

Results of the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY JOHN LINDHOLM,* W1XX

"Six meters sounded more like 20 meters on a Saturday night." — K300

"Best 6-meter E-skip contest ever!" — KN4SM

"Awesome double hop on 6 meters." — N7EPD

"This will be one for the record books. Six meters sounded like the CQ WW DX Contest." — W2MMD

What makes a good VHF contest? Answer: QSOs, QSOs, and more QSOs. Back in the good ole days of VHF contesting, it took a rather technically competent individual to even be able to get on any VHF bands. These folks were not usually the best operators, but they won the VHF contests because they had the best stations. That has not been so for many years now. Today, having 6- and 2-meter capability is no more challenging than putting together your typical HF station. In years past, such individuals were disparagingly referred to as *appliance operators*. With today's dearth of homebrew equipment, most of us are now in that category. Band capability above the "bottom two" does, however, require an increment of more know-how and a significantly larger dollar investment. Therefore, contesting on the two lower VHF bands is somewhat analogous to HF contesting. For most VHF contesters, that is just fine. Thus, we see the tremendous popularity of the CQ WW VHF Contest. It's a contest for contesters, attracting both the serious and the casual operators. Such went the dissertation of the "Old Timer" at the annual Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI) meeting devoted to a review of the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest. This time there was much to crow about!

To lend historical perspective to North American VHF contesting, Curt Roseman, K9AKS, cartographer for the very first and subsequent published grid locator maps in North America, was introduced as the newly appointed CQ VHF Contest *historian*. In this important capacity, Curt is now generating contest records for posting on the contest website: <www.

cqww-vhf.com>. He had a great deal to say about the July 16–17, 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest.

All North American VHF Contest Records Shattered

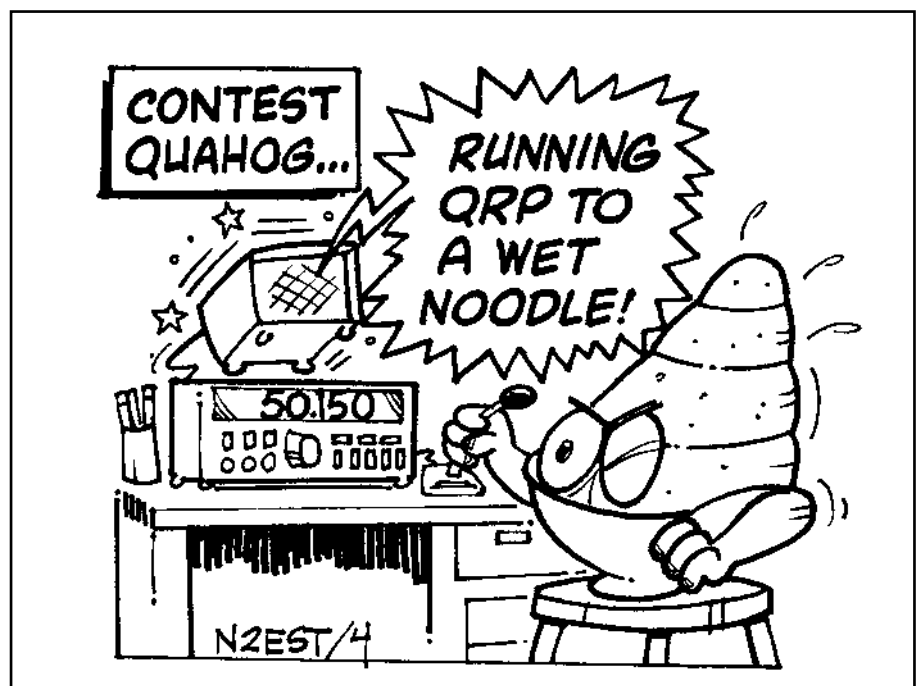
The big story of this contest was the widespread and long-lasting opening on 6 meters that produced record scores in many parts of North America, including most areas east of the Rockies.

A look at the top ten lists of scores, as well as 6-meter QSOs and grids worked, shows the widespread nature of the opening. In the Single Op All Band (SOAB) and Single Op Single Band 6-meter (SOSB6) categories, scores exceeding 198K were made in eight U.S. call areas, the exception being the 6th and 7th districts. The same pattern was true for stations working 220 or more grids on 6.

The big opening drove scores much higher than ever attained in this contest, which dates back to Y2K. Before 2006, the highest single operator score ever attained was 212,952 posted by K2DRH (IL) in 2003 during heightened conditions. This year, seven all-band entrants and two 6-meter-only stations exceeded that score. In the multi-op category, two scores exceed the previous massive 2003 score



The CQ WW VHF Contest continued its strong showing in Thailand with 43 log entries. Here 2005 single-op single-band 2-meter plaque winner for Asia, Nattida, E20YGG (right), receives the congratulations of the immediate past president of the Radio Society of Thailand, Mayuree, HS1YL (left).



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KU4BP/4 used this effective antenna setup for his hilltopper station along the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, EM96kk. QRP portable for just six hours, Ed made 86 QSOs with a multiplier of 51 to earn a certificate.

of 459K by W3ZZ. K3EAR set the new mark at 642,400 points, followed by K8GP with 531,508.

