Wet and Wild — 2008 June VHF QSO Party Results

Were you prepared?

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What more fun can a few thousand VHF+ operators have than a weekend with plenty of other stations to work and with propagation enhanced by sporadic-E or "E-skip" (E_s) on 50 and 144 MHz? The June 2008 VHF QSO Party was thoroughly enjoyed by almost all participants thanks to the substantial hours of open bands from E_s, plus the use of CW and digital modes, including FSK441 for meteor scatter and JT65 for EME.

Preparation

Preparation included checking all the gear for functionality prior to the contest, checking the rover schedules of those who post a route on the various VHF and contesting reflectors, and then having a back-up plan for managing anything that needs repair or replacement during the action.

Getting enough sleep prior to the contest is also useful preparation, as one unnamed operator manning the four stations of a limited multi-operator station in the wee hours of the morning was found asleep at 5:30 AM with all four voice keyers on a continuous loop calling CQ!

The Bands

"What bands do I need to be active on for this event?" The answer is you must have 6 m capability. That's where everyone will be if that band is open. And since the band was open for a long time on both days of the weekend, there was the post-contest complaint on the various reflectors that scores were down on the higher bands. While it has been suggested that we should have an event without 6 m, the Midwesterners responded that without 6 m, there would be no significant activity. We have the August UHF QSO Party, on 222 MHz and up, for that type of a contest.

For many in the right places, the action was fantastic on 2 m, as E_s was prevalent throughout the Southeast, Central and Southwestern parts of the country. Grid

NØKE

Peanut, Rooster and Steve, NØTU, the "old goat" on the trail up to Mt Herman (CO) with a battery-powered FT817 transceiver, homebrew 6 m dipole, and 5 element 2 m beam.

totals higher than 50 were achieved by 10 stations across a wide geography and included a station in each of the single- and multi-op classes.

The Logs

There were 1075 logs received and according to the log of W5PR from STX, operating only 6 m, there were at least 1630 participants as each of them were in his log! (See Figure 1.)

The breakdown of entries included 659 (61%) in the Single-Operator Low-Power category, 200 (19%) in the Single-Operator High-Power category, 51 (5%) in the Limited Multi-Operator category, 33 (3%) in the Unlimited Multi-Operator category, 35 (3%) in the QRP Portable category, and 96 (9%) in the three new Rover categories.

Conditions

Almost everyone was happy and excited to have some 6 m E_s, and as reported by the stations in the Texas and surrounding Midwest areas, the band was open the entire contest. There was also an excellent enhancement on 2 m Sunday morning and some aurora facilitated QSOs during the weekend.

Northeast and West Coast contesters were not as fortunate as those in more southern and central US locations, as the 6 m E_s QSOs were less available. As a gauge of the different conditions, we can compare the 6 m results of multi-operator station K5QE, operating from EM13 in Texas, to the multi-operator W2SZ group in western Massachusetts in FN32. The Texas group had 1345 6 m QSOs in 245 grids,

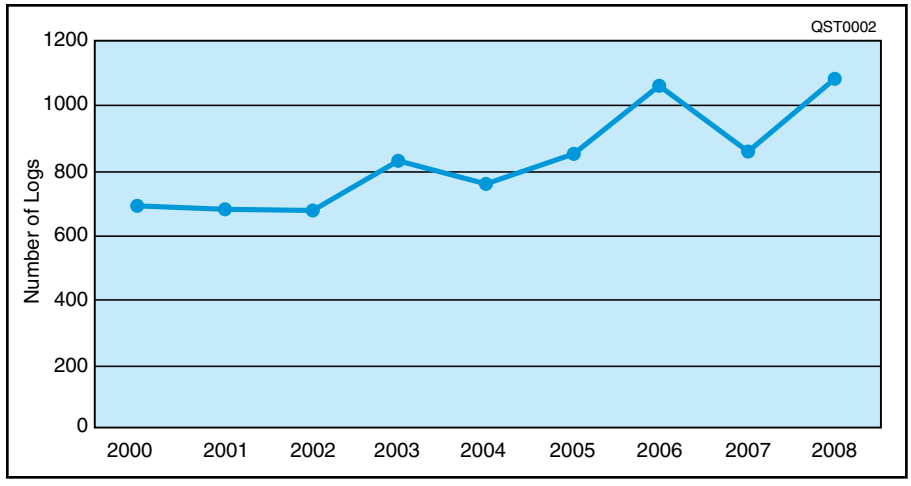

Figure 1 — The trend is good for the June VHF QSO Party, as log submissions were the highest since the year 2000.

