
Results of the 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest

By Steve Bolia,* N8BJQ

Based on your comments and my personal observation, conditions for the 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest were less than stellar. The first few hours in the U.S. were pretty exciting on 6 meters, but things headed downhill quickly after that. Depending on where you were, there were short periods of intense openings, but many commented that it was pretty painful for much of the contest period.

First of all, many thanks to John, W1XX, for his many years of service as the CQ VHF Contest Director. Under his leadership, the contest has continued to grow. As many of you know, John has gone on to bigger and better things (politics), which does not leave much time for contest administration. Good luck, John! Fortunately (or unfortunately as my wife says), I had recently retired and had some free time. Having done the log checking for the past several years, I was able to step in as director just before the contest.

The 732 logs submitted was only slightly fewer than the previous high of 744 in 2011. Not bad considering the conditions. Amazingly, there were over 500 stations that made multiple QSOs (those reported in more than 10 logs) that could have submitted logs and didn't, and many may have been certificate winners. Please send in your log, big or small. It will certainly help the cross-checking accuracy, and you just may win something. If you need help, ask and I will be glad to help. Paper logs are also encouraged (addressed at the end of the story). Enough begging and on to who won.

USA

Bob, K2DRH, continued his domination in the All Band category with 136K. Second place went to Jim, W4RX, who made more Qs than Bob but could not overcome Bob's advantage in multipliers. NR5M finished third (George had the highest grid total) with Jeff, K1TEO, fourth (with the most 2-meter Qs among AB entries) and Steve, N2CEI in fifth place (with the most 6-meter Qs in this category).

W9RM operating from his future Colorado QTH was the big gun in the 6-meter-only category (see the sidebar for more on Jay's operation). Jay's 580 Qs were nearly 100 more than W5PR, who took second. W5SX, N8OO, and K5ZG rounded out the top 5.

Stan, KA1ZE/3, turned in the second highest 2-meter score ever in the US with his 31K effort to take the top spot. AB2DE and N2RHL were second and third, respectively.

W4GRW found a good location in EM86 and picked the right six-hour period (the first six) to win the Hilltopper category. Zack, W9SZ, was second, and W3DQT finished in third, K5TED fourth, and N1PRW fifth.

Chris, W1MR, and Curt, K9AKS, again finished first and second in the QRP category, but the scores reflect the overall conditions and were way off from the 2011 scores. Axel, N8XA, moved up one spot to number three. WD5AGO was fourth, and N9TF made the box at number five.

The US Rover category was very competitive with Darryl, WW7D, edging out JK, K9JK, and Marv, W3DHJ, for the top spot. W7QQ activated 8 grids to finish fourth with N2SLN in fifth.

Darryl activated 8 grids in the Pacific Northwest, while JK motored around 11 grids in the Midwest. More on Darryl's trip can be found at <http://ww7d.wordpress.com/2012/07/26/roving-the-2012-cq-ww-vhf-contest/> as well as in the "Scatter" comments in this article. JK also wrote a very interesting travelogue which is also in the scatter comments. Thanks to all of the rovers for their efforts. You help to make the contest more fun and provide much needed multipliers.

The US Multi-Op title goes to the gang at K9NS with a fine 227K effort. K9HMB, K9PW, K9XW, KO9A, and WB8BZK had a 75 QSO advantage on 2 meters which ended up being the difference. The crew at K5QE (N5NU, K5MQ, N5YA, W5AG, K5QE) survived multiple equipment failures, including missing some prime 2-meter EME time on Saturday, to finish second. Third place went to W3SO with only a 7K edge over K2LIM in fourth, with N8ZM in fifth.

DX

Steve, VE3ZV, utilized his 10-grid advantage to edge out Bob, VE3KZ, for the top All Band spot. Bob had a few more Qs but could not overcome the 10-multiplier advantage. Third place went to European champion OK1DX, with VE7DAY and S51D in fourth and fifth.



Mike, K7ULS, sent this photo from his operating location at 9000 feet on Powder Mountain (DN41).

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Vlado, E7ØT, turned in the top DX score on 6 meters with his 26K effort. S59A was very competitive but could not make up the 33 Q and 17 grid difference. UR5QU was third, XE2X fourth, and UW7LL/A finished in fifth place.

There was more 2-meter activity in Europe and Asia, especially in the Ukraine and Thailand, than in the US. UXØFF turned in a fine effort from KN45 to finish first. Second place went to E21DKD, who made many more Qs but could not overcome the multiplier advantage that the European stations had. Nikolay worked 76 grids, while Pranee was only able to work 16 grids. US1IY, E22HUV, and 9A1CAL also turned in excellent scores.

In the Hilltopper category, HA2VR operated from JN87 to lead the DX category, with IZ2INN/IZ3 in second and HS8JNF in third.

HA1ZH turned in the top QRP score with 8.7K. UY5ON provided a challenge but fell a bit short with 6.2K. UU6JF, UT5ER, and XE2NBW completed the leader box.

Bill, VE3CRU, and Alex, US3ITU, battled for the DX rover title with the Bill claiming the top spot by about 600 points, while Alex ended with a new European record. VE3RKS, E29TUY and HS4RAY rounded out the top five.

