

1998 ARRL September VHF QSO Party Results

The best laid plans of mice and men..." We know the rest of this quote though few of us can remember the source. And this year, it seems to be exactly what occurred during the 1998 September VHF QSO Party. From ardent multi-op stations to the casual participant, summary sheets were replete with tales of preparation and planning designed to maximize effort in this year's event. Rovers planned their routes. New antennas were mounted. Recruits for multi-op stations were trained. But it seems someone was not invited to party: Propagation.

The real star of this year's event may have been what one entry called "dismal" band conditions. When compared to the successful June VHF QSO Party (see results December 1998 QST), participation, entries received, QSO totals, and multipliers worked all were down. Scoring was also lower than in June. The hard-core VHF community was visible, but more than one log bemoaned the lack of the "casual" contest.

Making the best of band conditions is a hallmark trait of outstanding operators. Two stations set new overall September scoring records for their entry categories. "The Man" was at it again as WA8WZG, who swept all 4 major ARRL VHF/UHF contests in 1997, upped his Single Op September record to 465,915, bettering the 394,744 mark he set last year.

New Single-Op Division scoring records

were set by WA8WZG (Delta), K1TEO (New England), KE7SW (Northwestern), N6KBX (Pacific) and K5IUA (West Gulf) while new Division Rover marks were set by N1MJD (New England), K7XC (Pacific), N6TEB (Southwestern), and VE3OIL in

Top Ten

Single Operator

WA8WZG	465,915
K1TEO	345,685
K1RZ	241,230
WA2FGK	194,677
(K2LNS,op)	
KA1ZE	178,672
KE8FD	164,925
K1UHF	153,605
K3DNE	145,782
W3OR	145,782
K2YAZ	122,364

QRP Portable

K9PW	155,056
W8TL/3	58,145
ND3F	19,380
AF4HX	15,987
N8A (N8XA,op)	9,275
KK7AT	1,248
KQ6TI	1,134
WB2AMU	987
KQ6UQ	726
KC7OLP	464

Multioperator

W2SZ/1	1,620,042
K8GP	1,327,590
K3MQH	627,997
K2TXB	428,420
K1WHS	209,605
W0UC	192,148
N5WS	92,820
W2EA	80,769
W6TOI	71,496
KF6JSO	57,475

Limited Multioperator

K3YTL	383,783
NC1I	332,454
W4IY	314,748
WB1GQR	208,532
N2HLT	198,152
AA4ZZ	170,154
WB2ODH/6	169,344
N0UK	133,272
W9ICE	131,430
W1QK	94,501

Rover

AB4CR	175,050
W3EKT	112,254
N4STK	107,520
K7XC	90,816
N1MJD	76,167
W9FZ	50,350
WB9SNR	44,910
AB5SS	43,148
VE3OIL	42,840
K3QII	39,520

Canada. Only W8TL/3 (Atlantic) was able to establish a new Division standard in the QRP Portable category. In the Multi-Op category the K8GP operation set a new Roanoke Division mark while the N5WS group raised the bar in the West Gulf Division. Rounding out the record setters from the Limited Multi-Op Division category were groups manning the stations of K2BAR (Hudson), NC1I (New England), W6MMM (Pacific), and W4CMA (Southeastern). Well done to these outstanding achievers.

A particularly disturbing remark appeared in a number of Soapbox comments: "The 'pop-gun' tester doesn't really matter." Let's put this sentiment to rest: *Every entry matters.* Whether you score 300K and you are a perpetual Division leader, or you casually make 20 QSOs in two grid squares, it takes every entrant to make any contest a success. It was encouraging to hear comments about the return of old call signs to the scene, as well as some larger stations encouraging others to listen out for local "little guys." Still, it was disheartening to hear so many comments about participation being down.

When you participate in any of our contests, remember to submit your log, including your items for the Soapbox section. Don't worry if it isn't a world beater or record setter. You might be surprised how well you did compared to others in your



AB4CR really had a hard time explaining to his wife that the halo was standard equipment for the new car, even before the license plate was added.



Matt Bennett, KF6RTB, visits the station of John Kountz, KE6GFF, and learns about contesting.

