

Results of the 2010 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY JOHN LINDHOLM,* W1XX

What is the purpose of a VHF Contest? That is a thread that drew many comments from the Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI) on the infamous Quahog Reflector following the 2010 CQ WW VHF Contest of July 17–18. Here's a synopsis of some major points of focus.

Why Contest?

VHF contesting is somewhat different from that on HF in that a major purpose is to simply provide QSOs. Selecting the right band/mode, one can generate a QSO on HF almost any time of day or night. Not so on VHF. In most areas there are long lapses of dead silence. The higher up in frequency you go, the more true this is. On 6 meters we tend to look for openings over longer distances. It's the natural tendency to engage in DXing. Given reasonable propagation conditions, the VHF contest enhances the possibility of making contacts, as everyone is alerted to be on the air at the same time.

The term *contest*, however, implies competition. The CQ WW VHF Contest does indeed promote competition. The true dyed-in-the-wool contester ekes out every QSO possible utilizing all the skills that have been learned in previous contests. Maximizing your score is the objective. In that respect these folks are quite similar to their HF brethren. Their efforts are applauded and sometimes result in winning certificates. Their diligent efforts help the QSO total for everyone else.

However, especially in the CQ WW VHF Contest, there are many more casual entries from those who just want to make a few contacts. Being a 6- and 2-meter only contest emphasizes that point. Thank goodness for their activity, as they really fuel the activity engine for the more serious-minded competitors.

We should also not forget the entrants who find joy in combining VHF contesting with the outdoors. The hilltoppers and other portable stations, often located on mountaintops, find contesting and communing with nature a healthy mix. Rovers do likewise while generating mega-Qs in the process.

I'm sure we haven't covered all the motivations, but those mentioned all are good reasons why VHF contesting is such fun for so many folks.

The CQ version of VHF contesting meets all these criteria and more. First of all, it is the only real *worldwide* VHF contest. It carries a worldwide recognizable name—CQ WW. This looms large on HF and is rapidly becoming so on VHF. To live up to that name, the CQ WW VHF Contest must meet expectations of excellence in every regard. This includes timely contest announcements in several languages available online, timely accurate results reported in *CQ*, certificates from the previous year received prior to the next competition, and most important, contest rules devoid of bureaucratic hurdles to modify – which segues us to a brief discussion of the rules.

The Rules

The present version of the CQ-sponsored VHF Contest, now in its second decade, has been marked by relative consistency in

its rules. The only changes instituted under this writer's watch have been the addition of the "hilltopper" category to fill a needed niche and this year's club competition. Both of these have proven popular. Further, rovers have retained the so-called "original" rover rules, which—this being only a two-band affair—has avoided any controversy over any perceived abuses. However, we have now come to a crossroad that demands a modification of the rules to keep the contest in harmony with present-day



JA6WFM used this big 10-element Yagi on 6 meters to again lead all scorers in Japan. Besides working JAs, Hiro also worked HS, XV9, BM, and VR2.



This is precious. Ten-year-old JF1UCV/2 operated in the Hilltopper category from the mid-point of famous Mt. Fuji utilizing available shelter. Yoshiki later rejoined his family for camping at the more temperate 3000-foot level. (Photo by 7L1FPU)

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Here's a unique squirrel's view of two KP6KQ stacked loops at W4VHF. Ted, W4VHF, and Gary, K4MQG, teamed up to multi-op at an elevation of 3200 feet in southwestern Virginia (EM96).

operating techniques —namely, single operator “assisted.”

Especially in HF DX contests, with thousands of entrants, the “assisted” categories exist for single ops using the web-based “cluster” or similar packet-based systems that spot potential contacts. With far fewer entrants on VHF, we have avoided such category proliferation. To date, any such assistance in the CQ WW VHF Contest placed the log in the multi-operator category. These 2010 results, however, reveal a startling figure: The number of such entries exploded with fully one-third of all multi entries really being what could be called single-op assisted. This is a significant break from previous years when only a handful of stations made use of cluster spots.

Many casual operators in this contest have no doubt ventured into making assisted contacts not knowing initially that this placed them in the multi category. After all, this may be their normal modus operandi. Why punish them by placing them in competition with stations that are truly multi-operator? Further, VHF usually demands antennas with narrow beamwidths which must be pointed directly at each other to make the contact. This capability is enhanced by utilizing information posted on the cluster with logging programs that simply allow a mouse click to find the contact. So how do we remedy this situation?

