



In the foreground is K1HC's array of 5- and 6-element 144-MHz Yagis on the 120-foot tower at his Harpswell, Maine location.

Results of the 2018 CQWW VHF Contest

BY STEVE BOLIA,* N8BJQ

The 2018 CQ World Wide VHF contest saw some pretty good conditions, a record-breaking rove and nearly 50 more logs submitted than last year. While not a record, the 767 logs submitted is the third highest total. Now if we could somehow convince the other 400 or so stations who were worked multiple times (some over 100) to submit logs.

The 2017 contest was the first test of FT8. In 2018, our participants put it to a “real” test. It seemed like there was almost always activity on 50.313. By now, those who used FT8 are aware of, or were part of, the confusion, on whether or not to use NA contest mode for contesting. NA contest mode works well if both stations use it. If they don’t, it leads to lots of frustration, several retries, slow rates or lost QSOs, along with a few “choice words.” The software authors are busily working on updated software that hopefully will make 2019 much more enjoyable for all. Grids are all that is required for the contest exchange.

There were a few logs in which the grids were not included (all FT8) and those Qs were lost. Please make sure before the contest that you are running the very latest version of whichever FT8 software you choose and are familiar with its use. There are also ways to link FT8 to some logging programs which will ensure that you have the correct data in the log.

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An osprey stopped to rest on one of K1HC's array of 144-MHz Yagis.

Even though it seemed that everyone was on FT8, there were other modes used during the contest. CW and SSB still work quite well. If things are really hopping on 313, there’s an excellent chance that they are hopping on CW and SSB as well. Dig out the mic or paddle and make some Qs. I even found a headset with a microphone that works and made 18 Qs on SSB (many of which were multipliers), which is more than I often make in a whole year. There were also a couple of good CW openings.

USA

The big news in 2018 was ACØRA’s record-breaking rove with 314,226 points, shattering the 2006 record of NØDQS/R.

TOP SCORES

WORLD

All Band	
EA8DBM	147,686
XE2JS	35,100
IW2NOD	28,248
IK7LMX	12,236
LY2SA	11,036
6 Meters	
XE2X	95,634
ISØBSR	63,936
IT9XTP	47,736
VE4VT	45,904
VE5MX	43,566
2 Meters	
S56P	12,644
E23SGP	4,092
HS3SMO	3,380
ZS4TX	1,922
US8AR	1,536
Hilltopper	
HA2VR	3,268
UT1IC	1,404

USA

All Band	
K2DRH	140,513
NØURW	88,074
W1XX	80,384
N2NT	73,786
WØUC	73,500
6 Meters	
W5PR	140,400
N5RZ	80,712
K5QB	63,037
K1TEO	62,156
WAØCSL	60,445
2 Meters	
K1HC	5,232
K3SFX	588
W2KV/2	476
KØNR	192
Hilltopper	
WK9U	3,224
W1QK	2,457
W1RGA	1,590

I2ZJNN/IN3	1,105
OM7ANT	140
UT4RZ	81

QRP

HS5YLK	15,168
MØHMJ	5,022
UY5ON	2,432
UT8AL	2,214
UT5ECZ	2,067

Rover

HS6MYW	1,515
JL3DQX/R	21

Multi-Op

IO9Z	42,328
E2E	28,084
4O6BLM	21,060
J48KEF	11,266
E27AAA	7,936

Wyatt and KG5CCI spent a year planning and it paid off with 679 Qs and 414 grids. He operated from 10 different grids in 19 hours of operation. Jonesy, W3DHJ/R, finished second, operating from 4 grids, as did Jim, K5ND/R who finished third. Duffy, KK6MC/R, activated 6 grids for fourth and Andrea, K2EZ/R, wrapped up fifth place, activating an amazing 15 grids during her drive.

K2DRH wins the Single Op category this year with Bob back at the helm.