The once elusive goal of working 1000 station on 6 meters in a North American VHF contest was first reached in 1996 by two stations in the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. The addition of 6 meters to numerous commercial HF rigs had given a boost to 6-meter activity. Presently, a total of 25 stations have exceeded that total, with seven of those in the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest (and K8GP just missed the mark with 999 QSOs!). The highest previous 6-meter QSO total in the July CQ contest was 789, worked by multi-op W3ZZ (WV) in 2003.

Six-meter grid totals were equally, if not more, impressive. Prior to this contest, the highest grid total on 6 meters in a North American contest was achieved by K5JL (279) in the June 1987 ARRL contest. This July, the three highest totals ever were posted in the CQ contest: K3EAR (303), K8GP (295), and K2DRH (288). Also, five out of the eight highest totals ever were reached in this contest, including SOSB6 winner K1TOL at 273 and multi-op W3SO at 270.

The 1421 QSOs made by K2DRH and the 303 grids worked by K3EAR in the 2006 CQ contest both represent all-time highs for any North American contest. It is especially remarkable that these totals were made in a contest that lasts only 27 hours, compared to the longer 33-hour ARRL format. Imagine what kind of scores might have been reached had this July's contest continued for another six hours!

Some other notable accomplishments: The Single Op Single Band 2-meter (SOSB2) category was not heavily populated. No doubt the temptation to stay on 6 meters was too much to resist for most people. Nonetheless, the second highest

score ever in this category (16,794) was posted by W4WJF in North Carolina. The record high remains 40,880, reached by his dad, W4GRW, in 2003. The previous QRP record score of 33,245 by NØURW, also in 2003, was obliterated by KA1LMR, who racked up 112,288 points operating portable from a 1000-ft. hilltop in New Hampshire (and putting modesty aside, by K9AKS who scored 88K from Illinois).

With all the attention being paid to 6 meters in North America, it is easy to overlook some good 2-meter conditions that prevailed in the upper Midwest Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Nine of the top ten stations on the list of 2-meter grids worked are in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, or Illinois. In spite of the 6-meter draw, score leader K2DRH still far outdistanced other 2-meter rivals with 260 Qs, while seven out of the top ten 2-meter Q totals were registered in the Great Lakes region. See the Hepburn index for Saturday, reproduced here, to see why this was so. Could it have been any better for K2DRH?

The statistics indicate that a strong case can be made for declaring the 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest to be the *greatest* North American VHF contest ever.

Hoopla ensued from the assembled quahog contesting contingent, as K9AKS concluded his remarks.

Was It Just Conditions?

Why were so many stations in North America worked? Was it just conditions? Surely many jumped in upon noting the superb and long-lasting propagation. However, that doesn't explain the *preparation* made prior to the contest by rover stations, which increased by 75% over the previous year; by Hilltoppers who increased by 82%; the entries of mega-mul-

TOP SCORES	
WORLD	
All Band	Hilltopper
NP3CW .....37,281	HG2006GYR...1,938
DL2OM.....23,040	HA5CQZ/P .....1,560
	HS9EOW.....1,210
	VA7MM .....1,196
6 Meters	QRP
W4TAA/VE3 154,780	M3RCV .....5,060
VP9GE .....60,792	9A3TU .....1,276
EA2ARD .....39,501	JA2MWW .....1,104
CT1EGH.....36,540	
EB1EHT .....33,750	Rover
EB1EWE .....28,112	VE3CRU.....79,002
Z36W.....19,698	VE5UF.....37,680
EA1WX.....13,708	
G4DEZ .....11,100	Multi-Op
ZC4LI .....10,624	OK1KIM.....263,252
	CQ3A .....85,070
2 Meters	OK1KDO .....20,520
DK5DQ .....59,422	TA3KC.....17,388
OK1WMM.....25,760	GØBRC.....13,640
DR2006E.....18,330	HS6RMY .....9,920
HS6RMY .....9,920	HØ3KUI .....10,218
ON6NL .....8,970	OK1KVK .....10,218
	USA
All Band	KV1J .....6,726
K2DRH.....700,701	KU4BP/4 .....4,998
K1TEO .....348,036	KØNR .....3,078
KB8U .....299,766	K4JSI .....2,160
W1XX.....284,325	
N3HBX .....229,977	QRP
NØVZJ.....229,360	KA1LMR .....112,288
WØEEA .....219,072	K9AKS .....88,400
K4EA.....198,843	WVØH .....31,644
KC9BQA .....163,737	KE2N .....27,300
NØURW .....150,903	WB2SIH .....15,925
	N8XA .....14,976
6 Meters	K5RX .....11,310
K1TOL .....358,449	
W6OAL .....242,424	Rover
W2MMD.....200,718	NØDQS .....219,324
NW5E .....199,888	K9JK .....172,542
W5PR .....189,006	W4VHF .....119,259
WD5K .....180,544	WB8BZK .....115,434
NN1N .....161,805	N9TTX .....103,452
W1QK .....155,036	N4DXY .....75,684
N4MM .....141,102	
K7RE .....104,664	
	2 Meters
2 Meters	W4WJF .....16,974
W4WJF .....16,974	W3ADC .....10,152
W3ADC .....10,152	N9TF .....9,718
N9TF .....9,718	
	Hilltopper
Hilltopper	KFØQ .....18,180
KFØQ .....18,180	

tis K3EAR, K8GP, K5QE, and W3SO; and the many stations operating portable at mountaintop and other better-than-home locations. These all require planning and commitment. Kudos to the big multis for sparking operating interest in passers-by stations. Could it be that the simple two-band format of CQ is being recognized by the vast majority of VHFers as a viable competitive alternative to DC-to-light affairs? These questions were presented for discussion by a long-time VHF contester, with the consensus being that with the 2006 running, the CQ WW VHF Contest had "arrived" in the eyes of a large segment of the normally silent VHF community.

