

2016 ARRL June VHF Contest Results

Contesters were pleasantly surprised by better sporadic E conditions in the June contest.

Bob Striegl, K2DRH, k2drh@arrl.net

This year's summer 6-meter sporadic E season was not stellar by any account, and it looked like the trend for June contest weekends with spotty propagation was going to continue. Fortunately, the Saturday of the June VHF Contest saw a few E_s (sporadic E) openings in the west, many good hours for Texas and Florida, and windows of opportunity for the northeast and midwest. Sunday was even better! Six meters opened early in the midwest and was pretty much open to somewhere all day, all over the country. Most soapbox reports gushed that Sunday offered the best 6-meter June contest conditions they had experienced since 2010 or 2011.

There was a lot of DX to be had. There was 6-meter E_s reported both days into Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. But the most amazing propagation occurred late Sunday afternoon when the band opened simultaneously to EU and to JA, with some Caribbean and SA thrown in, too. Dave, VE9CB, was away for most of the weekend but finally got on Sunday evening and reported, "I managed to work four continents in my first hour!"

Stations from the upper midwest as far southeast as Florida reported working JA and EU/AF at the same time. All the while, domestic openings were still really cranking, and a few 2-meter E_s contacts were reported from Michigan to Colorado and New Mexico.

Despite much better conditions this year, no SO or MO overall category records were surpassed, with the notable exception of

Ryan, KK4OSG, operating Single Operator, FM Only (SOFM). The previous contest score records are available for review on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/contest-records and will be updated with any new records set in 2016.



A frequent Top Ten finisher, Paul, W0UC, is active in the Northern Lights Radio Society and took the top spot in the Single Operator, High Power category this year. [Paul Husby, W0UC, photo]

DX Participation

A lot of stations had contacts with European, Caribbean, South American, and even African stations, as well as quite a few from Japan. There were 20 DX logs submitted this year and several more stations reported QSOs on 3830scores.com, including JA7QVI. EA8DBM from the Canary Islands in Africa had the highest score of all non-NA stations this year, with an astounding 286 QSOs in 106 grids (eight on 2 meters) for 40K. Canadian participation jumped back up from last year's 47 to 72 stations, surpassing the 70 logs submitted in 2012. The XE contingent continues to grow as Javier, XE2CQ, edged out Jorge, XE2X, by countrymen XE2JS, XE2NBW, XE2OK, XE2S, and XE1AO, but there were more stations from Mexico around the bands. Three stations submitted logs from Cuba — CO3VR, T43S, and CO3JA. Logs

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous support of the listed clubs, we are pleased to list the winners of the Sponsored June VHF Contest plaques below. For more information on plaque sponsorship or to order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, at 860-594-0232 or w9jj@arrl.org. Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping charges.

Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
Overall Single Operator High Power	W0UC	Michigan VHF - UHF Society
Overall Single Operator Low Power	K2DRH	Jeff Klein, K1TEO
Overall Single Operator Low Power, Rookie	KD9GKL	W3ZZ First Log Award — Memorial by Tim, K3LR, and Dave, W9PA
Overall Single Operator, 3-Band	K1TO	Northern Lights Radio Society
Overall Limited Multioperator	K5QE	Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, Memorial — ARRL Contest Branch
Overall Multioperator	W2SZ	AA4ZZ Team & CDXA, Ken Boyd, K4DXA, Memorial
Overall Rover	K8GP/R (K1RA, W8ZN, ops)	"In Memory of Tim Ertl, KE3HT, Microwave DX Addict"
Overall Limited Rover	VE3SMA/R (+VE3RZ)	Jarred Jackson, KF2MR
Atlantic Division Single Operator, 3-Band	K3UHU	Mt Airy VHF Radio Club
Atlantic Division Rover	K2TER/R (+KV2X)	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	WB0HHM	Northern Lights Radio Society
Delta Division Single Operator High Power	W5ZN	Memorial to Mike Bruck, W5MRB, from his friends
Great Lakes Division Single Operator Low Power	WZ8T	Northern Lights Radio Society
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	WB2JAY	NY2NY — In Memory of W2GFF & W2HBA
Northwestern Division Single Operator, 3-Band	K7BG	Pacific Northwest VHF Society
Roanoke Division Rover	K8GP/R (K1RA, W8ZN, ops)	Potomac Valley Radio Club

Full Results Online

There is more than twice as much reporting available in the full results at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles. Look for special tables of QSO and Multiplier leaders by band and articles about some amazing stations.