In the Multi-Op category, the group at UV6I turned in an excellent 81K score with their field-day-style operation. They produced a video of the operation that can be viewed at <<http://rutube.ru/embed/5856523>>. The team at HA6W finished second with VE7JH third, 9A5Y fourth, and E2E fifth.

Now for a bit of analysis from Curt, K9AKS, the keeper of the records.

Although some rather high scores were posted this time in several categories, regional and country all-time records were few. In the All-Band category, NR5M's 112k points broke his 5-land record from a year ago, and K7ULS's 44k points broke

the 7-land record from 2010. The big news in the 6-meter Single-Band category was the 97k score posted by W9RM from his new Colorado QTH. If we ignore the blockbuster year of 2006, when ten scores exceeded 100k, Jay's score was the second highest ever world-wide, behind WD5K's 116k in 2001. Also in the 6-meter category, KF6A in Michigan broke the 8-land record with 33k points.

Unlike several countries elsewhere in the world, the 2-meter Single-Op category was largely avoided in North America. However, among the five North American entries, one score really stands out: KA1ZE/3 posted 31k points for the second highest score ever on this continent. W4GRW holds the North American record with 40k in 2003 from North Carolina, and the world high is DK5DQ's 59k points in 2006. Not many high scores were generated by QRPers all over the world who labored through the whole contest. However, in the Hilltopper category, the second highest score ever was posted by W4GRW. Bill must have picked the right

TOP SCORES WORLD

All Band	
VE3ZV.....	18,549
VE3KZ.....	14,697
OK1DC.....	12,342
VE7DAY.....	7,740
S51D.....	5,626
6 Meters	
E7ØT.....	26,100
S59A.....	19,008
UR5QU.....	7,370
XE2X.....	6,741
UW7LL/A.....	6,300
2 Meters	
UXØFF.....	15,048
E21DKD.....	11,520
US1IY.....	5,382
E22HUV.....	4,872
9A1CAL.....	4,588
Hilltopper	
HA2VR.....	1,898
IZ2INN/IN3.....	814
HS8JNF.....	340

HS8FLU.....	48
RV9CQ.....	12
UA3YDN.....	12

QRP	
HA1ZH.....	8,601
UY5ON.....	6,206
UU6JF.....	2,000
UT5ER.....	1,947
XE2NBW.....	1,664

Rover	
VE3CRU.....	30,988
US3ITU.....	30,366
VE3RKS.....	1,320
E29TUY.....	1,264
HS4RAY.....	896

Multi Op	
UV6I.....	81,548
HA6W.....	39,672
VE7JH.....	24,354
9A5Y.....	21,094
E2E.....	16,558

USA

All Band	
K2DRH.....	136,620
W4RX.....	120,911
NR5M.....	112,056
K1TEO.....	110,490
N2CEI.....	74,418
6 Meters	
W9RM.....	97,440
W5PR.....	68,040
W5SXD.....	42,837
N8OO.....	41,088
K5ZG.....	40,150
2 Meters	
KA1ZE/3.....	31,188
AB2DE.....	420
N2RHL.....	380
KN2GSP.....	170
KC5MVV.....	60
Hilltopper	
W4GRW.....	10,788
W9SZ.....	3,476

W3DQT.....	1,456
K5TED.....	750
N1PRW.....	650

QRP	
W1MR.....	12,103
K9AKS.....	9,750
N8XA.....	7,020
WD5AGO.....	4,230
N9TF.....	3,515

Rover	
WW7D.....	30,600
K9JK.....	27,360
W3DHJ.....	25,760
W7QQ.....	17,108
N2SLN.....	7,239

Multi Op	
K9NS.....	227,766
K5QE.....	205,318
W3SO.....	118,692
K2LIM.....	111,888
N8ZM.....	96,030



UXØFF's 9-element array helped him to the DX #1 spot on 2 meters.

CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

UNITED STATES		
Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	26	377,536
MT FRANK CONTESTERS	3	352,566
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	17	198,623
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	12	184,119
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	9	153,803
DFW CONTEST GROUP	6	118,829
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	13	115,602
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	16	101,780
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	10	58,594
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	6	53,628
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	13	48,960
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	4	40,001
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	7	39,678
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	4	36,633
BADGER CONTESTERS	7	31,961
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	4	26,812
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	4	19,947
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	7	19,575
SOUTHWEST OHIO DX ASSOCIATION	4	17,897
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	11	16,462
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	3	12,897

KANSAS CITY DX CLUB	4	11,143
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	9	10,954
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	3	9,272
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	4	7,810
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	3	4,886
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	3	2,313
WEST PARK RADIOPS	3	1,290
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	4	1,279
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	3	554

DX

UKRAINIAN VHF INTERNATIONAL CONTEST CLUB	21	124,325
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	14	76,063
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	7	29,641
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	4	22,465
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	4	14,289
GRUPO DXXE	3	12,017
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	3	7,252
MSU ARC - THAILAND	3	6,040
CDR GROUP	5	1,743
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	3	1,270
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	4	1,260

six-hour window; he posted a 10K score, second only to KF0Q's 18k score in 2006. Dedicated Hilltopper W9SZ broke the 9-land record with his 3476 score.