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Hilltopper KF0Q

By Matt Burt, KF0Q

This year was my first attempt operating the QRP Hilltopper category. The CQ WW VHF test is always fun and the Hilltopper category sounded great to me. The 6-hour maximum operating time really adds a twist as well. So which 6-hour span is the best? With the heat and such I decided that setting up on Saturday night would be good and that way I could operate in the morning while it would be cool for at least a few hours. The Hepburn forecast also indicated that Sunday might favor better conditions, so Sunday it was.

I spent Saturday in preparation, but by afternoon reports were coming in about how great conditions were. Had I miscalculated? Rather than dwelling on missed-out fun, I remained focused on preparation. At 7 PM local I went up to a knoll in a hay field, which was the chosen operating location, to find a quite pleasant 82 degrees and a nice breeze. With the 5-element 6-meter and 12-element 2-meter Yagis up on a push-up mast, I returned home for a good night's sleep.

Sunday morning I returned with the rigs, deep-cycle batteries, and plenty of bottled water in my air-conditioned SUV, ready to go. It really didn't make a bit of difference when I

started, as 6 meters was wide open and Qs were going in the log within seconds of turning on the rig.

I started slugging it out on 6 with other stations (some QRP as well), calling CQ and getting as many as four Qs per minute! While searching and pouncing, it was evident the band was open in all directions. Farthest grid was FK68! I jumped up to 144 MHz every time someone stole my frequency on 6 to log a few Qs there. There were some great 2-meter signals from ENs 37, 52, 63, 71 and EM39. Although conditions seemed pretty darn good on 2, I think most stations favored the mayhem on the Magic band.

The incredible conditions on 6 were almost unimaginable. Typically, I see the band open to the east or west, but I was able to work stations in almost any direction all the way up to 50.300 with QRP power! Results? On 6 meters I netted 78 grid multipliers and 12 on 144 with 35 states and provinces worked on 6 meters in 359 minutes of operating. The Hilltopper category is unique to the CQ VHF Contest and not hard to do. Try it...it's fun!

(Matt earned a plaque for his fine effort—ed.)

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
W4TAA/VE3	.....710	OK1WMR	.....230
VP9GE	.....447	DR2006E	.....195
CT1EGH	.....315		
EA2ARD	.....297	144 MHz	
NP3CW	.....285	OK1KIM	.....588
EB1EHT	.....270	HS1ASC	.....395
EB1EWE	.....251	HS3KUI	.....393
Z36W	.....201	HS7ZUW	.....373
		E21LYC	.....353
		HS4DDQ	.....305
		E21WRI	.....337
		HS6RMY	.....248
		HS1LLT	.....322
		HS9KSX	.....231
		HS0IAQ	.....308

USA

USA Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K2DRH	.....1,421	N0URW	.....110
K1TOL	.....1,313	KC9BQA	.....98
K1TEO	.....1,085	N0VZJ	.....92
W6OAL	.....1,036	K1TEO	.....88
W1XX	.....1,031		
W0EEA	.....962	144 MHz	
NW5E	.....961	K3EAR	.....1,150
WD5K	.....868	K5QE	.....1,042
W5PR	.....867	K8GP	.....999
N3HBX	.....865	W3SO	.....858
		N2BJ	.....495
		K2AA	.....373
		WA1Z	.....329
		144 MHz	
K2DRH	.....260	K3EAR	.....305
W4WJF	.....207	K8GP	.....247
KB8U	.....154	W3SO	.....161
N9DG	.....145	K5QE	.....160
W3ADC	.....141	N2BJ	.....112
N9TF	.....113		

Interestingly, N0URW offered some revealing commentary as to why 6 meters to some was a bottomless pit of QSOs. With a station that can easily be classified as a mega-station, Dan's big 6-meter antennas were stuck on west with a broken rotor. Thus, rather than push for a big score, he surveyed each station worked for a brief rundown of power and antennas. He found there was a huge number of HF stations that tuned up whatever antenna they had to work stations coast to coast. Everyone had conditions on 6 that supported long-distance contacts no matter what the power or antenna. For example, K5RX was "a 6 meters only operation with all contacts made with a borrowed FT-817 with just 2 watts output to an 80-meter inverted-V up 90 feet. Of course, lots of stations did not hear me, but 145 (!) did." It was Jim's "first time on 6 meters in 30 years." Generally, the HF + 6 radios really made their presence known, more so than ever before. Upon getting a taste of 6-meter magic, how many will now proceed to get more efficient antennas? Hopefully, many!

DX

The CQ WW VHF is *the* worldwide VHF contest activity. DX log entries show continued growth in activity, as noted by HA2MN: "Enjoyable contest with growing activity. CU next year." And QRP winner M3RCV: "My first participation in CQ WW VHF. Was pleased to make 83 QSOs. Best DX on 6 meters was CQ3A and worked an EA7 on 2-meter Es."



VHF contesting runs in this family. Eighteen-year-old Josh Fisher, W4WJF, successfully defended his USA SOSB2 title with a second-place all-time record of 207 Qs in 41 grids for 33K points, thus earning his second plaque. His dad Bill, W4GRW, still holds the record from 2003 at 40K points.

