

Results of the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY JOHN LINDHOLM,* W1XX

"Six meters sounded more like 20 meters on a Saturday night." — K300

"Best 6-meter E-skip contest ever!" — KN4SM

"Awesome double hop on 6 meters." — N7EPD

"This will be one for the record books. Six meters sounded like the CQ WW DX Contest." — W2MMD

What makes a good VHF contest? Answer: QSOs, QSOs, and more QSOs. Back in the good ole days of VHF contesting, it took a rather technically competent individual to even be able to get on any VHF bands. These folks were not usually the best operators, but they won the VHF contests because they had the best stations. That has not been so for many years now. Today, having 6- and 2-meter capability is no more challenging than putting together your typical HF station. In years past, such individuals were disparagingly referred to as *appliance operators*. With today's dearth of homebrew equipment, most of us are now in that category. Band capability above the "bottom two" does, however, require an increment of more know-how and a significantly larger dollar investment. Therefore, contesting on the two lower VHF bands is somewhat analogous to HF contesting. For most VHF contesters, that is just fine. Thus, we see the tremendous popularity of the CQ WW VHF Contest. It's a contest for contesters, attracting both the serious and the casual operators. Such went the dissertation of the "Old Timer" at the annual Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI) meeting devoted to a review of the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest. This time there was much to crow about!

To lend historical perspective to North American VHF contesting, Curt Roseman, K9AKS, cartographer for the very first and subsequent published grid locator maps in North America, was introduced as the newly appointed CQ VHF Contest *historian*. In this important capacity, Curt is now generating contest records for posting on the contest website: <www.

cqww-vhf.com>. He had a great deal to say about the July 16–17, 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest.

All North American VHF Contest Records Shattered

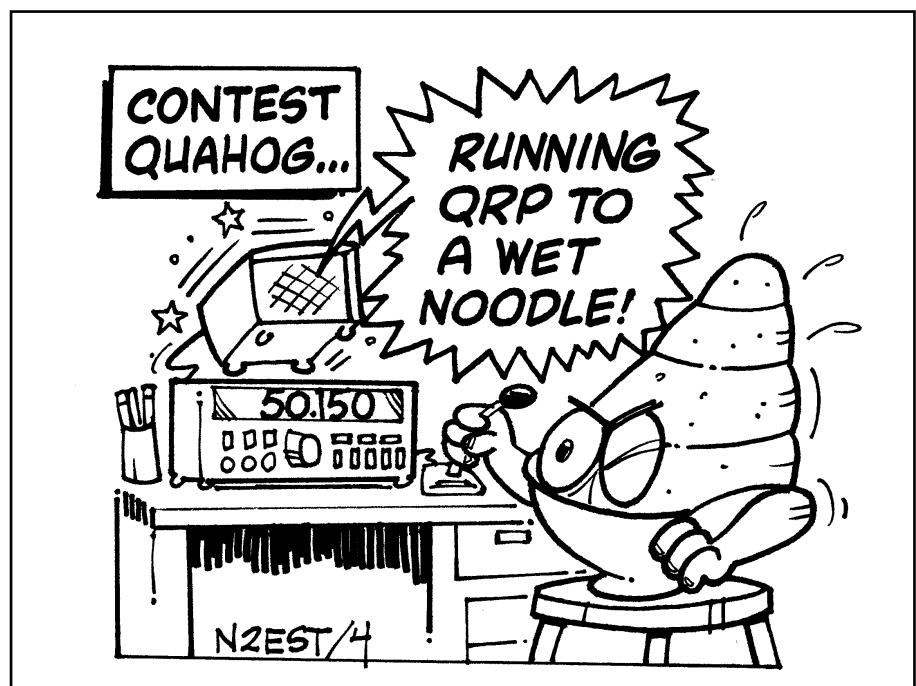
The big story of this contest was the widespread and long-lasting opening on 6 meters that produced record scores in many parts of North America, including most areas east of the Rockies.

A look at the top ten lists of scores, as well as 6-meter QSOs and grids worked, shows the widespread nature of the opening. In the Single Op All Band (SOAB) and Single Op Single Band 6-meter (SOSB6) categories, scores exceeding 198K were made in eight U.S. call areas, the exception being the 6th and 7th districts. The same pattern was true for stations working 220 or more grids on 6.

The big opening drove scores much higher than ever attained in this contest, which dates back to Y2K. Before 2006, the highest single operator score ever attained was 212,952 posted by K2DRH (IL) in 2003 during heightened conditions. This year, seven all-band entrants and two 6-meter-only stations exceeded that score. In the multi-op category, two scores exceed the previous massive 2003 score



The CQ WW VHF Contest continued its strong showing in Thailand with 43 log entries. Here 2005 single-op single-band 2-meter plaque winner for Asia, Nattida, E20YGG (right), receives the congratulations of the immediate past president of the Radio Society of Thailand, Mayuree, HS1YL (left).



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KU4BP/4 used this effective antenna setup for his hilltopper station along the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, EM96kk. QRP portable for just six hours, Ed made 86 QSOs with a multiplier of 51 to earn a certificate.

of 459K by W3ZZ. K3EAR set the new mark at 642,400 points, followed by K8GP with 531,508.

The once elusive goal of working 1000 station on 6 meters in a North American VHF contest was first reached in 1996 by two stations in the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. The addition of 6 meters to numerous commercial HF rigs had given a boost to 6-meter activity. Presently, a total of 25 stations have exceeded that total, with seven of those in the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest (and K8GP just missed the mark with 999 QSOs!). The highest previous 6-meter QSO total in the July CQ contest was 789, worked by multi-op W3ZZ (WV) in 2003.

Six-meter grid totals were equally, if not more, impressive. Prior to this contest, the highest grid total on 6 meters in a North American contest was achieved by K5JL (279) in the June 1987 ARRL contest. This July, the three highest totals ever were posted in the CQ contest: K3EAR (303), K8GP (295), and K2DRH (288). Also, five out of the eight highest totals ever were reached in this contest, including SOSB6 winner K1TOL at 273 and multi-op W3SO at 270.

The 1421 QSOs made by K2DRH and the 303 grids worked by K3EAR in the 2006 CQ contest both represent all-time highs for any North American contest. It is especially remarkable that these totals were made in a contest that lasts only 27 hours, compared to the longer 33-hour ARRL format. Imagine what kind of scores might have been reached had this July's contest continued for another six hours!

Some other notable accomplishments: The Single Op Single Band 2-meter (SOSB2) category was not heavily populated. No doubt the temptation to stay on 6 meters was too much to resist for most people. Nonetheless, the second highest

score ever in this category (16,794) was posted by W4WJF in North Carolina. The record high remains 40,880, reached by his dad, W4GRW, in 2003. The previous QRP record score of 33,245 by NØURW, also in 2003, was obliterated by KA1LMR, who racked up 112,288 points operating portable from a 1000-ft. hilltop in New Hampshire (and putting modesty aside, by K9AKS who scored 88K from Illinois).