SHEILA SCHWARTZ, KE6GFI

Multiplier Leaders By Band

Single Operator/QRP Portable			Multioperator		
50 MHz			50 MHz		
K5TR	115		K8GP	118	
(at W5KFT)			N5WS	112	
KB0VUK	109		N0UK -L	107	
N0LL	89		AA4ZZ -L	97	
K5IUA	88		K2TXB	94	
W8CM	75				
144 MHz			144 MHz		
K0MQS	70		K8GP	103	
KE8FD	63		W4IY -L	81	
K2YAZ	56		K2TXB	70	
K8TQK	55		K3MQH	69	
K3VGX	53		W2SZ/1	66	
K1TEO	53				
222 MHz			222 MHz		
WA8WZG	36		K8GP	70	
KE8FD	36		K3MQH	46	
K1TEO	33		W2SZ/1	44	
KA1ZE	30		K3YTL -L	42	
K1RZ	30		W4IY -L	42	
432 MHz			432 MHz		
KE8FD	49		K8GP	85	
K8TQK	43		W4IY -L	56	
WA8WZG	42		W2SZ/1	53	
K1TEO	40		K3MQH	52	
K2DRH	38		W9ICE -L	49	
KA1ZE	38				
902 MHz			902 MHz		
WA8WZG	21		K8GP	31	
K1TEO	20		W2SZ/1	29	
K1RZ	18		K2TXB	21	
K2YAZ	18		K3MQH	15	
K9PW -Q	16		K1WHS	12	
W3OR	16				
WA2FGK	16		1296 MHz		
(K2LNS,op)			K8GP	39	
1296 MHz			W2SZ/1	29	
WA8WZG	32		K2TXB	27	
K4QI	22		K3MQH	22	
K2YAZ	21		W0UC	15	
K1TEO	20		-Q denotes QRP		
K1RZ	19		Portable		
WF9X	19		-L denotes Limited		
			Multioperator		

section working under similar conditions. Some sections only have a few logs submitted. It has never been easier to enter any of our contests. With the ability to electronically submit entries to the Contest Branch, you don't have to worry about unreliable delivery times of the postal service. Visit the Contest Branch homepage at <http://www.arrl.org/contest> for details, entry forms, logs sheets, general information, schedules, rules and results.

We look at every log and read every soapbox comment. This is how we get a feel for what the contest weekend was like

in your area. Sitting in Headquarters, we can't determine if there were better conditions in California or if there was some good sporadic E in Minnesota unless you tell us. Your photographs also give us a sense of what participants are doing in terms of creativity and experimentation. We can only print a few of the photographs and comments we receive, but believe me, they are valuable tools as we put together each article. One note about photographs: Please attach labels, including names and call signs of those in the photo, to the back of the snapshot. When you write on the photograph proper, it sometimes makes it unusable for us to print.

Get yourselves ready for the 1999 June VHF QSO Party, set for June 14-15. Besides the sunscreen and the cool clothes, be sure to check out your feed lines, good tires for your roving vehicle, and stock in goodies for the cooler. Oh, and someone please remember to invite Mr. Propagation this time. The pleasure of his company is always welcomed. We all hope he RSVP's in the affirmative!

Soapbox

Not as much activity as in June, but all in all it was a lot of fun (AA6W)... At times, tropospheric conditions were unusually good up to 1296 (K7IVW)... Conditions were completely flat. I need to finish building a real antenna for 6m (VE2ZP)... My first contest. All I had hoped to do was qualify for the Participation Pin (KF6RCI)... Super weather, good operating locations, fair propagation except for 50 MHz (WB7DHC/R)... Highlights must be the TE contacts to South America Sunday afternoon (W5UWB)... Sunday morning was so slow I went to a hamfest, but am looking forward to January already (KB8UZZ)... Perhaps poor conditions, producing weak signals, made CW a good mode for making contacts (K4ME)... My last entry in a VHF contest was from NNJ circa 1958. Grids were not known at that time. We worked sections around the country. Of course, then the only modes were AM and CW (K2IUK)... It was a good learning experience and lots of fun (KB6YAD)... If not for about three hours of sporadic on 6 meters, the contest would have been pretty dismal. Conditions for tropo were really poor and this did not provide the usual 432 MHz contacts (W0PHD)... Mix a VHF contest with helping in a public service overnight bike ride and you have a LONG weekend and LOTS of fun (AD4F)... Who said you have to be high on a hill to

