# Results of the 2007 CQ WW VHF Contest

#### BY JOHN LINDHOLM,\* W1XX

he Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI) convened their fall meeting at the local Grange hall to replay the CQ WW VHF Contest of July 2007. The overriding question was "How could anything top the superb contest conditions of 2006?" Well, the answer was "It didn't happen." However, comparing 2007 scores to all previous CQ WW VHF contests, which in the current format date back to 2000, does reveal that the 2007 contest produced some notable performances.

#### **Contest Propagation Conditions**

A review of some submitted feedback supports the observation by many that conditions in North America, especially on Saturday, at times rivaled those of 2006 on 6 meters. It was simply not as sustained. For example, N8CMZ offered: "For six hours Saturday afternoon, 6 meters was open from Canada to Mexico with S9+ signals continuously. It made operating QRP a lot of fun." Canadian VE2HAY concurred: "Grand openings on 50 MHz." From VE3TLT: "Six meters was partially open the entire contest. I spent most of my time on 6 because of openings to so many different places." K2DRH summarized: "While I knew that a repeat of last year's phenomenal conditions was not very likely, I was hopeful that conditions would at least be good. They were actually quite excellent! The contest started with fairly steady conditions to Florida and the Caribbean, shifting to other areas over the next few hours. One hour saw 160 QSOs with FN, EM, EL, DM and DN grids all interlaced. Three 6-meter antennas pointed in different directions sure came in handy, but unlike last year, the E-skip quit long before sunset."

Heightened conditions on 2 meters also existed if you were lucky enough to be in the right place, as was Texas multi-op K5QE: "Great conditions on 2 meters Sunday morning, working all over W9, W8, and northern parts of 4-land for 66 total grids, a new high for us." Meanwhile N9DG noted, "Some nice 2-meter tropo to the south/southwest, good for some 800-plus mile QSOs."

For a quick indicator of the kind of North American QSO totals propagation supported, consider this: K2DRH, a single-op in Illinois, made a total of 771 Qs and K1WHS, a multi-op in Maine, made 958 Qs. Diverse in location and both well-equipped stations to be sure, but these are numbers of near historic proportions. For K2DRH it was the 7th highest SOAB (Single-Op All-Band) score in contest history, and K1WHS is now a member of the exclusive 200K+ points club.

Nicolas, DK5DQ, summarized the rather dismal propagation in Europe: "This year I used the new club contest callsign, DA2A, during CQ WW VHF. Unfortunately, conditions were bad with no *E*-skip or tropo, resulting in poor activity. Making EU stations aware of this nice VHF contest is still a challenge."

At this point the contest director, and CQRI member, took the floor to sneak preview the scores.

#### **Multi Madness**

Confucius (and N8BJQ) says, "He who has the most Qs usually wins." How true it was in an exciting photo-finish multi-operator horse race. Here's how the top four U.S. station scores compared.

Call	Score	QSOs	Locators
K1WHS	236,953	958	211
K5QE	230,436	826	222
K8GP	226,240	798	224
K3EAR	210,045	748	209

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Dave, VO1AU, operated from VO1MCE, a wireless museum at Cape Race, Newfoundland, in rare grid GN36. When the Titanic went down in April 1915, MCE, the Marconi station at Cape Race, received the distress signal and began organizing help.

Dave, K1WHS, with "a little help from his friends" reconstructed his entire 6-meter station just in time to give this contest a first serious effort. It surely paid off, copping top U.S. multi-op honors to win his first CQ VHF plaque. Dave described his fine station: "The 6-meter antennas consisted of four 7-element Yagis on a 100-foot tower, each antenna individually rotatable. The shack is out on a rocky ridge top with all power provided by a 30-KW three-phase diesel generator." Marshall, K5QE, assisted by K5MQ, rode the big 2-meter tropo opening and an ever-present 6-meter signal to finish a close second, edging out K8GP. The Spruce Knob (WV) Grid Pirates, K8GP, came in third, followed by last year's winner and still all-time record holder K3EAR.

Analysis by CQ VHF Contest historian K9AKS "showed these to be quite respectable scores when stacked up against previous multiop efforts. In the seven previous years of the contest, only seven other scores exceeded 200K, five of them in 2006. Those previous to 2006 were W3ZZ from West Virginia in 2003 (459K) and OK1KIM from the Czech Republic in 2005 (294K)."

