

# Results 2024 CQ World Wide VHF Contest

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We received 667 logs (including checklogs) from 44 different countries in this year's contest. 373 from US/VE and 293 from the rest of the world.

## US and Canada Highlights

Longtime 6m operators observe that Es openings appear less frequently during sunspot cycle peaks. That was the unfortunate case this year. Many soapbox comments mentioned poor conditions on 6.

Bob K2DRH worked hard and stayed on the air despite poor conditions, pushing through some single digit QSO total hours on Sunday. He had good competition from Jeff K1TEO. In the end, Bob took advantage of his central US location and was able to work 33 more grids than Jeff on 6 meters. This was enough to give Bob his 17<sup>th</sup> #1 SOAB win. Congrats to both operators.

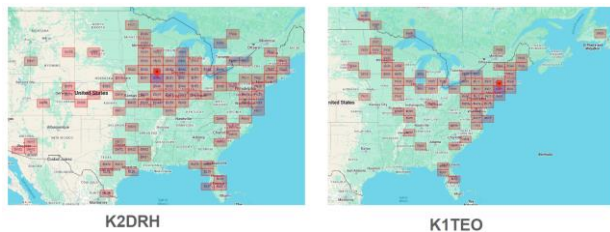


Figure 1. 6 meter grids worked by K2DRH and K1TEO

W9RM was tops on 6 meter single band entries – an impressive accomplishment from a DM grid square in western Colorado. This is Keith's third 6 meter win. A big antenna helps.



Figure 2. W9RM's huge VHF antennas at twilight

On 2m single band, Christy, KD9GKL put in a good effort from the Midwest to take the top spot. This is the first time she entered the 2m single band category. Not bad!

KG9OV/R put together another big rove this year. Despite the depressed band conditions, Tony added 5% to his 2023 score and took the top rover spot.

Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in entries centered around EN95 in Canada. This is due to many entries from members of the Manitoulin Amateur Radio Club (MARC) and surrounding clubs. Igor, VE3ZF has been the contest coordinator and mentor for MARC for several years and has dedicated much of his time to promoting contests and conducting in person and online training sessions to area clubs. On top of motivating MARC to submit 23 entries this year (about half of the Canadian entries) his own operation was both the top world and top W/VE hilltopper entry. Thank you and congrats Igor! Here are a few pictures documenting the activity from MARC members.



Figure 3. VE3WVA/R from top of Mt. McLean



Figure 4. VE3OOZ/R maritime from EN85/86/95/96

Another Jim, KO9A was the top QRP entry. This is the sixth year in a row Jim has taken the top spot. Jim has a modest station, but modes like FT8 allow him to work out to about 300 miles on 2m. Not bad for 10 watts!



Figure 7. 2 meter grids worked from KO9A (EN52) QRP



Figure 5. VE3ZF and VE3UAP assembling a 2m Yagi

W4MW had a commanding effort in the multi-operator category, more than doubling the score of second place N2NT. Roger and his team noted generally flat conditions. Notable contacts were some longer range tropo contacts on 2 meters to Illinois, Ontario and central Florida.



Figure 8. Nighttime photo of W4MW 2m stack

For US Hilltopper, Jim K5ND drove to a good VHF location midway between Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth for his hilltop operation and took the top spot. Jim operated the first six hours of the contest and says he got lucky with some Es during that period.



Figure 6. K5ND hilltop setup from EM01 in Texas



Figure 9. Dick W3OA and Paul W3GQ working on the W4MW 6 meter array



Third place multi-op finisher Marshall and his team at K5QE reported, “Worst propagation that I can remember”. Sadly, Marshall became a silent key just a week after the contest. K5QE and his team have entered every CQWW VHF since 2004. We understand Marshall arranged for his impressive station to continue hosting operations. His team operated the ARRL September VHF contest as K5N. We hope the big K5QE signal will be heard in VHF contests for years to come.

## Rest of the World

### Multi-Operator

The biggest score of the contest came from the Radioclub OK1KKI team. While they did not have the most QSOs or highest grid total of the contest, making 70% of their 383 QSOs on 2 meters gave them an advantage in QSO points. The team also made 130 QSOs on analog modes. It’s nice to see significant SSB/CW activity in Europe – something we don’t see in North American logs.

Another close multi operator race was in Thailand between E27CNN and E27AAA. CQWW VHF is a different contest in this part of the world. All the QSOs were made on 2m FM. To get a better perspective on the level of 2M FM activity in Thailand, consider that E27CNN and E27AAA have the #5 and #8 highest 2m QSO totals in the contest respectively.