QSO Leaders By Band

Single Operator/QRP Portable			Multioperator		
50 MHz			50 MHz		
K5TR	287		W2SZ/1	562	
(at W5KFT)			K8GP	508	
N1MIA	231		K3YTL -L	486	
K1TEO	227		NC11 -L	464	
WA8WZG	226		K3MQH	443	
K5IUA	220				
144 MHz			144 MHz		
K3VGX	371		K8GP	671	
K1TEO	360		W2SZ/1	664	
K1UHF	309		K3MQH	639	
KB2IT	283		K3YTL -L	503	
K1RZ	274		NC11 -L	472	
222 MHz			222 MHz		
WA8WZG	126		W2SZ/1	219	
K1TEO	101		K8GP	165	
K5MA	81		K3YTL -L	150	
K1UHF	76		NC11 -L	142	
K1RZ	72		K3MQH	131	
WA2FGK	72		432 MHz		
(K2LNS,op)			W2SZ/1	375	
432 MHz			K3MQH	266	
WA8WZG	208		K8GP	253	
K1TEO	150		NC11 -L	217	
KE6GFF	143		K3YTL -L	216	
K5MA	111		902 MHz		
K1RZ	106		W2SZ/1	99	
K1UHF	106		K8GP	49	
902 MHz			K3MQH	28	
WA8WZG	49		K2TXB	26	
K1TEO	43		K1WHS	19	
K1RZ	37		1296 MHz		
WA2FGK	30		W2SZ/1	126	
(K2LNS,op)			K8GP	72	
KA1ZE	28		K3MQH	47	
1296 MHz			K2TXB	41	
WA8WZG	79		K1WHS	38	
K1TEO	59		-Q denotes QRP		
WA4VHF	52		Portable		
K1RZ	48		-L denotes Limited		
K9PW -Q	39		Multioperator		
K3DNE	38				

work the VHF Contests? With less than 1000 feet elevation our contest site for W9ICE came together. We found that with good planning, equipment and dedicated operators you can be competitive from any location (WB9YCZ)... I took a lightning strike a week before the contest, so I had to borrow a few radios (VE3TMG)... My harmonic-op-in-training Susan and I had a great time roving and mountain topping. Thanks to K6NHK/R who put up with our invading his spot on Keller Peak (N6DN)... Thanks to the local "big guns" who made sure that the 'good ones' knew to turn this way and work us little guys too (KC8AQH)... The weather was great at 8013 feet: sunny days and 78° and clear nights at 38°. The entire group appreciated the absences of Murphy this September (WB2ODH/6)... The biggest thrill was watching my two 13 year old grandsons' eyes light up with

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/Yukon Sections)		
K1TEO	345,685	S	N8UM	48,096	S	WA8WZG	465,915	S	WQ0P	85,794	S	N6KBX	36,608	S
K1RZ	241,230	S	KN4SM	33,640	S	KE8FD	164,925	S	K5IUA	82,984	S	N6AJ	30,912	S
WA2FGK	194,677	S	K4QI	32,832	S	K2YAZ	122,364	S	W8CM	81,367	S	W3SE	27,295	S
(K2LNS,op)														
W8TL/3	58,145	Q	AF4HX	15,987	Q	K9PW	155,056	Q	KC7OLP	464	Q	KK7AT	1,248	Q
ND3F	19,380	Q	WA4AIW	182	Q	N8A (N8XA,op)	9,275	Q				KQ6TI	1,134	Q
WB2AMU	987	Q	KF4YWT	32	Q	W9SZ	330	Q				KQ6UQ	726	Q
222 MHz			222 MHz			222 MHz			222 MHz			222 MHz		
W2SZ/1	1,620,042	M	K8GP	1,327,590	M	W0UC	192,148	M	N5WS	92,820	M	W6TOI	71,496	M
K3MQH	627,997	M	K4SZ	24,346	M	KC8DAZ	7,812	M	WW2R	13,325	M	KF6JSO	57,475	M
K2TXB	428,420	M	W8MOP	4,176	M	WD9DSN	6,426	M	N0FJ	5,460	M	K6MI	25,056	M
432 MHz			432 MHz			432 MHz			432 MHz			432 MHz		
K3YTL	383,783	L	W4IY	314,748	L	W9ICE	131,430	L	N0UK	133,272	L	WB2ODH/6	169,344	L
NC11	332,454	L	AA4ZZ	170,154	L	W9FX	61,320	L	KK5IH	25,288	L	W6MMM	52,200	L
WB1GQR	208,532	L	W4NH	80,613	L	VE3TMG	17,748	L	K5XU	21,728	L	W7QH	4,640	L
902 MHz			902 MHz			902 MHz			902 MHz			902 MHz		
W3EKT	112,254	R	AB4CR	175,050	R	W9FZ	50,350	R	AB5SS	43,148	R	K7XC	90,816	R
N1MJD	76,167	R	N4STK	107,520	R	WB9SNR	44,910	R	WA5VKS	10,032	R	N6IFW	36,040	R
K3QII	39,520	R	KB4NVD	21,730	R	N8KWV	6,432	R	KF0UK	4,032	R	KA7YOU	31,213	R