#### **More High Scores**

In the U.S. SOAB category, the aforementioned K2DRH pretty much owns this contest, finishing first for the fifth consecutive time. Bob worked 221 grids to go along with his top Q total for a score of 216,138. Not counting 2006, Bob's was the highest ever in that category. Top SOSB6 score and second overall U.S. high went to K1TOL in Maine at 91K. Also, not counting 2006, this was the second highest score ever in SOSB6, exceeded only by WD5K's 117K points in 2001. Nice going, Lefty! Two meters still suffers when 6 meters is open, but that didn't discourage Josh, W4WJF, from gain-

#### **Expanded CQ WW VHF Contest Results**

For a listing of the ops and grids activated by the rover stations in the 2007 contest, plus the operators of the multi stations, go to <a href="https://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>, to the Contests section, to "Expanded Results of the 2007 CQ WW VHF Contest."

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#### 2007 PLAQUE WINNERS\*

#### **Single Operator**

USA All Band: Bob Striegl, K2DRH. Donor: Ted & Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF & K4LVV

USA 6 Meters: Lefty Clement, K1TOL. Donor: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU USA 2 Meters: Josh Fisher, W4WJF. Donor: Dixie Radio Pirates

USA Hilltopper: Dan Fegley, W1QK. Donor: anonymous, in memory of Edward P. Tilton,

World 6 Meters: Bill Brown, W4TAA/VE3. Donor: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV/6 Asia 2 Meters: Pranee Nertratana, E21DKD. Donor: Golden Kilowatt Council in memory of Hans D. Hollstein, HSØ/KA3TDZ

#### **Multi-Operator**

USA: Dave Olean, K1WHS. Donor: Bob Striegl, K2DRH World: Yuri Yakovenko, UT1IC. Donor: The Badger Contesters Asia: Pattama Pho-Im, HS2ZMU. Donor: Siam DX Group.

#### Rover

USA: Ted & Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF (+ K4LVV). Donor: W3SO, Wopsononock

**Mountaintop Operators** 

World: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU. Donor: CT RI Contest Group

\*Additional plaques may be offered with more sponsors. See "Plaque Program" on <a href="http://www.cgww-vhf.com">.

ing 2-meter top honors for the third straight year with 10,260 points.

In the QRP category, Chris, KA1LMR, successfully defended his crown with 49K, again fending off K9AKS at 21K. There was lots of Hilltopper competition with W1QK (Dan), K1ZE (Ed), and last year's winner KFØQ (Matt) finishing nearly even, and W1QK the plaque winner at 3.2K points.

Ted, W4VHF (with K4LVV), regained the first in show rover prize, with a score of 87K from four grid locators, followed by WB8BZK and N9TTX (tops with 11 grids activated).

DX scores were not as high as usual. Dusan, OK1DC, had the highest SOAB score with nearly 20K. W4TAA/VE3, Bill, again took top SOSB6 honors at 35K points, with Victor, UR5QU, making the top EU score at 26K. Nicolas, DK5DQ (signing DA2A), continued his domination of the SOSB2 category with a fifth consecutive win with 19K points. Pranee, E21DKD, returned to the fray after a two-year hiatus with the top Asia 2meter score and second world high at 15K. Zoran, T96C, was the top DX Hilltopper with 2,898 points, running a Yaesu FT-857D to a YU7EF-designed duoband Yagi located "in the hills." In the multi-op category, Yuri & Co., UT1IC, posted the top world score with 40,959 points to earn a plaque. Meanwhile in Canada, Bill, VE3CRU, repeated with the top world rover score at 32K.

Other top scores are highlighted in the accompanying boxes.