Figure 10. Some of Team E27CNN Members - Thailand #1 Multi-operator entry



Figure 11. E25HLF (@E27CNN)



Figure 12. E27CNN Station and Antennas

### All Bands

Olli, DH8BQA was clever with his Flex-6600 radio and digital modes. He assigned 6m and 2m to separate SCUs in the rig, which allowed him to run FT8 concurrently on both bands on opposite sequences. This paid off, producing the top single op all band score in the contest and almost doubling K2DRH’s top W/VE score. Olli reported spotty Es on 6 meters, similar to what was observed in North America.



Figure 13. DH8BQA - Top Single Op all band World (On vacation in SV5 2 weeks after the contest)

JH4UTP was number one all band in Asia again this year, improving on his 2023 score by almost 40% thanks to a larger 6 meter QSO and grid total.

Like Thailand, Indonesia is another country where 2M FM is the primary band/mode in CQWW VHF. Congrats to Edi, YG3ASG for the top all band score in Oceania. Edi notes noise on 2 meters is a problem, even on FM.



Figure 14. YG3ASG - Top Oceania all band score



Figure 15. YG3ASG HF and VHF antenna farm

## 6 meter single band

Slava US2YW, operated with contest call UW5Y and took the top 6m score in Europe and the world. There was good 6m competition for second place with Z37CXY, UR7EU, S59A and OE4WHG tightly packed with scores ranging from 11,745 to 14,040.

Michael 4Z1MS took advantage of an opening into most of Europe on the second day to make an impressive score of 7,340 to win Asia. His score is also #8 outside of W/VE.

## 2 meter single band

The top single operator 2m score in the world was done by a log with all contacts on SSB. Congrats to Bostjan, S56P on the achievement. Only multi operator stations OK1KKI and HG6Z made more 2m contacts than S56P. His 2m station must be very well engineered, he worked out beyond 400 miles (650 km) in many directions on SSB.

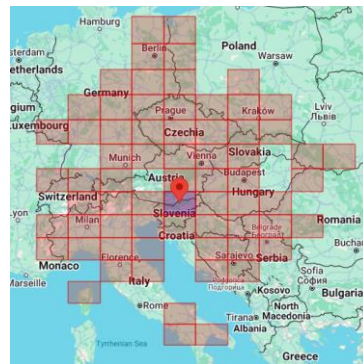


Figure 16. Grids worked by S56P on 2 meters SSB

## QRP

Congrats to UZ7W, operated by Igor, UT4WA for top world QRP score. UZ7W and KO9A were the only QRP entries to break the 10,000 point barrier. Other notable QRP efforts, making more than 50 contacts are JR1UJX, BD4SBN, and IZ5HQB. It's nice to see some larger QRP scores from outside of NA/EU.

## Rover

We only had 4 rover entries outside of the US and Canada. Once again, Masaki-san JG3DHN/R made the top DX rover entry. He met his goal of improving on his 2023 score. His score this year is 50% higher than last year.

## Hilltopper

Toshi, JJ1WWL has entered the hilltopper category for the past 3 years. This year, his 2,160 point score was good enough for the #1 world score (outside of US/VE). Congratulations! Behind Toshi, was another frequent hilltopper entry, Yuri UT1IC with 1560 points. Yuri celebrated 21 years of participation in CQWW VHF and thanks W1XX and N8BJQ for their early promotion of VHF contesting in Ukraine.

## Club Results

Thanks to the clubs that participate in CQWW VHF. Club competition is one of the best ways to increase activity. Congrats to the Society of Midwest Contesters who repeated their win from last year. The Bavarian contest club has the top score outside of USA, thanks in part by DH8BQA's big effort.

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## 2025 Contest – Big Changes Coming

2024 was the 25th running of the CQWW VHF contest. 25 years is a good time to consider significant changes to the current rules. The nature of VHF contesting has changed since 2000.

