

Results of the 2015 CQ World Wide VHF Contest

BY STEVE BOLIA,* N8BJQ

When you don't have six meters in a two-band VHF contest, you probably are not having much fun. As K9AKS mentions in his comments later, 6-meter conditions in the U.S. were as poor as they have ever been in the CQ WW VHF Contest. From my QTH in southwestern EN80, we had a decent opening to a couple of areas in Texas and Mexico for a couple of hours and that was it for Saturday. It felt like the band might open but it never really happened. Sunday's six-meter propagation was even less exciting. Entries were down from 2014 with 663 logs received, down from 746 in 2013. DX stations accounted for 372 logs received (almost the same as 2014) and 291 U.S. logs were received (down from 371 in 2014). As dismal as conditions were, according to our official record keeper, Curt Roseman, K9AKS, there were "some" highlights that were achieved despite the poor propagation.

The highlight of this year's contest was the performance of six meters in the western Mediterranean region. Moroccan station CN8KD scored the highest totals ever from Africa on 6 meters, and IT9XTP and ISØBSR/P posted the highest scores ever from Sicily and Sardinia, respectively. Large 6-meter QSO totals also contributed to a record score from Africa in the all-band category by EA8DBM in the Canary Islands, and the highest score ever from the Balearic Islands by EA6SA.

As usual, participation in the 2-meter-only category was minimal in North America. In Europe, participation was relatively high and some good performances resulted. OK1DOL and HG3X posted the sixth and tenth highest 2-meter-only scores ever in Europe. Some good scores in the QRP category came out of Europe, too. Hungarian stations HA5KDQ and HA1ZH posted the fourth and eighth highest all-time European QRP scores. Interestingly, they accomplished these scores in very different ways: 'KDQ had 193 QSOs on 6 meters and only 33 on 2 meters, whereas 'ZH had an opposite profile: Only 44 QSOs on 6, but 93 on 2 meters. Another notable QRP score was posted by JR1UJX, who broke the all-time Japan record.

In North America overall, six-meter conditions were as poor as they have been in the 16-year history of this version of the CQ VHF contest. QSO totals were at an all-time low and no stations in the 6-meter-only category broke into their call-area lists of all-time high scores. In the all-band entry category, only K2DRH in Illinois and W9RM in Colorado did so. The best scores posted by multi-op stations in several areas of North America depended on good QSO totals on 2 meters. Perhaps the best indicator of the poor conditions in North America were the collective scores posted by QRP stations.

For the first time in contest history, only one QRP score exceeded 1,000 points ... and it was a tough slog.

USA

Bob, K2DRH, and Jay, W9RM, again finished first and second in the all-band category but with considerably lower scores than in 2014. Bob's 89,000 was only topped by the K5QE multi-op score. John, W1XX, was third; John, W1AN, fourth; and Fred, K3ZO, rounded out the top five. Chuck, W5PR, led a Texas



This is K7ATN's setup in CN85. Etienne's operation resulted in 60 QSOs and 20 grids for second place in the Hilltopper category.

sweep of the top five finishers on 6 meters. Gator, N5RZ, kept the pressure on Chuck to finish second, followed by WA2VYA, WD5K, and WG5H. Frank, K2OS, and N2FKF topped the 2-meter category. Ted, K5TED, and Etienne, K7ATN, led the Hilltoppers and Curt, K9AKS (the only QRP station above 1,000 points), is the QRP winner.

The crew at K5QE again sits on top of the leaderboard. Marshall and crew (K5MQ, N5YA, KE5VKZ, AE5VB, VE3WY, N1XS, NR5M, KU5B, and W5LD) worked a lot of 6-meter meteor scatter as well as 103 grids on 2 meters. Second place goes to W4MW (ops: W3OA, W4WNT, AA4SC, N4UFP, WW4CP, N4LED, KI4TZ, W4GRW, AA4ZZ, K8YC, and W4MW) with K8GP with ops K1RA and W8ZN in third.