#### And Now Something a Little Different

Curt, K9AKS, further observed some other high scores that might otherwise have gone



Mike, KB7ME, operated portable all band from Winter Ridge, Oregon, in grid CN92 (elevation 7135 feet). Look for Mike to activate DN02 in the 2008 contest.

unnoticed. "Many locations do not favor scores that rank high nationally or internationally. Here is a sampling of some excellent scores from some of those locations in 2007. In the SOAB category, KG6IYN scored the highest in California since 2000, with 18K. The QSOs and grids are simply harder to find on the West Coast, although in that inaugural Y2K contest, W3SE/6 won the entire SOAB category with a 75K score. Assisted by 2-meter tropo, Mississippi's N5KDA got the highest score ever in the 5th call area in the SO2 category, with 83 QSOs and 45 grids. Also, the cornhuskers at NØUNL (University of Nebraska) deserve

TOP S	CORES								
	RLD								
All Band	Hilltopper								
OK1DC19, 764	T96C2,898								
UT5EU13,260	GW8ZRE/P1,470								
VE5UF6,804	G3CWI/P1,404								
VO1MCE5,346	HA5CQZ/P1,352								
VA2UK3,486	HS7ZSX/P1,216								
6 Meters	Rover								
W4TAA/VE335,504	VE3CRU32,620								
UR6QU26,775	E2ØRUZ4,140								
EH6SA20,874	HS3PMT3,424								
T9ØT16,366	VE3SMA3,362								
UT7QF14,196 VE3AP11,880	HS8TRY2,280								
UZ7U9,851	Multi-Op								
EA3AKY8,384	UT1IC40,959								
UY5QO8,174	HS2ZMU17,822								
UT2II7,004	HSØIAQ12,348								
	E2ØZDS12,292								
2 Meters	E22ZW11,070								
DA2A19,136	UW3E10,224								
E21DKD15,010	Z36W9,315								
IW1QN/17,326	E22JA8,500								
	E21LZP6,408								
	E22TH6,200								
USA									
All Band	K1ZE3,162								
K2DRH216,138	KFØQ2,146								
W1XX65,928	K4JSI1,860								
K9CT55,125	KE5CIF1,593								
N3HBX43,384	WZ4C1,584								
K4QI37,454	NE1RD1,380								
NØVZJ36,741	QRP								
K1EM35,100 N9DG33,762	KA1LMR49,257								
KE9I32,107	K9AKS21,837								
W1RZF31,212	W3EP13,148								
***************************************	N8XA9,555								
6 Meters	K4UVA7,497								
K1TOL91,143									
W5PR51,952	Rover								
WD5K44,526	W4VHF87,330								
W2MMD32,508	WB8BZK55,286								
K3MSB9,225	N9TTX28,215								
W5WVO8,379 N8II8,127	WAØVPJ11,324 K9JK11,305								
K4ELV7,772	WB3BEL10,692								
K3FM7,656	N2SLN8,712								
K7CW6,656	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,								
	Multi-Op								
2 Meters	K1WHS236,953								
	K5QE230,436								
W4WJF10,260									
N5KDA7,380	K8GP226,240								
	K8GP226,240 K8EAR210,045								
N5KDA7,380 W3ADC6,786	K8GP226,240								
N5KDA7,380	K8GP226,240 K8EAR210,045								



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congratulations for having attained the highest multi-op score ever from a Great Plains state, with 21K. Finally, on the international scene, this contest saw the first-ever log from China, BG4QGO, a SOSB6 entry."

#### Hilltoppers

The Hilltopper category continues to gain momentum, finding advocates wordwide. Let's review the rules. You must meet three conditions to be in this category: (1) run QRP; (2) be portable; (3) operate a maximum of six continuous hours. Why this contest within a contest? It accommodates backpacking operations to high locations such as in the mountains of the western U.S.—often rare grid squares where bringing in equipment and provisions for a longer stay is not feasible. It also meets the objectives of those who for whatever reason want to operate away from home but can't commit to a full-time operation. These Hilltoppers tell it best.

'Operating Summits On The Air (http://www.sota.org.uk) in JN97kg at 756m asl."—HA5CQZ. "Operated Hilltopper portable from Bald Hill, CT, in FN31."-K1ZE. "Operated from atop Mt. Lemmon at 8100 feet near Tuscon, AZ"-K7RST. "Worked the contest from Blackwell Peak in Manning Park, British Columbia, Canada, in grid CN99oc. Operated 6 hours from an elevation of 6570 feet."-VE7IHL.