With all the attention being paid to 6 meters in North America, it is easy to overlook some good 2-meter conditions that prevailed in the upper Midwest Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Nine of the top ten stations on the list of 2-meter grids worked are in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, or Illinois. In spite of the 6-meter draw, score leader K2DRH still far outdistanced other 2-meter rivals with 260 Qs, while seven out of the top ten 2-meter Q totals were registered in the Great Lakes region. See the Hepburn index for Saturday, reproduced here, to see why this was so. Could it have been any better for K2DRH?

The statistics indicate that a strong case can be made for declaring the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest to be the *greatest* North American VHF contest ever.

Hoopla ensued from the assembled quahog contesting contingent, as K9AKS concluded his remarks.

Was It Just Conditions?

Why were so many stations in North America worked? Was it just conditions? Surely many jumped in upon noting the superb and long-lasting propagation. However, that doesn't explain the *preparation* made prior to the contest by rover stations, which increased by 75% over the previous year; by Hilltoppers who increased by 82%; the entries of mega-mul-

TOP SCORES	
WORLD	
All Band	Hilltopper
NP3CW37,281	HG2006GYR...1,938
DL2OM.....23,040	HA5CQZ/P1,560
	HS9EOW.....1,210
	VA7MM1,196
6 Meters	QRP
W4TAA/VE3 154,780	M3RCV5,060
VP9GE60,792	9A3TU1,276
EA2ARD39,501	JA2MWW1,104
CT1EGH.....36,540	
EB1EHT33,750	Rover
EB1EWE28,112	VE3CRU.....79,002
Z36W.....19,698	VE5UF.....37,680
EA1WX.....13,708	
G4DEZ11,100	Multi-Op
ZC4LI10,624	OK1KIM.....263,252
	CQ3A85,070
2 Meters	OK1KDO20,520
DK5DQ59,422	TA3KC.....17,388
OK1WMM.....25,760	GØBRC.....13,640
DR2006E.....18,330	HS6RMY9,920
HS6RMY9,920	ON6NL8,970
ON6NL8,970	OK1KVK10,218
	USA
All Band	KV1J6,726
K2DRH.....700,701	KU4BP/44,998
K1TEO348,036	KØNR3,078
KB8U299,766	K4JSI2,160
W1XX.....284,325	
N3HBX.....229,977	QRP
NØVZJ.....229,360	KA1LMR112,288
WØEEA219,072	K9AKS88,400
K4EA.....198,843	WVØH31,644
KC9BQA163,737	KE2N27,300
NØURW150,903	WB2SIH15,925
	N8XA14,976
6 Meters	K5RX11,310
K1TOL358,449	
W6OAL242,424	Rover
W2MMD.....200,718	NØDQS219,324
NW5E199,888	K9JK172,542
W5PR189,006	W4VHF119,259
WD5K180,544	WB8BZK115,434
NN1N161,805	N9TTX103,452
W1QK155,036	N4DXY75,684
N4MM141,102	
K7RE104,664	
	2 Meters
2 Meters	W4WJF16,974
W4WJF16,974	W3ADC10,152
W3ADC10,152	N9TF9,718
N9TF9,718	
	Hilltopper
Hilltopper	KFØQ18,180
KFØQ18,180	
	Multi-Op
	K3EAR642,400
	K8GP531,508
	K5QE379,998
	W3SO375,240
	N2BJ133,015

tis K3EAR, K8GP, K5QE, and W3SO; and the many stations operating portable at mountaintop and other better-than-home locations. These all require planning and commitment. Kudos to the big multis for sparking operating interest in passers-by stations. Could it be that the simple two-band format of CQ is being recognized by the vast majority of VHFers as a viable competitive alternative to DC-to-light affairs? These questions were presented for discussion by a long-time VHF contester, with the consensus being that with the 2006 running, the CQ WW VHF Contest had "arrived" in the eyes of a large segment of the normally silent VHF community.

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Hilltopper KF0Q

By Matt Burt, KF0Q

This year was my first attempt operating the QRP Hilltopper category. The CQ WW VHF test is always fun and the Hilltopper category sounded great to me. The 6-hour maximum operating time really adds a twist as well. So which 6-hour span is the best? With the heat and such I decided that setting up on Saturday night would be good and that way I could operate in the morning while it would be cool for at least a few hours. The Hepburn forecast also indicated that Sunday might favor better conditions, so Sunday it was.

I spent Saturday in preparation, but by afternoon reports were coming in about how great conditions were. Had I miscalculated? Rather than dwelling on missed-out fun, I remained focused on preparation. At 7 PM local I went up to a knoll in a hay field, which was the chosen operating location, to find a quite pleasant 82 degrees and a nice breeze. With the 5-element 6-meter and 12-element 2-meter Yagis up on a push-up mast, I returned home for a good night's sleep.

Sunday morning I returned with the rigs, deep-cycle batteries, and plenty of bottled water in my air-conditioned SUV, ready to go. It really didn't make a bit of difference when I

started, as 6 meters was wide open and Qs were going in the log within seconds of turning on the rig.

I started slugging it out on 6 with other stations (some QRP as well), calling CQ and getting as many as four Qs per minute! While searching and pouncing, it was evident the band was open in all directions. Farthest grid was FK68! I jumped up to 144 MHz every time someone stole my frequency on 6 to log a few Qs there. There were some great 2-meter signals from ENs 37, 52, 63, 71 and EM39. Although conditions seemed pretty darn good on 2, I think most stations favored the mayhem on the Magic band.

The incredible conditions on 6 were almost unimaginable. Typically, I see the band open to the east or west, but I was able to work stations in almost any direction all the way up to 50.300 with QRP power! Results? On 6 meters I netted 78 grid multipliers and 12 on 144 with 35 states and provinces worked on 6 meters in 359 minutes of operating. The Hilltopper category is unique to the CQ VHF Contest and not hard to do. Try it...it's fun!

(Matt earned a plaque for his fine effort—ed.)