From December 2008 QST © ARRL

Single Operator, Low Power

K2DRH	328,338
K5RQ	202,384
K3FM	193,817
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	191,952
N4BP	165,870
K4LY	144,826
AF1T	143,550
AA4W	135,740
K4EPS	135,026
KB9TLV	113,960

Single Operator, High Power

K1TEO	657,815
W5PR	443,360
K1RZ	440,622
KC4PX	392,040
WD5K	365,044
K9MK	305,109
KM0T	304,007
K4SN	261,711
WB9Z	248,940
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	242,536

Single Operator Portable

KA1LMR	78,078
K9AKS	36,120
K6VCR	35,588
N7IR	35,242
K1ZE	23,534
N8XA	11,658
N3LL	5,850
N3AWS	5,432
KQ6UP	5,088
WA4A	4,600

Limited Multioperator

K5TR	577,638
AA4ZZ	458,136
W3SO	358,154
W4IY	355,100
W4NH	307,515
AE5T	218,400
AB5GU	208,848
WA7JTM	189,750
W0LSD	186,534
W1QK	181,536

Multioperator

W2SZ	1,907,504
K8GP	1,434,157
K5QE	1,122,051
W3CCX	887,415
K3YTL	454,210
W0EEA	396,644
KB0HH	289,250
K0DI	217,404
N2NK	174,167
W0KVA	155,672

Rover

N6NB/R	281,436
AE5P/R	160,398
N5AIU/R	154,364
AH8M/R (KD4VRY, op)	136,136
VE3NPB/R	111,166
W1RT/R	109,070
WD0ACD/R	97,760
K2TER/R	94,677
K2QO/R	74,936
KC3WD/R	67,200

Limited Rover

KG6TOA/R	97,328
W3DHJ/R	36,585
K4GUN/R	24,462
K6EU/R	22,876
AG4V/R	22,134
KK6MC/R	14,016
K6JRA/R	13,824
AF6AV/R	12,172
N4JDB/R	11,502
KR1ST/R	11,480

Unlimited Rover

W6TE/R	385,336
N6MU/R	280,875
N5AC/R	65,230
KR0VER/R	22,035
KR5J/R	20,992
N1MU/R	16,030
W3BC/R	9,760
N3UW/R	5,920

while the Mt Greylock gang logged 889 QSOs in 153 grids on 6 m. The top 24 grid gatherers on 6 m with 199 through 280 grids were mostly in a band of states from Florida through New Mexico, plus others from Colorado, Iowa and South Dakota.

Two meters provided some nice long-haul openings for the central part of the country on Sunday. Noted on June 15 was a report of two long-haul 222 MHz contacts between W5UWB in EL17, Texas, and NØVZJ in EN35, Minnesota, and between AA4ZZ from EM96, North Carolina, and W5DDR in DM84, New Mexico.

Digital modes were again popular for stations that either made schedules in advance of the contest for some DX grids, or for those who planned to use EME. Even without the ability to have elevation, there were QRO stations workable in random mode at moonrise and moonset using CW or WSJT modes.

Record Setting and Breaking

Many operators, recognizing the unique opportunity on 6 m took full advantage of running it long and hard. The stations with favorable 6 m conditions, well aware of the chances they had to top previous records, stayed in their seats to milk the last drops of propagation. Eight division and 26 section and DX records were set. See Table 1.

