The 2010 Most Wanted List

Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA
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Introduction

The FFMA User's Group has been quite active in the identification of most wanted grids within the US. All amateurs are invited to join the user's group, which is at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FFMA/

In 2007, Bill, W5WVO, and Kevin, W9GKA, conducted an extensive survey to determine the rarest grids in the country on 6 meters. The Survey is publicly available at: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/FFMA/FFMA_Survey_2007.pdf

After the FFMA Most Wanted Survey was completed, many participants from the survey continued to report their new confirmed grids. It was decided to keep track of these people, and a FFMA Leader Board was initially developed out of the 2007 Survey as well as reports received from new stations that was not part of the Survey. Starting in May, 2008, the Leader Board was composed of any person who had at least 438 confirmed FFMA grids. The first Leader Board was announced and published at the 2008 CS VHF Conference in Wichita, Kansas. It merely consisted of a list of 12 people known to have confirmed 438 FFMA grids.

In August, 2008, the leader board was expanded to include any person at 400 + confirmed grids. Beginning in the summer of 2009, a summary of the Leader Board was posted at the ARRL FFMA web page. Starting in July, 2010, the Board was again expanded to include the number of FFMA grids that the ARRL had confirmed. Recent leader boards can be found at: http://www.arrl.org/ffma. The Leader Board is periodically updated for new girds worked and confirmed by the leaders.

More recent Leader Boards have grown considerably in scope. Currently, 34 operators have supplied their needed grids, with 32 of those stations updating their grid counts within the last 12 months. Another 8 stations not previously known to the FFMA user's group have been identified by the League as being at 400 grids confirmed, bringing the total number of leaders known to be over 400 grids to 42. This is a very select group, considering that there are over 600,000 amateur radio operators in the US alone.

Over the last two + years, there have been over 40 updates to the Leader Board. This keeps the information generated current and topical. Thus, the real value of the FFMA leader board lies in the wealth of available information and data. Not only are all leaders sorted by number of FFMA grids confirmed, but the needed grids are aggregated to develop a most wanted grid list of all leaders. This information is circulated to the FFMA user's group, who then targets the critically

needed grids for future grid DXpeditions. The most recent Leader Board also contains a FFMA map that is color-coded by percentage of leaders needing each grid.

The Leader Board has developed into a 6 meter domestic version of the DXCC most wanted country lists. It has proven to be quite successful, with the rarest grids being activated repeatedly. Once activated, the rare grids will typically drop down the most wanted list, being replaced by other grids that are in greater need of activation. A rotation effect has been noted, whereby rare grids will rotate in their "most wanted" status, depending upon the extent of recent activations.

In October, 2008, Lee Fish, W5FF received FFMA #1 on behalf of her deceased husband, Fred Fish, W5FF. Two more years went by before anyone came close to working all FFMA grids. By the summer of 2010, two more stations had achieved all 488 FFMA grids. In June, 2010, Pat, W5OZI worked Russ, KB8U in a DXpedition to CM79. Rick, K5UR, on July 30, 2010 worked VE9WGD in EN57. These two stalwarts of the 6 meters band were awarded FFMA #2 and #3, respectively.

Call	District	Location	Grid	Validated	Confirmed	Worked	Update
W5FF	5	NM	DM64	FFMA #1	488	488	Jun-95
W5OZI	5	TX	EM00	FFMA #2	488	488	Jul-10
K5UR	5	AR	EM35	FFMA #3	488	488	Jul-10

The complete list of all known leaders is in the Excel file, maintained at the FFMA user's group. The entire leader board is available as an Excel file, and can be downloaded at:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FFMA/files/

The Most Needed Grids - December, 2010

Of the 488 FFMA grids, some 262 separate grids are needed by one or more of the 34 leaders who have supplied grids to the FFMA user's group. 226 grids are needed by no leaders, and probably should be considered commonly available. The 144 grids that are needed by 10% or more of the leaders are the less commonly available grids, and the truly rare grids could be considered the 48 grids needed by 30% or more of the leaders.

Sorted by deciles …

- 1 grid is currently needed by 60% + of the leaders (CM79)
- 5 grids are needed by 50 – 59% of the leaders
- 13 grids needed by 40 – 49% of leaders
- 29 girds needed by 30 – 39% of leaders
- 52 grids needed by 20 – 29% of leaders
- 44 grids needed by 10 – 20% of leaders
- 118 grids needed by 0 – 10% of leaders

- 226 grids needed by 0% of leaders.