Dan. W1QK, has latched on to a good contest recruitment idea: "Harlan, KB1ILY, and I joined forces to operate the contest in the QRP Hilltopper category. Operating his first CQ WW VHF Contest, Harlan operated 2 meters and I was on 6. Both antennas were on the same mast. We had a blast." Result? W1QK won the W1HDQ memorial plaque for the first time and KB1ILY is hooked on VHF contesting. Good show!

Certificates go out to 19 happy amateurs who communed with nature while contesting. Might this type of contesting appeal to you as well?

#### The "Old Timer" Speaks

As usual, the "Old Timer" rose to add his two cents to the discussion. It has become a familiar refrain, but its truth was evident. What makes the CQ WW VHF Contest so appealing, especially in North America?

First, much credit must be given to the large presence of multi-op stations such as K1WHS, K5QE, K3EAR, K8GP, W3SO, and others who are constantly there for everyone else to work. Their full-time efforts attract the single-op stations, including the more modestly equipped ones. It's symbiotic.

Let's face it: Most stations of modest means are not equipped for bands above 2 meters. In this contest you cannot only play, you can compete. This is evidenced by 199 stations earning certificates, 44% of the total number of entries. You can study the scores from the previous years and stake out a category for your geographical area that has a high probability of producing a winning score.

The two-band format also makes operating portable or rover infinitely less taxing. For newcomers, it can be an initial step into VHF contesting that involves a future of greater band capability. For HF contesting enthusiasts, a 6-meter E-skip run can be much like a 20-meter run of DX stations in the CQ WW DX Contest. It can also be a contest for noncontesters. How many opoerators with no contesting aspirations get hooked because the band is open? It's a contest for everybody! CQRI heads nodded in approval.

#### **Contest Management**

Putting on a worldwide contest is a rewarding yet labor-intensive processn, as recognized by the CQRI brethren. This year's post-contest activity marked a transition in log processing with Steve, N8BJQ, administering the VHFSCAPE (VHF Scores for



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Here's Keith, VE3HHT, operating in a tent on the shore of Lake Erie in grid EN92. This was a multi-op effort with Ken, VE3HLS, using two battery-powered FT-817 rigs.

Contest Adjudication—Post Entry) program. One-hundred percent of log entries submitted were screened for accuracy. Megathanks, Steve, for a job well done! John, K9JK, performed the thankless task of keying in all the paper logs. Thankfully, more stations utilized WA7BNM's CabForms, which allows for on-line post entry (see the link on <www.cqww-vhf.com>). And Curt, K9AKS, provided statistics of historical significance.

Computer-generated statistics indicated: Number of log entries 447; total number of stations active 8,123; a total of 38,644 claimed QSOs; total number of grids activated 746. This is approximately a 30% overall reduction from last year's record pace, but well ahead of previous years. Error rates were as follows: "not in log" 1.2%; dupes (claimed as valid) 0.3%; "busted calls" 1.4%; overall error rate at 3.1%, up slightly from last year-another clean year for log submissions. Bravo!

The following CQ VHF team members publicized the contest in their respective countries and followed up to ensure Cabrillo log submission: E21EIC, UT1IC, PY2ZX, GØLCS, G4DEZ, EA7KW, HI3TEJ, plus others who helped with no fanfare.

#### 2008 CQ VHF Contest

The CQRI Contest Manager reminded all of the upcoming 2008 CQ WW VHF Contest

(Continued on page 108)