Six-meter propagation was not so kind to Europe, as noted by multi-op winner OK1KIM: "As the propagation gods were nice to NA, they almost omitted us. We rebuilt our monster 2-meter array, but activity was about as expected. Overall an 11% reduction in score, but we'll be in there again in 2007."

Other top DX scores were made by NP3CW in SOAB, W4TAA/VE3 in SOSB6, and DK5DQ, four-time consecutive SOSB2 winner. Logs received showed a modest double-digit increase in the number of DX countries represented, including two countries in Africa, four in Asia, and two in South America. As a member of the CQ WW family of contests, the CQ VHF continues to gain recognition, with a prominent place on the operating calendar.

Hilltoppers

Hilltopper stations came into their own in this contest. For the uninitiated, a Hilltopper station operates portable away from home with QRP power for a maximum of 6 hours. This obviates the need for overnight provisions and generators (although they are permitted), and leaves time to observe nature at its finest. The entrants tell it best:

"The Hilltopper category was just what I needed this year, with a tight personal schedule. Operated from Mt. Evans (CO) at 14,2634 feet. Great 6-meter opening." —KØNR. "This 'hilltopper' operated from the flat lands of Texas in EL28 with a battery-operated K2 and XV50 transverter at 10 watts. Antenna was a homebrew dipole elevated to 24 feet on a DK9SQ fiberglass mast." —KN5G. "Operated from a Lake Michigan campground in EN76 using a Stressed Moxon on 6 meters on a push-up pole for about one hour using a 10 D-cell battery pack." —N8ZLR. There were even comments from DX stations: "Oper-

"Our ZL8R team turned out over 40,000 QSOs in just over a week...."
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Mirek Rozlinski, VK6DXI

ZL8R Team

Bernie Pflander, HB9ASZ

Michael Mraz, N6MZ

"I can't imagine a better DXpedition rig than the IC-7000! Thanks to its great performance and legendary Icom reliability, our ZL8R team turned out over 40,000 QSOs in just over a week of round-the-clock operating from Raoul Island in the Kermadecs. The rigs never missed a beat! The best part was that we fit all six IC-7000s along with their Icom power supplies and auto-antenna tuners in just a few small padded cases! Thanks Icom!"

— Michael Mraz, N6MZ

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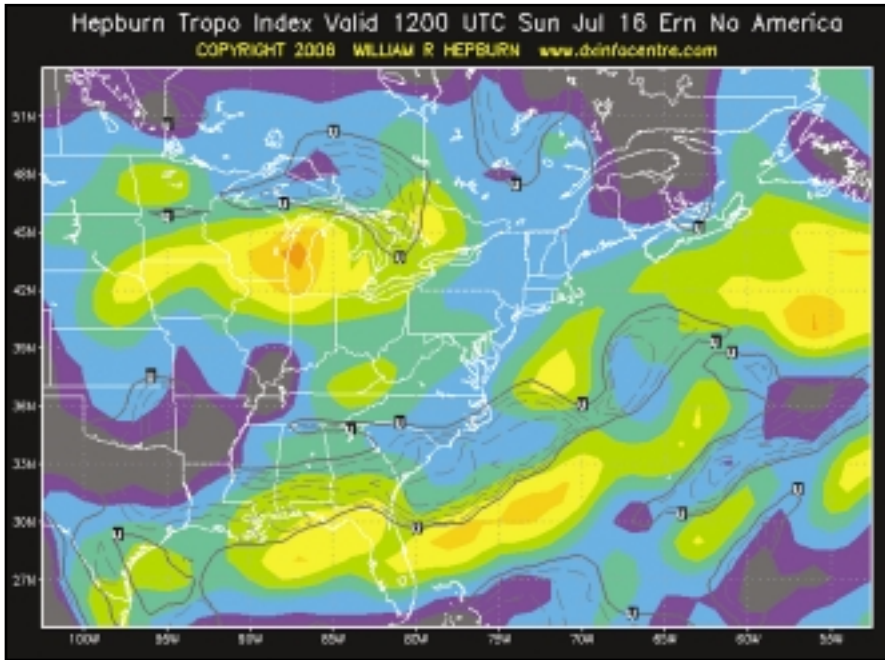
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Great 2-meter enhancement was also experienced by many stations in the Midwest states of MI, WI, IL, and IN. The Hepburn Tropospheric Ducting Forecast for the Saturday of the contest showed an index of 7, "intense," over the Lake Michigan area. See <<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>>. (Printed with credit to the original source, William Hepburn)

ated portable in a tent from a Norwegian National Mountain Park at 1300 meters asl.—LA3DV. "High winds do not make it easy to stay a long time on a 2000-meter high mountain. But that's the way hilltoppers like it."—OE1CWA/3 (*That's priceless, Christian!*—ed.).

Eighteen certificates were earned by hilltoppers worldwide, with KF0Q earning top USA honors with an impressive 18K points, and HG2006GYR top DX score with a shade under 2K points.

Rovers

With just two bands to operate (and many opted for just 6 meters), a competitive rover station does not have to be a replica of the "Batmobile." Simple Moxons and loops seem to be the antennas of choice, with traveling to rare grid squares a common theme. A GPS receiver is a must. Home stations need not obsess about shadowing rovers, as they often find you.