L = Limited multioperator; M=Multioperator; Q=QRP; R=Rover; S=Single operator

Los Angeles

W3SE	27,295	367	53	S	ABCDE
KQ6QW	13,188	240	42	S	ABCD
KE6FCT	12,090	171	62	S	ABCD
AB6YQ	5,760	207	24	S	ABD
W6IST	3,160	112	20	S	ABCD
KE6AJX	2,656	105	16	S	ABCD
KD6OLH	1,296	60	16	S	ABCD
KF6PQT	649	52	11	S	ABD
KF6EOJ	440	36	10	S	ABD
WA6BIL	374	34	11	S	AB
W6EZB	345	69	5	S	B
N3WTK	180	30	6	S	B
KQ6TI	1,134	45	18	Q	ABCD
KQ6GU	726	39	11	Q	BCD
WB2ODH/6 (+K6KWQ,N6HKF,N6RMJ,N6ZE,WA6DJS,WB6DTA)	169,344	870	147	L	ABCD

Orange

K6T5K	22,500	295	60	S	ABD
W6BFC5	14,976	159	78	S	ABCD
KF6HAM	4,280	95	40	S	ABD
KE6GFF	3,718	143	13	S	D
K6IBY	3,026	64	34	S	ABCD
KE6GFI	3,000	158	15	S	BD
KC6ILH	1,386	90	14	S	ABD
KN6WL	1,125	102	9	S	BD
K6OUe	765	65	9	S	BD
N6CMF	680	57	10	S	BD
KD6UIH	640	29	16	S	ABCD
KE6QCB	406	46	7	S	BD
N6DZ5	216	36	6	S	B
KG6EV	198	13	9	S	ABCD
KG6VV	150	30	5	S	B
KQ6BS	160	40	4	Q	B
KE6WOX	48	12	4	Q	A
KF6RTB	18	5	2	Q	ABD
W67OI (KB6WKT,KD6FPX,WB6JDH,KE6HPZ,ops)	71,496	492	108	M	ABCD
KE6ENB (+WA6JZQ)	441	54	7	L	BD

Santa Barbara

W6FM	3,440	67	40	S	ABCDE
KE6RCI	1,030	88	10	S	BD

Santa Clara Valley

W6IT	14,092	185	52	S	ABCDE
W6MT	6,552	127	42	S	ABCD
W6GYD	4,950	110	33	S	ABCDE
AA6W	4,512	119	24	S	BCDE
KG6HM	798	57	14	S	AB
KQ6OT	255	37	5	S	BD
KF6J5O (KB6HRB,KF6KDC,KB6QNP,KC6UCN,ops)	57,475	425	95	M	ABCD

San Diego

KF6JB	4,844	139	28	S	ABCD
KE6NRO	2,813	80	29	S	ABD
KE6SG	900	50	15	S	ABC
K6IAH	689	44	13	S	ABC
WA6AIL	155	31	5	S	B

San Francisco

WN6W	495	36	11	S	ABDE
W6MMW (WB9NJS,WA6KLK,KD6LBT,W6H5DY,ops)	52,200	439	90	L	ABCD

San Joaquin Valley

N6AJ	30,912	227	92	S	ABCDE
KF6CNV	300	50	6	S	B
KD6IVL	224	27	8	S	BD
WA6QYR	24	8	3	S	B
K6MI (+KC6QPO,Ni6G,WA6YDI)	25,056	234	72	M	ABCD
K6QG (+WB6GPD)	752	47	16	L	AB