QSO & GRID LEADERS

6-Meter QSOs

W5PR	649
EA8DBM	537
XE2X	505
K2DRH	476
N5RZ	471
NØURW	396
WAØCSL	384
K1TEO	379
W1XX	375
AA5AM	375
K5QB	373
WD5K	370
N4BP	366
KC4PX	365
KØSIX	357

2-Meter QSOs

E23SGP	186
HS3SMO	130
S56P	109
K1HC	109
N2NT	108
IW2NOD	75
K2DRH	70
W1XX	68
AF1T	62
E24SBC	60
E24QND	54
I2ZJNN/IN3	42
UT8AL	41
K1TR	40
E24OYI	40

6-Meter Grids

EA8DBM	273
W5PR	216
K2DRH	200
ISØBSR	192
WØUC	190
XE2X	189
KC4PX	174
N5RZ	171
KO9A	170
K5QB	169
WB2FKO	169
NØURW	167
AA5AM	164
K1TEO	164
W9RM	160

2-Meter Grids

S56P	58
IW2NOD	40
N2NT	36
ZS4TX	31
K2DRH	27
UT8AL	27
US8AR	24
K1HC	24
KØTPP	22
KAØRYT	22
W1XX	22
NØURW	22
RD3FD	22
AF1T	20
EU4AX	20
WØUC	20

2018 CQWW VHF TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

WORLD: Dr. Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ memorial. Won by: **Aleksandr Maksimov, EA8DBM**
USA: Steve Bolia, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **Bob Striegel, K2DRH**

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

WORLD 50MHz: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **Jorge Alvarado, XE2X**
USA 50MHz: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **Chuck Deitz, W5PR**
WORLD 144 MHz: CQ VHF Contest Committee Trophy. Won by: **Bostjan Sever, S56P**
EUROPE 144 MHz: Bostjan Sever, S56P Trophy. Won by: **Nick Derenko, US8AR**
USA 144MHz: Chuck Dietz, W5PR Trophy. Won by: **Dick Bean, K1HC**

ROVER

USA: Northern Lights Radio Society Trophy: Won by: **Wyatt Dirks, ACØRA**

MULTI-OPERATOR

WORLD: Dr Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ memorial (Joe Devenyi, HAØLC donor). Won by: **Station IO9Z operated by: IT9DSZ, IT9BXR, IT9KXX, IT9YMM, IT9CND, IT9GRE, IT9GQI, IK1TZO**
USA: Bob Striegl, K2DRH Trophy: Won by: **Station K5QE operated by: K5QE, N5YA, N1XS, AE5VB, VE3WY, WA5CAM, AF8Z**

CLUB

USA: Won by: **Society of Midwest Contesters**

**Denotes awarded to runner-up in category*

Wyatt, ACØRA, had piloted Bob's station in 2017. After Bob, the next five Single Op scores were very close with Daniel, NØURW, finishing second; previous contest director John, W1XX, in third; N2NT (with John, N2NC, operating) in fourth; Paul, WØUC, fifth; and Keith, W9RM, sixth. Chuck, W5PR, turned in the top 6-meter score with his fine 140K effort. Chuck was fixing equipment even as the contest was starting. All Qs were CW or SSB. Gator, N5RZ, was second; Jaroslaw, K5QB, was third; Mary, WAØCSL, fourth; and Vince, KØSIX, fifth. Only four entries were submitted in the 2-meter category with Dick, K1HC, taking the top spot with 109 Qs and 24 grids. Malcolm, K3SFX; Dave, W2KV/2; and Bob, KØNR, were the other three brave souls. Jason, WK9U, takes the top spot in the Hilltopper category; Dan, W1QK, was second; Chris, W1RGA, third; Mike, AB1YK, fourth; and Kim, K7IMA, fifth. In all, there were 10 entries in this category. Juan, KG5ZZB/P, made the best of a good location to finish first in the QRP category. Scott, AG5QQ, was second; Dick, K2GMY, third; Tom, K3TW, fourth; and James, WBØIWG, fifth. The gang at K5QE (operated by K5QE, N5YA, N1XS, AE5VB, VE3WY, WA5CAM, and AF8Z) turned in the second highest score in the contest to win the multi-op category with 311,982 points. Second place goes to K2LIM (operated by KA2LIM, W9KXI, WB2ONA, NX2W, and KB2YCC); with W4VHF (operated by KU4V, AA4ZZ, W4GRW, N4UFP, and W3GQ) third; W3SO (operated by W3YOZ, W3BTX, W3XOX, and W3BC) fourth; and W4NH (operated by W4KXY, N4NIA, W4ATL, KI4US, W4ZST, and WG8S) rounding out the top five.