Rover activity mushroomed in the 2006 contest, as those with home operating restrictions or sub-par locations took to the open road. A surprising result was that six-time rover champion W4VHF was displaced by N0DQS with 219K points hitting five squares, and K9JK second with 172K.

Contest Management

CQRI members recognize the team effort it takes to bring this contest to you. The CQ VHF flies under the familiar banner of the CQ WW family of contests. Under the stew-

ardship of NC1C, all logs submitted were processed by VHFSCAPE (VHF scores for Contest Adjudication, Post Entry) and produced these overall impressive numbers: Number of log entries 565, topping last year's record mark by 86%; 97,331 total claimed QSOs, up a whopping 216%; total number of stations active 13,465, up 35%; number of grids activated 888, up 34%. Error rates actually dropped over the previous year: invalid or "not in log" 0.9%; dups (claimed as valid) 0.3%; "busted" calls 1.3%; overall error rate at just 2.7%. Kudos to entrants on keeping clean logs and submitting them in Cabrillo format.

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND

WORLD

Single-Op	
50 MHz	DL2OM.....46
	ON6NL.....39
W4TAA/VE3.....218	
VP9GE.....136	
EA2ARD.....133	Multi-Op
NP3CW.....128	50 MHz
EB1EHT.....125	CQ3A.....165
CT1EGH.....116	OK1KIM.....97
EB1EWE.....112	TA3KC.....68
	144 MHz
144 MHz	OK1KIM.....96
DK5DQ.....73	OK1KDO.....41
OK1WMR.....56	OK1KVK.....39
DR2006E.....47	G0BRC.....35

USA

Single-Op		N0GZ.....39
50 MHz		KC9BQA.....36
K2DRH.....288		
K1TOL.....273	Multi-Op	
K1TEO.....247	50 MHz	
N3HBX.....244	K3EAR.....303	
W2MMD.....243	K8GP.....295	
W1XX.....237	W3SO.....270	
W6OAL.....234	K5QE.....237	
N4MM.....234	N2BJ.....145	
KB8U.....228	K2AA.....138	
W0EEA.....220	WA1Z.....116	
	K2OAK.....106	
144 MHz	K2LDT.....96	
K2DRH.....73	NN4RR.....90	
N9DG.....57		
KB8U.....54	144 MHz	
N0URW.....45	K3EAR.....62	
N9TF.....43	K8GP.....61	
W4WJF.....41	W3SO.....48	
N0VZJ.....39	K5QE.....42	
K9AKS.....39	N2BJ.....40	

Thanks also to WA7BNM for CabForms, which allows on-line post entry.

Other team members recognized for their valuable contributions include the following who assisted in international publicity of the contest dates and rules: UR5ECE, PY2ZX, OK1RI, OZ7IS, E21EIC, and others who did so unrecognized. For the 2007 contest, the publicity

2006 PLAQUE WINNERS

Single Operator

USA All Band: Bob Striegl, K2DRH. Donor: Ted & Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF & K4LVV
USA 6 Meters: Lefty Clement, K1TOL. Donor: John Kitchens, NS6S
USA 2 Meters: Josh Fisher, W4WJF. Donor: Ariane Arrays, Inc.
USA QRP: Christopher M. Merchant, KA1LMR. Donor: Bob Witte, K0NR
USA Hilltopper: Matt Burt, KF0Q. Donor: anonymous, in memory of Edward P. Tilton, W1HDQ
World All Band: Julio Medina, NP3CW. Donor: The Badger Contesters
World 6 Meters: Bill Brown, W4TAA/VE3. Donor: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV/6
World 2 Meters: Nicolas Exner, DK5DQ. Donor: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU
Asia 2 Meters: Bunknite Tingitviboonkun, HS6RMY. Donor: Golden Kilowatt Council in memory of Hans D. Hollstein, HS0/KA3TDZ

Multi-Operator

USA: South Mountain Contest Club, K3EAR. Donor: Bob Striegl, K2DRH
World: Radioklub OK1KIM. Donor: Grid Pirates, K8GP
Thailand: Kasetsart University ARC, HS3KUI. Donor: Siam DX Group

Rover

USA: Gene Mitchell, N0DQS. Donor: W3SO, Wopsonnock Mountaintop Operators
World: Bill Burgess, VE3CRU. Donor: CT RI Contest Group

team expands to include EA7KW, G0LCS, G4DEZ, and HI3TEJ.

Auto log processing has developed under the expertise of NC1C, who now wishes to step back from these responsibilities. A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Dave for seeing us through the formative years of the CQ VHF Contest. Steve, N8BJQ, of CQ WW WPX Contest experience (and who now heads up CQ's WPX Award program), will be stepping into the breach with assistance from K9JK and NS6X.

2007 CQ VHF Contest

Nearing the close of the 2006 review and the CQRI meeting, contest director W1XX delivered some well-chosen words. The 2007 edition of CQ VHF Contest is scheduled for July 21–22. The full announcement will appear in the June issue of CQ, on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com), and on the contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com).

The contest took a tremendous leap forward in recognition with the enhanced NA conditions experienced in 2006. We need to advance from that point in providing a fun, competitive VHF event, continuing to appeal to mainstream 6- and 2-meter operators. In Europe, we continue to face strong competition for room on the VHF operating calendar. With local publicists in place, the CQ VHF Contest can tap even further the vast resource of EU stations, especially on 2 meters. Inroads to further activity in Africa, Asia, and South America need to develop, as well as an initial step in Oceania.