Top Ten WVE

Classic Rover

K8GP/R (K1RA, W8ZN, ops)	305,760
AC0RA/R	139,944
VE3OIL/R	112,578
N0LNO/R (+K0DAS)	89,526
K2TER/R (+KV2X)	78,207
K4SME/R (+N2CEI)	61,401
KF2MR/R	55,530
VE3WJ/R	52,854
W0ZQ/R	51,198
KC0SKM/R (+KC0YGW)	48,870

Limited Rover

VE3SMA/R (+VE3RZ)	63,376
KD5EUO/R	58,968
K2QO/R (+W2TAU)	54,934
W7WD/R	42,834
K2EZ/R	24,984
W3ICC/R (+W2PED)	23,976
AE5P/R	22,734
KK6MC/R (+N5SJ)	20,274
W3DHJ/R	17,670
KS4S/R	14,280

Unlimited Rover

W0ZF/R (+K0BBC, AE0EE)	20,962
K6EU/R	17,040
WE7X/R	16,590
K6VHF/R (+W6BVB, WY6DX)	14,112
W9YOY/R	10,896
KJ1K/R (+WB2VVQ)	8,568
KD5IKG	7,938
K7ATN/R	6,156
W3HMS	5,580
N6GKJ	850

Single Operator, High Power

W0UC	364,500
W5ZN	277,173
W9RM	244,713
W5PR	233,584
K1RZ	219,387
N4WW	218,550
K1TR	217,012
K4PI	186,303
WD0T	171,216
K1GX	168,365

Single Operator, Low Power

K2DRH	463,939
AF1T	266,160
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	185,436
K1KG	134,945
KT1R	127,400
N0LL	125,883
N4OX	98,840
VE1WOW	93,285
K2PS	92,710
KX4R	84,804

Single Operator, Portable

NV4B	13,288
W0PV	5,292
A16EA	4,559
WB2AMU	4,472
W6BJB	4,238
N0JK	3,795
W6KKO	3,003
W4DVE	2,200
K7ALO	1,360
KE7UQL	1,240

Single Operator, Three-Band

K1TO	132,132
N4OGW	66,495
AD5A	66,150
WD0BGZ	49,539
K7BG	34,809
KK4MA	34,272
KE7GRO	28,842
N7IR	27,810
AE8M	26,226
VA2NQ	19,320

Single Operator, FM Only

KK4OSG	6,976
K16JJW	1,215
N9VM (N1VM, op)	430

Limited Multioperator

W7AIT	308
K2JB	186
W6IA	182
NA6AA	129
N4STG	102
W6CT	22
AD0MJ	16

Unlimited Multioperator

K5QE	629,241
AA4ZZ	344,226
N2NT	277,907
W3SO	255,524
N8ZM	184,386
W4IY	173,428
W2LV	154,602
KW7MM	138,627
W4NH	134,784
NV9L	130,788

Unlimited Multioperator

W2SZ	830,720
W3CCX	560,170
K1WHS	486,189
K2LIM	352,660
K5TR	311,922
W9XA	301,576
WQ0P	195,999
KV1J	186,714
N0SZ	150,570
VE3WCC	141,372

Top Ten DX

Single Operator, High Power

EA8DBM	40,916
XE2CQ	11,110
YV6CR	992
FS/K9EL	342

Single Operator, Low Power

XE2X	8,777
CO3VR	5,922
XE2JS	2,501
CO3JA	1,036
XE2NBW	675
8P2K (8P6SH, op)	30
XE2S	16
EA4DE (EA4FTN, op)	1

Unlimited Multioperator

T43S	2,146
XE2OK	256

from Alaska dropped to just one from stalwart Dale, KL7XJ, and there were none from KH6 this year. NP2X kept up the demand for VI, along with KP3W for Puerto Rico. FS/K9EL, YV6CR, 8P2K, EA4DE, MD0CCE, and YO6BHV rounded out the rest.

The Conditions

As noted before, 6 meters was good for many parts of the country on Saturday, and pretty awesome just about everywhere on Sunday. Es openings moved all around the country, while spanning from Asia to Africa, yielding lots of grid multipliers. While 6 meters was not quite as kind to the far western portion of the country as it was the southwest and northeast, most stations did enjoy several good hours.