In the rover category, WW7D did a great job considering the difficult conditions. Despite the poor propagation, Darryl worked 170 Q's and 54 grids on 6 meters and 110 QSOs and 44 grids on 2 meters while operating from nine grids. You can read about Darryl's rove at <<http://tinyurl.com/CQWWVHF>

15WW7D>. Pete, K9PW, operated from six grids and worked 47 grids on 6 and 43 on 2 meters. K9JK dodged storms on Saturday to finish third with 31 grids worked on 6 and 28 on 2 meters. Thanks to all of the rovers who do a great job every year.

DX

Aleksandr, EA8DBM, turned in a record score on his way to the world top all-band score. His 183 grid total on 6 meters helped him to overcome the 90 QSO advantage of CR5A. Third place goes to EA6SA with the highest score from EA6. OK1DC was fourth and UY1HY finishes fifth. IT9XPT and CN8KD battled for the 6-meter title with Salvatore winning the grid battle, 148 to 137. Marco, ISØBSR/P, wasn't far behind in third, followed by EA3AKY and EA6XQ. Libor, OK1DOL, is the 2-meter winner with an impressive score of 27,000. Norbert, HG3X, was not far behind with his 20,000-point effort. Guyla, HA2VR/P, is the Hilltopper leader with IZ2JNN/3 and HA1WD/P in



This is Rover champ WW7D's setup for 2015. Follow the link in the story to read about Darryl's trip.



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the next two spots. HA5KDQ operated by HA5IW repeats as the QRP winner with an excellent score of 26,000. HA1ZH and EA1SI rounded out the top three in the QRP category.

The crew at HA6W (ops: HAØMK, HAØLC, HAØLZ, HA6ZFA, HA6WX, HA5OKU, and HAØLO) battled HG1W (ops: HA1YA and HA1WA) for the Multi-Op title with HA6W repeating as champs. Bill, VE3CRU, turned in the top rover score outside of the U.S.

Other Stuff

There was some confusion about contest rules after the changes that the ARRL made to its VHF and above rules for contesting. As of this time, the CQ VHF rules remain the same as they have been. You can use clusters or the Reverse Beacon Network to view spots but self-spotting is not allowed. Chat

rooms are allowed for stations attempting digital meteor scatter or EME QSOs. Only the call, frequency, and sequence can be spotted. Also, the use of non-amateur means (telephones or cell phones) to solicit or complete a QSO is not permitted. Rules for the 2016 contest will be published in CQ in the May issue and will be on the website at that time. If you have suggestions for rule changes that will improve the contest, please send them to me and they will be considered.

We still have a large number of stations who appear in lots of logs but don't submit a log for one reason or another. This year there were 2016 stations that appear three or more times in the logs and did not submit a log. Over 400 of these stations made between 10 and 170 Qs. Log submission is easy. All contest loggers that support VHF contests should be able to generate a Cabrillo file that can be emailed to the robot <cqvhf@cqww-vhf.com>. If you are using a DX logging program, it will probably generate an ADIF file as an output. While the robot will not accept that, there are programs that will convert it to a Cabrillo file. If you log on

QSO & GRID LEADERS

6-Meter QSOs		2-Meter QSOs	
CR5A.....	490	E27AC.....	275
EA8DBM.....	401	HS3XCQ.....	255
EA6SA.....	336	OK1DOL.....	222
IT9XTP.....	335	HS5AR.....	216
N5RZ.....	321	HA6W.....	207
W5PR.....	320	HG3X.....	198
CN8KD.....	310	HA5KDQ.....	193
K2DRH.....	281	E22KKO.....	189
ISØBSR/P.....	268	9AØV.....	188
EA6XQ.....	257	K8GP.....	184
CT1BOL.....	252	K2LIM.....	177
EA3AKY.....	243	K5QE.....	166
K5QE.....	236	HS8ERT.....	164
EA1ASC.....	215	W4MW.....	162
K9RU.....	215	HG1W.....	160
		HG6Z.....	160