In the Multi-Op category, K2LIM's 111k score broke its own 2-land record from 2010 by about 8k, and K9NS's 227k was over 100k higher than the previous 9-land record posted by N2BJ in

2006. VE7JH's 24k is the second highest Canadian score ever, behind VE7DXG's 31k in 2000. Rovers were out all over the world, and for the second year in a row US3ITU broke the European record, this time with a 30k score. WW7D's 30,600 broke the 7-land record by just over 1000 points.

Soon after the official 2012 contest results are released in this issue of *CQ VHF*, updated lists of all-time high scores by continent and region will be posted on the CQ VHF Contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com).

Other Stuff

There were 368 grids activated during the contest by the 732 entrants. Many of these multipliers were provided only by the rovers and portable operators who devoted lots of time, and gasoline, to provide a new multiplier. Remember to thank them the next time you work them.

Producing these contest results certainly is not a one-man venture. Many thanks to K9JK (certificates) and K9AKS (records) for their valuable advice, assistance, and a much-needed sanity check at times. Also Yuri, UT1IC, and Champ, E21EIC, went above and beyond to help with gathering all of the logs from their respective countries and getting them safely into the robot. Many thanks also to W3KM for his software support. In the past few years, log checking has gone from a long and painful process that was very labor intensive to one that is a lot simpler, more accurate, and much faster. Without Dave's modifications, bug fixes, and upgrades this would not be possible.

Please send in a log for the 2013 contest. No matter what size it is, it will help improve log-checking accuracy for all, and you might win something. The more logs we have on hand, the more accurate the results will be. Even if only half of the 500 or so who did not send in a log had done so, we would have had a much larger cross-check database for the 2012 contest.

Cabrillo is the preferred format that almost all logging software will export. If your logger does not export to Cabrillo (and most do), it probably does export an ADIF file. You can send that directly to me via e-mail and I can convert it to the required format, or there are several free converter programs that will do this for you. For those who create a paper log, if you have internet access you can type in your log at http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwvhf_cab.php. It is quick and simple to use and will submit your log to the robot for you. If all else fails, please send a copy



The operators at HS4AK.

of your paper log to Paper Logs, CQ VHF Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344.

Due to the change in CQ's contest editorial schedule to accommodate the changes in contest-score reporting, you are reading the 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest results in CQ VHF this year. All of the other CQ magazine contest reports (CQ WW DX, CQ WPX, RTTY WPX, RTTY) have been moved forward by several months to get the results to you much earlier than before. The plan so far is for the 2013 VHF contest results to be back in CQ magazine in the January 2014 issue. For the 2012 CQ VHF Contest results, also check the CQ VHF magazine website (again, <www.cqww-vhf.com>) for updated records and perhaps some other goodies. The full results will be posted there as well when the Winter 2013 issue of CQ VHF is in print. Also look at the CQ magazine website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com) for the full results.

The 2013 CQ VHF contest will be run on the third full weekend in July (20 & 21). The rules will be in the Spring 2013 issue of CQ VHF as well as in the June 2013 issue of CQ.

We are always open for good suggestions to improve the contest. If you have something, please drop me an e-mail at the address shown on the first page of this article. The goal is to keep the contest simple and also fun for all.

See you in the contest!

73, Steve, N8BJQ

Scatter

Nagoya Kougakuin College 60th anniversary special station... **8J2NKC**. Packed an FT857 and 2M Moxon on trip. Tried a couple spots in Maine and Vermont, but hard hearing distant stations without a Yagi ... **AB2YI/R**. Propagation on 7/22 was absolutely terrible to southern Tennessee. Had to work for the few QSOs made. However, it was still lots of fun, swinging my Yagi trying to sweep up anything ... **AC4G**. Challenging conditions but a few good openings on 6 meters. Was able to hold and make a run on a frequency on both 6 and 2 at points in the contest for the first time. Very few western stations heard from EN81 during contest ... **AC8HU**. Running my R7 vertical with 2:1 SWR and 80W on 6M produced a lot with the few openings; my second VHF from USA, first from DN22 ... **AD6D**. Some interesting 6M openings, although at times it seemed like the band was open, but very few people were home. In general, it seemed like local activity was lower than normal. Very little activity on 2M ... **AF6RR**. Thanks for QSOs! Hope see you in next contest with better conditions ... **CO8DM**. Lousy conditions, difficult and challenging, but oh, so enjoyable! My favourite contest each year ... **EI9FBB**. I made only one QSO on 6M, but I am happy, mny tnx ... **HR2/NP3J**. First rover attempt with my son, Kevin, KB1EAN: 8 grids in a total trip of 885 miles (532 roving during contest hours), 40 contacts, 192 points. Roving in the upper reaches of Maine is like maintaining a bonsai tree - small results but still rewarding! ... **K1HC/R**. Fun! ... **K3MD**. Could have used better conditions but lots of fun anyway ... **K4CGY**. Murphy came to live with us this time. We blew up every station we had at least once. However, Bill, N5YA, was able to patch it all together again so that every station was working at the end of the contest. We lost a lot of time on 2M EME on Saturday due to a faulty cable. It looked good, but was intermittent. That cost us a lot of contacts on Saturday. It was absolutely great to have the CQ contest and the DUBUS 2M digital EME contest on the same weekend. There were hordes of EU stations looking for contacts with the US on 2M. Great fun ... **K5QE**. Very disappointing. I was sure hoping for better conditions ... **K6CSL**. My Sunday operating time was limited as I chose to take in the Oak A's/Yankees game. The A's had won the previous 3 games of a 4 game set and I wanted to see the sweep. They did, the first time ever in Oakland. An historic baseball afternoon ... **K6OAK**. Worst contest ever. My FTDX5000MP on 6 meters quit communicating with the N1MM on the computer 9 hours into the contest. So I hand logged until I remembered to bring up Writelog and continue the contest. Next morning when I turned on both computers, the second one would turn itself off. After the contest, replaced power supply in it. After contest, found that I probably got RF into the keyboard/mouse and that stopped communication between transceiver and N1MM. Works ok now. Poor Es the first day, but picked up second day, but I was up to my knees in "what is going on here?" so my heart was not in it anymore. Passive assistance only ... **K6WAB**. Enjoyed a weekend of blue skies and sunshine by roving eastern Washington DN08-07-06-05. Last year I tried five grids east-west. Too much driving. This year I tried four grids north-south (the short direction across the grids). Still too much driving. Next time I'll loop around one grid intersection. These mountainous grids are a tough drive since most of the best locations are gated off at the end of long dirt roads. On Saturday, I had to compromise in DN08 since the desired peak was gated shut. Then I spent hours searching DN07 on dirt roads without finding any decent spot. I got behind schedule and had to skip DN06. On Sunday, in DN05 it turned out another