Unlike last year, when only nine stations broke 500 contacts on 6 meters, a whopping 52 cleared that hurdle this time out. Four stations made it over 1,000, two of them in Texas. However, K1WHS worked the hardest, with 1,262 contacts and 229 multipliers, which highlights just how good the 6-meter propagation really was from the northeast this year. K5QE in STX wound up with a strong 1,188/241.

There were no outstanding tropo-scatter enhancements reported on the other bands. Fewer stations reported working more than 100 contacts on 2 meters than last year — 23 versus last year's 28 — and a lot less than the 35 in 2014, when some areas had above-average conditions on 2 meters.

Updated Rules: One Year Later

The first time the new VHF rules came into effect was during the 2015 June contest, and a year later, they are still making an impact in the quality of VHF contesting for most participants. EME and meteor scatter operators now announce their CQ frequency and set up skeds using online chat pages like Ping Jockey (www.pingjockey.net) and ON4KST (www.on4kst.com). Rovers can now announce where they are via the web, too. What seems most effective in most parts of the country is direct cell phone contact via voice or text to line up the antennas and then run the bands. This is a lot easier than guessing where they are and hoping the rover turns your way long enough that you can get their attention, especially in the parts of the country where rovers are likely to be a couple hundred miles away or more! Folks can line right up with each other after getting someone's attention on a chat page to make longer-distance QSOs, whereas randomly pointing would not allow them to even hear distant stations unless they just happened to be pointing back at exactly the same time.

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	Entries
Unlimited		
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,287,750	68
Medium		
North East Weak Signal Group	1,711,293	22
Potomac Valley Radio Club	1,437,673	46
Northern Lights Radio Society	1,121,011	18
Florida Contest Group	978,305	20
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	699,827	20
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	784,204	22
Georgia Contest Group	558,300	9
Roadrunners Microwave Group	553,637	6
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	534,313	13
Contest Club Ontario	531,380	23
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	468,254	43
Carolina DX Association	467,199	8
Frankford Radio Club	353,049	12
Alabama Contest Group	345,605	10
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	314,912	28
CTRI Contest Group	193,131	4
Rochester VHF Group	186,439	11
DFW Contest Group	132,538	10
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	124,555	6
Northern California Contest Club	117,439	19
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	109,122	5
Mad River Radio Club	103,058	7
Southern California Contest Club	90,803	18
Tennessee Contest Group	76,465	7
Big Sky Contesters	62,539	3
Minnesota Wireless Assn	46,227	10
Western Washington DX Club	43,164	3
Saskatchewan Contest Club	30,496	3
North Coast Contesters	30,376	4
Contest Group du Quebec	17,648	3
South Jersey Radio Assn	13,058	4
Willamette Valley DX Club	12,001	3
South East Contest Club	11,429	4

Local

Florida Weak Signal Society	232,208	7
Maritime Contest Club	151,638	3
Badger Contesters	126,540	7
Michigan VHF-UHF Society	98,784	4
Bergen ARA	94,895	8
Bristol (TN) ARC	21,654	5
Contoocook Valley Radio Club	18,232	3
NorDX Club	13,197	3
Lodi ARC	12,690	3
Pottstown Area ARC	6,054	6
Meriden ARC	2,552	3

Traditional DX clusters and websites that map individual 6-meter and 2-meter spots were great for showing overall regional trends and DX openings, but propagation varies a lot from area to area. Self-spotting seems particularly useless, and it's good to see that it's not often done.

Single Operators

Stations with 100 – 200 W bricks have always provided the bulk of contest activity, since well before the Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP) category was established, so it's no surprise it once again proved to be the most popular category, with almost 500 logs. There are lots of ways to field a good Single Operator station, whether it's from home or portable on a hill or mountaintop. For many VHF hams, it's still the best way for them to be competitive, and maybe even earn a place in the Top 10.