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
W4TAA/VE3	710	OK1WMR	230
VP9GE	447	DR2006E	195
CT1EGH	315		
EA2ARD	297	144 MHz	
NP3CW	285	OK1KIM	588
EB1EHT	270	HS1ASC	395
EB1EWE	251	HS3KUI	393
Z36W	201	HS7ZU	373
		E21LYC	353
		HS4DDQ	305
		E21WRI	337
		HS6RMY	248
		HS1LLT	322
		HS9KSX	231
		HS0IAQ	308

USA

USA Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K2DRH	1,421	N0URW	110
K1TOL	1,313	KC9BQA	98
K1TEO	1,085	N0VZJ	92
W6OAL	1,036	K1TEO	88
W1XX	1,031		
W0EEA	962	144 MHz	
NW5E	961	K2DRH	260
WD5K	868	W4WJF	207
W5PR	867	KB8U	154
N3HBX	865	N9DG	145
		W3ADC	141
		N9TF	113
		144 MHz	
		K3EAR	305
		K8GP	247
		W3SO	161
		K5QE	160
		N2BJ	112

Interestingly, N0URW offered some revealing commentary as to why 6 meters to some was a bottomless pit of QSOs. With a station that can easily be classified as a mega-station, Dan's big 6-meter antennas were stuck on west with a broken rotor. Thus, rather than push for a big score, he surveyed each station worked for a brief rundown of power and antennas. He found there was a huge number of HF stations that tuned up whatever antenna they had to work stations coast to coast. Everyone had conditions on 6 that supported long-distance contacts no matter what the power or antenna. For example, K5RX was "a 6 meters only operation with all contacts made with a borrowed FT-817 with just 2 watts output to an 80-meter inverted-V up 90 feet. Of course, lots of stations did not hear me, but 145 (!) did." It was Jim's "first time on 6 meters in 30 years." Generally, the HF + 6 radios really made their presence known, more so than ever before. Upon getting a taste of 6-meter magic, how many will now proceed to get more efficient antennas? Hopefully, many!

DX

The CQ WW VHF is the worldwide VHF contest activity. DX log entries show continued growth in activity, as noted by HA2MN: "Enjoyable contest with growing activity. CU next year." And QRP winner M3RCV: "My first participation in CQ WW VHF. Was pleased to make 83 QSOs. Best DX on 6 meters was CQ3A and worked an EA7 on 2-meter Es."



VHF contesting runs in this family. Eighteen-year-old Josh Fisher, W4WJF, successfully defended his USA SOSB2 title with a second-place all-time record of 207 Qs in 41 grids for 33K points, thus earning his second plaque. His dad Bill, W4GRW, still holds the record from 2003 at 40K points.

Six-meter propagation was not so kind to Europe, as noted by multi-op winner OK1KIM: "As the propagation gods were nice to NA, they almost omitted us. We rebuilt our monster 2-meter array, but activity was about as expected. Overall an 11% reduction in score, but we'll be in there again in 2007."

Other top DX scores were made by NP3CW in SOAB, W4TAA/VE3 in SOSB6, and DK5DQ, four-time consecutive SOSB2 winner. Logs received showed a modest double-digit increase in the number of DX countries represented, including two countries in Africa, four in Asia, and two in South America. As a member of the CQ WW family of contests, the CQ VHF continues to gain recognition, with a prominent place on the operating calendar.

Hilltoppers

Hilltopper stations came into their own in this contest. For the uninitiated, a Hilltopper station operates portable away from home with QRP power for a maximum of 6 hours. This obviates the need for overnight provisions and generators (although they are permitted), and leaves time to observe nature at its finest. The entrants tell it best:

"The Hilltopper category was just what I needed this year, with a tight personal schedule. Operated from Mt. Evans (CO) at 14,2634 feet. Great 6-meter opening." —KØNR. "This 'hilltopper' operated from the flat lands of Texas in EL28 with a battery-operated K2 and XV50 transverter at 10 watts. Antenna was a homebrew dipole elevated to 24 feet on a DK9SQ fiberglass mast." —KN5G. "Operated from a Lake Michigan campground in EN76 using a Stressed Moxon on 6 meters on a push-up pole for about one hour using a 10 D-cell battery pack." —N8ZLR. There were even comments from DX stations: "Oper-

"Our ZL8R team turned out over 40,000 QSOs in just over a week...."
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Mirek Rozlinski, VK6DXI

ZL8R Team

Bernie Pflander, HB9ASZ

Michael Mraz, N6MZ

"I can't imagine a better DXpedition rig than the IC-7000! Thanks to its great performance and legendary Icom reliability, our ZL8R team turned out over 40,000 QSOs in just over a week of round-the-clock operating from Raoul Island in the Kermadecs. The rigs never missed a beat! The best part was that we fit all six IC-7000s along with their Icom power supplies and auto-antenna tuners in just a few small padded cases! Thanks Icom!"

– Michael Mraz, N6MZ

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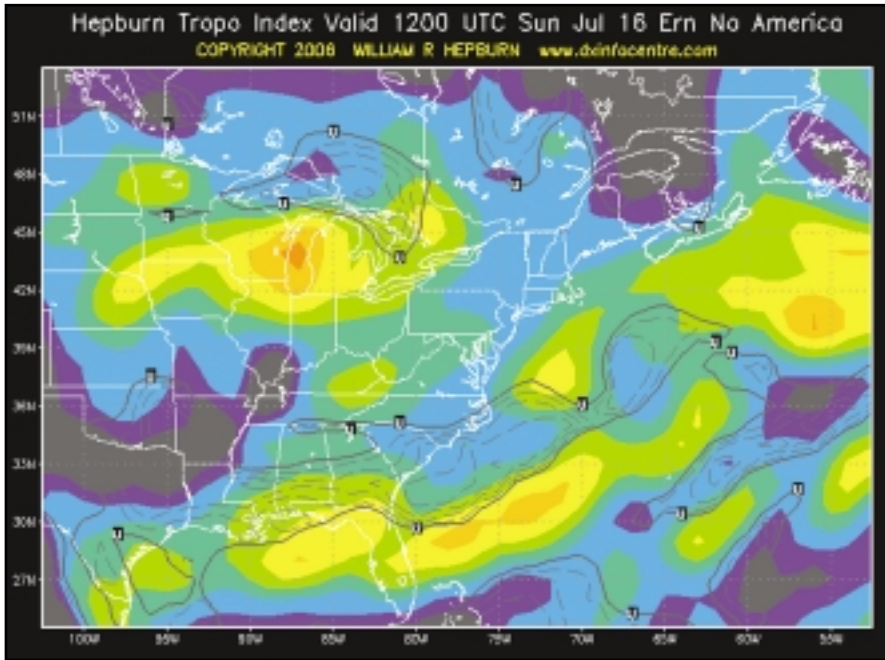
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Great 2-meter enhancement was also experienced by many stations in the Midwest states of MI, WI, IL, and IN. The Hepburn Tropospheric Ducting Forecast for the Saturday of the contest showed an index of 7, "intense," over the Lake Michigan area. See <<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>>. (Printed with credit to the original source, William Hepburn)

ated portable in a tent from a Norwegian National Mountain Park at 1300 meters asl.—LA3DV. "High winds do not make it easy to stay a long time on a 2000-meter high mountain. But that's the way hilltoppers like it."—OE1CWA/3 (*That's priceless, Christian!*—ed.).

