

2008 ARRL UHF Contest Results

“A little bit of tropo makes a big difference...”

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

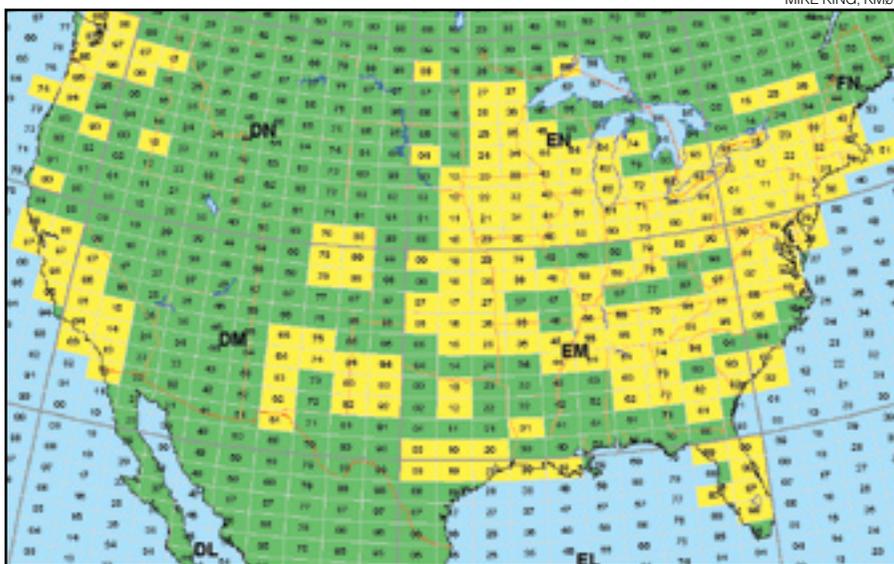
For the 30th anniversary of the UHF Contest, the first weekend of August, 2008, saw UHF and Microwave radio enthusiasts turning on their equipment, spinning their antennas (and for the 30 Rovers, hitting the road) for that 24 hours from 1800 UTC Saturday to 1759 UTC on Sunday. Just shy of 200 logs were received (just missing my personal plea from last year's results article for over 200 to be submitted). Still, it was an increase over the number of logs received in 2007.

Nearly 11,000 QSOs were contained in this year's logs, quite close to the number of QSOs reported in 2007, even though 28 fewer logs were submitted then. Among the categories, Single-Operator Low Power remains most popular with 97 logs (half of the total), followed by Single-Operator High Power, with 51 logs (just over a quarter of the logs). Logs from 30 Rover stations (22 classic Rover, seven Limited Rover and two Unlimited Rover), along with 16 Multioperator entries, made up the remainder.

Where the Action Was

For the “where” by band, the “Activity by Band” and “Participation by Band” tables are back for 2008 but now compare 3 years of activity, from 2006 through 2008. In Table 1, Activity by Band, it is interesting to note that even with 194 logs submitted in 2008 (compared to 166 for 2007 and 190 in 2006) QSO totals actually dropped for the 222, 432 and 1296 MHz bands despite a higher number of stations reporting QSOs on those bands in 2008 than for either 2006 or 2007.

To help visualize the “where” spatially, the



MIKE KING, KMØT

Figure 1 — QSOs were made from over 200 grids in this year's August UHF contest. Grids that were active are in yellow.

map of activity in Figure 1 is new for 2008. It shows the grid squares from which contacts were reported as having been made.

Some Notable Contacts

Thanks to a bit of tropospheric enhancement Saturday evening and Sunday morning, quite a number of long haul contacts were made during the contest. The winners for longest distance appear to be the 222 and 432 MHz contacts between AA4ZZ (EM96, NC) and K5QE (EM31, NTX) — over 700 miles according to AA4ZZ's Soapbox entry! On 902 MHz, K4XR (EM64, AL) and WQØP

(EM19, KS) linked up over a 600+ mile path.

A 500 mile range was reached on bands as high as 10 GHz. K2DRH (EN41, IL) and W4ZRZ (EM63, AL) covered nearly 600 miles on 1296 MHz. On 2304 and 3456 MHz, K3SIW (EN52, IL) and K4XR (EM64, AL) made contact over a 500+ mile path. On 5.7 and 10 GHz, W4ZRZ (EM63, AL) and W9SZ (EN50, IL) came close to 500 miles.

Top Scorers by Category

For a fifth consecutive year, it was the “usual suspects” in Single-Op High Power with Mike, KMØT; Don, WW8M, and

Want more details, including scoring, extra tables and articles? Go to www.arrl.org/contests!