desired peak is now signposted "no public access." Time for another drive. I found a very good spot on a rise among wide-open crop fields. No obstructions taller than a stalk of wheat! An hour opening to California let me enjoy being the DN05 focus of a 6M pileup, always great fun. Thanks to all the Pacific NW 2-meter stations who tirelessly found my distant signal. This is "weak signal" at its finest ... **K7BWH**. Things started out slowly on Saturday but really came to life on Sunday with a very intense 6-meter opening covering the western half of North America. My only request is that the length of this contest be extended to match that of the ARRL June VHF contest. It's too short ... **K7EK**. Wow. Slow going from Idaho but fun ... **K7JAN**. I added Missouri to last year's Illiniowa rove making this an Illimissouriowa rove. In addition to EM49, EM59, EN30, EN31, EN40, EN41 and EN50 visited in 2011, I added EM58 and EM48 on Saturday, stopping for the night near the EM38/39/48/49 grid corner. EM38 and EM39 were added on Sunday. As I noted in 2011, the two days were very different in conditions, like two different contests, though the days were reversed in 2012. This year, Saturday was the "6 meter" contest, with 65 Qs on 6 (from 37 unique grid squares) and a respectable 15 Qs on 2, while Sunday was the "VHF" contest yielding 35 Qs on 6 (from six unique grid squares, only three of which were "new" from Saturday) and 50 Qs on 2. Approximately the same number of QSOs both days and the "scored" multipliers were about the same as well but definitely more QSO points on Sunday while Saturday yielded more unique multipliers. I started Saturday at the bottom edge of EN50, just off I-55 near Elkhart, IL. Saturday's propagation was largely to Colorado and New Mexico with a few QSOs to El grids in Florida and EMx0 grids (just above the Gulf of Mexico coast). To the east and northeast, I only found two stations, from FN42 and FN43. A jog to the west and little south brought me into EM59 - no more Florida but still strong into Colorado and New Mexico and more western EMx0 grids plus one contact out to DM07 California and one to DL95 Mexico. I managed a few more contacts from EM59 while driving south along I-55, including Texas (EL29 and EM31) and Oklahoma (EM06), until I entered EM58 at about 2115. Six meters seemed to be fading by then but Colorado stations were still booming in so a quick pull-in to a convenient interstate rest area was made to work a few of them (and make a necessary stop). Continued driving in EM58 to a high spot I had identified but that yielded only one additional QSO (again from Colorado). Continuing the drive, I turned west on I-270 into EM48, skirting the north side of the St. Louis metro area. While I did make a stop for food and fuel, that stretch of driving yielded only one additional QSO, though it was with a station in Utah. Wanting to be out shortly after sunrise the following morning, I did a little bit of local reconnoitering to pre-identify where the grids changed around the corner but basically called it a wrap for the evening. Early Sunday morning yielded some slightly enhanced tropo on 2 meters, as I hopped among EM38, EM39, EM48, and EM49 near that grid corner, with QSOs across the state of Missouri and into Kansas as well as into Illinois. I also caught a very brief opening on 6 meters Sunday, morning, to stations in NC and SC, but that was the only 6 meter enhanced propagation I encountered on Sunday. Later Sunday was pretty quiet, as I worked my way north in Missouri, staying in EM49 and EM39, then EN30 and finally into Iowa (still in EN30) but finally to EN40. I had to hustle to get to EN31 and made it with only 40 minutes remaining in the contest and then I hustled some more to get to EN41 with less than 20 minutes remaining. Fortunately, K2DRH, K9AKS, and the multi-ops at K9NS were "chasing" me as I finished up the grids, as Sunday would have been very dismal otherwise (apparently they weren't finding any better QSO opportunities either). Unique grid counts were 40 on 6 meters and 14 on 2 meters, among 18 states on 6 and 5 states on 2. I recorded 72 different call signs in my log including two other rovers. Thanks to CQ magazine for its continued sponsorship of this contest. Special thanks to outgoing CQ WW VHF Contest Director W1XX for his efforts over the past several years. Welcome to new CQ WW VHF Contest Director N8BJQ and thanks for his efforts going forward. Final thanks to all who were on and especially to those I was able to work from the Coroverolla ... **K9JK/R**. Band conditions were tough. Could barely hear anyone ... **K9SAT**. I operated "Hilltopper" from Megunticook, located in Camden, Maine (FN54), using battery power, a buddipole antenna for 6 meters, and a 3-element handheld Yagi for 2 meters ... **KB1HNZ**. 13 watts in to a 80/40m fan dipole, ..but at least I got on! ... **KG9Z**. Conditions were very unusual and sporadic. One minute signals were S9, the next minute they were gone like someone flipped a switch. There were a few good openings to Southern CA, AZ, and NM that made things fun. Good contest ... **KI7JA**. My first CQ WW VHF Contest. Using an inverted vee dipole cut for 6M up about 20 feet, I needed a big opening, which didn't happen down here in south Florida. Nevertheless, it was fun. BTW, adding CW to the mix wouldn't have changed the face of my world, as I could only hear local FL stations calling CQ contest. Hopefully better cndx and a better antenna setup next year ... **KK4CIS**. Glad I had one opening to JA, as I never heard any stations stateside ... **KL7KY**. Listen, listen, contact, listen, listen, contact, listen listen, contact, contact, and that was the way it went ... **KN4Y**. My first serious attempt at a VHF contest. Lots of fun, even with limited operating time and modest antennas - par Moxon and a 4-element 2M Yagi at 20ft. Looking forward to more VHF operating ... **KS1G**. Saturday was pretty devoid of Es, had two one-contact openings all day. Sunday morning was another story, with a nice long opening into CA. One of the high points was working W7/HG1DUL who was atop Mt Adams at 12,000 ft, and over 100 miles away. And me with only a vertical and 35 watts on 2M! ... **KX7L**. I participated in this contest for the first time. It seems my 5m LW antenna did not catch