Eighteen certificates were earned by hilltoppers worldwide, with KF0Q earning top USA honors with an impressive 18K points, and HG2006GYR top DX score with a shade under 2K points.

Rovers

With just two bands to operate (and many opted for just 6 meters), a competitive rover station does not have to be a replica of the "Batmobile." Simple Moxons and loops seem to be the antennas of choice, with traveling to rare grid squares a common theme. A GPS receiver is a must. Home stations need not obsess about shadowing rovers, as they often find you.

Rover activity mushroomed in the 2006 contest, as those with home operating restrictions or sub-par locations took to the open road. A surprising result was that six-time rover champion W4VHF was displaced by N0DQS with 219K points hitting five squares, and K9JK second with 172K.

Contest Management

CQRI members recognize the team effort it takes to bring this contest to you. The CQ VHF flies under the familiar banner of the CQ WW family of contests. Under the stew-

ardship of NC1C, all logs submitted were processed by VHFSCAPE (VHF scores for Contest Adjudication, Post Entry) and produced these overall impressive numbers: Number of log entries 565, topping last year's record mark by 86%; 97,331 total claimed QSOs, up a whopping 216%; total number of stations active 13,465, up 35%; number of grids activated 888, up 34%. Error rates actually dropped over the previous year: invalid or "not in log" 0.9%; dupes (claimed as valid) 0.3%; "busted" calls 1.3%; overall error rate at just 2.7%. Kudos to entrants on keeping clean logs and submitting them in Cabrillo format.

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND

WORLD

Single-Op	
50 MHz	DL2OM.....46
	ON6NL.....39
W4TAA/VE3.....218	
VP9GE.....136	
EA2ARD.....133	Multi-Op
NP3CW.....128	50 MHz
EB1EHT.....125	CQ3A.....165
CT1EGH.....116	OK1KIM.....97
EB1EWE.....112	TA3KC.....68
	144 MHz
144 MHz	OK1KIM.....96
DK5DQ.....73	OK1KDO.....41
OK1WMR.....56	OK1KVK.....39
DR2006E.....47	G0BRC.....35

USA

Single-Op		N0GZ.....39
50 MHz		KC9BQA.....36
K2DRH.....288		
K1TOL.....273	Multi-Op	
K1TEO.....247	50 MHz	
N3HBX.....244	K3EAR.....303	
W2MMD.....243	K8GP.....295	
W1XX.....237	W3SO.....270	
W6OAL.....234	K5QE.....237	
N4MM.....234	N2BJ.....145	
KB8U.....228	K2AA.....138	
W0EEA.....220	WA1Z.....116	
	K2OAK.....106	
144 MHz	K2LDT.....96	
K2DRH.....73	NN4RR.....90	
N9DG.....57		
KB8U.....54	144 MHz	
N0URW.....45	K3EAR.....62	
N9TF.....43	K8GP.....61	
W4WJF.....41	W3SO.....48	
N0VZJ.....39	K5QE.....42	
K9AKS.....39	N2BJ.....40	

Thanks also to WA7BNM for CabForms, which allows on-line post entry.

Other team members recognized for their valuable contributions include the following who assisted in international publicity of the contest dates and rules: UR5ECE, PY2ZX, OK1RI, OZ7IS, E21EIC, and others who did so unrecognized. For the 2007 contest, the publicity

2006 PLAQUE WINNERS

Single Operator

USA All Band: Bob Striegl, K2DRH. Donor: Ted & Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF & K4LVV
USA 6 Meters: Lefty Clement, K1TOL. Donor: John Kitchens, NS6S
USA 2 Meters: Josh Fisher, W4WJF. Donor: Ariane Arrays, Inc.
USA QRP: Christopher M. Merchant, KA1LMR. Donor: Bob Witte, K0NR
USA Hilltopper: Matt Burt, KF0Q. Donor: anonymous, in memory of Edward P. Tilton, W1HDQ
World All Band: Julio Medina, NP3CW. Donor: The Badger Contesters
World 6 Meters: Bill Brown, W4TAA/VE3. Donor: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV/6
World 2 Meters: Nicolas Exner, DK5DQ. Donor: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU
Asia 2 Meters: Bunknite Tingitviboonkun, HS6RMY. Donor: Golden Kilowatt Council in memory of Hans D. Hollstein, HS0/KA3TDZ

Multi-Operator

USA: South Mountain Contest Club, K3EAR. Donor: Bob Striegl, K2DRH
World: Radioklub OK1KIM. Donor: Grid Pirates, K8GP
Thailand: Kasetsart University ARC, HS3KUI. Donor: Siam DX Group

Rover

USA: Gene Mitchell, N0DQS. Donor: W3SO, Wopsonnock Mountaintop Operators
World: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU. Donor: CT RI Contest Group

team expands to include EA7KW, G0LCS, G4DEZ, and HI3TEJ.

Auto log processing has developed under the expertise of NC1C, who now wishes to step back from these responsibilities. A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Dave for seeing us through the formative years of the CQ VHF Contest. Steve, N8BJQ, of CQ WW WPX Contest experience (and who now heads up CQ's WPX Award program), will be stepping into the breach with assistance from K9JK and NS6X.

2007 CQ VHF Contest

Nearing the close of the 2006 review and the CQRI meeting, contest director W1XX delivered some well-chosen words. The 2007 edition of CQ VHF Contest is scheduled for July 21–22. The full announcement will appear in the June issue of CQ, on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com), and on the contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com).

The contest took a tremendous leap forward in recognition with the enhanced NA conditions experienced in 2006. We need to advance from that point in providing a fun, competitive VHF event, continuing to appeal to mainstream 6- and 2-meter operators. In Europe, we continue to face strong competition for room on the VHF operating calendar. With local publicists in place, the CQ VHF Contest can tap even further the vast resource of EU stations, especially on 2 meters. Inroads to further activity in Africa, Asia, and South America need to develop, as well as an initial step in Oceania.

An admonition to North American ops: We won't always see the widespread 6-meter enhancement of 2006. However, there continues to be a vast supply of often quiet 2-meter stations in most parts of North America that used to be contest active in the late 1980s. Make it happen again. Don't neglect 2 meters. Fill the ether with 144-MHz RF and we all shall be rewarded. Thanks to all for your support of this contest!