A new record was set for the highest number of 6 m QSOs in a June QSO Party Single-Op High-Power category: W5PR, with 1630 contacts. The previous record of 1212 was set by N5HHS 10 years ago. This previous high-water mark was also topped this year by WD5K with 1388 QSOs, and by KC4PX with 1281 QSOs. The Unlimited Multi-op K5QE team also set a QSO record for their category this year with 1345 contacts, besting the 2006 W2SZ result of 1168.

Looking at the Single-Op High-Power grid-multiplier records, KC4PX topped his previous 6 m record of 263 grids from 2003 with an extraordinary catch of 280 grids this time. W5PR with 272 grids also topped the old record and WD5K tied it with 263 grids. The Single-Op Low-Power record set in 2006 by Wisconsin's K9MU 1094 QSOs in 229 grids still stands.

Single-Operator

There are three single operators who have maintained their top spots in their respective categories for several years in a row. Setting the pace in the low-power category, Bob, K2DRH in Illinois led with a score of 328k, using eight bands through 3 GHz and scoring 120k more than his nearest competitor. In somewhat of an operating contrast, K5RQ operating from West Central Florida came in second place using only 6 m and scoring 202k, with a hefty QSO count of 973 and 208 grid multipliers. K3FM was 3rd in the low-power category with 198k points, operating from Mississippi with 6 m and 2 m. Our 4th place station, WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) from Vermont scored 191k in a 7-band effort, while in 5th place, N4BP amassed 166k from south Florida, as a single-band 6 m op.

In the high-power group, Jeff, K1TEO managed to accumulate almost 658k points from his Connecticut QTH to stay in the top spot for yet another year. With pinpoint 6-digit grid aim, he is able to "run the bands" with microwave-capable stations. He added 228 QSOs on 903 MHz through 10 GHz and in the process scored an additional 124 multipliers. Taking second honors from South Texas, Charles, W5PR took advantage of the 6 m propagation and scored a whopping 443k points using a single band, the greatest number of QSOs made by any single-op in the contest. In third place, Dave, K1RZ operating out of Maryland was only 3k points behind, with a total of 440k points. Fourth place was won by KC4PX from South Florida, who also had a magnificent 6 m total of 1281 QSOs in 280 grids and garnished that with additional 25 contacts on bands B, C, D, and E. Our fifth place winner was WD5K

Table 1
Section and Division Records Set in 2008

Call	Cat	Sec	Score	QSOs	Mults	Division
K5RQ	SO-LP	WCF	202384	973	208	Southeast
K3FM	SO-LP	MS	193817	877	221	Delta
K4LY	SO-LP	SC	144826	544	227	Roanoke
AA4W	SO-LP	NFL	135740	609	220	
W6ZI	SO-LP	OK	99424	433	208	
N4QWZ	SO-LP	TN	95545	380	197	
W9ZRX	SO-LP	NC	89880	535	168	
CO2OJ	SO-LP	CO2	59792	404	148	
WA3EOQ	SO-LP	MDC	55977	272	141	
W3PAW	SO-LP	WPA	54002	273	134	
W4PJP	SO-LP	GA	49968	342	144	
XE3N	SO-LP	XE	38413	359	107	
W5PR	SO-HP	STX	443360	1630	272	West Gulf
K1RZ	SO-HP	MDC	440622	919	273	
KC4PX	SO-HP	SFL	392040	1306	297	Southeast
W4WA	SO-HP	GA	196605	626	257	
XE2WWW	SO-HP	XE	121218	681	178	Int'l
AE5T	LIM-MO	LA	218400	975	224	Delta
KH7Y	LIM-MO	PAC	270	18	15	
K5QE	UN-MO	STX	1122051	1943	449	West Gulf
K0DI	UN-MO	LAX	217404	726	198	
K9AKS	SO-QRP	NE	36120	240	140	
K6VCR	SO-QRP	SDG	35588	290	82	
N3LL	SO-QRP	WCF	5850	90	65	
N3AWS	SO-QRP	MS	5432	97	56	
WC4V	SO-QRP	KY	1287	37	33	