#### **QSO LEADERS BY BAND** WORLD

Single-Op	HS8LUR192
50 MHz	E2ØPFE117
W4TAA/VE3317	IW1QN/1111
UR5QU255	
EH6SA213	Multi-Op
UT7QF169	50 MHz
T90T166	UT1IC199
VE3AP165	Z36W134
UT5EU156	UW3E122
UZ7U143	
EA3AKY131	144 MHz
UY5QO122	HS2ZMU469
	E2ØZDS439
144 MHz	E22ZW369
E21DKD395	HSØIAQ343
DA2A208	E22TH310
ι	JSA
L Single-Op	<b>JSA</b> N9DG81
_	. •
Single-Op	N9DG81
Single-Op 50 MHz	N9DG81 N3HBX79
Single-Op 50 MHz K2DRH564	N9DG81 N3HBX79 KB9TLV72
<b>Single-Op 50 MHz</b> K2DRH564 K1TOL533	N9DG81 N3HBX79 KB9TLV72
<b>Single-Op 50 MHz</b> K2DRH564 K1TOL	N9DG
Single-Op           50 MHz           K2DRH         564           K1TOL         533           W1XX         386           W5PR         382	N9DG
Single-Op         50 MHz         K2DRH	N9DG
Single-Op           50 MHz           K2DRH         564           K1TOL         533           W1XX         386           W5PR         382           WD5K         363           KA1LMR         321	N9DG
Single-Op         50 MHz         K2DRH       564         K1TOL       533         W1XX       386         W5PR       382         WD5K       363         KA1LMR       321         K9CT       305         W2MMD       301         KE9I       283	N9DG
Single-Op         50 MHz         K2DRH	N9DG
Single-Op         50 MHz         K2DRH       564         K1TOL       533         W1XX       386         W5PR       382         WD5K       363         KA1LMR       321         K9CT       305         W2MMD       301         KE9I       283	N9DG

144 MHz

K3EAR .....257

K5QE .....212

K8GP .....212 K1WHS.....165

W3SO .....165

144 MHz K2DRH.....207

W4WJF.....171

W3ADC .....117

KG6IYN.....99

KCØTPP.....85 N5KDA.....82

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# The Active Ham's magazine since 1945

f you're reading this, then you've probably figured out that *CQ* is a magazine about ham radio— and we hope you'll agree that it's the best magazine about ham radio on the market today. But *CQ* is much more than just a magazine— it helps keep hams active through a library of books, videos and CDs, web resources, a world-renowned program of contests and operating awards, and recognition of excellence, innovation and leadership through its Amateur Radio, Contesting and DXing halls of fame.

# CQ is more than a magazine... it's also about contests

#### Here's a brief rundown of CQ's contesting program:

CQ 's sponsors ten annual operating competitions, including the two most popular single sideband (SSB) and Morse code (CW) contests in the world, the CQ World Wide DX Contest and the CQ World Wide WPX Contest.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest is the world's premier DX competition, with thousands of stations in hundreds of countries on the air and making contact during the fourth full weekend in October (SSB weekend) and the fourth full weekend in November (CW weekend) each year. There is so much activity, even during the low years of the sunspot cycle, that it's said that the CQWW "makes its own propagation."

The second-most popular contest after the CQWW is the springtime CQ World Wide WPX Contest (SSB: fourth full weekend in March; CW: fourth full weekend in May). WPX is an abbreviation for Worked PrefiXes, and the top scorers are those with a combination of the greatest number of contacts and the greatest number of callsign prefixes (e.g., W2, GM0, 9Y4).

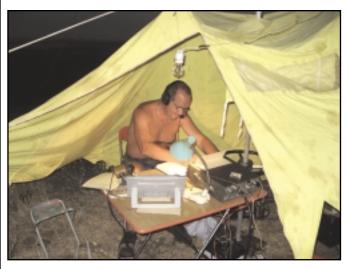
The CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest in January and the CQ World Wide VHF Contest in July each take advantage of seasonal peaks in propagation and activity on the 160-meter, 6-meter and 2-meter bands. CQ also sponsors two operating events for digital modes enthusiasts, the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest in February and the CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest in September. Each spring, there's the CQ World Wide Foxhunting Weekend, in which competitors—who don't even need to be licensed hams— use radio direction-finding techniques to try to track down hidden transmitters.

Finally, we have the **CQ DX Marathon**, a kind of hybrid between a contest and an award program. It runs all year long, but everybody starts fresh at the beginning of each new year. The goal is to contact as many different countries and CQ zones as possible each year.

Rules and results for each of *CQ* 's on-air competitions are published in *CQ* magazine and are available on our website at <a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/contests.html">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/contests.html</a>. Please note that contest results are not posted online until after they have been published in the magazine.



Art, K1BX, at the controls of the 6-meter station at K1WHS.



Here's Yuri, UR5ITU, operating multi-op station UT1IC from locator KN98FD in eastern Ukraine. Antennas used in "field conditions" were six elements on 50 MHz and seven elements on 144 MHz, good for winning the world multi-op plaque.

scheduled for July 19–20. The full announcement will appear in the June issue of *CQ*, on the *CQ* website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com), and on the VHF contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com). In addition, thanks to the FB efforts of several overseas amateurs, the contest announcement now gets posted on websites in several languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, and more now coming on line.