Thereupon the Contest Quahogs filed out to the parking lot for an antenna-gain measuring contest. 73, John, W1XX

QRM

Amazing 6-meter conditions and excellent operating made for a great event . . . **AD4IE**. Fine contest, the first for me on 6 meters. Will do more in the future . . . **CT1DRB**. This contest had the best 6-meter opening I've seen in many years. It was great! . . . **K2EVW**. It was great to see both 2 and 6 meters open. I had a lot of fun . . . **K0RU**. What an exciting contest. With 100 watts and a loop at 30 feet for 6 meters, I worked 78 grids and even heard more but couldn't always break the pile-ups. Worked VE3CRU/R in three grids. The N1MM Logger rate summary showed one 60-minute run of 58 QSOs/hour—not bad for 100 watts and a loop . . . **K3IXD**. The single and double hop E-skip made this a great contest. My barefoot FT-817 and



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small Yagis did just fine. I wish there had been more activity on 2 meters, as there was some sporadic-E there as well . . . **K4JSI**. Great contest, great opening. Don't you love it when the two coincide!? My first effort in this contest . . . **K5JMP**. A couple of good openings, although apparently not quite as long as some other parts of the country. Thanks to the California stations on 2 meters . . . **K7TOP**. I think I worked more W6/W7 stations on 6 on Saturday than in my previous 40+ years of operating . . . **K8MR**.

Wow, what a great contest! Most grids worked in a VHF contest . . . **K9GY**. One of the best openings on 6 meters I have worked in a contest . . . **KA1LMR**. This was my first VHF contest and I had a blast. I can't wait till the next one . . . **KB3NDS**. Fantastic! Wonderful condition on 6 meters. Best I've heard in years. Worked 114 grids running only 35 watts! . . . **KB8UUZ**. Was great fun. First contest operating QRP. Rig was a Yaesu FT-817 and 2.5 watts into a Par loop antenna . . . **K9AXZ**. This was the first VHF contest I ever operated from my home QTH in DM12jt, 400 feet asl, about 7 miles from the Pacific Ocean and 35 miles north of the Mexican border. After picking up locals in and around southern California, started scanning up from 50.125 to discover there was long single- and even double-hop traffic to the northeast. There were only a few stations moving the S-meter, but they were perfectly readable. It sounded like the stations on the east coast were having a blast. If you didn't know you were on 6, you would have sworn you were on 20 instead. Ended up with fewer contacts than usual, but more grid squares due to the opening on 6, so the score was actually higher than in 2005. Thanks as always for hosting this, and we'll see you next year . . . **KG6IYN**. Great conditions on 6 meters to all over the USA and Caribbean. Working FM5JC was the highlight of the contest . . . **KI7JA**. Great pile-ups on 6 and 2 meters. It's great for everybody who have 6 and 2 meters and can join the fun . . . **N0DQS**. Signals on 6 meters were S9+60 all day Saturday. And 2 meters was open until at least midnight! . . . **N0EDV**. Great contest, lots of fun. Only got to activate three grids, but got my first inter-continental DX in the log, as well as my first contact with Puerto Rico . . . **N1KPW**.

One of the best ever VHF contests for me on 6 meters in 25 years of VHF contesting . . . **N0KE**. Ran 500 watts to a MonstIR at 60 feet on a West Virginia ridge-top. My first VHF contest ever . . . **N4TX**. My first contest ever! . . . **NH6VJ**. Ten watts to a dipole in the attic. When 6 meters is open, it works pretty well . . . **NJ1H**. With my 150 watts I did not run for a plaque, but still had fun. It was nice to hear all the DQ and DR stations on. Sunday afternoon a short 2-meter sporadic-E opening brought five QSOs of over 1800 km . . . **ON6NL**. VUCC on 6 meters in less than six hours with 100 watts and a 4-element Yagi . . . **VE3KZ**. Best conditions on 6 meters for any of the many VHF contests we have done over the past ten years. Largest grid total on 6 ever with Europe, Caribbean, West Coast, Western Canada, and everything in between for most of both days . . . **W3SO**. This log is QRPP 1 wait output for all contacts from FM18hk in Virginia. Amazing conditions! . . . **W4SHG**. My first VHF contest in 52 years. Lots of fun. See ya'll next time . . . **W5KDJ**. My first 6-meter contacts since the days of my Heath Sixer in the mid-60s. Antenna was a 40-meter dipole! Will put up a J-pole and see if I can join in future fun on the Magic band . . . **W5TB**. What a wild ride this one was! . . . **W6OAL**. Fifty years on the air and I felt like a Novice all over again with the openings on 6 meters . . . **W8IQ**. Working Maine (K1TOL) with less than 10 watts from DM37 [UT] was biggest thrill . . . **WA0YPL**.

Once again **CQ** magazine picks out an unbelievable weekend for NA conditions. Last contact Sunday morning was Greece. Wow! . . . **WA2FGK**. Great contest with tremendous activity from all call districts. I think this contest will influence many new 6-meter ops as to how cool this band is . . . **WB2QLP**.

I only wish that bad conditions could be this good for all contests. I may even be able to get VUCC 6M if I get a good response to QSL mailing. Even had a brief E-skip opening on 2 meters. Let's do it again. Replay please . . . **WF4R**. I operated on solar power and batteries from the top of a 5000-ft. mountain in the Sierras. Beautiful! . . . **K6XN**. What a neat way to end a vacation in the mountains of western NC. Heard things atop Mt. Mitchell at 6,684 ft. that I could not hear at home. Drove some roads moving between high points where I could see my taillights on the switchbacks. Six meters was hopping . . . **K8YC**. Great, great conditions. A pair of Par OA-50 loops and 100 watts was enough to get 595 Qs in 171 grids. Here in the Midwest, 144 MHz conditions were spectacular as well. Lots of ops got exposure to this contest and that's a real plus . . . **KC9BQA**. Operated Hilltopper category with an ICOM 703+ for 6 meters to a dipole and Ten-Tec 2-meter transverter to a 3-element Yagi at 10 feet on a hilltop overlooking San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point Harbor in southern CA. It was just a 30-minute hike from home . . . **KG6TGI**. I ran 10 watts to a whip on 6 meters as a Hilltopper. Was pleased to work Lefty, K1TOL in FN44, WA0MHJ/R in rare EN38, and VE4EAR in EN19 was very loud . . . **N0JK**.

Great 6-meter opening and was able to work RI for my 49th state towards WAS . . . **N0XLR**. Great surprise to have won 1st place in class in CT last year. Great fun this year with the band being wide open . . . **N1ZN**. First time submitting a log for this contest. Running 6-meter QRP a challenge even with the great band opening, but a lot of fun. A big thrill to snag some Caribbean QSOs on the first call. Great timing for CQ WW VHF! . . . **N2BEG**. First real time on the air since Hurricane Katrina caused substantial damage to my house. All ham gear except my Drake TR-7 survived . . . **N3AWS**. My 6th time in CQ-VHF with twice as many Qs and grids on 6 meters as my previous best. I worked 12 double-hop grids in fields DM and DN and an EH8 called me off the back of the beam. There were lots more ops on CW than usual with about 40% of my 6-meter QSOs on CW . . . **N3UM**. Best activity on 6 meters I've ever heard for a contest weekend . . . **N4XD**. First VHF contest. It was just as much fun as chasing new states on 40 meters as a Novice. Need a directional antenna for next year . . . **N7NT**. The contest coincided with the annual vacation to the outer banks of NC. A bit of a struggle to work stations with 50 watts to a Hamstick, but many appreciated the rare grids of FM25 and FM26 . . . **N8II**.

