jeff has been one of the most skillful operators in VHF+ contests for over a decade. Certainly his 10 band station, antennas and location are excellent, as is his family's support for his contesting. His ability to rapidly coordinate and run the bands is outstanding. Todd, WDØT, from South Dakota won the second spot with a score of 461K using the bottom four bands. He was in the right place at the right time for this contest and managed 1486/279 on 6 meters and some additional QSOs and multipliers on bands BCD (144, 222 and 432 MHz). Paul, WØUC, in Wisconsin copped third place, also taking advantage of the great 6 meter conditions and adding to that with contacts on bands though 2 GHz. Jerry, WB9Z, in Illinois found himself in 4th place with a six band effort. He also was in the midst of the 6 meter maelstrom. In 5th place Dave, NN1N, scored 227K with a single band 6 meter total of

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Club Category

Club	Logs	Score
Society of Midwest Contesters	53	1,581,175

Medium Club Category

North East Weak Signal Group	22	2,425,181
Southern California Contest Club	20	2,209,845
Potomac Valley Radio Club	45	1,943,381
Northern Lights Radio Society	18	1,541,766
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	23	1,197,005
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	23	922,657
Contest Club Ontario	26	914,437
Badger Contesters	15	724,640
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	16	603,379
Nacogdoches ARC	3	551,250
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	11	494,802
Florida Contest Group	15	450,318
Carolina DX Association	8	351,485
Minnesota Wireless Assn	14	300,464
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	6	287,676
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	3	271,752
Maritime Contest Club	8	252,555
Mad River Radio Club	7	236,791
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	28	234,969
Northern California Contest Club	28	213,807
Tennessee Contest Group	14	186,734
Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers	3	164,215
Florida Weak Signal Society	12	117,792
Roadrunners Microwave Group	4	111,106
North Texas Microwave Society	3	99,246
Contest Group Du Quebec	7	90,539
Frankford Radio Club	10	87,872
North Texas Contest Club	3	67,391
South East Contest Club	10	64,903
Willamette Valley DX Club	4	61,315
Alabama Contest Group	8	39,948
Louisiana Contest Club	3	9,277
South Jersey Radio Assn	3	4,026

Local Club Category

Bergen ARA	3	95,150
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	7	93,904
Rochester (MN) ARC	4	90,662
ORCA DX And Contest Club	4	68,480
Granite State ARA	3	60,206
Colony Mountain Contest Club	3	52,877
Delara Contest Team	3	37,928
DFW Contest Group	6	34,982
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	5	26,887
Bristol (TN) ARC	4	21,195
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	3	6,774
Burlington County Radio Club	5	5,245
Sterling Park ARC	3	694

938/242 including 76 QSOs with European stations in 51 different grids.

Multioperators

Pooling their operating skills and time and often their gear, multioperator stations hope to capture every bit of the excitement on each band. The trade-off here is finding or building a station that is set up for multioperator activity. The challenges include networking of computers, filtering or blocking competing transmitted signals while maintaining the sensitivity and selectivity of receivers, and having enough towers and rotators to support efforts on each of the bands. Doing a web search for some of the top scoring calls will lead you to fascinating stories and pictures of the large multioperator stations.

The Limited Multiops can use more than the lower four bands, but can only include the results of the lower four for their scores. In the lead spot this year is K1WHS from Maine, with a score of 763K. The K9NS Mt Frank Contesters of Illinois were in 2nd place with a score of 698K, again taking advantage of location and conditions, with their antennas placed well in the air at 150 feet and above.

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to announce the winners of a sponsored ARRL June VHF QSO Party plaque. The ARRL thanks the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible.

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
Overall Single Operator High Power	Southeastern VHF Society	K1TEO
Overall Single Operator Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	K2DRH
Overall Single Op, Low Power, First Log	W3ZZ First Log Award — Memorial by Tim, K3LR and Dave, W9ZR	WA0ARM
Overall Single Operator QRP Portable	Dave Carlson, AA9D	N6NB
Overall Multioperator	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR	W2SZ
Overall Limited Multioperator	Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ Memorial — ARRL Contest Branch	K1WHS
Overall Rover	*73 Tim KE3HT/SK, Microwave DX Addict*	W6XD/R
Atlantic Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	NN3Q/R
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	Northern Lights Radio Society	K0SIX
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	In Memory Of Dick, W2GFF de: Jay, NY2NY	NA2NY
Northwestern Division Single Operator High Power	Boring, OR Amateur Radio Club	W7EW
Northwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	Mike Coogan, KB7ME	K7BG
Northwestern Division Multioperator	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR	K7AWB
Roanoke Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	N3TG/R
Southeastern Division Single Operator High Power	Southeastern VHF Society	W4ZRZ
Southeastern Division Single Operator Low Power	Southeastern VHF Society	KX4R
Southwestern Division Single Operator High Power	W5UWB — In Memory of John Chambers, W6NLZ	N7CW
Southwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	Bud Sermon, N7CW	WJ0F
DX Single Operator High Power	K1TEO, W2GKR, W2GKO, KA1FVG	XE2X
DX Single Operator Low Power	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	T48K (CO8ZZ, op)

Un-sponsored plaques may be purchased by the plaque winner. If you wish to purchase an un-sponsored or duplicate plaque, please contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X at 860-594-0232 or by e-mail at kx9x@arrl.org. Plaques cost \$75 each, which includes all shipping charges

The K2LIM team, in 3rd place with 409K, had a steady performance across the four bands. The W4IY group in Virginia usually can be found on a nice high mountaintop and their operators scored 326K in this outing for a 4th place finish. It looks as if they are adopting SDR technology with their web posted pictures. In 5th place the AA4ZZ group had 280K. Paul and a group of friends from the Carolina DX Association (CXDA) participate in the ARRL VHF+ contests from their mountaintop site near Boone, NC EM96 (Watauga County) using the AA4ZZ call sign.