6-Meter Grids		2-Meter Grids	
EA8DBM.....	183	K5QE.....	103
EA6SA.....	159	W4MW.....	70
CR5A.....	154	HA6W.....	62
IT9XTP.....	148	OK1DOL.....	61
ISØBSR/P.....	148	HG1W.....	58
CN8KD.....	137	HG6Z.....	52
EA3AKY.....	135	HG3X.....	52
W5PR.....	129	K8GP.....	52
EA6XQ.....	125	K2DRH.....	50
K5QE.....	118	9AØV.....	49
K2DRH.....	116	K2LIM.....	49
EA6VQ.....	113	W3SO.....	44
N5RZ.....	108	HA5KDQ.....	42
E7ØT.....	107	UR4EW.....	42
EA4DE.....	105	UT5DV.....	41

TOP SCORES WORLD

All Band		QRP	
EA8DBM.....	97,308	HA5KDQ.....	26,397
CR5A.....	77,872	HA1ZH.....	13,575
EA6SA.....	60,816	EA1SI.....	3,108
OK1DC.....	14,136	JR1UJX.....	2,888
UY1HY.....	7,320	UT8AL.....	2,001

6 Meters		Rover	
IT9XTP.....	49,580	VE3CRU/R.....	8,160
CN8KD.....	42,470	US3ITU/M.....	1,870
ISØBSR/P.....	39,664	HS3NBR/R.....	187
EA3AKY.....	32,805	4S7JL/R.....	120
EA6XQ.....	32,125		

2 Meters		Multi-Op	
OK1DOL.....	27,084	HA6W.....	68,250
HG3X.....	20,592	HG1W.....	53,046
9A4VM.....	7,192	YU7W.....	18,966
UT5DV.....	5,658	9AØV.....	18,424
UR4EWZ.....	4,838	HG6Z.....	16,640

Hilltopper	
HA2VR/P.....	7,592
IZ2JNN/IN3.....	1,760
HA1WD/P.....	1,210

USA

All Band		QRP	
K2DRH.....	89,142	W9SZ.....	688
W9RM.....	40,005	K1ZK.....	225
W1XX.....	15,736		
W1AN.....	11,165	K9AKS.....	3,492
K3ZO.....	10,868	K2GMY.....	910

6 Meters		Rover	
W5PR.....	41,280	WW7D/R.....	41,748
N5RZ.....	34,668	K9PW/R.....	26,550
WA2VYA.....	14,399	K9JK/R.....	10,679
WD5K.....	14,175	AE5P/R.....	8,154
WG5H.....	12,825	KØBAK/R.....	5,800

2 Meters		Multi-Op	
K2OS.....	4,420	K5QE.....	125,528
N2FKF.....	2,832	W4MW.....	78,600
WA1KRG.....	754	K8GP.....	61,992
K16JJW.....	144	K2LIM.....	58,497
		W3SO.....	39,386

Hilltopper	
K5TED.....	2,990
K7ATN.....	1,960
WB8BZK.....	800

GRID LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single Op 50 MHz		Multi Op 50 MHz	
EA8DBM.....	183	E7TT.....	91
EA6SA.....	159	YU7W.....	68
CR5A.....	154	HG1W.....	68
ISØBSR/P.....	148	HA6W.....	68
IT9XTP.....	148	VE3SMA.....	30

144 MHz		144 MHz	
OK1DOL.....	61	HA6W.....	62
HG3X.....	52	HG1W.....	58
UR4EWZ.....	42	HG6Z.....	52
HA5KDQ.....	42	9AØV.....	49
UT5DV.....	41	RN3F.....	41

USA

Single Op 50 MHz		144 MHz	
W5PR.....	129	K5QE.....	103
K2DRH.....	116	W4MW.....	70
N5RZ.....	108	K8GP.....	52
W9RM.....	96	K2LIM.....	49
WD5K.....	81	W3SO.....	44