An admonition to North American ops: We won't always see the widespread 6-meter enhancement of 2006. However, there continues to be a vast supply of often quiet 2-meter stations in most parts of North America that used to be contest active in the late 1980s. Make it happen again. Don't neglect 2 meters. Fill the ether with 144-MHz RF and we all shall be rewarded. Thanks to all for your support of this contest!

Thereupon the Contest Quahogs filed out to the parking lot for an antenna-gain measuring contest. 73, John, W1XX

QRM

Amazing 6-meter conditions and excellent operating made for a great event . . . **AD4IE**. Fine contest, the first for me on 6 meters. Will do more in the future . . . **CT1DRB**. This contest had the best 6-meter opening I've seen in many years. It was great! . . . **K2EVW**. It was great to see both 2 and 6 meters open. I had a lot of fun . . . **K0RU**. What an exciting contest. With 100 watts and a loop at 30 feet for 6 meters, I worked 78 grids and even heard more but couldn't always break the pile-ups. Worked VE3CRU/R in three grids. The N1MM Logger rate summary showed one 60-minute run of 58 QSOs/hour—not bad for 100 watts and a loop . . . **K3IXD**. The single and double hop E-skip made this a great contest. My barefoot FT-817 and



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small Yagis did just fine. I wish there had been more activity on 2 meters, as there was some sporadic-E there as well . . . **K4JSI**. Great contest, great opening. Don't you love it when the two coincide!? My first effort in this contest . . . **K5JMP**. A couple of good openings, although apparently not quite as long as some other parts of the country. Thanks to the California stations on 2 meters . . . **K7TOP**. I think I worked more W6/W7 stations on 6 on Saturday than in my previous 40+ years of operating . . . **K8MR**.

Wow, what a great contest! Most grids worked in a VHF contest . . . **K9GY**. One of the best openings on 6 meters I have worked in a contest . . . **KA1LMR**. This was my first VHF contest and I had a blast. I can't wait till the next one . . . **KB3NDS**. Fantastic! Wonderful condition on 6 meters. Best I've heard in years. Worked 114 grids running only 35 watts! . . . **KB8UJZ**. Was great fun. First contest operating QRP. Rig was a Yaesu FT-817 and 2.5 watts into a Par loop antenna . . . **K9AXZ**. This was the first VHF contest I ever operated from my home QTH in DM12jt, 400 feet asl, about 7 miles from the Pacific Ocean and 35 miles north of the Mexican border. After picking up locals in and around southern California, started scanning up from 50.125 to discover there was long single- and even double-hop traffic to the northeast. There were only a few stations moving the S-meter, but they were perfectly readable. It sounded like the stations on the east coast were having a blast. If you didn't know you were on 6, you would have sworn you were on 20 instead. Ended up with fewer contacts than usual, but more grid squares due to the opening on 6, so the score was actually higher than in 2005. Thanks as always for hosting this, and we'll see you next year . . . **KG6IYN**. Great conditions on 6 meters to all over the USA and Caribbean. Working FM5JC was the highlight of the contest . . . **KI7JA**. Great pile-ups on 6 and 2 meters. It's great for everybody who have 6 and 2 meters and can join the fun . . . **N0DQS**. Signals on 6 meters were S9+60 all day Saturday. And 2 meters was open until at least midnight! . . . **N0EDV**. Great contest, lots of fun. Only got to activate three grids, but got my first inter-continental DX in the log, as well as my first contact with Puerto Rico . . . **N1KPW**.

One of the best ever VHF contests for me on 6 meters in 25 years of VHF contesting . . . **N0KE**. Ran 500 watts to a MonstIR at 60 feet on a West Virginia ridge-top. My first VHF contest ever . . . **N4TX**. My first contest ever! . . . **NH6VJ**. Ten watts to a dipole in the attic. When 6 meters is open, it works pretty well . . . **NJ1H**. With my 150 watts I did not run for a plaque, but still had fun. It was nice to hear all the DQ and DR stations on. Sunday afternoon a short 2-meter sporadic-E opening brought five QSOs of over 1800 km . . . **ON6NL**. VUCC on 6 meters in less than six hours with 100 watts and a 4-element Yagi . . . **VE3KZ**. Best conditions on 6 meters for any of the many VHF contests we have done over the past ten years. Largest grid total on 6 ever with Europe, Caribbean, West Coast, Western Canada, and everything in between for most of both days . . . **W3SO**. This log is QRpp 1 wait output for all contacts from FM18hk in Virginia. Amazing conditions! . . . **W4SHG**. My first VHF contest in 52 years. Lots of fun. See ya'll next time . . . **W5KDJ**. My first 6-meter contacts since the days of my Heath Sixer in the mid-60s. Antenna was a 40-meter dipole! Will put up a J-pole and see if I can join in future fun on the Magic band . . . **W5TB**. What a wild ride this one was! . . . **W6OAL**. Fifty years on the air and I felt like a Novice all over again with the openings on 6 meters . . . **W8IQ**. Working Maine (K1TOL) with less than 10 watts from DM37 [UT] was biggest thrill . . . **WA0YPL**.

Once again **CQ** magazine picks out an unbelievable weekend for NA conditions. Last contact Sunday morning was Greece. Wow! . . . **WA2FGK**. Great contest with tremendous activity from all call districts. I think this contest will influence many new 6-meter ops as to how cool this band is . . . **WB2QLP**.