Regional Leaders

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson, and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke, and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario East, Ontario North, Ontario South, and Greater Toronto Area Sections)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern, and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia, and NWT)		
K2TER/R (+KV2X)	78,207	R	K8GP/R (K1RA, W8ZN, ops)	305,760	R	VE3OIL/R	112,578	R	AC0RA/R	139,944	R	KE6QR	16,483	R
KF2MR/R	55,530	R	K4SME/R (+N2CEI)	61,401	R	VE3WJ/R	52,854	R	N0LNO/R (+K0DAS)	89,526	R	VE7JH	16,284	R
WA3PTV	42,600	R	AG4V/R	44,036	R	KF8QL/R	41,376	R	W0ZQ/R	51,198	R	N6ORB/R	12,240	R
WA3RGR/R	34,320	R	W4PH/R	10,792	R	W9SNR/R	29,920	R	KC0SKM/R (+KC0YGW)	48,870	R	KE7MSU/R	8,374	R
NN3Q/R (+K3WGR)	13,860	R	W5VY	9,230	R	NA9US/R (+NG9H)	2,400	R	KC0P/R	26,675	R	WB6BET	990	R
K2QO/R (+W2TAU)	54,934	RL	KS4S/R	14,280	RL	VE3SMA/R (+VE3RZ)	63,376	RL	KD5EUO/R	58,968	RL	WW7D/R	42,834	RL
K2EZ/R	24,984	RL	N2MH	3,380	RL	K9ILT/R	7,056	RL	AE5P/R	22,734	RL	N6GP/R	8,802	RL
W3ICC/R (+W2PED)	23,976	RL	WA5KBH/R	1,292	RL	K8DOG/R	5,562	RL	KK6MC/R (+N5SJ)	20,274	RL	K6LMN/R	4,293	RL
N2DXT/R	9,384	RL	A14GR/R (+AJ4FV)	627	RL	WD9HBF/R	4,950	RL	W3DHJ/R	17,670	RL	K6ACJ	612	RL
W1RGA/R	7,722	RL	NL7CO/R	110	RL	K9JK/R	4,060	RL	WK7G	7,200	RL	K6EU/R	17,400	RU
KJ1K/R (+WB2VVQ)	8,568	RU	W5ZN	277,173	SOHP	W9YOY/R	10,896	RU	W0ZF/R (+K0BBC, AE0EE)	20,962	RU	W67X/R	16,590	RU
W3HMS	5,580	RU	N4WW	218,550	SOHP	W0UC	364,500	SOHP	KD5IKG	7,938	RU	K6VHF/R (+W6BVB, WY6DX)	14,112	RU
K1RZ	219,387	SOHP	K4PI	186,303	SOHP	K9EA	67,340	SOHP	W9RM	244,713	SOHP	K7ATN/R	6,156	RU
K1TR	217,012	SOHP	N4BP	149,569	SOHP	WA8RJF	62,271	SOHP	W5PR	233,584	SOHP	N6GKJ	850	RU
K1GX	168,365	SOHP	N4PN	142,374	SOHP	K8MM	61,225	SOHP	WD0T	171,216	SOHP	K7CW	75,604	SOHP
WA1T	164,016	SOHP	N4OX	98,840	SOLP	K8TQK	56,917	SOHP	W7MEM	36,738	SOHP	N7NW	37,310	SOHP
N3HBX	146,020	SOHP	K2PS	92,710	SOLP	K2DRH	463,939	SOLP	W7FI	36,057	SOHP	N7N7	36,738	SOHP
AF1T	266,160	SOLP	KX4R	84,804	SOLP	W9GA	75,175	SOLP	K5AND	141,559	SOHP	W7FM	19,197	LM
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	185,436	SOLP	N4QWZ	65,676	SOLP	VA3V	36,192	SOLP	KM0T	135,240	SOHP	K6MI	17,810	SO3B
K1KG	134,945	SOLP	KC4PX	53,568	SOLP	VA3ST	28,659	SOLP	N0LL	125,883	SOLP	W0OGH	15,996	SO3B
KT1R	127,400	SOLP	NV4B	13,288	SOP	WS9V	26,400	SOLP	K15YG	59,400	SOLP	K7BG	34,809	SO3B
VE1WOW	93,285	SOLP	W0PV	5,292	SOP	VE3LW/W	270	SOP	AA5AM	55,350	SOLP	KE7GRO	28,842	SO3B
WB2AMU	4,472	SOP	N4ZAK	378	SOP	AE8M	26,226	SO3B	WB0HHM	46,843	SOLP	N7IR	27,810	SO3B
KQ2RP	798	SOP	KC8KSK	70	SOP	KB8UJZ	11,026	SO3B	A1SI	40,166	SOLP	K6MI	17,810	SO3B
N1PRW	693	SOP	K1TO	132,132	SO3B	N8CGY	10,692	SO3B	N0JK	3,795	SOP	W4DVE	2,200	SOP
K6PFA	640	SOP	N4QGW	66,495	SO3B	KZ2I	13,778	SO3B	K0NR	455	SOP	K7ALO	1,360	SOP
AE3J	456	SOP	KK4MA	34,272	SO3B	N3CMH	5,856	SO3B	N1HOB	6	SOP	K7AL	1,360	SOP
VA2NQ	19,320	SO3B	KZ2I	13,778	SO3B	KK4OSG	6,976	SOFM	AD5A	66,150	SO3B	K7BG	34,809	SO3B
K3UHU	17,100	SO3B	N3CMH	5,856	SO3B	K2JB	186	SOFM	WD0BGZ	49,539	SO3B	KE7GRO	28,842	SO3B
N3ALN	12,675	SO3B	KK4OSG	6,976	SOFM	N4STG	102	SOFM	K5ND	17,000	SO3B	N7IR	27,810	SO3B
K1VUT	10,710	SO3B	K2JB	186	SOFM	K3TW	4	SOFM	KB0HNN	8,701	SO3B	K6MI	17,810	SO3B
N1DID	10,650	SO3B	N4STG	102	SOFM	AA4ZZ	344,226	LM	KC5JSV	7,171	SO3B	W0OGH	15,996	SO3B
K3BLF	1	SOFM	K3TW	4	SOFM	W4IY	173,428	LM	AD0MJ	16	SOFM	K16JW	1,215	SOFM
N2NT	277,907	LM	AA4ZZ	344,226	LM	W4NH	134,784	LM	AK0EM	14	SOFM	N9VM	430	SOFM
W3SO	255,524	LM	W4IY	173,428	LM	W9XW	301,576	UM	K5FHFU	6	SOFM	(N1VM, op)	308	SOFM
W2LV	154,602	LM	W4NH	134,784	LM	VE3WCC	141,372	UM	K5QE	629,241	LM	W7AIT	308	SOFM
WA2CP	101,386	LM	WN2E	41,080	LM	VE3RB	9,350	UM	N0EO	80,214	LM	W6IA	182	SOFM
W1QK	80,480	LM	W4COV	912	LM	N0MO	2,574	UM	W0FRC	4,004	LM	NA6AA	129	SOFM
W2SZ	830,720	UM	W4UAL	52,705	UM	W9RVG	60,885	LM	K5LRW	850	LM	KW7MM	138,627	LM
W3CCX	560,170	UM	N4SVC	36,366	UM	W9VVW	45,633	LM	K5TR	311,922	UM	K7TM	29,440	LM
K1WHS	486,189	UM	N4JQQ	20,079	UM	KC8AAV	27,495	LM	WQ0P	195,999	UM	W6FM	19,197	LM
K2LIM	352,660	UM	K4HZ	14,872	UM	W9XA	301,576	UM	N0SZ	150,570	UM	N5CR	19,178	LM
KV1J	186,714	UM	W4AAQ	1,725	UM	VE3WCC	141,372	UM	KC5MVZ	8,520	UM	NN7AZ	2,688	LM