144 MHz		Rover 50 MHz	
K2DRH.....	50	WW7D/R.....	54
K2OS.....	34	K9PW/R.....	47
W9RM.....	31	K15YG/R.....	34
K3ZO.....	26	KK6MC/R.....	33
N2FKF.....	24	K9JK/R.....	31

Multi Op 50 MHz		144 MHz	
K5QE.....	118	WW7D/R.....	44
K9RU.....	90	K9PW/R.....	43
W4MW.....	80	KØBAK/R.....	29
N8ZM.....	62	K9JK/R.....	28
K2LIM.....	62	AE5P/R.....	27

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single Op 50 MHz		Multi Op 50 MHz	
CR5A.....	490	E7TT.....	138
EA8DBM.....	401	YU7W.....	120
EA6SA.....	336	HA6W.....	111
IT9XTP.....	335	HG1W.....	101
CN8KD.....	310	VE3SMA.....	37

144 MHz		144 MHz	
OK1DOL.....	222	E27AC.....	275
HG3X.....	198	HS3XCQ.....	255
HA5KDQ.....	193	HS5AR.....	216
9A4VM.....	116	HA6W.....	207
OK1DC.....	92	E22KKO.....	189

USA

Single Op 50 MHz		K2LIM.....173	
N5RZ.....	321		
W5PR.....	320		
K2DRH.....	281		
W9RM.....	203		
W3EP.....	192		

144 MHz		144 MHz	
K2DRH.....	128	K8GP.....	184
W1XX.....	67	K2LIM.....	177
K2OS.....	65	K5QE.....	166
K1DQV.....	63	W4MW.....	162
N2FKF.....	59	W3SO.....	137
K1TR.....	59		
K3ZO.....	59		

MULTI OP 50 MHz		144 MHz	
K5QE.....	236	WW7D/R.....	128
K9RU.....	215	K9PW/R.....	96
K8GP.....	206	K9JK/R.....	59
W4MW.....	200	AE5P/R.....	50
		KØBAK/R.....	41

paper, those logs are still gladly accepted. If you have access to the web, you can go to <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwwvhf_cab.php> and use the form that Bruce, WA7BNM, has provided to type in your log. If you don't have access to the Internet, I gladly accept paper logs and as long as I can read your writing, I will convert your paper log. If you don't want to enter officially, we welcome check logs as well. They are not scored but are used in the cross-checking process to increase the accuracy of the log checking.

Please note that as of this contest, all CQ contest certificates will be made available only as PDF files that the entrant may download and print.

Thanks to K9JK and K9AKS for their valuable assistance and wisdom. Also thanks to Yuri, UT1IC, for getting all of the logs from the Ukraine submitted (69 logs) and to Champ, E21EIC, for doing the same for Thailand. The 2016 contest will be held on July 16th and 17th. We are due for a good one!

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A nominee for the best scenery award is this view of the KØBAK rover mobile from Bear Mountain, New York, in FN31.

CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	(18)	139,247
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	(15)	97,052
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	(3)	78,672
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	(13)	63,010
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	(3)	57,877
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	(6)	54,670
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	(5)	30,552
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	(13)	29,299
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	(5)	27,807
BADGER CONTESTERS	(3)	20,625
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	(5)	18,537
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	(4)	13,851
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	(10)	7,434
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	(3)	6,318
ROCHESTER VHF GROUP	(3)	5,421
MY AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	(3)	5,143

FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	(5)	4,256
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	(5)	2,494
DFW CONTEST GROUP	(3)	2,342
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	(3)	1,512

DX

EA CONTEST CLUB	(3)	45,417
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	(7)	18,900
HA-DX-CLUB	(3)	18,830
RADIO CLUB KVARNER RIJEKA	(5)	15,845
CDR GROUP	(17)	5,902
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	(8)	4,340
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	(3)	3,813
UKRAINIAN VHF INTERNATIONAL CONTEST CLUB	(13)	3,536
CABREÚVA DX GROUP	(3)	929
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	(3)	804