Sacramento Valley

N6KXB	36,608	290	88	S	ABCDE
KE6ZWT	15,120	233	45	S	BCD
KB6YAD	324	36	9	S	AB

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Arizona

KE7FC	8,208	123	57	S	ABCD
KE7NR	4,320	79	40	S	ABCD9
K7KGB	585	26	15	S	ABCD
KF7JS	390	21	15	S	ABD
WB7OHF	390	34	10	S	ABCD
WA7VHF	120	15	6	S	BD
WA9TKK	455	29	13	Q	ABCD

Eastern Washington

N7AU	12,474	142	66	S	ABCDE
K7XW	9,020	118	55	S	ABCD9E
N3CEV	4,816	83	43	S	ABCD
N7JGO	2,610	40	45	S	BCD
KCT7VNA (+NET)	15,120	163	72	M	ABCD

Idaho

KJ7TH	1,995	86	19	S	ABD
WB9DRB	1,395	35	31	S	ABCD
KA7GUX	1,092	44	21	S	ABD
WA8DYU	336	28	12	S	AB
KK7AT	1,248	63	16	Q	ABC
N7LT (+KC7HCR)	1,100	48	20	L	ABD

Nevada

K7ICW	7,788	107	59	S	ABCDE
KO6CX (+K06YD)	3,052	95	28	L	ABD

Oregon

W7DSA	3,450	94	30	S	ABCDE
N7DB	1,633	60	23	S	ABCD
W7ZOI (+AA7QU)	442	25	13	M	ABD
W7QH (+W7IK)	4,640	100	40	L	ABCD
W7LT (KC7AOI,KC7PDI,ops)	1,488	90	16	L	ABD

N7CNH (+KC7QAG)

1,392	57	24	L	ABD
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Utah

NJ7A	552	37	12	S	ABDE
KC7KZ	210	24	6	S	BD
KC7OLP	464	42	8	Q	BD

Western Washington

KE7SW	25,702	253	71	S	ABCD9EG
K7JX	20,880	272	58	S	ABCDE
AA7VT	7,697	133	43	S	ABCD9E
WA1IED	2,184	76	28	S	ABD
K7KLK	1,380	59	20	S	ABD
K7XD	910	35	13	S	D
W7SZ	671	29	11	S	DE
W7BA	605	55	11	S	A
KC7WDX	470	47	10	S	B
K7ND	462	29	11	S	BCD
W7LRD	156	26	6	S	B
K7HSJ	14	5	2	S	BE
KK7FL (+KC7QBD)	4,760	125	35	M	ABD

Wyoming

W7DMD	49	7	7	S	AB
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Michigan

K2YAZ	122,364	377	198	S	ABCD9EFH
K8MD	85,170	371	167	S	ABCD9E
KC8AQH	8,109	130	53	S	ABD
WB8CO	6,026	131	46	S	A
K8PNW	5,480	96	40	S	BDE
K8EB	4,708	107	44	S	AB
K8KD	4,446	97	38	S	ABD
WB8WNX	4,284	102	42	S	A
N8ZVB	1,375	55	25	S	A
KC8JTK	722	38	19	S	AB
WB8MO	504	36	14	S	A
N8DGD	310	30	10	S	ABD
KC8DAZ (+WV8M)	7,812	87	63	M	ABCD
WA8RLI (+N8OEO)	4,674	99	38	L	ABD
N8PVT (+KC8ALA)	3,239	66	41	L	ABD