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single Op 50 MHz		MULTI OP 50 MHz	
E70T	.....225	9A5Y	.....199
S59A	.....192	VE7JH	.....191
VE7DAY	.....152	VA7FC	.....159
VE3KZ	.....127	UV6I	.....151
VE3CRU/R	.....110	HA6W	.....108
144 MHz		144 MHz	
E22HUV	.....406	HS1EFA	.....736
E21DKD	.....360	E22JPA	.....318
E22JME	.....266	UV6I	.....276
HS3AB	.....264	E2E	.....211
US3ITU/R	.....233	HS4YFR	.....194

USA

Single Op 50 MHz		MULTI OP 50 MHz	
W9RM	.....580	K5QE	.....560
W5PR	.....486	K9NS	.....549
N2CEI	.....402	W3SO	.....332
NR5M	.....396	K2LIM	.....322
K2DRH	.....378	N8ZM	.....304
144 MHz		144 MHz	
KA1ZE/3	.....226	K2LIM	.....217
K1TEO	.....200	W3SO	.....212
W4RX	.....190	K9NS	.....204
K2DRH	.....156	N8ZM	.....139
W2KV	.....87	K5QE	.....129

many signals. 73 Kazu ... **M0CFW**. Too bad the Friday night conditions didn't return! ... **N1HOQ**. Brief 6M openings on Saturday and Sunday. Conditions not great but still a fun event. My favorite contest of the year. Two-meter activity in Alabama was the worst that I've heard in years, no one on the band. Maybe next year with the new FM rules. Fingers crossed ... **N1LF**. All contacts made with indoor antennas ... **N2MH**. This year Es has been on vacation. Only a quick burst worth two DX contacts. I have never experienced such poor conditions on 6 meters. I thought my antenna had a broken element again, but the Es on the spotter was centered in the Midwest. Lowest score in years ... **N2SLO**. Great contest, worked hard for my score ... **N3JNX**. Great contest, except for storms on Saturday afternoon ... **N4DXY**. Condx fairly good for a few days leading up to the weekend, but not much once the contest started ... **N4PN**. Living in an apartment so I worked from my truck ... **N4YHC**. Good runs Saturday. Stinko propagation Sunday ... **N5EFA**. On Saturday, to escape very hot weather, my XYL and I did a 200 mile rove in DM04 with a brief visit to CM94. There were very few stations heard on Saturday and I made only one 6M Es contact that day. Along the Ventura and Santa Barbara Co. coastline, tropo conditions down to DM03/13/12 were great but activity was just about nil when I was on! We did have a nice drive and dinner though. On Sunday morning, 6M was open to the PNW as I did errands near my home QTH in DM04ne, so I made a half dozen QSOs with friends in the Seattle/Vancouver area. Rig: FT100, 50w and 1/4-wave whip antennas for each band ... **N6ZE/R**. Typical sporadic-E season with some decent openings. All had fun and looking forward to next year ... **N8ZM**. This was definitely QRP in more ways than one! I took down all the V/UHF beams earlier in May to put up rotatable dipoles (multiband) to focus on 30m and 40m. So down came the 13B2 and the 3-element 6 meter beam along with the 19-element 432 antenna to make way for a D3W and D4 rotatable dipoles. I did, however, put up a stack set of 2 meter M² ho loops at about 48 feet, above the dipoles so I could continue to play on VHF. For