We looked at logs going back to 2007 for trends. Here is a summary table of the analysis:

year	logs	total qsos	digital qsos	fm qsos	cw qsos	ph qsos	digi %	cw %	qsos per log	median qsos
2007	451	38,957	20	0	3,686	35,251	0.1%	9.5%	86	43
2010	705	56,179	50	2,656	9,220	44,253	0.1%	16.4%	80	42
2011	742	63,605	156	2,254	12,021	49,174	0.2%	18.9%	86	46
2012	731	56,716	132	4,193	10,210	42,181	0.2%	18.0%	78	43
2013	818	69,604	177	5,154	13,915	50,358	0.3%	20.0%	85	43
2014	745	54,302	185	4,861	13,488	35,768	0.3%	24.8%	73	37
2015	663	33,430	394	1,938	7,526	23,572	1.2%	22.5%	50	25
2016	901	55,934	357	1,965	16,634	36,978	0.6%	29.7%	62	30
2017	720	45,369	3,470	2,520	9,524	29,855	7.6%	21.0%	63	33
2018	768	54,704	13,877	1,691	9,144	29,992	25.4%	16.7%	71	37
2019	975	79,610	31,206	1,589	9,802	37,013	39.2%	12.3%	82	42
2020	1491	86,546	60,286	4,273	6,295	15,692	69.7%	7.3%	58	33
2021	1177	58,881	35,734	3,076	4,746	15,325	60.7%	8.1%	50	25
2022	867	50,256	38,992	1,339	1,596	8,329	77.6%	3.2%	58	28
2023	787	34,183	28,401	1,419	203	4,160	83.1%	0.6%	43	24
2024	666	27,452	22,550	1,119	209	3,574	82.1%	0.8%	41	23

Figure 17. Summary of CQWW VHF Activity

If you only look at the total logs submitted by year, the contest appears healthy. The gradual decrease in submitted logs since the Covid quarantine years is expected. We are back to pre-pandemic log submittal levels. However, the decrease in QSOs per log and median QSOs over the past 4-5 years is concerning. Of course, this number will vary a bit depending on how good 6 meter conditions are in any given year, but the drop in QSOs for 5 years straight can't be explained solely by Es variability.

CQWW VHF has become an all-digital contest in many areas of the world. The draw of FT8, particularly on six meters, is understandable –

you have access to over 50+ stations in the bandwidth of a standard SSB channel and the added benefit of real time propagation reporting via tools such as DX MAPS and PSKReporter. It also gives operators who are not proficient in CW access to weak signal capability several dB better than CW. Remember, morse code has not been a requirement for a US license for over 15 years.

When 6 meters opens during the contest, the FT8 channels quickly become saturated. Post contest soapbox comments have become predictable in this scenario - "Why don't people go to SSB when the band opens with strong



signals?”. Stations do try to switch to SSB and CW, but activity never seems to reach critical mass.

A look through soapbox comments from the past few years shows a quite a few requests for separating digital and analog in the contest.

*"It is not good idea to have CQWW VHF in DG, CW, SSB at the same time. You will reduce the number of qsos in CW and SSB. Use different dates"*

*"This contest needs a revamp similar to the 'analog only' category adopted by the ARRL VHF contest. There were very few stations on CW/and SSB."*

*"Never heard any signals other than digital. Maybe CQ VHF should change to being only analog modes"*

*"Made a single contact on 2-m SSB, everything else was ft-8. Miss the VHF contests in years past where SSB was king, much more enjoyable. Let's consider having a separate non-digital VHF contest next year? 73 all"*

*"Too many station FT8 only"*

*"I would be happy to separate the digital and analog modes, Because, although it is a trend of the times, it is unfortunate that fewer stations are participating in CW/SSB"*

*"Too lopsided on FT8 now. Need an Analog Only fixed category"*

Other North American VHF contests have added analog only categories, with limited success increasing SSB and CW activity. We want CQWW VHF to promote both analog and digital activity.

Splitting the contest into separate analog and digital events may help. This has been the practice in the IARU region 1 VHF contests for several years. The only way to find out the effect of splitting modes on CQWW-VHF is to test it out. We are going to do exactly this for the next two years. After two years, we will look at participation and decide what to do for 2027 and beyond.

Please mark your calendars:

### **CQWW VHF SSB/CW Contest**

2025: 1200Z July 5 - 1200 Z July 6

2026: 1200Z July 4 - 1200 Z July 5

### **CQWW VHF Digital Contest**

2025: 1200Z July 19 - 1200Z July 20

2026: 1200Z July 18 - 1200Z July 19

The SSB/CW contest was moved 2 weeks earlier to be closer to the peak of Es season in the Northern Hemisphere. The time slot was moved to 12Z Saturday to 12Z Sunday to make the operating period more equitable for a World Wide VHF contest.

We hope digital contest participants will exercise the full suite of digital modes. In addition to FT8, we would love to see FT4/MSK144/Q65, etc... get a workout. Show us the true power of the digital modes.