With that, the CQRI members adjourned to the nearby Aquidneck Marina to view the KB1KMS marine rover-mobile scheduled for its maiden VHF voyage to water-bound grids FN52 and FN40 in the 2008 CQ WW VHF Contest. 73, John, W1XX

#### **Scatter**

First time in this contest. Had lots of fun as a hilltopper. Not much equipment needed, just an FT-817, Arrow antenna, a lawn chair and a big hat for shade . . . **Al9I.** Entered for the first time in conjunction with the UK 144 Backpacker Contest . . . **GW8ZRE.** Not much propagation but worked two new grids on 6 . . . **K3TC.** Great contest, but wish there had been more enhancement . . . **K4UVA.** Sure wish more people would listen down in the CW portion . . . **K8SIA.** This was the most CW QSOs I have made in any VHF contest. Calling CQ during the two-hour *E*-skip opening on Saturday evening boosted my score with several new grids . . . **WB2AMU.** It was nice to

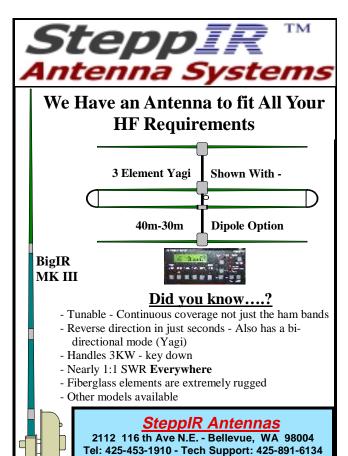


This is the self-styled "Gridsquare Limo" of station KA2LIM. It houses the operating positions for this multi-op effort from western New York grid FN12.

see another 6-meter opening this year. It was not as spectacular as last year, but fun nonetheless. Thanks for all the QSOs . . . W9SZ. KL7s and VEs were nice to see in the contest . . . W7MEM.

I operated portable from the island of Crete, SV9, during my vacation . . . IK2MLS. First time operating this contest with only a few hours to operate. I sure enjoyed a beautiful Vermont summer afternoon on Saturday with some simple portable antennas from FN33 and FN34. I heard some stations on 2 meters from Canada but couldn't quite make the contacts . . . K1ZK. This was my first contest and I had a blast! Saturday opening on 6 meters was awesome. Looking forward to more contesting . . . **KB1NRB.** Operated portable in CN92, Lake County, Oregon, at 7,135 feet. A fun contest, but 6meter conditions not as good as last year . . . KB7ME. Not as good as last year, but thanks anyway for a great contest . . . KFØQ. It's not how much you score, but that you participate . . . KF6JBB. Operated only 11/2 hours on a hilltop overlooking San Juan Capistrano where it was windy and warm . . . KG6TGI. Only worked an hour and a half. Wish I had more time . . . KW1AM. Our best score we have had in this contest . . . NØUNL. With some openings on 6, I had a great time . . . N1GLT. Only had a G5RV Jr. for 6 meters and a J-pole for 2 meters operating portable at camp in New Hampshire. Will have some aluminum up in the air next time . . . N1ORK. The VHF contests are always great fun, even more so when the band is open. How does CQ manage to time the contest to these openings? . . . N1ZN. Six meters was fun on Saturday, but things really slowed down on Sunday . . . N2GKM.

Thanks to UW5W and US5WU for two new grid locators on 2 meters, for me numbers 276 and 277 . . . OE1SOW. A better performance than my 2005 effort from Mt. Wachusett (MA) in FN42 with its beautiful view all the way to Boston. An opening to the south and Midwest appeared just as I needed to pack and get off the mountain. Talked to many spectators explaining ham radio, one reason why I really enjoy operating from a public venue . . . **NE1RD.** Good activity but I only had one hour to operate . . . **VA2LGQ.** First time in this contest. I really like the format, as it's easy for anyone with the newer HF/VHF radios to get on the air and experience VHF contesting . . . W3BC. Just one good opening on Saturday evening, nothing like last year. We'll probably be remembering the 2006 sporadic-E for a long time . . . W5WVO. Fun contest, though it would've been great if 6 meters opened up more on Sunday. Didn't work any Florida or Caribbean this year, although OX3LX was a nice surprise at 0110Z. Worked over 16 hours of the contest and hope to do it again next year . . . . W2AJM. There were a couple of nice surprises with short EU and OX opening . . . W4TAA/VE3. This is always a fun contest. Conditions were not what they were last year when we worked a bunch of Europeans; this year only one . . . W3SO. Great openings to W1, W5, and WØ on Saturday while roving . . .