The contest started while returning home from vacation in Wyoming. I was able to operate from 11 grids on the way . . . **N9MYK**. Great contest without the upper bands. Not all of us can afford good stations through 10 GHz. This was a personal best for multipliers . . . **NN4RR**. NT5HS was a rather accidental rover entry in the contest. Returning home to Texas from a trip to South Dakota, all of a sudden there was a multitude of signals on 6 meters obviously operating a contest. After asking someone what contest, we were off to the races. The simple setup consisted of a Kenwood TS-480, Garmin GPS, and a Par OA-50 loop 3 feet above the van. The opening was superb working some fairly unusual grids . . . **N0RQ & KC5POV**. Operation from Hollyburn Ridge, BC at elevation 2000 feet . . . **VA7MM**. This contest was one of the best I have ever participated in as a rover. This was a very high-spirited event . . . **VE3CRU**. Six meters was fantastic with lots of CW activity. Those who do not use CW are missing multipliers . . . **W2UDT**. Rig was a borrowed TS-690 running 50 watts to a homebrew antenna consisting of solid aluminum wire and lots of electrical tape. Temperature was near 100° F roving just south of the Canadian border. The antenna looked pretty pitiful but the band really came through . . . **WA0MHJ**. Thanks to all concerned in running this contest . . . **ZC4LI**.

Number/letter groups after call letters denote the following: Class (A = all band, 6 = 6 meters, 2 = 2 meters, Q = QRP, Q* = QRP portable hilltopper, R = rover, M = multi-operator), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Number of grid locations, State/Province (USA/Canada only), Grid Locator or Number of grids activated (rover only). Rover scores for USA are listed separately. Certificate winners are listed in boldface.						
N1DG	6	2,684	61	44	MA	FN42
W1DDMM	6	2,016	56	36	CT	FN31
K1VU	6	1,230	41	30	MA	FN42
K1EP	6	520	26	20	MA	FN42
KV1J	Q*	6,726	112	59	ME	FN44
KA1LMR	Q	112,288	624	176	NH	FN43
NJ1H	Q	6,612	114	58	NH	FN42
WA1Z	M	39,429	333	117	NH	FN42
N1VMJ	M	11,154	140	78	MA	FN32
KB1HAR	M	11,076	139	78	CT	FN41
W2EV	A	67,200	391	168	NY	FN03
KV2M	A	66,300	407	156	NJ	FM29
KA2CYN	A	45,875	361	125	NY	FN31
W2UDT	A	21,280	210	95	NJ	FN20
K2QO	A	12,848	139	88	NY	FN03
K2KIB	A	12,816	134	89	NJ	FN21
W09S	A	9,480	119	79	NY	FN12
W2VU	A	8,832	126	69	NJ	FN20
KD2MX	A	8,667	107	63	NJ	FN21
W2MMD	6	200,718	826	243	NJ	FM29
NS2P	6	31,050	270	115	NY	FN24
AG2A	6	25,404	219	116	NY	FN30
K2HZW	6	20,900	220	95	NY	FN30
K2DBK	6	19,834	211	94	NJ	FN21
W2CC	6	19,200	200	96	NY	FN23
NG2T	6	7,446	102	73	NY	FN23
K2YSY	6	7,100	100	71	NJ	FN20
W2FB	6	5,208	93	56	NJ	FN20
K2TV	6	3,978	78	51	NY	FN30
NA2X	6	3,328	64	52	NY	FN13
WB2TPS	6	2,948	67	44	NY	FN30
WA2BKN	6	2,655	59	45	NJ	FN21
N2SLN/M	6	1,504	47	32	NY	FN22
W2CVW	6	700	28	25	NJ	FN20
K2LZF	6	621	27	23	NY	FN02
WB2AMU	6	504	24	21	NY	FN30
N2JTX	6	100	10	10	NY	FN30
K2LYK	6	36	6	6	NJ	FN20
WB2SIH	Q	15,925	159	91	NY	FN31