Affiliated Club Competition

	Entities	*Score*
Unlimited Club		
Society of Midwest Contesters	71	1,827,380
Medium Club		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	35	2,766,272
North East Weak Signal Group	20	1,407,723
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	16	1,198,399
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	12	930,086
Florida Contest Group	11	869,515
Florida Weak Signal Society	11	841,428
Northern Lights Radio Society	17	777,331
Carolina DX Assn	6	649,520
North Texas Microwave Society	11	576,503
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	15	455,157
Roadrunners Microwave Group	6	407,505
Contest Club Ontario	18	396,625
Northern California Contest Club	21	337,173
Rochester VHF Group	6	326,630
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	23	307,952
South East Contest Club	6	265,685
Alabama Contest Group	5	134,096
Central Arizona DX Assn	7	86,860
Mad River Radio Club	6	67,408
Frankford Radio Club	4	51,588
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	4	47,474
Oklahoma DX Assn	3	41,885
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	10	33,449
Tennessee Contest Group	9	30,125
Bergen ARA	7	23,798
Contest Club Du Quebec	4	20,496
Kentucky Contest Group	4	14,827
North Coast Contesters	3	12,362
Local Club		
Nacogdoches ARC	5	1,452,607
Murgas ARC	5	759,705
Eastern Connecticut ARA	8	218,447
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	7	198,055
Badger Contesters	7	123,485
Low Country Contest Club	7	84,911
10-70 Repeater Assn	3	57,051
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	4	12,672
Maritime Contest Club	4	6,595
Steel City ARC	3	64,255
Downey ARC	4	12,868
Meriden ARC	4	10,831
Ashe County ARC	3	2,559

Northeast Region
(New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)

WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	191,952	A
AF1T	143,550	A
NN1D	77,616	A
WB2SIH	72,092	A
K1KG	61,632	A
K1TEO	657,815	B
K1RZ	440,622	B
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	242,536	B
K1TOL	148,410	B
N2GHR	104,622	B
KA1LMR	78,078	Q
K1ZE	23,534	Q
WB2AMU	1,872	Q
K2KWK	513	Q
K1ZK	1	Q
W3SO	358,154	L
W1QK	181,536	L
KV1J	147,630	L
KB1DFB	100,980	L
KA2LIM	98,334	L
W2SZ	1,907,504	M
W3CCX	887,415	M
K3YTL	454,210	M
N2NK	174,167	M
K3EOD	100,637	M
W1RT/R	109,070	R
K2TER/R	94,677	R
K2QO/R	74,936	R
K3LFO/R	57,245	R
W1AUV/R	45,276	R
K3IUV/R	80	RL
W3BC/R	9,760	RU
N3UW/R	5,920	RU

Southeast Region
(Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)

K5RQ	202,384	A
K3FM	193,817	A
N4BP	165,870	A
K4LY	144,826	A
AA4W	135,740	A
KC4PX	392,040	B
K4SN	261,711	B
WJ9B	238,750	B
W4WA	196,605	B
W4ZRZ	188,496	B
N3LL	5,850	Q
N3AWS	5,432	Q
WA4A	4,600	Q
WA5ZEK	216	Q
KC8KSK	110	Q
AA4ZZ	458,136	L
W4IY	355,100	L
W4NH	307,515	L
AE5T	218,400	L
N4LR	62,088	L
K8GP	1,434,157	M
W4OZK	37,973	M
W4YCC	26,334	M
AH8M/R (KD4VRY, op)	136,136	R
KC3WD/R	67,200	R
AF4OD/R	14,170	R
KE5GAQ/R	13,736	R
N9KS/R	5,187	R
K4GUN/R	24,462	RL
AG4V/R	22,134	RL
N4JDB/R	11,502	RL
KR1ST/R	11,480	RL
WA4JA/R	1,998	RL

Central Region
(Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)