Activity by Band, 2006 through 2008

Band	2006		2007		2008	
	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations
222 MHz	3,229	152	2,767	130	2,700	156
432 MHz	4,618	189	4,204	165	3,741	192
902 MHz	1,037	90	850	77	906	88
1.2 GHz	1,613	131	1,520	108	1,378	137
2.3 GHz	585	67	414	51	679	73
3.4 GHz	337	49	306	40	489	48
5.7 GHz	222	36	181	27	353	24
10 GHz	389	56	316	43	567	50
24 GHz	38	14	28	11	11	7
47 GHz	0	0	2	2	0	0
Light	1	1	10	6	0	0

Participation by Number of Bands, 2006 through 2008

Bands	2006		2007		2008	
	Logs	Logs	Logs	Logs	Logs	Logs
1	26	26	27	27	27	27
2	32	36	32	32	32	32
3	40	21	35	35	35	35
4	25	24	29	29	29	29
5	8	15	20	20	20	20
6	18	16	15	15	15	15
7	12	4	16	16	16	16
8	19	18	15	15	15	15
9	10	2	3	3	3	3
10	0	4	2	2	2	2

Jeff, **K1TEO**, finishing in first, second, and third places in that category.

After having been edged out of the top spot for Single-Op Low Power in 2007, **Bob, K2DRH**, returned to first place, a very familiar spot for him. **Todd, KC9BQA**, stepped into the second spot for the "A" category in 2008 and **Dave, NØKP**, as he did in 2007, finished out the "Top 3" for Single-Op Low Power.

Three operators of **Team Papa Fox** piloted their **KI9R** club call to achieve the top national score in the Multi-operator category. This was a first-time "Field Day" style operation for them and is described in a nice sidebar to this article in the Web version of the results. **AG4V** added packet as a second operator to finish in second place for Multi-op and four members of the **Chipewewa Valley VHF Contesters** operated using their club call, **K9CVC**, finishing in third place.

With two new Rover categories, the landscape changed a bit and though activity in the Upper Midwest remained strong as a fifth "Rover Mania" effort was initiated by the **Northern Lights Radio Society**, activity in California produced the top scores for Rovers in 2008. Though it has spurred a bit of discussion on e-mail reflectors, a group of California rovers got together and, among them, made the top scores for 2008 in the classic Rover category as well as in the new, Rover-Limited and Rover-Unlimited categories. **Wayne, N6NB**, led the way in the classic Rover category with eight bands and visiting ten grids. **Rob, KG6TOA**, chose the four bands from 2.3 GHz through 10 GHz and visited 10 grids to establish the first top score in the Rover-Limited category. In Rover-Unlimited, **Mike, W6YLZ** (along with co-pilot/driver **John, N6MU**) traveled with eight bands through 10 grids to set the top score for that new category. **Jon, WØZQ**, claimed the number two spot in Rover, traversing seven grids with eight bands, followed by **Bruce, W9FZ**, who activated eight grids with six bands. In Rover-Limited, second and third places were claimed by your author, **John, K9JK**, and **Mel, KCØP**, respectively, although both only visited four grids with three bands. Second place in Rover-Unlimited was claimed by **Jim, AF6O**, with his Saturday-only effort that traveled through six grids with eight bands.

Regional Highlights

The Northeast Region was the top source of logs with 50 received in 2008 (compared to 47 in 2007). **K2KIB** topped the 24 "A" category entries, and **K1TEO** led the 15 SOHP entries. **W3KWH** was first among the five Multi-Op entries from the Northeast. Six Rover logs were received from the region; five were classic Rover, led by **WA3PTV/R**, and **W3BC/R (+WA3UFN)** was the sole Rover-Limited entry.

From February 2009 QST © ARRL



This table shows the bands activated, total QSOs and multipliers. Band Key: C = 222, D = 432, 9 = 902, E = 1296, F = 2304, G = 3456, H = 5760, I = 10 GHz, J = 24 GHz, K = 47 GHz, L = 75 GHz, P = Light