Categories: LM = Limited Multioperator; R = Classic Rover; RL = Limited Rover; RU = Unlimited Rover; SO3B = Single Operator, Three-Band; SOFM = Single Operator, FM Only; SOHP = Single Operator, High Power; SOLP = Single Operator, Low Power; SOP = Single Operator, Portable; UM = Unlimited Multioperator

With good 6-meter propagation to the upper midwest and seven more bands with good numbers, Bob, K2DRH, took first place in the SOLP category by a considerable margin, thanks in part to the increased microwave activity contributed by AC0RA/R and the Northern Lights Radio Society (NLRS) rover pack. For the first time since the SOLP category was initiated, 464K was also the highest score of any Single Operator category.

Year after year, the Single Operator, High Power (SOHP) category attracts the “big guns” of VHF contesting. The top SOHP spot this year goes to an operator who put together a big contest station in Wisconsin over 20 years ago and has been a major player in the upper midwest with many Top 10 finishes ever since. Great 6-meter propagation, plus

the influx of more microwave-carrying rovers in the area, helped Paul, W0UC, attain an excellent grid total of 324 and claw his way to the top of the heap this year with 365K. Paul is very active in the NLRS and publishes an activity spreadsheet on the web for area stations every contest, as well as the real-time Upper Midwest VHF spotting page, available at www.w0uc.com/spots.html.