K2DRH	328,338	A
KB9TLV	113,960	A
W9GKA	64,148	A
KO9A	57,023	A
K8MR	50,553	A
WB9Z	248,940	B
K9CT	235,036	B
K8EB	142,096	B
K9EA	112,312	B
K8TQK	109,720	B
N8XA	11,658	Q
WC4V	1,287	Q
VE3/KC8QVO	990	Q
NF8M	36	Q
N8ZM	82,654	L
KC8QAE	27,707	L
N9TF	14,016	L
NG9R	7,326	L
K2KW	5,424	L
N9UHF	85,824	M
K9SG	84,216	M
VE3WCC	80,620	M
N8KOL	66,015	M
W8PGW	22,950	M
VE3NPB/R	111,166	R
VE3SMA/R	55,814	R
WB8BZK/R	54,184	R
K9ILT/R	22,230	R
KF8QL/R	21,528	R
K9ZF/R	10,224	RL
K8DOG/R	9,792	RL
K9JK/R	9,776	RL
VE3RKS/R	1,056	RL
VE3AP/R	45	RL
N1MU/VE3/R	16,030	RU

Midwest Region
(Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)

WA5LFD	106,505	A
W6ZI	99,424	A
WB5ZDP	98,264	A
NØPOH	71,360	A
KØMHC	56,511	A
W5PR	443,360	B
WD5K	365,044	B
K9MK	305,109	B
KMØT	304,007	B
K5AM	237,072	B
K9AKS	36,120	Q
KIØG	150	Q
NØGSZ	24	Q
K5TR	577,638	L
AB5GU	208,848	L
WØLSD	186,534	L
WDØT	180,525	L
WØVB	43,134	L
K5QE	1,122,051	M
WØEEA	396,644	M
KBØHH	289,250	M
WØKVA	155,672	M
WQØP	102,985	M
AE5P/R	160,398	R
N5AIU/R	154,364	R
WDØACD/R	97,760	R
KCØIYT/R	30,720	R
WRØI/R	11,607	R
W3DHJ/R	36,585	RL
KK6MC/R	14,016	RL
AC5TS/R	4,400	RL
N5AC/R	65,230	RU
KRØVER/R	22,035	RU
KR5J/R	20,992	RU

West Coast Region
(Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)

NU6S	77,248	A
WJØF	43,146	A
VA6AN	32,004	A
WE6T	29,484	A
K6XN	28,260	A
K7AED	72,581	B
K6KLY	66,885	B
N6KN	65,130	B
WB6AAG	55,115	B
KI7JA	53,640	B
K6VCR	35,588	Q
N7IR	35,242	Q
KQ6UP	5,088	Q
VE7IHL	4,025	Q
N6FD	3,648	Q
WA7JTM	189,750	L
W7JLC	31,374	L
WB6BFG	7,812	L
K4TRT	6,292	L
K7TM	3,128	L
KØDI	217,404	M
K6LRG	77,520	M
K7RST	50,061	M
W6YX	25,353	M
KI6MPQ	24,375	M
N6NB/R	281,436	R
KE6QR/R	18,528	R
KI6CG/R	8,772	R
KB8VAO/R	4,563	R
NW7O	2,944	R
KG6TOA/R	97,328	RL
K6EU/R	22,876	RL
K6JRA/R	13,824	RL
AF6AV/R	12,172	RL
AL1VE/R	11,067	RL
W6TE/R	385,336	RU
N6MU/R	280,875	RU

with another one-band wonder-score on 6 m from North Texas, putting 1388 calls from 263 grids in his log.

QRP portable participants are a hardy group. They adhere to a special set of station requirements, and better results are often achieved from being in a high spot in a densely populated area and using several bands. Topping the score list again in this class, KA1LMR from New Hampshire doubled the score of his nearest competitor with an 8-band 78k result. Even with QRP power, he logged 217 QSOs and 82 grids on 6 m and 92 QSOs on 2 m with 19 grids. In second place with 36k points, K9AKS operated from the Nebraska plains near a small airport, which provided a good horizon in all directions. Here was another adventure that capitalized on the great 6 m conditions with 203 QSOs and 111 grids, supplemented by a few additional contacts on bands B, C, D and E.

Following in third place with 35.5k points, K6VCR in San Diego used a 10-band set-up and had multiple contacts on the microwave bands to boost his score. From Arizona, N7IR managed to capture the 6 m magic and most of his 35.2k score is accounted for by his 228 6 m QSOs in 119 grids for fourth place. On the East Coast, in Connecticut K1ZE scored 23k with a 7-band effort securing fifth position.