Call	Final Score	Bands	QSO	Multipliers
Single Operator Low Power				
K2DRH	317,772	CD9EFG	315	194
KC9BQA	96,360	CD9EF	211	110
NØKP	91,350	CD9EFGHI	163	87
K2KIB	31,641	CD9EFGHIP	120	53
W9SZ	28,992	CD9EFGHI	76	64
AF1T	25,632	CD9EFGHIJP	97	48
NGØR	24,300	CD9E	101	60
KØMHC	22,644	CD9EFG	83	51
W3PAW	21,900	CD9EF	94	50
WQØP	17,640	CD9E	77	60
Single Operator High Power				
KMØT	354,708	CD9EFGHIJ	294	177
WW8M	246,434	CD9EFGI	312	158
K1TEO	171,360	CD9EFGHI	282	120
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	120,288	CD9EFG	220	112
W4ZRZ	97,440	CD9EFGHI	165	112
K4XR	68,850	CD9EFGI	129	102
K3TUF	44,544	CD9EFGHI	119	64
K8TQK	32,292	CDEFG	100	78
K8MD	30,720	CD9EFG	99	64
KØAWU	30,621	CD9EI	105	59
Multioperator				
KI9R	85,860	CD9EFGP	237	90
AG4V	29,394	CD9EFG	94	69
K9CVC	27,531	CD9EFI	99	69
KBØHH	17,493	CD9EF	92	49
W3KWH	16,665	CD9E	77	55
K5QE	13,677	CD9EFG	63	47
W1XM	11,058	CD9EF	66	38
N4JQQ	6,930	CD9E	54	33
W1JHR	6,552	CD9EFG	55	28
AB5GU	2,106	CDEF	30	18
Rover				
N6NB	365,721	CD9EFGHI	383	101
WØZQ	212,244	CD9EFGHI	359	92
W9FZ	137,940	CD9EFI	295	95
W6TE	57,888	CD9EFGHI	179	36
WA3PTV	36,666	CD9EFGHI	133	42
N9TTX	30,450	CDE	140	58
N8UM	23,490	CD9E	106	58
WB8BZK	23,421	CDE	177	37
W1AUV	22,017	CDEFI	122	41
VE3SMA	18,216	CD9EFGHIJP	72	44
Limited Rover				
KG6TOA	149,136	FGHI	239	52
K9JK	15,903	CDE	141	31
KCØP	10,620	DEI	67	30
NØHZO	5,325	DEI	36	25
KK6MC	900	D	25	12
W3BC	648	D	18	12
N6ZE	432	D	18	8
Unlimited Rover				
W6YLZ	386,022	CD9EFGHI	427	101
AF6O	161,262	CD9EFGHI	285	62

KEVIN THOMAS, KG9IL AND MARK THOMAS, N9UM



The Field Day style setup used by the operators of 2008 Multi-Op Winner, **KI9R**.

Forty-one logs were submitted from the Southeast Region for 2008, an increase of 14 for the region from 2007. **AA4ZZ** and **W4ZRZ** topped their respective "A" and "B" categories as they did in 2007, leading 20 and 15 entries in those categories for 2008. **AG4V** topped the four Multi-Op entries from the region and **N8UM/R** claimed the top Rover score of the region's two entries, both of which were classic Rover.

The Central Region's log count for 2008 slipped to 35 from 44 in 2007. The national Single-Op Low-Power top-scorer **K2DRH** led the 21 Low Power entries from the region. Among seven "B" category logs, **WW8M** was the top scorer. Of three Multi-Ops from the Central Region, national winner **KI9R** was the best. Four Rover entries included regional high scores from **N9TTX/R** among three classic Rover entries and **K9JK/R** was the one entry in Limited Rover.

The log count from the Midwest Region grew to 45 in 2008 (eight more than 2007) and included **KMØT**, the national top scorer in Single-Op High-Power, leading eight Midwest Region entrants in that class. In the "A" category, **NØKP** topped the 22 Single-Op Low-Power logs. Among three Multi-operator entries from the region, **KBØHH** claimed the top score. The dozen Rover logs received from the Midwest Region was the highest regional count, consisting of nine classic Rover entries, led by **WØZQ/R**, and three Rover Limited entries led by **KCØP/R**.

Log submissions from the West Coast Region increased by more than 40% from 16 in 2007 to 23 for 2008. The group of California Rovers mentioned above represents five of the seven additional logs for 2008. Within the Single-Operator entrants, ten were Low Power and six were High Power with **VE7DXG** and **N7EPD** claiming the top spots, respectively. **N6SJV** was the best (and only) Multi-Op from the region. There were six Rover logs received from the region, split equally between Rover, Limited Rover and Unlimited Rover with two entrants in each of those subcategories. The leaders were **N6NB/R**, **KG6TOA/R** and **W6YLZ/R**, respectively.

What will 2009 Bring?

According to the 2009 ARRL Contest Calendar, the dates are set as August 1-2, 2009. "We" came close to crossing the 200 log hurdle but fell just short so I will repeat my goal from last year to surpass that number. (Subliminal message...>200 Logs, >200 Logs, >200 Logs, >200 Logs, >200 Logs)

Thanks to all who participated in 2008, and here's hoping that most, or ideally all, of you can return in 2009 (and submit your logs, too!). Again, I'll close with Bill Seabreeze's famous directive to "Listen for the weak ones!" an especially important aspect for the higher bands.