The Single Operator, Portable category stations are harder to hear with QRP, as well as contending with restricted access, unfriendly authorities, and challenging weather when hauling their stations to their favorite hill or mountaintop. Chris, NV4B, has been contesting from Woodall Mountain in Mississippi, but found a new spot on Town Hill in Alabama at about the same elevation. That

turned out to be the charm that he needed to take first place this year. Chris started an hour and a half late due to a thunderstorm and had some equipment difficulties that were handily offset with good 6-meter openings to post a score of 13K. Chris also posted a golden log with no errors or score reductions.

This is the fourth year for the two new Single Operator categories. In Single Operator, Three-Band (SO3B), the Top Five were distributed all around the country and, surprisingly, none were from the northeast. Dan, K1TO (WCF), a three-time WRTC champion bitten by the 6-meter bug, had his way with the 6-meter E_s to rack up the top score in this category this year. Dan's 6-meter-only effort netted him 858 QSOs in 154 grids for a score of 132K and a new Southeast Division

Division Winners by Class

Division	Call	Score	Division	Call	Score
Classic Rover			Single Operator, Portable		
Atlantic	K2TER/R (+KV2X)	78,207	Atlantic	K6PFA	640
Central	W9SNR/R	29,920	Hudson	WB2AMU	4,472
Dakota	W0ZQ/R	51,198	Midwest	N0JK	3,795
Delta	AG4V/R	44,036	New England	N1PRW	693
Great Lakes	KF8QL/R	41,376	Northwestern	W4DVE	2,200
Hudson	K2JWK	90	Pacific	W6KKO	3,003
Midwest	AC0RA/R	139,944	Roanoke	N4ZAK	378
Northwestern	KE7MSU/R	8,374	Rocky Mountain	K0NR	455
Pacific	KE6QR	16,483	Southeastern	NV4B	13,288
Roanoke	K8GP/R (K1RA, W8ZN, ops)	305,760	Southwestern	A16EA	4,559
Rocky Mountain	N5ZGT	9	West Gulf	N1HOB	6
Southeastern	K4SME/R (+N2CEI)	61,401	Canada	VE3LWV/P	270
West Gulf	KT5TE	13,800	Single Operator, Three-Band		
Canada	VE3OIL/R	112,578	Atlantic	K3UHU	17,100
Limited Rover			Central	KB9IZ	9,360
Atlantic	K2QO/R (+W2TAU)	54,934	Dakota	KB0HNN	8,701
Central	K9ILT/R	7,056	Delta	N4OGW	66,495
Delta	WA5KBH/R	1,292	Great Lakes	AE8M	26,226
Great Lakes	K8DOG/R	5,562	Hudson	W2JTM	7,245
Hudson	K2EZ/R	24,984	Midwest	WD0BGZ	49,539
Midwest	WK7G	7,200	New England	K1VUT	10,710
New England	W1RGA/R	7,722	Northwestern	K7BG	34,809
Northwestern	WW7D/R	42,834	Pacific	K7XC	6,435
Roanoke	KS4S/R	14,280	Roanoke	KK4MA	34,272
Rocky Mountain	KK6MC/R (+N5SJ)	20,274	Rocky Mountain	K4UB	6,517
Southeastern	NL7CO/R	110	Southeastern	K1TO	132,132
Southwestern	N6GP/R	8,802	Southwestern	KE7GRO	28,842
West Gulf	KD5EUO/R	58,968	West Gulf	AD5A	66,150
Canada	VE3SMA/R (+VE3RZ)	63,376	Canada	VA2NQ	19,320
Unlimited Rover			Single Operator, FM Only		
Atlantic	W3HMS	5,580	Atlantic	K3BLF	1
Central	W9YQY/R	10,896	Dakota	AD0MJ	16
Midwest	W0ZF/R (+K0BBC, AE0EE)	20,962	Northwestern	KE7KQA	1
New England	KJ1K/R (+WB2VVQ)	8,568	Pacific	K16JJW	1,215
Northwestern	WE7X/R	16,590	Roanoke	K2JB	186
Pacific	K6EU/R	17,040	Rocky Mountain	KG5FHU	6
Southwestern	K6VHF/R (+W6BVB, WY6DX)	14,112	Southeastern	KK4OSG	6,976
West Gulf	KD5IKG	7,938	Southwestern	NA6AA	129
Single Operator, High Power			Limited Multioperator		
Atlantic	K1RZ	219,387	Atlantic	W3SO	255,524
Central	W0UC	364,500	Central	NV9L	130,788
Dakota	WD0T	171,216	Dakota	N0EO	80,214
Delta	W5ZN	277,173	Delta	WN2E	41,080
Great Lakes	WA8RJF	62,271	Great Lakes	N8ZM	184,386
Hudson	N2GHR	56,440	Hudson	N2NT	277,907
Midwest	KM0T	135,240	New England	W1QK	80,480
New England	K1TR	217,012	Northwestern	K7TM	29,440
Northwestern	K7CW	75,604	Roanoke	AA4ZZ	344,226
Pacific	WA6OSX	10,850	Rocky Mountain	W0FRC	4,004
Roanoke	K4RW	74,816	Southeastern	W4NH	134,784
Rocky Mountain	W9RM	244,713	Southwestern	KW7MM	138,627
Southeastern	N4WW	218,550	West Gulf	K5QE	629,241
Southwestern	N7CW	43,155	Canada	VA3RKM	48
West Gulf	W5PR	233,584	Unlimited Multioperator		
Canada	VE9AA	126,608	Atlantic	W3CCX	560,170
DX	EA8DBM	40,916	Central	W9XA	301,576
Single Operator, Low Power			Delta	N4JQQ	20,079
Atlantic	N3RN	56,030	Midwest	WQ0P	195,999
Central	K2DRH	463,939	New England	W2SZ	830,720
Dakota	WB0HHM	46,843	Northwestern	K7VHF	53,820
Delta	N4QWZ	65,676	Pacific	K6HS	34,498
Great Lakes	WZ8T	21,483	Roanoke	K4HZ	14,872
Hudson	WB2JAY	70,840	Rocky Mountain	N0SZ	150,570
Midwest	N0LL	125,883	Southeastern	W4UAL	52,705
New England	AF1T	266,160	Southwestern	N6KN	31,248
Northwestern	KE0CO	10,192	West Gulf	K5TR	311,922
Pacific	K2GMY	22,080	Canada	VE3WCC	141,372
Roanoke	KJ4ZYB	12,810	DX	T43S	2,146
Rocky Mountain	A15I	40,166			
Southeastern	N4OX	98,840			
Southwestern	WA7JTM	83,248			
West Gulf	K15YG	59,400			
Canada	VE1WOW	93,285			
DX	XE2X	8,777			