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Check out our Web site at: www.cq-amateur-radio.com W4VHF. This year 6 meters was all sporadic-E to random areas, quiet one moment and then a 20 over 9 signal would pop in and right back out. Sunday morning there was a two-plus hour pipeline to Texas. Great contest once again with participation picking up. Keep up the good work and we'll see everyone again next year . . . KG6IYN.

Saw some of the shortest E-skip of my life on 6 meters with many NY-to-OH and NY-to-WV contacts. My shortest path was 414 miles to WA8SDA in EM99 at 2359Z on Saturday . . . N2QT. Lots of E-skip on 6 meters with 15 EM and 18 EN grids, but missed the VEs. FN43, 44, and 54 were very loud and very short skip, 450 miles. Worked one double hop, DM79 in Colorado . . . N3UM. This was a great contest with good propagation and ops not working the contest giving out QSOs to those who were. With tropo and good meteors, what else could you ask for?...N5KDA. Gave QRP a shot again hoping to improve on my 2004 score. Six meters was open sporadically Saturday, but propagation was not favorable for QRP. Really had to work for every contact. There was a time Saturday evening on 6 meters it was a challenge to know where to point your beam. The band was propagating to the NE, SE, and SW at the same time from EN52. There was a shortlived 2-meter tropo opening to the grids south of me in EM63, EM50, and others, but the guys up north in EN53 and EN64 seemed to be more in the drop zone . . . N9TF. This was my first time as a single op a contest. I am 13 years old. It sure was fun when 6 meters was open . . . KE5CIF.

#### **GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND** WORLD Single-Op OK1DC .....40 50 MHz IW1QN/1.....33 W4TAA/VE3 .....112 HG3IPD.....20 UR5QU.....105 UT7E .....20 EH6SA.....98 T9ØT......97 Multi-Op 50 MHz UT7QF.....84 UT1IC ......108 UT5EU.....74 Z36W.....68 UT2II.....68 UZ7U .....67 UW3E .....67 UY5QO......67 EA3AKY ......64 144 MHz UT1IC .....15 144 MHz DA2A ......46 USA Single-Op KB9TLV.....28 50 MHz N3HBX .....27 K1TOL.....171 NØVZJ .....27 K2DRH.....153 W5PR.....136 Multi-Op 50 MHz WD5K.....123 W1XX.....113 K1WHS .....179 W2MMD .....108 K8GP.....165 KA1LMR.....102 K5QE.....156 K3EAR .....148 144 MHz W3SO.....118 K2DRH.....68 N5KDA .....45 144 MHz KCØTPP .....41 K5QE.....66 N9DG ......36 K3EAR .....61 K8GP.....59 K9CT.....33 W4WJF .....30 W3SO.....51 W3ADC .....29 K1WHS .....32

Number/letter groups after call letters denote the follow- ing: Class (A = all band, 6 = 6 meters, 2 = 2 meters, 0 = QRP, 0* = QRP portable hillopper, R = rover. M = multi- operator), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Number of grid locators, 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.	K2RMX	17 NY FN20 19 NY FN30 18 NJ FN20 7 NJ FN20 108 NJ FM29 48 NY FN21 42 NY FN30 8 NJ FN20	AD4IE	K3FM 6 7,656 132 58 MS EM50   W0VIX 6 2,592 72 36 TX EM12   KD5J 6 320 20 16 AR EM45   K5WW 6 4 2 2 TX DL99   NSKDA 2 7,380 82 45 MS EM41   KESCIF Q* 1,593 51 27 TX EM13   W1KLM Q 104 13 8 AR EM45   K5OE M 230,436 826 222 TX EM31
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