Multi-operator

Battling it out in the top two Unlimited Multi-operator spots as they have for many years, W2SZ, the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Group, bested K8GP, the Grid Pirates, by having more QSOs, especially the higher point variety from the microwave bands. Despite the advantage of K8GP on 6 m and 2 m, the larger W2SZ group and their rovers were able to add the enormous number of QSOs and multiplier grids on the microwaves, even though their 10 GHz gear was visited by Murphy part way through the fray. Entering the national top-three circle was the multi-op team from K5QE. For the past several years this South Texas group's activity had posted previous section records and scored in the 500-600k range. With the efforts to make this a fixed contesting superstation, the judicious tracking of rovers, and the addition of excellent 6 m and 2 m propagation, they broke the 1 million-point barrier. The fourth place Mt Airy VHF Packrats, W3CCX, redesigning many of their stations this year, were in a contest rebuilding mode, yet had a respectable 887k total. The K3YTL team continues to grow in band capability and scooted home with 5th place.

In the Limited Multi-Operator category, stations submit a four-band entry. Operation on additional bands is allowed, but those QSOs are treated as in a check-log. Using the great advantage of the 6 m conditions to take first place in this category, again, are the K5TR multi-ops from South Texas with 577k points and a huge total of 1344 6 m QSOs in 264 grids. The AA4ZZ team in North Carolina challenged, but was in second place in this grouping with 458k points, building a solid number of QSOs and grid multipliers across all four lower bands. The W3SO operation netted third place scoring 358k from their mountaintop perch in Western PA. Just behind in fourth place were the W4IY multi-ops with 355k. The difference between these two groups was the number of QSOs made by the W3SO group on the higher-point bands of 222 and 432 MHz. The W4NH 4-band operation, also from NC, earned 5th place with 307k.

Rovers — In Three Categories

This is the first June QSO Party with the three categories of rovers; Classic, with 1-2 operators and all gear and antennas carried in the vehicle; Limited, with the number of operating bands limited to four; and Unlimited, where the number of participants, bands and rover tactics have little restriction. Ninety-five rovers submitted logs for this event. The overall number of rover entries is similar to previous years (98 rover entries in '07 and 96 rover entries in '06). A special

"Thank You" goes out to Toyota, who as graciously sponsored all available Rover plaques this year.

A majority of the stations entering the Classic Rover category used six bands or more, with many having 8-10 bands in use. Eight of the top 10 scorers in this category had a two-operator entry. Apparently gas prices were not a serious challenge as the number of grids covered by the rover bunch did not seem to change much from previous years. One wily rover group found a way to maximize their scores simultaneously in all three categories. The Classic Rover category had 61 entries, and N6NB/R was top scorer with 281k points, covering 15 grids with a group of similarly-equipped rovers who operated in a fashion to enhance their scores and also garner top spots in the Limited and Unlimited Rover categories. There are further details of this group's activity on the Soapbox Web page under "N6NB/R", and also on the N6NB home page (**commfaculty.fullerton.edu/woverbeck/n6nb.htm**).

There were 25 entries into the premier event of the Limited Rover category — stations who were using four bands of their choosing with the same power limits as for Single-Op Low-Power. The intention of developing this category was to allow stations who were somewhat limited in their gear, or newcomers to roving with rigs which included 1-4 VHF bands, to compete with each other and not with those stations equipped with a whole array of VHF-UHF and microwave bands. Finding a unique opportunity within this new category, using the four bands from 2.3 GHz through 10 GHz, and moving with the team of other rovers, KG6TOA/R topped this category with a score of 97k, traversing 15 grids.

In second place with 36k, W3DHJ/R took advantage of the great 50 MHz openings in the Midwest and using only two bands and roving through only four grids, had a 135-grid multiplier. K4GUN/R with partner K4LIG copped third with a 10-grid band-ABCD activity and a 24k score. In 4th place K6EU/R had 22.8k points and a mere few hundred points behind, AG4V/R, who maximized his score focusing on 6 m multiplier grids. The average score in this group was 13k.