Multioperators

The Unlimited Multioperators (UM) make QSOs from 6 meters to daylight and some, like W2SZ, are always pushing the limits of the technology on the microwave bands. Multioperator categories provide a place where folks without a station can have the fun of operating while enjoying the company of other hams who also enjoy VHF contesting.

The K5QE juggernaut from the STX flatlands pulled way ahead of the pack to win the Limited Multioperator (LM) category for the fourth year in a row. While not only having some of the best 6-meter numbers of the contest, they continue to best the competition on 2 meter and 432 MHz EME, even attempting 222 MHz EME. They amassed an astronomical grid total of 411 on the bottom four bands for a final score of 629K.

Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force, W2SZ, posted their 26th June VHF win in the UM category with 830K, the only top station to post a score lower than last year. While their 6-meter numbers were disappointing considering the great conditions that most of the northeast enjoyed, their 2-meter, 222, and 432 totals were the best of the test. Additionally, their microwave totals were considerably down from last year.

Rovers

Rovers make the contest even more fun and keep things interesting when the bands are flat. Antennas can run the gamut from simple loops to multiple Yagis on rotating masts that rival a home station. Classic Rovers (R) can bring as many bands as the multioperators to multiple locations and the grid multipliers start to flow. It's very encouraging that the number of Classic Rovers is actually increasing, and the other rover categories are holding their own. The new rule changes make it even easier to find them, too.