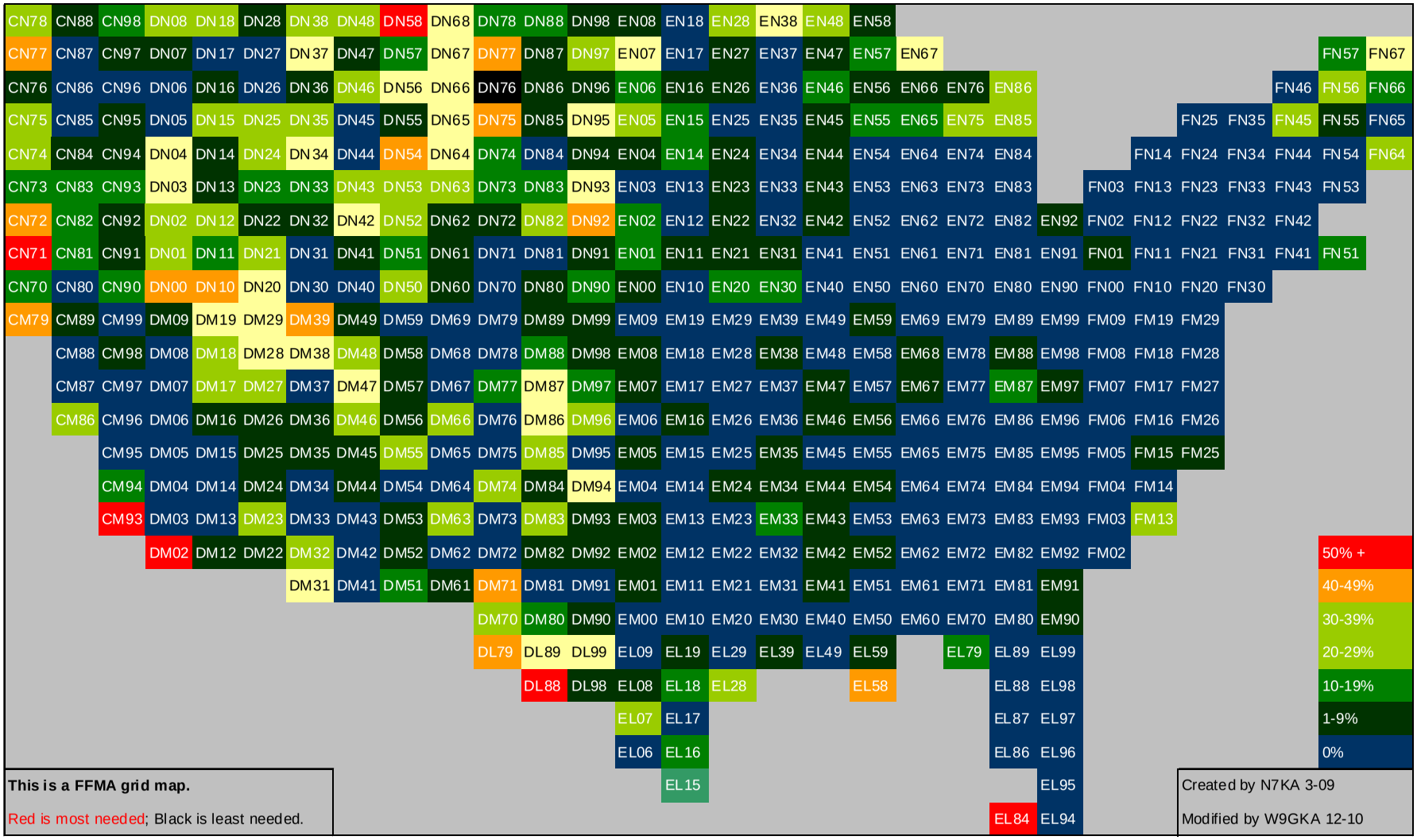
The 144 grids needed by 10% or more of the leaders are listed below. The grid totals are as of December 13, 2010, and it is believed to be the last available data on "most wanted" grids for the year 2010. *Please keep in mind however, that the ranking of grids will routinely, albeit incrementally, changes as the leaders confirm new grids, and as new leaders are added to the Leader Board.*