Allowing passive assistance for single ops would keep the contest current with today's common operating practices. This is not breaking new ground in the CQ WW universe of contests. The CQ World-Wide WPX RTTY Contest Rule IV (d) reads in part: “QSO alerting assistance is permitted in ALL categories.” The 2011 CQ WW VHF Contest rules will reflect this change, allowing passive assistance with specifics detailed in the contest announcement in the June issue of CQ. Unlike HF contests, its impact on VHF contesting probably will be relatively minor.

We think this will not only keep the CQ WW VHF Contest up-to-date with present technology, but also put more QSOs in your log. This has to be a good thing. We hope you approve.

2010 Contest Analysis

Keeping with past tradition, comments on the Quahog Reflector tend to focus on the outstanding scoring achievements that might otherwise be overlooked. Thanks to contest historian and longtime QRP advocate Curt Roseman, K9AKS, for posting these telling observations:

As usual, QRP operations were popular in a number of different countries around the world, but regional and national record scores generally were not attained this time. However, two scores do stand out in the QRP Hilltopper category:

HA2VR/P and K1ZE, each over 4K points, posting the 6th and 7th all-time highest scores ever in that time-limited category.

The 2-meter-only category continued to be very popular in Ukraine, European Russia, and Thailand. UT5JCW (6K) posted the highest score ever from Ukraine, while RU3GX (1.8K) did the same from Russia. DK2DQ again dominated the 2-meter EU scores with 29K points. Across the Atlantic in North America, in contrast, activity in the 2-meter category was at a bare minimum. Throughout the history of this contest, few Americans and Canadians have been able to suppress the temptation to operate 6 meters.

This is illustrated by the remarkable consistency of K1TOL's winning scores

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
EA3AKY	343	UT1I	268
VE3MMQ	284	UR7D	196
CT3FQ	182	UT7E	168
144 MHz		144 MHz	
E22HUV	359	HS1EFA	478
HS4DDQ	298	HS8KFW	478
HS8LUR	283	HS5WWW	358

USA

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K1TOL	507	K5QE	444
K2DRH	463	N3MK	355
K1TEO	382	KA2LIM	342
144 MHz		144 MHz	
K2DRH	171	K5QE	161
K1TEO	157	W4MW	155
K3CB	100	KA2LIM	145

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
EA3AKY	133	UT1I	146
CT3FQ	103	UR7D	124
VE3MMQ	97	UT7E	106
144 MHz		144 MHz	
DK5DQ	51	UR7D	80
HA6VWP	43	OK1KIM	73
UT5JCW	43	UT1I	43

USA

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K1TOL	158	K5QE	181
K2DRH	155	KA2LIM	123
K2PLF	127	N3MK	120
144 MHz		144 MHz	
K2DRH	48	K5QE	83
WA2FGK	41	W3SO	43
K1TEO	35	KA2LIM	40

TOP SCORES WORLD

All Band	HA2VR/P	4,192
OK1DC	JF1UCV/2	2,667
EA2TO/1		26,384
TA2AD		22,896
DL2OM		19,488
UY1HY		17,622
6 Meters	Rover	
EA3AKY	YO4RYU/MM	79,365
VE3MMQ	VE3CRU	19,760
CT3FQ	US3ITU	17,248
2 Meters	Multi-Op	
DK5DQ	UT1I	162,162
HA6VWP	UR7D	141,576
E22HUV	OK1KIM	87,904
	UT7E	29,988
Hilltopper	VE3SMA	15,876
E22HMR/P		5,902

USA

All Band	WA4A	1,664
K2DRH		163,415
K1TEO		110,664
W1XX		79,772
W4RX		58,338
WA2FGK		57,378
6 Meters	Rover	
K1TOL	WB8BZK	55,993
K2PLF	K9JK	27,685
W2MMD	K9ILT	23,166
2 Meters	Multi-Op	
W3PAW	K5QE	202,224
	KA2LIM	103,016
	W4MYA	64,155
	W3SO	63,246
	W4MW	55,440
Hilltopper		
K1ZE		4,128
W9SZ		2,240

over the past six years, ranging from 62K to 91K, except for the block-buster year of 2006 when Lefty scored 358K. This year's 80K was in the middle of that range. Also this time the second and third best scores ever from Africa were posted on 6 meters: CT3FQ with 19K from Madeira and EA8AQV at 11K from the Canary Islands —both great QTHs for fabulous 6-meter propagation.