The W2SZ Mt. Greylock Expeditionary Force has held first place in the Unlimited Multioperator category for many years. With their outstanding location on Mt. Greylock at 3488 feet and their well equipped radio trucks and team of rovers, they are primed for this event annually. Their score this year of 1.64 million points was built on 2172 contacts and 512 multipliers on bands through 47 GHz. They managed to have one of the best East Coast 6 meter QSO totals of 1204 with 265 grid multipliers. The Grid Pirates at the new K8GP location captured 2nd place with just over a million points. Their 10 GHz gear wasn't on the air, but their 2 meter score was superb with 444/75. The Packrats at W3CCX were again in third place with 687K. Their 6 meter counts and multipliers were considerably lower than the 1st and 2nd place stations, but their showing on the rest of the bands was strong and comparable. The southern Texas station at K5QE had a 509K score for 4th place. Conditions there were down from last year and many of the stations across the southern tier of the US did not experience as much Es as the northern tier. The N6VI group

coordinated with the Southern California Contest Club rovers on 10 bands to score 509K for a 5th place finish.

Rovers

The top finisher in the Limited Rover category was Tim, AL1VE/R, with 115K, using only bands ABD. He covered six grids and had a ball on 6 meters with a result of 585/159. Bill, WB2SIH/R, placed 2nd with a four band effort across four grids with a score of 63K. Mark, K2QO/R, and his roving partner Paul, W2TAU, traversed seven grids and scored 50K for 3rd place. John, WA0VPJ/R, and his roving partner Mark, AI0Z, spread their activity over eight grids around Minnesota to collect 47K points for 4th place. Curt, K9AKS/R, focused his activity on 6 meters and visited four grids while piling up 39K points for 5th place.

The top six finishers in the Classic Rover category were all from the Southern California Contest Club; W6XD/R, KI6FGV/R, K6AH/R, N6HD/R, WA6WTF/R, and K9AOG/R all had scores between 272K and 215K. Each was equipped with 10 bands and they each roved through 10 grids and completed between 700 and 800 contacts each

The Band Is Open Online

Rick wrote a whole lot more which you can read online at www.arrl.org/contest-results including a band-by-band breakdown of the top scoring stations!

and between 111 and 125 multipliers.

The Unlimited Rover category was created a few years ago to try to level the playing field for various rover configurations, operator numbers and pack-roving. The eight entrants in this group had modest scores, with WA3PTV/R in first place with 51K points, using 10 bands across 4 grids in the Mid-Atlantic area.

QRP Portables

Stations in this category may only use 10 W maximum output and must have a completely portable station operating on portable power. Wayne, N6NB, captured 1st place again with his 10 band vehicle, scoring 137K points and linking up with the Southern California Contesting Club rovers. Chris, W1MR, from NH placed 2nd with a six band station scoring 84K. He has been a regular entrant and winner in this category under his old call, KA1LMR. Tommy, WD5AGO, had a four band effort from Oklahoma and scored 38K for 3rd place in this category.

Club Competition

There were 47 club entities that submitted aggregate scores, representing 529 entries. The only entry in the Unlimited Club class with 53 logs and a total of 1.6 million points is the Society of Midwest Contesters. They have worked diligently over the past several years to stimulate VHF+ activity for this contest and get their members to submit logs.

The North East Weak Signal Group took first place honors in the Medium Club category with 22 logs and 2.4 million points. There are many strong VHF+ operators in that group and many with gear through the millimeter wavelengths. In 2nd place, the Southern California Contest Club had 20 logs and 2.2 million points based on their team of 10 band equipped rovers, N6VI Limited Multiop, and N6NB QRP Portable. The Potomac Valley Radio Club with 45 logs and 1.9 million points placed 3rd. Their K8GP Unlimited Multiop station contributed more than half of the points and this was well supplemented by their operating membership.

The Bergen ARA was in 1st place among the Limited clubs with 3 logs and 95K points. The Stoned Monkey VHF ARC (with the most colorful club name) placed 2nd with seven logs and 94K points. In 3rd place we have the Rochester (MN) ARC with a 90K score based on their four logs.

Epilogue

You had to be on the air to get the thrill of the chase, a taste of propagation and, if lucky, some DX in your log. So get a head start now for this coming year's VHF-and-up activities. Check your gear, make a plan, add a band, up your power, try a new mode and improve your feed lines and antennas. Next year the ARRL June VHF Contest will be held June 8-10, 2013.