The Society of Midwest Contesters

(15 entries) takes the U.S. club title with a fine 244K score. Not far behind was the New Mexico VHF Society with 217K (10 entries) followed by the Arizona Outlaws (21 entries) and the Potomac Valley Radio Club (34 entries).

DX

Aleksandr, EA8DBM, remains at the top of the DX single-op all band category with 147,686 points. Julian, XE2JS, turned in a nice score of 35,100 to claim second place. Emanuele, IW2NOD, was third. XE2X (Jorge) made the top 50-MHz score with 95,634 points. ISØBSR was second with IT9XTP third. S56P is the 144-MHz leader with 12,644 points. Finishing second is E23SGB with HS3SMO coming in third, ZS4TX fourth, and US8AR fifth. HA2VR is the Hilltopper champion followed by UT1IC and IZ2JNN/IN3. HS5YLK wins the QRP category with an excellent 15K score. MØHJM was second, with UY5ON in third.

The gang at IO9Z are the new multi-operator champs, followed by E2E and 4O6BLM. Rover activity was scarce with only two entries, but HS6MYW finished first, followed by JL3DOX/R.

The Italian Contest Club turned in the top DX score in the club competition with 71,246 points (3 entries). The XE-DXers finished second (3 entries) with the Contest Club Ontario third (10 entries).

The Rest of the Story

The 2019 CQ VHF will be run on July 21st and 22nd, so mark your calendar. Who knows, by then there could be more new modes to use. You will find the rules in the May 2019 issue of CQ and on the CQ WW VHF Contest website <www.cqww-vhf.com/rules.htm>. There is now a web uploader on the contest website (many thanks to K5ZD). You can still email logs to the robot, but the web uploader will make your life much

ROVERS & GRIDS OPERATED

ABØYM/R	.....	DM79 DM78 DM88 DM89 DN70 DN71
ACØRA/R & KG5CCI	.....	EM69 EM59 EN50 EN60 EN40 EN51 EN32 EN31 EN42 EN41
AC7MD/R	.....	.....
AF1R/R	.....	.....
AL1VE/R	.....	.....
HS6MYW & HS6TIM	.....	.....
JL3DOX/R	.....	.....
KØBAK/R	.....	.....
K2EZ/R	.....	.....
K5ND/R	.....	.....
K7BWH/R	.....	.....
K9ILT/R & KØPG	.....	.....
K9JK/R	.....	.....
KBØZOM/R	.....	.....
KCØSKM	.....	.....
KE7MSU/R	.....	.....
KK6MC/R	.....	.....
N2SLN/R & KB2YSI	.....	.....
NN3Q/R & K3WGR	.....	.....
VE2GT/W1/R	.....	.....
W2BDN/R & KC2SFU	.....	.....
W3DHJ/R	.....	.....
WD9HBF/R	.....	.....

CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	15	244,500
NEW MEXICO VHF SOCIETY	10	217,111
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	21	193,293
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	34	193,224
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	174,595
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	11	161,746
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	3	158,868
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	8	123,062
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	25	100,879
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	6	99,257
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	9	95,165
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	8	90,418
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	11	90,333
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	3	83,468
NORTH TEXAS CONTEST CLUB	3	73,788
BADGER CONTESTERS	9	72,244
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	3	42,142
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CUB	7	34,215
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	3	22,248

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	3	19,797
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	6	18,904
DFW CONTEST GROUP	5	14,880
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	8	9,689
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	4	7,936
SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY	3	5,982
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	4	5,477
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	5	5,453

DX

ITALIAN CONTEST CLUB	3	71,246
XE-DXERS	3	43,002
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	10	22,133
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	10	9,916
CLUB DE RADIO EXPERIMENT		
ADORES DE OCCIDENTE	4	5,646
CDR GROUP	10	2,760
CABREUVADX	6	1,165
RADIO CLUB KVARNER RIJEKA	6	937
SIAM DX GROUP	4	252

easier. It will help you make the correct choices before your log gets submitted, hopefully reducing some of the frustration with log submission.