N2BEG	Q	7,104	96	74	NY	FN12
W2JEK	Q	1,040	40	26	NJ	FN20
KC2N/WV	Q	621	25	23	NJ	FN21
K2AA	M	65,637	401	153	NJ	FM29
K2OAK	M	31,372	221	124	NJ	FN21
K2LDT	M	15,402	145	102	NY	FN12
N3HBX	A	229,977	887	253	MD	FM19
W3ZZ	A	119,196	568	198	MD	FM19
K3TUF	A	82,152	434	168	PA	FN10
WA2FGK	A	51,072	307	152	PA	FN21
K3OO	A	49,280	344	140	PA	FN20
N3IUM	A	21,420	200	102	MD	FM18
KB3NDS	A	12,354	136	87	MD	FM18
K1DS	A	12,118	133	83	PA	FN20
K3NG	A	10,472	135	77	PA	FN20
K3ISH	A	7,738	102	73	PA	FN21
AK3E	A	7,416	100	72	MD	FM28
N3FNE	A	4,028	72	53	MD	FM19
W3BBO	A	3,162	62	51	PA	FN02
KB3EXB	A	2,480	56	40	PA	FN10
N3CHX	A	2,379	59	39	PA	FN20
WA3PTV	A	777	28	21	PA	FM19
N3TEE	6	7,597	107	71	DE	FM29
K3MSB	6	7,236	108	67	PA	FM19
KW3F	6	4,960	80	62	PA	FN20
N3KN	6	4,081	77	53	PA	FN20
WA3KYY	6	2,752	64	43	MD	FM19
N3XLS	6	1,209	39	31	PA	FN21
KB3LZ	6	744	31	24	MD	FM28
W3WB	6	572	26	22	MD	FM29
N3GCE	6	228	19	12	DC	FM18
N3TXX	6	132	12	11	PA	EN90
W3ADC	2	10,152	141	36	MD	FM19
WA3EOD	2	1,872	39	24	MD	FM09
K3ZT	2	96	12	4	PA	FM29
K4JSI	Q*	2,160	48	36	MD	FM19
K3TW	Q	273	20	13	MD	FM18
K13G	Q	132	12	11	PA	FN10
K3EAR	M	642,400	1,455	365	PA	FM19
W3SO	M	375,240	1,019	318	PA	FN00
K3WW	M	76,557	453	169	PA	FN20
K4EA	A	198,843	810	237	GA	EM74
W4WA	A	131,440	585	212	GA	EM84
K4OI	A	116,704	487	224	NC	FM06
NJ2F	A	83,160	515	154	FL	EL96
K4XR	A	80,618	440	173	AL	EM64
KD4X	A	67,648	441	151	GA	EM74
N4XD	A	63,580	363	170	NC	FM05
KN4SM	A	59,965	312	179	VA	FM16
NG4C	A	53,404	334	158	NC	FM16
K5JMP	A	40,749	271	141	VA	FM18
K4TO	A	22,454	161	109	KY	EM77
K4IIMA	A	20,800	196	100	FL	EL96
K4FJW	A	19,620	204	90	VA	EM86
K3IXD	A	14,823	180	81	SC	EM93
K2EWW	A	14,500	138	100	VA	EM96
N4UFP	A	14,418	156	89	SC	EM94
KR1ST	A	10,934	134	77	SC	EM92
W4FRA	A	10,790	124	83	NC	FM15
K4UWD	A	9,240	126	70	TN	EM76
W4FR	A	9,176	109	74	VA	FM16
K4GAKH	A	8,268	99	78	VA	FM18
N4DWK	A	7,840	109	70	VA	FM17
K4ZOO	A	6,435	93	65	VA	FM08
W54V	A	5,251	87	59	VA	EM96
AD4TJ	A	5,192	82	59	VA	FM08
K04FR	A	4,187	78	53	VA	FM16
WB4CAT	A	4,080	79	51	NC	EM95
K4WYS	A	3,888	67	54	VA	FM16
AK4FL	A	3,652	75	44	AL	EM64
N1RIK	A	2,277	64	33	NC	FM05
AD4IE	A	2,128	54	38	NC	EM95
K4FTO	A	2,079	55	33	VA	FM18
W4KFT	A	1,855	51	35	VA	FM18
AC2CN	A	910	33	26	FL	EL88
W4AEP1	A	480	23	20	VA	FM16
W1FL	A	176	15	11	VA	FM18
W5E	6	199,888	961	208	FL	EL98