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single Op 50 MHz		MULTI OP 50 MHz	
E70T	.....116	9A5Y	.....106
S59A	.....9	UV	.....73
VE3CRU/R	.....72	HA6W	.....67
UR5QU	.....66	UT7E	.....54
XE2X	.....63	VE7JH	.....48
144 MHz		144 MHz	
UX0FF	.....76	HA6W	.....47
VE3CRU/R	.....50	RN3F	.....46
US3ITU/R	.....49	UV6I	.....43
VE3ZV	.....39	HG6Z	.....41
9A1CAL	.....37	YT2F	.....22

USA

Single Op 50 MHz		MULTI-OP 50 MHz	
W9RM	.....168	K9NS	.....177
K2DRH	.....144	K5QE	.....155
NR5M	.....142	N8ZM	.....112
W5PR	.....140	W4WA	.....106
N2CEI	.....140	W3SO	.....97
144 MHz		144 MHz	
KA1ZE/3	.....69	K5QE	.....96
NR5M	.....61	K9NS	.....61
K2DRH	.....54	W3SO	.....60
K1TEO	.....54	K2LIM	.....57
W4RX	.....51	N8ZM	.....53

6 meters I used the D3W along with my trusty MFJ-949e tuner! The D3W is actually pretty close to resonate on 6 meters, but not close enough for the internal tuner on the PROIII to tune it in. I was on for most of Saturday and part of Sunday. Saturday was the best day of the two for propagation. I was hoping that the Saturday early morning 2 meter enhancement would have continued into the contest, but unfortunately, it did not. Six was good off and on most of the afternoon and early evening Saturday, with little activity on 2 meters. I pulled the plug early Saturday night around 0330 so I would be able to get up just after sunrise in hopes of 2 and 6 openings. That ended up being an uneventful adventure (even with 6 meters not opening much, I thought there would have been local activity on 2 meters). I spent a couple of hours calling CQ, back and forth on 2 and 6 without any replies. Pulled the plug around noon local time on Sunday, but did come back for the last hour, only to hear two local stations calling CQ I had already worked. Absolutely no activity the last hour. Although conditions were far less than stellar, I was still able to make contacts with all stations I heard. Had fun all things considered. 73, Gene ... **N9TF**. My first VHF contest since I was KF6GYM in 2001. In KH6 I never operated during VHF contests as there was no propagation to the mainland that I observed ... **NH7RO**. Poor propagation to my area. One DX in 6M FY1FL and one DX in 2M NP2X. Hope for better propagation next time. Wish contest was the weekend before. Good luck to all ... **NP3CW**. Only Es propagation on 6M during some short periods. 73, Kees ... **PA5WT**. Rover station maritime mobile, from north to south at Adriatic sea; IC-7000, simple vertical ant; 2M band only. **RA0LQ/MM**. Pretty bad conditions, just two little openings to south-eastern part of EU. A good one was to be part of the very first QSO ever made between FL11 and FL10 on 6 meters when worked Doug/CO8DM abt 57 kms away. Will see you all next year! ... **T48K**. Nice weekend, was able to share family with NAQP RTTY and CQ WW VHF contest, on 6M only. Had some opening until Sunday noon but still had fun. Thanks for those QSOs ... **TG9AJR**. Great contest.