I only wish that bad conditions could be this good for all contests. I may even be able to get VUCC 6M if I get a good response to QSL mailing. Even had a brief E-skip opening on 2 meters. Let's do it again. Replay please . . . **WF4R**. I operated on solar power and batteries from the top of a 5000-ft. mountain in the Sierras. Beautiful! . . . **K6XN**. What a neat way to end a vacation in the mountains of western NC. Heard things atop Mt. Mitchell at 6,684 ft. that I don't hear at home. Drove some roads moving between high points where I could see my taillights on the switchbacks. Six meters was hopping . . . **K8YC**. Great, great conditions. A pair of Par OA-50 loops and 100 watts was enough to get 595 Qs in 171 grids. Here in the Midwest, 144 MHz conditions were spectacular as well. Lots of ops got exposure to this contest and that's a real plus . . . **KC9BQA**. Operated Hilltopper category with an ICOM 703+ for 6 meters to a dipole and Ten-Tec 2-meter transverter to a 3-element Yagi at 10 feet on a hilltop overlooking San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point Harbor in southern CA. It was just a 30-minute hike from home . . . **KG6TGI**. I ran 10 watts to a whip on 6 meters as a Hilltopper. Was pleased to work Lefty, K1TOL in FN44, WA0MHJ/R in rare EN38, and VE4EAR in EN19 was very loud . . . **N0JK**.

Great 6-meter opening and was able to work RI for my 49th state towards WAS . . . **N0XLR**. Great surprise to have won 1st place in class in CT last year. Great fun this year with the band being wide open . . . **N1ZN**. First time submitting a log for this contest. Running 6-meter QRP a challenge even with the great band opening, but a lot of fun. A big thrill to snag some Caribbean QSOs on the first call. Great timing for CQ WW VHF! . . . **N2BEG**. First real time on the air since Hurricane Katrina caused substantial damage to my house. All ham gear except my Drake TR-7 survived . . . **N3AWS**. My 6th time in CQ-VHF with twice as many Qs and grids on 6 meters as my previous best. I worked 12 double-hop grids in fields DM and DN and an EH8 called me off the back of the beam. There were lots more ops on CW than usual with about 40% of my 6-meter QSOs on CW . . . **N3UM**. Best activity on 6 meters I've ever heard for a contest weekend . . . **N4XD**. First VHF contest. It was just as much fun as chasing new states on 40 meters as a Novice. Need a directional antenna for next year . . . **N7NT**. The contest coincided with the annual vacation to the outer banks of NC. A bit of a struggle to work stations with 50 watts to a Hamstick, but many appreciated the rare grids of FM25 and FM26 . . . **N8II**.

The contest started while returning home from vacation in Wyoming. I was able to operate from 11 grids on the way . . . **N9MYK**. Great contest without the upper bands. Not all of us can afford good stations through 10 GHz. This was a personal best for multipliers . . . **NN4RR**. NT5HS was a rather accidental rover entry in the contest. Returning home to Texas from a trip to South Dakota, all of a sudden there was a multitude of signals on 6 meters obviously operating a contest. After asking someone what contest, we were off to the races. The simple setup consisted of a Kenwood TS-480, Garmin GPS, and a Par OA-50 loop 3 feet above the van. The opening was superb working some fairly unusual grids . . . **N0RQ & KC5POV**. Operation from Hollyburn Ridge, BC at elevation 2000 feet . . . **VA7MM**. This contest was one of the best I have ever participated in as a rover. This was a very high-spirited event . . . **VE3CRU**. Six meters was fantastic with lots of CW activity. Those who do not use CW are missing multipliers . . . **W2UDT**. Rig was a borrowed TS-690 running 50 watts to a homebrew antenna consisting of solid aluminum wire and lots of electrical tape. Temperature was near 100° F roving just south of the Canadian border. The antenna looked pretty pitiful but the band really came through . . . **WA0MHJ**. Thanks to all concerned in running this contest . . . **ZC4LI**.

Number/letter groups after call letters denote the following: Class (A = all band, 6 = 6 meters, 2 = 2 meters, Q = QRP, Q* = QRP portable hilltopper, R = rover, M = multi-operator), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Number of grid locations, 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.	N1DG	6	2,684	61	44	MA	FN41
	W1DDMM	6	2,016	56	36	CT	FN31
	K1VU	6	1,230	41	30	MA	FN42
	K1EP	6	520	26	20	MA	FN42
	KV1J	Q*	6,726	112	59	ME	FN44
	KA1LMR	Q	112,288	624	176	NH	FN43
	NJ1H	Q	6,612	114	58	NH	FN42
	WA1Z	M	39,429	333	117	NH	FN42
	N1VMJ	M	11,154	140	78	MA	FN32
	KB1HAR	M	11,076	139	78	CT	FN41

