

## Scatter

Nice propagation to 9Y4, working two stations for new DXCC on 6 meters ... **9A6B**. Six meters was lousy on Saturday, but good opening on Sunday, adding 55 grids from the west coast ... **AF6RR**. We managed to get several nice QSOs with Turkey. We were also prepared to use digital meteor scatter this time ... **ES5E**. Enjoyed the world wide VHF Contest, but not that many JA stations were QRV in the contest in spite of good sporadic E conditions. **JA6WFM**. The band opened somewhat near the end of the contest. The opening was fairly specific to Florida and the Caribbean except for a smattering of west coast grids ... **K1LT**. Ran my K3 at 80 watts to a 40-meter dipole at 40 feet. Surprised what I could work with this antenna on 6 meters ... **K4ORD**. Ya gotta be patient with the magic band ... **K4RFT**. First time I worked the contest. Am looking forward to next year and other club members will surely join next time for a multi operation ... **K6UD**. The bands were sure quiet for the most part. Finally got some activity on Sunday and worked all but 4 of my QSOs in 37 minutes ... **K7DD**.

This was an all Illinois/Iowa rove where I covered the SE and NW corners of EM49 EM59 ENM40 EN50 in Illinois on Saturday; then EN30 EN31 EN40 EN41 in Iowa on Sunday. It was like two different contests on the two days. Saturday was a true VHF contest with good activity on both bands, while Sunday was essentially a 6-meter only contest ... **K9JK**. From the black hole of Montana we needed more mid-continent *E*-skip ... **KD7DCR**. Interesting contest this year. Ran from my usual location atop Mt. Los Pinos in east San Diego county. Started almost two hours late but had been listening on 6- and 2-meters while I was finishing setting up on the hill. Not much heard except locals two to three grid squares adjacent to DM12rr. In fact, it was deceptive that it was so quiet. After working a few locals, it was cool turning the stacked Cushcraft 13B2s east toward Phoenix and have Pete, WA7JTM, respond to my first CQ ... **KG6IYN**. Got a late start operating CW going along slow until Sunday afternoon when the band opened. Had a ball to the end ... **KN4Y**. Sometimes the magic band happens and sometimes it doesn't. Not much magic this time around up in the Northwest. Still nice to hear everyone ... **KX7L**. At the very end there was a short opening to South America which put a smile on my face ... **N1BCL**.

Saturday was in one word ugly with no *E*-skip on 6, although I worked VP5CW. Sunday was another story. The band opened up at 1448z and then the fun started – first to EN then shifting to the south and EM grids. At 1800z the Florida ELs lit up the radio. I finished with more EM and FK grids for my highest contest score ever ... **N2SLO**. Homebrew Moxon antenna seemed to work well enough. This was the second time using this antenna since I built it for Field Day ... **N2TEE**. Without the distraction of chasing 6-meter skip on Saturday, I had nice long ragchews with VHF contester friends and as a result found lots of QSOs and 14 grids on 2 meters. None of this happens when 6 meters is hot. On Sunday 6 meters was jumping with plenty of *E*-skip. I worked 17 skip grids including FL15 (C6), EK80 (TI), EN13 (SD), FN55 (ME) and GN29 (VO1), as well as many of the grids in Florida and scattered Midwest and Southwest US grids ... **N3UM**. Saturday was a day to test your nerves. Sunday didn't start out much better but by afternoon, conditions were very good ... **N4PN**. It was a normal contest with lots of scatter in places, mixed with other propagation at times. Nice opening to the Caribbean and South America the last two hours ... **N8ZM**. In my part of Europe there were only a

few short *E*-skip openings on 6 meters. Worked mostly on CW, especially the eastern European operators with the great majority exchanging the normal 6 digit locator ...**PA5WT**. This contest continues to need more advertisement in Europe. I know it was on the SSA website, but still very few Swedish stations in the contest. Most activity in Europe was in Ukraine where clearly the publicity there is successful ...**SM6WET**.

Made the trip to northern Maine to hand out grids FN67 and FN57 on Saturday. FN56 showed good activity on Sunday with 31 Qs followed by an opening in FN66 with 46 Qs and DX including PY. Another 122 Qs followed after the contest ... **VE3CRU/W1**. Conditions for operating QRP Hilltopper category were not that good. Even though I heard lots of stations on 6, making enough noise with QRP was difficult at best. Still, I didn't get skunked so the day was a success ... **VE3GTC**. It was pretty quiet on the bands Sunday morning but things got interesting later with a good opening to the west coast on 6 meters. Quite a few CW stations were active which is a good thing on 6 ... **W0ETT**. Two meters had some nice signals on it. KA1ZE/3 was 20 over during the 1200z hour and W4RX was consistently into FN21 throughout the day. The new 6-element LFA really helped. Six meters was open to 9s and 0s throughout Sunday morning and 9Y4D was a nice surprise in the afternoon ... **W2AJM**. This was the second VHF contest since the installation of the new tower and antennas that were constructed and installed between October 2010 and February 2011. The antennas worked well and operators had fun. Many improvements have been made inside the shack since the last contest and the results in score are evident with more improvements to come based on further experience ... **W2GPS**. I operated this event in memory of my aunt Rose, WA2OYV, single op winner of the CQ Magazine VHF contest of July 1961 – 50 years ago...**WA2BAH**. Had a great time operating rover from 9 grids ... **WA2IID**.

What a blast hearing the Midwest and South rolling into New Jersey on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon ... **WB2LEB**. Built a 3-element quad on Saturday using only spare parts lying around. On Sunday ran a couple of hours between honey-dos which yielded 7 new countries – not bad for a small antenna mounted on a tripod on the back deck... **WB4SQ**. I was surprised to have made contacts over 1000 miles away ...**WO3X**. My intent was to fly to airports in different grids in western Washington, but rain kept me on the ground for most of day one. So I activated two grids out of my car. When the rain stopped, I flew to two airports in new grids, spending the night at a friend's house at the second stop. The next morning my planned 6 AM departure was delayed for an hour by fog. I then flew to Ocean Shores, WA, where the airport ramp happens to be split between CN76 and the relatively rare CN77. After one more airport grid, I flew to Sekiu (pronounced CQ), WA, and had fun calling "CQ from Sekiu." Total grids activated = 8. I used a very lightweight homebuilt 4-element Yagi on 6 meters and a 5-element Quagi on 2 meters. They were elevated with a 20 foot mast of telescoping fiberglass. Everything took about 10 minutes to set up and 8 minutes to take down and stow in the airplane. I'm not sure this is the most effective approach to being a rover, but I sure had a blast...**WW7D**. After two disappointing years in two different locations, this was the best – especially working three new grid squares on my last three QSOs ... **ZF2EZ**.