Grid	Leaders	% Ldrs
CM93	23	68%
DL88	20	59%
DN58	20	59%
DM02	18	53%
EL84	18	53%
CN71	17	50%
CN77	16	47%
DL79	16	47%
DM71	16	47%
DN54	16	47%
DM39	15	44%
DN00	15	44%
CM79	14	41%
CN72	14	41%
DN10	14	41%
DN75	14	41%
DN77	14	41%
DN92	14	41%
EL58	14	41%
DL99	13	38%
DM47	13	38%
DN03	13	38%
DN20	13	38%
DN34	13	38%
DN42	13	38%
DM19	12	35%
DM38	12	35%
DM86	12	35%
DM94	12	35%
DN04	12	35%
DN56	12	35%
DN64	12	35%
DN67	12	35%
DN68	12	35%
EN07	12	35%
EN67	12	35%
FN67	12	35%
DL89	11	32%
DM28	11	32%
DM29	11	32%
DM31	11	32%
DM87	11	32%
DN37	11	32%
DN65	11	32%
DN66	11	32%
DN93	11	32%
DN95	11	32%
EN38	11	32%

Grid	Leaders	% Ldrs
DM17	10	29%
DM46	10	29%
DN12	10	29%
DN24	10	29%
DN48	10	29%
EN85	10	29%
EN86	10	29%
FM13	10	29%
FN45	10	29%
CN74	9	26%
CN75	9	26%
CN78	9	26%
DM18	9	26%
DM23	9	26%
DM27	9	26%
DM70	9	26%
DM85	9	26%
DM96	9	26%
DN02	9	26%
DN08	9	26%
DN15	9	26%
DN25	9	26%
DN38	9	26%
DN46	9	26%
EL28	9	26%
En48	9	26%
FN64	9	26%
DM55	8	24%
DM74	8	24%
DN01	8	24%
DN18	8	24%
DN43	8	24%
DN50	8	24%
DN52	8	24%
DN53	8	24%
DN63	8	24%
DN97	8	24%
EL15	8	24%
FN56	8	24%
CM86	7	21%
DM32	7	21%
DM48	7	21%
DM63	7	21%
DM66	7	21%
DM83	7	21%
DN21	7	21%
DN35	7	21%
DN82	7	21%

Grid	Leaders	% Ldrs
EL07	7	21%
EN05	7	21%
EN28	7	21%
EN75	7	21%
CN70	6	18%
CN73	6	18%
CN81	6	18%
CN83	6	18%
CN90	6	18%
CN93	6	18%
CN98	6	18%
DM88	6	18%
DN23	6	18%
EL79	6	18%
EN01	6	18%
EN02	6	18%
EN15	6	18%
EN46	6	18%
FN57	6	18%
DM51	5	15%
DM77	5	15%
DM80	5	15%
DM97	5	15%
DN11	5	15%
DN33	5	15%
DN57	5	15%
DN73	5	15%
DN78	5	15%
DN88	5	15%
DN90	5	15%
EL16	5	15%
EN06	5	15%
EN14	5	15%
EN20	5	15%
FN51	5	15%
FN66	5	15%
CM94	4	12%
CN82	4	12%
DN51	4	12%
DN74	4	12%
DN83	4	12%
EL18	4	12%
EM33	4	12%
EM87	4	12%
EN30	4	12%
EN55	4	12%
EN57	4	12%
EN65	4	12%

A grid map of the USA has been color-coded to reflect the needed grids of the leaders. The color coding is done by deciles. The map is current, as of December 13, 2010. Please note that the map and the most needed grid list, above, is regularly updated to reflect the current needs of the leaders. Please refer to the latest Leader Board which is maintained at the FFMA User's Group, for the most up-to-date information.