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N4MM	6	141,102	603	234	VA	FM09	W5PR	6	189,006	867	218	TX	EL29	WA0YPL	Q	1,353	41	33	UT	DM37	WA9BFH	6	1,452	44	33	WI	EN52
NB50	6	87,731	581	151	FL	EL96	WD5K	6	180,544	868	208	TX	EM12	KB8U	A	299,766	909	282	MI	EN71	KB9VOM	6	1,014	39	26	WI	EN53
N5B0	6	80,884	554	146	FL	EM60	W5WVO	6	49,912	367	136	NM	DM65	K8MR	A	86,464	403	193	OH	EN91	KB9VZL	6	693	33	21	IN	EM79
W4RM	6	34,432	269	128	VA	FM18	W0VX	6	41,076	326	126	TX	EM12	N0FW	A	45,000	374	120	OH	EM79	KD4SIR	6	589	31	19	IN	EM79
N4TX	6	31,964	244	131	VA	FM09	N5ASA	6	33,640	290	116	LA	EM42	K8ZLZ	A	45,188	296	143	OH	EN81	N0ICV	6	432	24	18	IL	EN52
W4GRW	6	27,108	251	108	NC	EM96	WA8ZBT	6	32,421	303	107	TX	EM12	N8BJQ	A	28,392	270	104	OH	EN80	KC9GDL	6	425	25	17	IL	EN51
W4JF	6	20,332	221	92	NC	EM95	W5MPC	6	25,186	257	98	MS	EM54	K8KD	A	23,595	180	121	MI	EN82	KC9BBP	6	300	20	15	IL	EM57
N4CAG	6	19,448	187	104	TN	EM86	W5SKIA	6	19,300	193	100	TX	EM13	KF8QL	A	19,976	219	88	MI	EN72	W9JJC	6	240	16	15	WI	EM65
K3KO	6	18,260	166	110	NC	FM06	W5GAI	6	18,156	178	102	TX	EM10	N8IE	A	13,351	167	79	OH	EM79	W9LYA	6	154	14	11	IL	EN62
K4BAI	6	17,248	196	88	GA	EM72	KE5HLT	6	7,150	110	65	LA	EM42	W8KNO	A	10,836	117	84	OH	EN91	N9TF	2	9,718	113	43	IL	EN52
W9RVR	6	15,023	181	83	TN	EM56	KJ5RC	6	2,856	68	42	MS	EM42	K8DXR	A	9,672	117	78	OH	EN90	W9IIX	2	2,976	62	24	IL	EN61
K4DLI	6	14,875	175	85	GA	EM74	K7JWC	6	1,419	43	33	NM	DM62	W8AWV	A	7,770	105	70	WV	EM98	K9AKS	Q	88,400	450	170	IL	EM41
WB4YDL	6	14,144	208	68	TN	EM56	WA5ZUP	6	1,178	38	31	NM	DM56	KC8VPC	A	6,656	98	64	OH	EN91	KC9ECI	Q	9,983	124	67	WI	EN44
K4ABNI	6	8,232	168	49	TN	EM56	KD5HTB	6	768	32	24	TX	EM13	W8PAT	A	5,782	85	59	OH	EN81	KC9AXZ	Q	6,901	99	67	WI	EN63
W2YE	6	7,866	114	69	VA	FM19	W5KI	6	713	31	23	AR	EM36	K8AB	A	5,202	82	51	OH	EN91	N2BJ	M	133,015	607	185	IL	EN61
N4NX	6	7,440	120	62	GA	EM84	KD5VGB	6	696	29	24	NM	DM65	K8AB	A	5,202	82	51	OH	EN91	N2BJ	M	133,015	607	185	IL	EN61
K4BGG	6	6,909	141	49	TN	EM75	W5KWB	6	475	25	19	MS	EM42	K8BUZ	6	19,038	167	114	OH	EN91	N2BJ	M	133,015	607	185	IL	EN61
K4HEE	6	5,510	95	58	SC	FM03	W5FIO	6	270	18	15	TX	EM22	N8JL	6	15,912	221	72	MI	EN72	N0VZJ	A	229,360	848	244	MN	EN35
K9HLY	6	4,095	91	45	FL	EL96	K5COB	6	224	16	14	TX	EM12	N8PVT	6	8,927	113	79	MI	EN64	W0EEA	A	219,072	970	224	CO	DM79
N4WD	6	3,772	82	46	GA	EM74	W5TB	6	121	11	11	TX	EM23	W8UWZ	6	8,400	112	75	MI	EN72	N0URW	A	150,903	619	207	IA	EN41
N4JRY	6	3,555	79	45	SC	FM04	N5DIT	6	96	12	8	TX	EL29	N0BR	6	7,665	105	73	MI	EN73	N0RKE	A	114,885	617	185	CO	DM69
N2JXX	6	3,243	69	47	SC	EM93	KE5ELU	2	80	8	5	AR	EM34	AB8JR	6	5,428	92	59	MI	EN82	K0AWU	A	84,128	421	176	MN	EN37
W2OO	6	2,660	70	38	TN	EM85	KN5G	Q	4,735	25	19	TX	EL28	K8IR	6	4,888	104	47	MI	EN65	N0JNL	A	76,104	453	151	NE	EN10
W4AMP	6	2,200	55	40	GA	EM74	K5RX	Q	11,310	145	78	TX	EM13	W8IDM	6	4,218	74	57	OH	EN81	N0CZ	A	69,230	351	161	IA	EN31
K4SV	6	1,920	48	40	NC	EM85	N6ZZ	Q	4,644	86	54	NM	DM73	W8IO	6	3,969	81	49	OH	EN81	W0EET	A	61,350	402	150	CO	DM79
K8OSF	6	1,400	50	28	FL	EL98	N5MHM	Q	1,302	42	31	LA	EM32	K8BAX	6	2,394	57	42	OH	EM79	W6GTM	A	24,940	213	116	MN	EN37
KD4EV8	6	1,026	38	27	KY	EM78	W5KDJ	Q	1,140	38	30	TX	EM20	N8FM	6	1,632	48	34	MI	EN82	K0GRAD	A	16,974	181	82	IA	EN32
N1LHW	6	980	35	28	TN	EM65	N3AWS	Q	682	31	22	MS	EM50	K8KJF	6	5,202	26	20	WV	EM98	K8RFR	A	15,921	162	87	KS	EM28
N4JF	6	897	39	23	NC	FM05	NISW	Q	270	18	15	OK	EM04	N8PPF	6	56	8	7	OH	EN80	WA0VPJ	A	13,345	128	85	MN	EN35
KF4OLO	6	884	34	26	GA	EM74	K5QE	M	379,998	1,202	279	TX	EM31	W03X	2	20	5	2	OH	EN91	W0RT	A	9,815	128	65	KS	EM27
K4AHTB	6	693	33	21	TN	EM75	W5SSV	M	1,450	43	29	TX	EL39	N8ZLR	Q	16	4	4	MI	EN76	K0UK	A	7,370	109	67	CO	DM59
KC4LRY	6	224	16	14	NC	FM14	KG6IYN	A	6,384	146	28	CA	DM12	N8YA	Q	14,976	146	96	OH	EM89	NT0V	A	5,671	73	53	ND	EN08
KK4LH	6	156	13	12	NC	EM95	K6CZWT	A	4,095	74	39	CA	CM98	K8BCE	Q	2,688	62	42	OH	EM91	W80IR	A	4,312	76	56	MO	EM37
K14PWX	6	4	2	2	NC	FM15	KK6KE	A	3,636	74	36	CA	CM98	W8TOM	Q	1,457	47	31	MI	EN74	K0VGG	A	2,808	58	39	MN	EN35
W4WJF	2	16,974	207	41	NC	EM96	K6XN	A	3,240	72	40	CA	CM99	K8GP	M	531,508	1,246	356	WV	FM08	K0GAG	A	1,150	40	25	MO	EM29
KU4BP/4	Q	4,998	86	51	NC	EM96	K6FV	A	1,682	48	29	CA	CM87	K2DRH	A	700,701	1,681	361	IL	EN41	K0VGC	A	1,131	38	29	MO	EM37
N4EWC	Q	1,504	47	32	TN	EM76	K6YV	A	1,170	56	15	CA	DM03	KC9BQA	A	163,737	693	207	WI	EN63	KR0VER	A	220	17	11	CO	DM79
W24C	Q	1,365	55	21	NC	EM85	N6RZR	A	775	29	25	CA	CM80	K9Z0	A	63,495	366	153	IL	EN50	W6QAL	6	242,424	1,036	234	CO	DM79
KE2N	Q	27,300	225	105	VA	FM18	N6C6P	A	140	13	7	CA	CM87	N9D0	6	87,296	351	176	WI	EN53	K7RE	6	104,664	588	178	SD	DM84
W4BCU	Q	8,646	114	66	TN	EM86	W46WON	2	378	21	9	CA	DM05	K9Y0	A	60,450	357	155	IL	EN61	N0UR	6	34,034	286	119	MN	EN35
W4SHG	Q	7,410	106	65	VA	FM18	W8TNP	2	360	30	6	CA	DM04	N9YTHD	A	23,976	196	108	IN	EN71	KC0DEB	6	29,484	252	117	KS	EM29
N4MJ	Q	5,400	100	54	TN	EM56	KG6TGI	Q	400	25	10	CA	DM13	W9RAY	A	20,274	171	93	WI	EN45	K0MPH	6	23,136	241	96	MN	EN35
KG4IG	Q	2,278	64	34	SC	EM93	K80K	Q	21	7	3	CA	DM13	KB9UMI	A	16,932	186	83	IN	EN70	KE0A	6	11,122	134	83	ND	EN17
NZ1D	Q	1,053	39	27	FL	EL98	W7CE	A	22,523	199	101	WA	CM87	K19A	A	14,938	185	77	IL	EN58	K0SDV	6	4,617	81	57	CO	DM79
W4UDX	Q	42	7	6	KY	EM78	NJ7A	A	11,778	148	78	UT	DN30	W9SE	A	10,106	122	62	IL	EN50	K0PVC	6	4,116	84	49	MN	EN34
N4TLA	Q	32	4	4	GA	EM82	N7EPD	A	10,650	135	71	WA	CM87	N9NDP	A	9,724	105	68	WI	EN62	K0VRL	6	3,120	65	48	IA	EN42
N4ARR	M	17,296	186	92	GA	EM73	K17JA	A	5,928	88	52	OR	CM85	KB9IDT	A	7,497	110	63	IL	EN51	N0JOU	6	2,035	55	37	KS	EM18
N51T0	A	94,080	575	160	TX	EM23	N7DB	A	300	21	10	OR	CM85	W8AFIB	A	5,376	91	48	IN	EN61	KC0QIE	6	1,813	49	37	KS	EM17
KC5R	A	31,824	304	104	LA	EM40	KG7P	A	290	23	10	WA	CM87	K9YGD	A	5,346	98	54	IN	EN61	W0CAR	6	816	34	24	CO	DM79
W450K	A	28,231	252	109	OK	EM24	N6KWV	A	216	17	9	WA															