Fully updated rules are available on [cqww-vhf.com](https://www.cqww-vhf.com). In addition to this big change, we are making a general cleanup of the rules. Among other changes, we are adding low power and QRP to the single band categories, updating the assistance rules to be consistent with what is allowed in ARRL sponsored VHF contests and changing the power limit to 100 watts for the hilltopper category. Power sources and radios have gotten smaller and lighter in the 20 years since inception of the category.

### **Closing Thoughts**

Thanks to all that help manage the contest, including K1DG (awards program), K5ZD (website) and KO9A (writeup assistance).

Log checking reports are available. If you would like to see your report, send a request via the contact form at <https://www.cqww-vhf.com/contact/>

We hope to see you QRV in the 2025 CQWW VHF contests.

73,

John N2NC

Director CQ WW VHF Contest

## 2024 CQ WW VHF PLAQUE WINNERS AND DONORS

### **SINGLE OPERATOR, ALL BANDS**

#### ***World***

**Oliver Droese, DH8BQA**

**Donor:** Dr Gene Zimmerman - W3ZZ Memorial by  
Directive Systems and the Grid Pirates

### **SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND**

#### ***World – 144 MHz***

**Bostjan Server, S56P**

**Donor:** Joe Devenyi, HA0LC

#### ***U.S.A – 144 MHz***

**Christy Tapp, KD9GKL**

**Donor:** Chuck Deitz, W5PR

#### ***World – 50 MHz***

**UW5Y (Opr.: Slava Zhuk, US2YW)**

**Donor:** Jorge F. Rios Alvarado, XE2X

#### ***U.S.A. – 50 MHz***

**Keith Morehouse, W9RM**

**Donor:** Florida Contest Group

### **HILLTOPPER**

#### ***Canada***

**Igor Slakva, VE3ZF**

**Donor:** Manitoulin ARC

### **MULTI-OPERATOR**

#### ***World***

**OK1KKI (Oprs.: OK1AG OK1TRJ OK3MS  
OK7PY OK9MS)**

**Donor:** Dr Gene Zimmerman - W3ZZ Memorial  
by Directive Systems and the Grid Pirates

#### ***U.S.A***

**W4MW (Oprs.: AA4ZZ K4CEB NI4E  
W3GQ W3OA W4GRW W4MW)**

**Donor:** Bob Striegel, K2DRH

### **ROVER**

#### ***U.S.A***

**Anthony Contratto, KG9OV**

**Donor:** Northern Lights Radio Society

#### ***Canada***

**Rusty Auxier, VE3WVA**

**Donor:** Manitoulin ARC

# Top Scores – 2024 CQWW VHF

## Contest

### Top Scores W/VE

#### Single-Op All Band W/VE

K2DRH	49,266
K1TEO	46,247
K9KLD	26,832
VE3WY	15,604
K9FW	14,220
WB2FKO	13,920
N3MK	13,467
KK4MA	13,366
N3XF	13,280
K1HTV	11,765

#### Single-Op All Band W/VE

##### CM/CN/DM/DN Grids

N7EPD	1,938
KG7CW	1,914
N7IR	1,674
N7QOZ	1,078
W6BVB	912

#### Single-Op 6M W/VE

W9RM	11,739
VA3DF	10,220
AA5AM	8,979
K9NW	8,250
N0FJP	5,915
N2HX	5,586
NE1B	4,171
KC3NDU	3,999
WT0DX	3,872
KZ2I	3,744

#### Single-Op 2M W/VE

KD9GKL	3,996
W3KR	1,470
W5PR	1,178
WE7L	532

#### Rover W/VE

KG9OV/R	83,978
NV4B/R	30,820
VE3WVA/R	5,040
VA3GG/R	4,147
VE300Z/R	4,050
K9JK/R	3,010

#### QRP W/VE

K09A	10,788
W7IMC	990
W7WXR	480

#### Multi-Op W/VE

W4MW	91,040
N2NT	41,511
K5QE	35,244
N4SVC	29,298
WD9EXD	29,232
VE3MIS	17,963

#### Hilltopper W/VE

VE3ZF	4,452
K5ND	2,730
W0KI	1,000

### Top Scores Europe

#### Single-Op All Band EU

DH8BQA	81,483
UW2S (UW8SM)	11,475
ME5W (M0HMJ)	7,526
OK4DJ	5,548
Y05PUV/P	4,320

#### Single-Op 6M EU

UW5Y (US2YW)	22,320
Z37CXY (Z32ZM)	14,040
UR7EU	13,736
S59A	13,013
OE4WHG	11,745
E73S	10,465
LZ1YE	9,460
ON6NL	7,194
UY2IF	7,144
SV1NZX	6,438