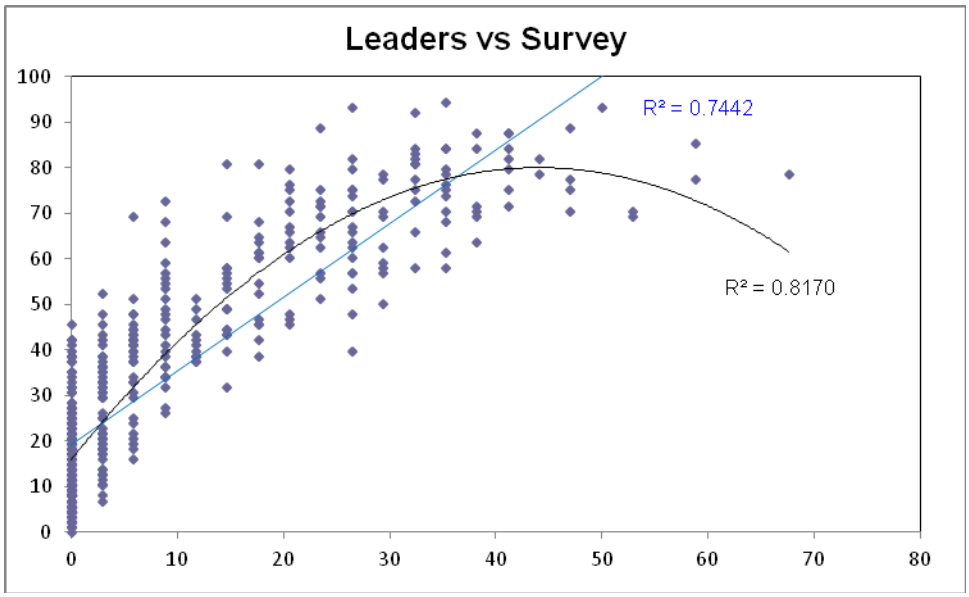

CN78 CN88 CN98 DN08 DN18 DN28 DN38 DN48 DN58 DN68 DN78 DN88 DN98 EN08 EN18 EN28 EN38 EN48 EN58
CN77 CN87 CN97 DN07 DN17 DN27 DN37 DN47 DN57 DN67 DN77 DN87 DN97 EN07 EN17 EN27 EN37 EN47 EN57 EN67 FN57 FN67
CN76 CN86 CN96 DN06 DN16 DN26 DN36 DN46 DN56 DN66 DN76 DN86 DN96 EN06 EN16 EN26 EN36 EN46 EN56 EN66 EN76 EN86 FN46 FN56 FN66
CN75 CN85 CN95 DN05 DN15 DN25 DN35 DN45 DN55 DN65 DN75 DN85 DN95 EN05 EN15 EN25 EN35 EN45 EN55 EN65 EN75 EN85 FN25 FN35 FN45 FN55 FN65
CN74 CN84 CN94 DN04 DN14 DN24 DN34 DN44 DN54 DN64 DN74 DN84 DN94 EN04 EN14 EN24 EN34 EN44 EN54 EN64 EN74 EN84 FN14 FN24 FN34 FN44 FN54 FN64
CN73 CN83 CN93 DN03 DN13 DN23 DN33 DN43 DN53 DN63 DN73 DN83 DN93 EN03 EN13 EN23 EN33 EN43 EN53 EN63 EN73 EN83 FN03 FN13 FN23 FN33 FN43 FN53
CN72 CN82 CN92 DN02 DN12 DN22 DN32 DN42 DN52 DN62 DN72 DN82 DN92 EN02 EN12 EN22 EN32 EN42 EN52 EN62 EN72 EN82 EN92 FN02 FN12 FN22 FN32 FN42
CN71 CN81 CN91 DN01 DN11 DN21 DN31 DN41 DN51 DN61 DN71 DN81 DN91 EN01 EN11 EN21 EN31 EN41 EN51 EN61 EN71 EN81 EN91 FN01 FN11 FN21 FN31 FN41 FN51
CN70 CN80 CN90 DN00 DN10 DN20 DN30 DN40 DN50 DN60 DN70 DN80 DN90 EN00 EN10 EN20 EN30 EN40 EN50 EN60 EN70 EN80 EN90 FN00 FN10 FN20 FN30
CM79 CM89 CM99 DM09 DM19 DM29 DM39 DM49 DM59 DM69 DM79 DM89 DM99 EM09 EM19 EM29 EM39 EM49 EM59 EM69 EM79 EM89 EM99 FM09 FM19 FM29
CM88 CM98 DM08 DM18 DM28 DM38 DM48 DM58 DM68 DM78 DM88 DM98 EM08 EM18 EM28 EM38 EM48 EM58 EM68 EM78 EM88 EM98 FM08 FM18 FM28
CM87 CM97 DM07 DM17 DM27 DM37 DM47 DM57 DM67 DM77 DM87 DM97 EM07 EM17 EM27 EM37 EM47 EM57 EM67 EM77 EM87 EM97 FM07 FM17 FM27
CM86 CM96 DM06 DM16 DM26 DM36 DM46 DM56 DM66 DM76 DM86 DM96 EM06 EM16 EM26 EM36 EM46 EM56 EM66 EM76 EM86 EM96 FM06 FM16 FM26
CM95 DM05 DM15 DM25 DM35 DM45 DM55 DM65 DM75 DM85 DM95 EM05 EM15 EM25 EM35 EM45 EM55 EM65 EM75 EM85 EM95 FM05 FM15 FM25
CM94 DM04 DM14 DM24 DM34 DM44 DM54 DM64 DM74 DM84 DM94 EM04 EM14 EM24 EM34 EM44 EM54 EM64 EM74 EM84 EM94 FM04 FM14
CM93 DM03 DM13 DM23 DM33 DM43 DM53 DM63 DM73 DM83 DM93 EM03 EM13 EM23 EM33 EM43 EM53 EM63 EM73 EM83 EM93 FM03 FM13
DM02 DM12 DM22 DM32 DM42 DM52 DM62 DM72 DM82 DM92 EM02 EM12 EM22 EM32 EM42 EM52 EM62 EM72 EM82 EM92 FM02
DM31 DM41 DM51 DM61 DM71 DM81 DM91 EM01 EM11 EM21 EM31 EM41 EM51 EM61 EM71 EM81 EM91
DM70 DM80 DM90 EM00 EM10 EM20 EM30 EM40 EM50 EM60 EM70 EM80 EM90
DL79 DL89 DL99 EL09 EL19 EL29 EL39 EL49 EL59 EL79 EL89 EL99
DL88 DL98 EL08 EL18 EL28 EL58 EL88 EL98
EL07 EL17 EL87 EL97
EL06 EL16 EL86 EL96
EL15 EL95
EL84 EL94
50% +
40-49%
30-39%
20-29%
10-19%
1-9%
0%
This is a FFMA grid map.
Red is most needed; Black is least needed.
Created by N7KA 3-09
Modified by W9GKA 12-10