If you operate, please send in a log. Any size log is greatly appreciated. If you need help, please ask. More logs make cross-checking more accurate.

Thanks to JK, K9JK, and Curt, K9AKS, for their assistance. They are quite good at finding things I screwed up. Thanks also to Champ, E21EIC, who collects all of the logs from Thailand, puts them in the right format and gets them submitted between his travels.

Don't forget to check out the CQ WW VHF Contest website <www.cqww-vhf.com>. Comments, suggestions, and corrections are always welcome. Quite a bit of the data was entered manually. If you find an error, please let us know.

After a year or so of thinking about it, this will be my last contest as director. I've enjoyed my tenure but it's time to slow down a bit. Thanks to everyone who has helped me out and supported the contest. I've learned a lot about VHF and VHF contesting, which I did very little of before W1XX retired. I'll be around next year to help my successor if he needs it.

He is very well qualified for the job and I'm sure will do a great job. You will have to read on to see who it is.

Changing of the Guard

As Steve alluded to above, kindly allow me to introduce myself as the new Director of the CQWW VHF Contest. Just as John, W1XX, left some "big shoes to fill" when he retired from the directorship (and I'd say that Steve has filled them admirably and done a fantastic job in continuing and growing this event), Steve is similarly leaving some "big shoes to fill." I hope that I, John Kalenowsky, K9JK, can step into and fill the shoes that Steve is leaving behind and keep this contest going and growing. As I have roved in all of the CQWW VHF Contests since 2003 and have helped both John and Steve behind the scenes over the years, I believe I have some good perspective on the moving parts. I'm appointing Steve as "Director Emeritus" so I'm not letting him totally off the hook. He will bring a wealth of knowledge and memories of little subtleties and quirks that I might encounter as I take on this role. Thanks to Steve (and John, W1XX, before him) for establishing and maintaining a great foundation for me to continue building on. – K9JK

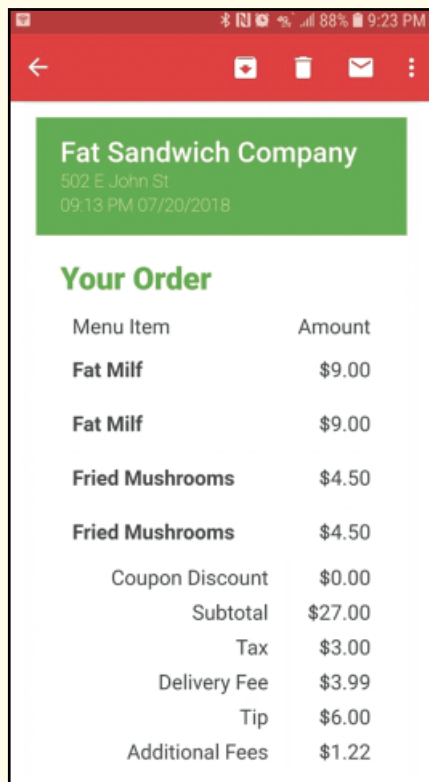


This is the improved ACØRA rover-mobile.

ACØRA on His Record-Breaking Rove

I went into the 2018 CQWW VHF contest with the goal of winning and then breaking the rover record. I knew this wasn't going to be easy, considering all of the records set in this contest were made in 2006, the "contest to end all VHF contests." In building the rover, I decided to go with a 5-element Yagi on 6 meters for the first time and stuck with the same 7-element Yagi on 2 meters I previously used. I upped the power level on both bands from low power to kilowatt-plus and used digital modes. During the contest, the plan was to activate 10 grids and keep driving throughout the night when most stations were sleeping. During the peak times for E-skip, we were close to grid corners to maximize QSOs during an opening by changing grids — as you never know how long the band will be open. In the end, the plan and the results were great.

– 73, Wyatt, ACØRA



Rover food for ACØRA consisted of a sandwich called the Fat Milf, which cost \$9. A side of fried mushrooms ups the bill...