Ohio

WA8WZG	465,915	993	267	S	ABCD9EFGHI
KE8FD	164,925	490	225	S	ABCD9E
K8TQK	120,958	445	197	S	ABCD9
WA8RJF	58,860	279	135	S	ABCD9EFH
K8MR	43,008	293	112	S	ABCD
KC8CSD	22,841	194	91	S	ABCD
K8VW	13,696	129	64	S	ABCD
WB8NS	10,725	119	65	S	ABDE
KC8CCD	6,625	125	53	S	AB
KC8DMN	3,818	83	46	S	AB
KB8JVV	3,280	82	40	S	B
KB8YKR	2,784	73	32	S	ABD
N8LGP	2,730	91	30	S	B
KB8UUZ	2,496	78	32	S	AB
WA8TMK	1,890	70	27	S	B
W1FEZ	1,794	52	26	S	BD
KB8TJX	1,458	47	27	S	ABC
KC8CZQ	1,166	53	22	S	B
KB8UHY	946	33	18	S	BD
KC8CFP	702	29	18	S	BD
N8ADO	540	30	18	S	AB
N8XWO	475	25	19	S	AB
WB8DM	435	29	15	S	AB
N8VEA	364	26	13	S	ABD
KB8YMN	352	27	11	S	ABD
KC8BZV	336	27	12	S	ABD
KB8VSX	280	28	10	S	B
N8A (N8XA,op)	9,275	120	53	Q	ABCD9E
WB8DZ (N8SIM,W8RHR,N8JP,Ki8GG,KC8DWDR,KC8IXG,KF4BCG,K8CCR,ops)	3,115	74	35	L	ABCD

West Virginia

K8KFJ	2,451	57	43	S	AB
K8GPP (K1RA,K1TR,K1HTV,KA1TB,K3SX,K3LFO,W3ZZ,N4UK,W4XP,K6LEW,WD8ISK,ops)	1,327,590	1794	495	M	ABCD9EFGHIJP

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Illinois

K2DRH	53,424	313	144	S	ABD
W9IIX	35,595	250	105	S	ABCD9E
K9ZZE	18,352	224	74	S	ABD
WB9VTF	10,653	152	53	S	ABD
WD9ISG	5,494	106	41	S	BD
KB9II	2,550	69	30	S	ABCDP
KB9MLA	2,080	80	26	S	B
N9OBE	1,496	44	34	S	AB
KB9THA	510	34	15	S	A
KB9RJK	306	34	9	S	AB
N9MBR	154	14	11	S	B
N9YBP	120	21	5	S	BD
W9SE	64	8	8	S	A
KB9SKP	40	8	6	S	B
K9PW	155,056	486	176	Q	ABCD9EFGHIJ
W9SZ	330	22	15	Q	B
W9FX (+WD9EXD,N9BJG,N9LAG,N9KJE,KB9QKL,KB9QQR)	61,320	303	168	L	ABCD
KO2R (+KB9KCJ)	4,785	73	55	L	ABD
W9DA (KC5OEF,W9YO,ops)	336	36	7	L	BD

Indiana

WA1MKE	26,100	179	100	S	ABCD9E
KB9NKM	11,040	160	69	S	AB
W9ESU	4,914	83	42	S	ABDE
AA9LT	4,620	71	55	S	ABCD
KB9MWA	4,000	80	40	S	ABD
K8LEE	3,978	102	39	S	A
K9RC	962	37	26	S	AB
N9RZY	700	28	25	S	AB

K9QHO 364 26 14 S B

WD9DSN (+WD9DSP)

6,426 98 54 M ABD

W9ICE (WB9YVZ,WB8ERB,N8NQG,N9QQY,K9YDO,N8JLZ,KA9BFM,KB9NWF,KB9PWA,ops)

131,430 518 195 L ABCD

N8LUX (+KB9NNR,N9XPP,KB9QII)

8,060 125 52 L ABD

Wisconsin

WF9X	82,544	350	154	S	ABCD9E
W9JN	21,470	165	95	S	ABCD
N9LLT	18,091	184	79	S	ABCD
AA9VP	14,472	162	72	S	ABC
AF9J	5,355	75	51	S	ABCD
K9UUT	5,004	116	36	S	ABD
WA9LZM	3,645	81	45	S	AB
WA1UJU/9	3,535	101	35	S	B
N9UBS	2,880	63	40	S	ABD
N6NDP	2,407	83	29	S	AB
K9UJH	2,387	75	31	S	BD
W9KHH	1,458	54	27	S	AB
N9CIQ	1,080	36	24	S	ABD
W9HR	1,058	46	23	S	AB
K9MAL	945	35	27	S	AB