Comparison to the 2007 Grid Survey

The 2007 Survey was composed of responses from 88 stations, all of whom held VUCC on 6 meters. It utilized extensive statistical processes designed to produce a statistically significant survey result from the 1,500 + VUCC population on 6 meters. The Survey succeeded in these objectives, but was a huge undertaking that provided a static, one-time snapshot of needed grids by VUCC certificate holders.

The Leader Board has many advantages over the prior Survey. It is regularly updated and focuses on those stations that are most intensely interested in achieving the FFMA award. The needed grid list for the leaders is closer to being "real time" in its output, changing as new grids are regularly activated. It focuses on the very tough and rare grids missing by the leaders, thereby identifying the commonly available grids out of those 488 grids not generally needed among the leaders. It has proved to be far simpler in the development and maintenance of the needed grid list. With 34 responses and growing, however, the Leader Board is becoming a sizable percentage of the original responses of the 2007 Survey. Further, the quality of responses has been as good, or better, than the original Survey, since the respondents have every reason to be as accurate as possible in providing data to the Leader Board.

Additionally, the correlation between the two methods is quite high. The following scatter-gram demonstrates a very good explanatory power (R2) between the Leader Board list and the 2007 Survey, with grids needed by the higher (lower) percentages of leaders, also being needed by higher (lower) percentages of the original Survey participants.



Regression output on the linear trend-line of the above graph is as follows. Note the high R2, high adjusted R2, very high p-values, and very significant t stats. Even a simple correlation between the two data series demonstrates a close fit, at 0.8627.

SUMMARY OUTPUT

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.862667
R Square	0.744194
Adjusted R Square	0.743668
Standard Error	12.55725
Observations	488

ANOVA

	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Significance F*
Regression	1	222946.5	222946.5	1413.878	5.6E-146
Residual	486	76634.65	157.6845		
Total	487	299581.2			

	Coefficients	*Standard Error*	*t Stat*	*P-value*	*Lower 95%*	*Upper 95%*
Intercept	19.20487	0.691089	27.78927	1.9E-102	17.84698	20.56276
X Variable 1	1.61963	0.043073	37.60156	5.6E-146	1.534996	1.704263

Observations. The FFMA leaders therefore need the same or very similar girds as the respondents in the 2007 Survey. It is just that the leaders need far fewer girds than the Survey participants. Indeed, the 32 leaders only need 262 of 488 FFMA grids, while only one grid – FM19 – was not needed by any of the Survey respondents. Thus, what is rare to the leaders was also rare in the 2007 Survey.

Another survey of the general VUCC population is likely unnecessary, with the Leader Board readily identifying the truly rare grids in the US. Just focusing on the leaders will very probably determine the most needed grids of both groups (leaders and VUCC certificate holders). The 2007 Survey, along with its statistical standards, was necessary at the time, since we did not have any knowledge of a sub-population of stations missing only the very rare grids. But now that such a sub-population has been identified and are being tracked via updates from the sub-population itself, the identification of the "most wanted" grids becomes substantially easier. Going forward in time, anyone desiring information on the most rare as well as the more common grids only need to review the most wanted list of the FFMA leaders.