#### Single-Op 2M EU

S56P	28,288
DJ2KP	11,340
9A1DL	4,600
SP8ZBW (SP8WJW)	4,148
SP7JS	3,840
DB7MM/P	3,550

#### Rover EU

US3ITU/M	84
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#### QRP EU

UZ7W	10,140
IZ5HQB	2,392
IT9IVU	2,035
Y09BCM	912

#### Multi-Op EU

OK1KKI	99,603
HG6Z	83,049
IT9DSZ	31,535
OK1RDO	24,236
9A0V	18,424

#### Hilltopper EU

UT1IC	1,450
IK3SSG	320



## Top Scores Asia

### Single-Op All Band AS

JH4UTP	3,276
BH3DBF	1,749
BG5GLV	1,488
BI1NIZ	1,044
JQ1NGT	924
JS1LQI	532

### Single-Op 6M AS

4Z1MS	7,350
BD9AC	2,948
DS3EXT	2,765
BY1QH	2,520
BA6KC	2,166
UN3G	1,872
BD5EUA	1,870
BI6NSL	1,575
BI6ONW	1,518
5B4AMX (LZ2HM)	1,440
JF1LMB	1,440

### Single-Op 2M AS

E2M (HS5NMF)	444
JE7KHL/7	396
JE2HXL/P	240

### Rover AS

JG3DHN/R	12,450
BH6KWC/R	1,485

### QRP AS

JR1UJX	5,278
BD4SBN	3,696
TA1BM	1,638
BD4UTJ	1,240
JH7UJU	833
BG5CVT	805

### Multi-Op AS

E27CNN	6,496
E27AAA	5,344
BY2HIT	4,257

### Hilltopper AS

JJ1WWL	2,160
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## Top Scores Oceania

### Single-Op All Band OC

YG3ASG	144
YD3ALU	36
YD3BFW	36
YF3AKQ	36
YF3AJJ	30
YG3FQY	28

### Single-Op 2M OC

YD3ASD	108
YC3AHD	72
YC3AVB	40
YB3CNZ	36
YE3DFB	36
YG3BUP	28

### QRP OC

YC3GRK	90
YG3AUH	78
YB3BLJ	66
YG3ASH	24
YG3BZD	24
YB3FTD	18

### Multi-Op OC

7E3E	138
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### Hilltopper OC

YF3EOY	132
YG3BZA	40
YG3EOQ	36

## Top Scores Central / South America

### Single-Op All Band Cent/S Am

XE2W	126
PU3MIP	120
PY3EW	112
PY3TR	96

### Single-Op 6M Cent/S Am

XE2X	884
6E0N (XE3N)	520

### Single-Op 2M Cent/S Am

PY2ZYV	48
PU3LMZ	30
PU2PTU	20
PU3RDD	20

### QRP Cent/S Am

C02QU	850
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### Multi-Op Cent/S Am

PV2B	344
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### Hilltopper Cent/S Am

PY2GTA	16
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## Club Scores

Club	Country	Entries	Total Score
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	K	20	210,394
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	DL	5	94,904
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	K	6	93,039
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	K	7	92,293
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	K	26	71,845
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	UR	7	48,009
DFW CONTEST GROUP	K	6	41,658
MANITOULIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	VE	19	23,688
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	K	7	18,442
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	K	5	17,507
ONTARIO VHF ASSOCIATION	VE	3	16,054
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	VE	5	14,284
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	K	6	11,976
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	K	10	11,268
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	K	4	9,973
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	K	5	9,208
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	K	12	8,757
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	K	3	5,198
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	K	12	4,782
TSINGHUA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION	BY	3	3,048
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	K	6	2,568
HONDA DREAM HAM CLUB	JA	5	2,498
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	K	5	2,304
STRC KRYVBAS	UR	3	2,150
DALLAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	K	3	1,748
AI7ID ALL IDAHO CONTEST CLUB	K	4	1,575
NEW MEXICO VHF SOCIETY	K	3	1,549
ORARI LOKAL KEDIRI	YB	23	1,228
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	K	4	492
RADIOFAROL DX GROUP	PY	8	330
CABREUVADX	PY	6	122
NASI GORENG DX	YB	5	99
ORLOK PASURUAN	YB	5	46