Prop played games with me, but I persevered and am happy with the score. Many thanks to CQ as sponsor and to all who participated. See you next year. 73 ... **VE3CRU/R**. Very poor conditions, lots of local interference, lightning on Sunday ... **VE3MSC**. Operation from Lake Joseph, district of Muskoka, ON ... **VE3SMA**. CQ WW VHF Contest is unknown in VK. I have sent some information to local VK6 reflector as well as VK contest club reflector. I think more work will need to be done to get more VK's to participate in this contest. Weather was not cooperating for the field-day-style operation as we were in a winter season ... **VK6DXI**. Pressed for time. Operated with an FT-817 and omni angle loop. Antenna mounted inside a second-story room in a stucco house! ... **W0DJM**. Pretty good condx on Saturday but it was a slugfest on Sunday trying to find new stations to work during late July Es season doldrums. How about allowing QSOs points for voice QSOs and for CW/digital QSOs? It would keep us awake when the 6M band is dead. 73 ... **W0ETT**. I have a vanity call sign. I was questioned by an "8" in grid EM31 if I was legitimate! I could have asked him the very same question! It was a fun contest but the condx weren't all that good. 73 to all ... **W1EBB**. Worked the contest until late Sunday morning, just as 6 meters started to perk up a bit. The noise level on 2 meters was nil on Saturday night. K2LIM, N1IBM, KA1ZE/3, and W4RX were all loud. Heard N8ZM in EN80 briefly but couldn't find him on the band again. Forced myself to use the old straight key this contest; 30% of my QSOs were on CW, and thoroughly enjoyed each one. Thanks to all for sticking with me ... **W2AJM**. Wish the band opened while I was on.. TS50 and vertical from my car ... **W2CCC**. Saturday early into contest was great with openings into Midwest. Sunday morning ground wave was pretty good ... **W4VHF**. Bad WX at the beginning of the contest prevented working many stations on the West Coast ... **W4WA**. The contest was a blast! Great to have 6M open for the duration of my operating. There was some 2M tropo before the contest but it disappeared as soon as the contest started, wouldn't you know it ... **W9SZ**. Fun contest, had limited time to operate ... **WA2FGK**. Not a great contest compared to previous years but some sporadic-E activity was observed on Sunday on 6 meters ... **WB2AMU**. Conditions were dismal at best. Brief openings to Cuba, VP, XE, and the west US. Last 10 minutes of the contest there was an opening to New England ... **WB4SQ**. Poor condx on both days made this a real struggle ... **WD5COV**. Like last year, I roved around the Pacific Northwest landscape, splitting transportation between a small airplane and a car. Saturday began pretty badly, as low clouds delayed my arrival until 1.5 hours after the contest start. And weather restricted me to two grids out of the plane. I activated three more grids out of my car on Saturday afternoon and evening and then three additional grids on Sunday. Despite the Saturday difficulties, I was quite pleased with the results. Saturday problems more than made up for on Sunday by being at 3,200 feet with an excellent southern exposure just as 6 meters opened up to so. CA. I ended up quadrupling my score from 2011. Oh ... and I had a blast! More story with some pictures can be found here: <<http://ww7d.wordpress.com/2012/07/26/roving-the-2012-cq-ww-vhf-contest/>> ... **WW7D/R**. Very poor conditions. All Saturday band was closed and Sunday a couple hours were with any stations on the 6m band. This was my worst CQ WW VHF Contest, high noise and QSB all time. I hope the next time better conditions for transmit on magical band, best 73's to all ... **XE3N**. Pleased to run, for the first time, a couple of hours in this contest. Setup the IC-7000, 100w and a 5-el Yagi in a crowded urban area. 73 Zsigy ... **YO2IS**. Thanks to all my QSO partners and best wishes to all! ... **YO5DAS**.

OPS & GRIDS ACTIVATED

MULTI-OPS

8J2NKC: JH2EUO, JK2VOC, JN2KRG, JN2OFF, JO2ASQ, JR2WLQ, JG4IQC. **9A5Y:** 9A3NM, 9A5TO, 9A7DX. **E21GJB:** E21GJB, HS2LDV, HS1VWP, HS7HVJ, E22TTS, E22TTR, HS5GY1, E22SPN. **E22JME:** E22JME, HS9JGQ, HS6XLO, E22OOJ, E27GRD, E22VUG. **E22JPA:** E22JPA, HS8MOJ, HS8KRR, HS8MCG, HS8JDX, HS8WVV, HS8LHG, HS8MAC, E29KMB, E22CZH. **E22SBP + HS3TIV.** **E2E:** HS1CHB, JA1WTI, E20MIO, E22SVI, E29MFJ. **HA6W:** HA6ZFA, HA5OKU, HA0LZ, HA0LO, HA0LC, HA0MK, HA6WP. **HG6Z:** HA6IGM, HA6QD, HA6VV, HA6VW, HA6ZS, HA6ZV. **HS0AC:** HS2JFW, E29BUU, E21EIC. **HS1AR:** HS0NNU, HS6MYW, HS6NDK, HS6FUJ, E20NTS. OTHERS. **HS1EFA:** E23BVH, HS4YRM, HS4YRL, HS4YRJ, HS6ZEW, E27HXF, E22FMI, E22LEL, E23PIO, E29DFJ. **HS3AB:** HS3TPH, HS3TXF, HS3NRW, HS3RTW, HS3RHS, HS3WOI, HS3WOJ. **HS3XAC:** HS3XAC, HS3TQA, HS3WQW, HS8HXQ, HS4TNR, HS3TMV, HS4OYS, HS3UPK. **HS4AK:** HS4LKW, E20YLM, HS4NOR, HS4HDH, HS4LFU, HS4NDO, E20FVS, HS4FAJ. **HS4RTC:** E27BYU, E29AOR, HS4RTC, HS3XFK, HS6ZKQ, E29FAK, HS4SCI, E22USR. **HS4UYG:** HS4UYG, HS4SSZ, E22YZS, HS3VNE, HS4UTQ, HS3XRB, HS4VCJ, HS4YEU, HS4WOC, HS4YGG. **HS4YFR:** HS4YFR, HS4OZG, HS4YGC, HS3SMS, HS4YIX, HS4OXW. **HS5AC:** HS0OAG, HS1NIV, E20QVD, E22ZMG, E22KXE, E22ZHS, E22ZHJ, HS5IGY. **HS5FAI:** HS5FAI, HS5TUI, HS5QBE, HS5WYM, E28LX, E22XDO, E22XDP, E22YUP, E22YUQ. **HS9HND:** HS9HND, HS9HZD, HS9YDO, HS9WOE, HS9ZAH, E29UMD, E23ARH, E23ARJ, E23ARI. **K2JB + W4PH.** **K2LIM:** KA2LIM, W9KXI, KB2YCC, NX2W. **K2OAK:** WV2ZOW, WO2U. **K5KDX + K5KDL.** **K5QE:** N5NU, K5MQ, N5YA, W5AG, K5QE. **K7IP:** K7IP, KG7HQ, K7OFT. **K9NS:** K9HMB, K9PW, K9XW, KO9A, WB8BZK. **KB0HH:** KD5EKX, KA0KCI, KB0HH. **KB1NTA:** KB1JDX, KB1LYF. **N4DXY:** N4JDB, K4DJL, N4ION. **N8ZM:** K8TQK, KB8ZR, KD8FO, N8ZM, WB8ART, WB8TDG, W8ULC. **RF9C:** RA9CMO, RZ9CJ. **RK3DXB:** ER1DL, RV3DHC. **RK6AXN:** UA6BI, UA6AER. **RN3F:** RK3AW, RK3FT, RW3AC. **SX1K:** SV1JGX, SV1MQJ. **UT4IXZ:** US9IDE, US5IRD. **UT4UWR:** UT4UJQ. **UT7E:** UR5EFJ, UR3EZ, UV5EOZ. **UV6I:** UT7IY, UR7IMM, UT1IC. **VA7FC:** VE7GFC. **VE2NGH:** VE2OFH, VA2SH. **VE3SMA:** VE3NPB, VE3SMA. **VE7JH:** VE7JP. **W1QK:** NG1R, W1QH, W1QK. **W3SO:** W3BTX, W3TEF, W3TM, WA3TTS, W3BC, W3YOZ, K4VV. **W4NH:** W4ZST, W4KXY, NN4W, N4NIA, K4US, K4TJD, W5TDY, WE8W, WG8S, WW8RR, WOONR. **W4WA + K4IDX.** **WN2E:** K5YG, KF5CXG, K5EYK, W6CSA. **YT2F:** YU1FG, YU1VG, YU1GV. **ZV2K:** PY2SHF, PU2VGS.