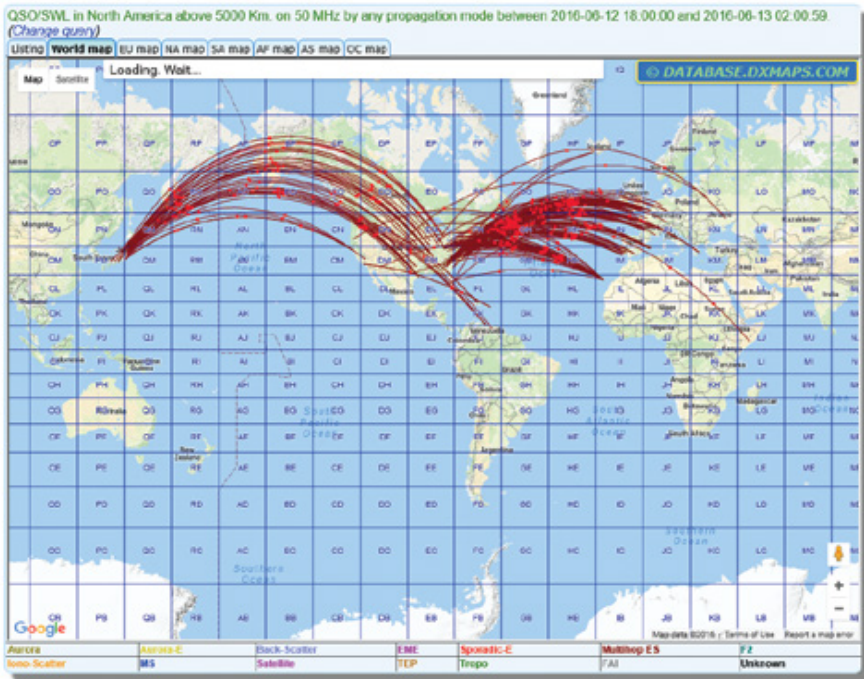
Steve, VE3SMA/R, lightened his load from previous years and downsized to the Limited Rover category (RL) this year on a seven-grid rove with a goal to break the Canadian RL record. He took Tony, VE3RZ, with him to run 6 meters as he drove and worked the other bands. They wound up not only shattering that record by putting in a score of 63K, but placed first in the category.

In the Classic Rover category (R), Grid Pirates Terry, W8ZN, and Andy, K1RA, returned with the K8GP/R, bigger and badder than ever. They roved five grids in the Roanoke Division up in the mountains with 10 bands, and the results were spectacular. Their amazing totals on both 6 and 2 meters netted a final score of 306K. Their rove is

record. Dan was also thrilled to work JA7QVI for his first JA on 6 meters.

Entries in the Single Operator, FM (SOFM) category have tended to cluster around the population centers, and the Top Five have QSOs on all of the bottom four bands. Additionally, four of them turned in golden

logs with no mistakes — must be the high-fidelity audio. The scores are definitely going up. This year, one operator reached the 100-QSO level on 2 meters — no mean feat for any single operator. This top score in the SOFM category was submitted by Georgia station Ryan, KK4OSG, with a 7K golden log.



Sorting for QSOs over 5000 kilometers during Sunday afternoon's 6-meter openings yielded these amazing maps. [Maps courtesy of dxmaps.com]

chronicled with fantastic graphics and pictures on their web page, at www.k1ra.us/roving/k1ra-k8gp-rover-arri-june-vhf-2016.

The Unlimited Rover (RU) category encourages multiple operators, unlimited bands, pack roving, and grid circling to rack up massive scores while still being fair to the Classic Rovers. Dave, WØZF/R; Matt, KØBBC, and Bill, AEØEE, joined the RU ranks with the NLRs rover pack on the bottom four bands on an eight-grid trail through the Midwest Division. Their efforts produced a first-place score of 21K that tripled the old division record of 7K.

Epilogue

Most of us finally got what we were hoping for this year — some big 6-meter propagation. Success requires a balance. Contesters have to adjust their actions to match the conditions and their situations — and that's what makes this contest truly great. So join us again next year on June 10 and 11 and let's see what we get!



K8GP/R early on Sunday morning. Now that's a rover's dream vehicle! [Andy Zwirko, K1RA, photo]

Strays

A Member from Afar

Last year the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society (RSARS) gathered at the National Hamfest near Newark-On-Trent, England. Members come from considerable distances, but perhaps none as far as Rick Harris, AI5P, who flew 4,900 miles from Albuquerque, New Mexico to enjoy the event. To show their appreciation for what he does for RSARS, Rick was presented with an award by RSARS Vice President Jim Heck, G3WGM (shown at right in the accompanying photo). [Bryan Downes, MØOIC, photo]