2006 VHF RESULTS NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES							
K1TEO	A	348,036	1,173	276	CT	FN31	
W1XK	A	284,325	1,073	255	RI	FN41	
W1RZF	A	60,096	382	146	MA	FN42	
K1EM	A	58,520	404	140	CT	FN31	
NE1B	A	31,979	278	113	NH	FN42	
KB1JDY	A	15,288	164	93	CT	FN41	
KC1MA	A	13,200	150	80	MA	FN51	
N1CJG	A	4,050	76	45	CT	FN31	
N1ZMB	A	3,149	66	47	MA	FN42	
W1CRK	A	3,008	63	47	MA	FN41	
N1SXL	A	2,898	63	42	CT	FN41	
WA2QOE	A	2,745	59	45	CT	FN31	
KA1VMG	A	2,320	55	40	CT	FN41	
KB1FXV	A	323	18	17	VT	FN34	
K1TOL	6	658,449	1,313	273	ME	FN44	
NN1IN	6	161,805	805	201	CT	FN31	
W1QK	6	155,036	791	196	CT	FN31	
N4CW1	6	45,264	328	138	ME	FN53	
AD1C	6	11,421	141	81	MA	FN42	
K1TR	6	9,563	131	73	NH	FN32	
N1ZN	6	4,590	85	54	CT	FN31	
KB1JCL	6	4,180	76	55	NH	FN43	
N1BNC	6	2,990	65	46	NH	FN43	
W1SD	6	2,816	64	44	NH	FN42	

N2BEG	Q	7,104	96	74	NY	FN12	W3SO	M	375,240	1,019	318	PA	FN00
W2JEK	Q	1,040	40	26	NJ	FN20	K3WW	M	76,557	453	169	PA	FN20
KC2NNWV	Q	621	25	23	NJ	FN21	K4EA	A	198,843	810	237	GA	EM74
K2AA	M	65,637	401	153	NJ	FN29	W4WA	A	131,440	585	212	GA	EM84
K2OAK	M	31,372	221	124	NJ	FN21	K4QI	A	116,704	487	224	NC	FM06
K2LDT	M	15,402	145	102	NY	FN12	NJ2F	A	83,160	515	154	FL	EL96
N3HBX	A	229,977	887	253	MD	FM19	K4XR	A	80,618	440	173	AL	EM64
W3ZZ	A	119,196	568	198	MD	FM19	KD4K	A	67,648	441	151	GA	EM74
K3TUF	A	82,152	434	168	PA	FN10	N4XD	A	63,580	363	170	NC	FM05
WA2FGK	A	51,072	307	152	PA	FN21	KN45M	A	59,965	312	179	VA	FM16
K3OO	A	49,280	344	140	PA	FN20	NG4C	A	53,404	334	158	NC	FM16
N3IUM	A	21,420	200	102	MD	FM18	K5JMP	A	40,749	271	141	VA	FM18
KB3NDS	A	12,354	136	87	MD	FM18	K4TO	A	22,454	161	109	KY	EM77
K1DS	A	12,118	133	83	PA	FN20	K4IIMA	A	20,800	196	100	FL	EL96
K3NG	A	10,472	135	77	PA	FN20	K4FJW	A	19,620	204	90	VA	EM86
K3ISH	A	7,738	102	73	PA	FN21	K3IXD	A	14,823	180	81	SC	EM93
AK3E	A	7,416	100	72	MD	FM28	K2EWW	A	14,500	138	100	VA	EM96
N3FNE	A	4,028	72	53	MD	FM19	N4UFP	A	14,418	156	89	SC	EM94
W3BBO	A	3,162	62	51	PA	FN02	KR1ST	A	10,934	134	77	SC	EM92
KB3EXB	A	2,480	56	40	PA	FN10	W4FRA	A	10,790	124	83	NC	FM15
N3CHX	A	2,379	59	39	PA	FN20	KU4WD	A	9,240	126	70	TN	EM76
W3APTV	A	777	28	21	PA	FM19	W4FR	A	9,176	109	74	VA	FM16
N3TEE	6	7,597	107	71	DE	FM29	K46AKH	A	8,268	99	78	VA	FM18
K3MSB	6	7,236	108	67	PA	FM19	N4DWK	A	7,940	109	70	VA	FM17
KW3F	6	4,960	80	62	PA	FN20	K4ZOO	A	6,435	93	65	VA	FM08
N3KN	6	4,081	77	53	PA	FN20	WS4V	A	5,251	87	59	VA	EM96
W3AKYY	6	2,752	64	43	MD	FM19	AD4TJ	A	5,192	82	59	VA	FM08
N3XLS	6	1,209	39	31	PA	FN21	K04FR	A	4,187	78	53	VA	FM16
KB3LZV	6	744	31	24	MD	FM28	WB4CAT	A	4,080	79	51	NC	EM95
W3BW	6	572	26	22	MD	FM29	K4WYS	A	3,888	67	54	VA	FM16
N3GE	6	228	19	12	DC	FM18	AK4FL	A	3,652	75	44	AL	EM64
N3TXX	6	132	12	11	PA	EN90	N1RIK	A	2,277	64	33	NC	FM05
W3ADC	2	10,152	141	36	MD	FM19	AD4IE	A	2,128	54	38	NC	EM95
W3EOD	2	1,872	39	24	MD	FM09	K4FTO	A	2,079	55	33	VA	FM18
K3ZT	2	96	12	4	PA	FM29	W4KFT	A	1,855	51	25	VA	FM18
K4J5I	Q*	2,160	48	36	MD	FM19	AC2CN	A	910	33	26	FL	EL88
K3TW	Q	273	20	13	MD	FM18	W4AEP1	A	480	23	20	VA	FM16
K13G	Q	132	12	11	PA	FN10	W1FL	A	176	15	11	VA	FM18
K3EAR	M	642,400	1,455	365	PA	FM19	NW5E	6	199,888	961	208	FL	EL98