Rover Ops & Grids Activated

AB0YM: DM78, DM77, DM87, DM88, DM89, DN71, DN81, DN80. **AB2YI:** FN54, FN43, FN33. **E29TUY + E27EZG:** OK03, OK04. **HS4OQI:** OK06, OK16, OK05, OK15. **HS4RAY:** OK16, OK15, OK05, OK06. **K0BBC:** DN85, DN86, DN95, EN05, EN15. **K0CS:** DM79, DM89, DN80. **K1HC + KB1EAN:** FN53, FN54, FN64, FN65, FN66, FN56, FN55. **K7BWH:** DN08, DN05. **K8MR:** EN90, FN00, FN01. **K9JK:** EN50, EM59, EM58, EM48, EM38, EM39, EM49, EN30, EN40, EN31, EN41. **KA3KSP:** EN90. **N2SLN:** FN23, FN22. **N6GP:** DM13, DM03, DM04, DM14. **N6ORB:** CM88, CM87, CM97. **N6ZE:** DM04, CM94. **N9TZL:** EM79, EN70. **NV6C + KJ6NO,** W6ELI: DM04, DM03, DM13, DM14, DM23, DM24. **R8CAA:** MO05, MO06. **RA0LQ/MM:** JN74, JN73, JN72, JN82, JN81, JN80, JN90. **US3ITU:** KN98, KN97, KN87, KN88, KN86, KN76, KN77, KN89, KN99. **US6IF:** KN50, KN88, KN87, KN86. **VE3CRU:** EN93, EN94, FN04, FN14, FN13, FN03. **VE3RKS:** EN93, EN92, FN02, FN03. **W0BL:** DM79, DM78. **W3DHJ:** DM88, DM87, DM77, DM78. **W7JDB:** DM27, DM28. **W7QQ:** DM78, DM79, DM89, DM88, DM87, DM77, DM75, DM65. **WA4JA:** EM75, EM76, EM66, EM65. **WB2SIH:** FN33, FM33, FN32. **WW7D:** CN76, CN77, CN87, CN88, CN98, CN86, CN96, CN97.

My Experience in the 2012 CQ VHF Contest

By Jay Morehouse, W9RM

I operated field-day-style from my future Colorado QTH just inside the boundary of DM58. I wanted to use the summer contests to test the new location and also shake down my expedition push-up mast system. While the antenna (a single 5-el) and power output (500W from a converted MLA2500) were modest, the QTH seemed very promising.

Two-meter activity is sparse on the west slope of the Rockies, so I decided to enter the Single-Band 6-meter category. I did make a number of 2-meter QSOs (DM58 is very rare there), but they weren't enough to overcome the advantage of numbers "back east" in the two-band category. An entry there will have to wait for permanent towers.

Saturday started strong, well ahead of my June score. Single-hop openings into the Midwest and the Pacific NW kept me busy well into the evening, but only a few double-hop QSOs were made. Sunday morning saw a repeat to the NW for about two hours, but then the band packed up and only scatter QSOs were made the rest of the contest. If the band had stayed, I'm sure 1000+ QSOs would have been in reach. Still, it was a fun experience even with only fair 6-meter conditions and I'll be back in 2013 with a better station!



The W9RM operating position.



The view from DM58.