The new Unlimited Rover category allowed stations to use almost any type of configuration, operator contingent and any number of QSOs with other rovers, including tandem roving or grid-circling. A total of eight entries were received in this class, and these averaged 101k points, with a top score of 385k by W6TE/R traveling with partner K6MI. Second place was N6MU/R with 280k. Each of them carried 10 bands and roved through 15 grids, apparently tracking with the other top entries from the Classic and Limited rover classes. In 3rd was N5AC/R, who, with W5RSH and KE5BUZ covered five grids in the NTX area with nine active bands.

These new categories of contest rovers will hopefully satisfy many participants. In time we are sure to see more feedback on the effects of the new classes; how the competition can still be managed and scores maximized in each group with specialized roving tactics — proudly promoted by some, and decried by others.

VE3WCC

Grid expedition to FN04xa by members of the West Carleton ARC of Ottawa. Operators included Ken, VA3KA; Doug, VE3XK; Andy, VE3NVK; Barney, VA3BGB; Dean, VA3CDD; Al, VO1NO and Jeremy.

Complete Results are on the ARRLWeb

For the complete 2008 June VHF Contest Results, including scores for all entries, see **www.arrl.org/contests/.** Soapbox comments are at **www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/.**

Club Competition

The group of VHF aficionados in the Midwest grew, as demonstrated by the Society of Midwest Contesters entry: 71 logs submitted for an aggregate score of 1.8M points. This is 16 logs and 700k points greater than their 2007 submission and has them as the only entry and top spot in the Unlimited Club category. Will it be long before we find additional Midwesterners capturing more top categories and besting some of the scores from stations on the coasts?

In the Medium Club category there were 28 entries. Topping the list with 35 logs and 2.7M points, the Potomac Valley Radio Club, led by the K8GP contribution takes top honors again. In second place, moving up one place from last year with 20 logs and 1.4M points, we had the North East Weak Signal Group. Third honors go to the Mt Airy VHF RC with 16 logs and 1.2M points. Advancing several rungs up the club competition ladder, the Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado submitted a score of 930k in 12 logs, while the Florida Contest Group was close behind in fifth place with 869k from 11 logs.

Led by the contribution of multi-op K5QE's 1.1M, the Local Club competition was won by the Nacogdoches ARC (TX) with only five entries but a huge score of 1.4M points.. In the second spot was the Murgas ARC (PA) with 759k. The Eastern Connecticut ARA placed third with 218k.

The club competition encourages participation. Of the 1074 log entries, 435 or 40% entered as a club-affiliated station. Much of the growth we get in VHF activity is supported by various club activities, rover development, building projects, club sponsored conferences, tune-up clinics and antenna range testing. If you are not already affiliated with a VHF-active club, go through the list of clubs on the competition list and find one that interests you and join in to share the VHF experience.

VHF-DX

It's always exciting to have a call in your log from a DX entity. Thanks to the participation of many stations in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and even those across the Atlantic Ocean, DX appeared in the logs and contest submissions. With a single-band 6 m entry, CO2OJ had a 60k score, setting a record for entries from Cuba. EA8BPX had 27 6 m QSOs in 21 grids in his log entry. Canada was well represented with 43 logs from seven provinces in all operating categories. There were 11 entries from Mexico, with 10 of them submitting single-band logs, having enjoyed the 6 m enhancements. Tim, NU6S added this comment, "Never heard so many XE's on six." Notably, Jorge, XE2WWW as a Single-Band high-power single-op scored 121k with 681 QSOs on 6 m in 178 grids. With this score, he set a new high-score record for stations from Mexico and the international participants. Zalo, XE3N another single-op in the low-power category, set a record for Mexico with 38k points, all on 6 m!

Preparing for the Future

It is not too early to prepare for the next VHF contest and other on-the-air VHF activities. The next ARRL VHF QSO Party will be held on June 13-14, 2009, and like the Boy Scouts, make sure you're prepared! QST