In general, worldwide, scores in the all-band category were not at record-breaking levels. However, K7ULS broke the 7-land record from Utah with 34K points. OK1DC posted the 4th highest score in contest history from Europe with 36K.

The multi-operator category produced some notable performances. UT11's winning score of 162K was the third highest ever from Europe. UR7D worked 204 grids, the second highest total ever from Europe, and KA2LIM, with 103K points, broke their own record for the U.S. 2nd call area. K5QE's 264 total grids worked was their highest, except for 2006, and the second highest number any station has ever worked, again except for 2006. Isn't it time for another 2006- type year propagation-wise?

In the on-going worldwide effort for more countries to be QRV on 6 meters, the contest prize was the log from HSØAC, club station for the Radio Society of Thailand. Receiving special one-time authorization to operate the contest, this was the first 6-meter operation from Thailand, resulting in 173 Qs in 34 grids throughout Southeast Asia. FBI! A first-time-ever log was received from Vietnam (XV9DT). A harbinger of things to come was the 10 log entries from Japan, following a contest announcement in *JA-CQ Magazine*. CQ WW VHF surges on worldwide. Check the leader boxes and the scores for *all* the contest highlights.

Expanded CQ WW VHF Contest Results

For a listing of the ops and grids activated by the rover stations in the 2010 contest, plus the operators of the multi stations, and "Scatter" comments, go to the contest website at <www.cqww-vhf.com>, select "Latest published results," and then "Expanded Results" for the year 2010. You can also go to the CQ website at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and look in the "Contests" section.

Mega-thanks

In just slightly above-average conditions, the 700 log entries were up a record high 18% over the previous year. Clearly the CQ WW VHF Contest is well accepted by the VHF contesting community. Thanks to these amateurs and others unnamed who helped to publicize the contest overseas in advance and/or assist in Cabrillo log submissions: 7L1FPU, DL8EBW, E21E1C, EA3ALV, JA7QVI, LU2UF, PY2ZX, RW6CT, SM3CER, and UT1IC. The log-checking program was run by N8BJQ. K9JK entered all the paper logs using the WA7BNM on-line CabForms, as did many contest entrants. K9JK also prepared all the 2009 certificates for mailing for receipt before the 2010 contest. The log entry robot ran flawlessly thanks to N5KO. The contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com) updates are done by W1PN. Contest records are maintained by K9AKS. Thank you all!

Statistically speaking, the total number of stations reported active was 11,484; total of 55,663 QSOs claimed; total number of grids activated 954. This represents an amazing overall activity increase of 20% over previous highs. CQ WW VHF continues to get better and better.

2011 Contest

Mark your calendar for the 2011 CQ WW VHF Contest, July 16–17. The full announcement will appear in the June issue of CQ, on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com), and on the CQ WW VHF Contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com). A summary of the rules will also appear in various languages on many DX contesting websites. CU all then!

73, John, W1XX

CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of three entries required for listing)

UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
Potomac Valley Radio Club	22	486,341
Society of Midwest Contesters	20	304,286
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	18	249,938
North East Weak Signal Group	4	134,824
Carolina DX Association	7	109,258
Badger Contesters	9	96,619
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	9	89,964
CTRI Contest Group	4	82,491
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	4	78,779
Florida Contest Group	8	76,404
Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Assn.	3	55,238
Frankford Radio Club	4	27,375
South East Contest Club	6	26,750
Alabama Contest Group	6	20,410
Mad River Radio Club	3	13,230
Western New York DX Assn.	3	8,519
Northern California Contest Club	5	7,937
Tennessee Contest Group	7	7,528
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	6	5,314
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	3	4,533
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	3	2,446

WORLD

Ukrainian VHF International Contest Club	31	185,799
Contest Club Ontario	13	59,521
Black Sea Contest Club	6	52,841
Rhein Ruhr DX Assn.	1	40,768
Maritime Contest Club	4	24,279
Latvian Contest Club	5	16,409
Gyalogradio Club	3	4,890
Ukrainian Contest Club	4	3,375
LU Contest Group	9	985
Siam DX Group	5	880

Number/letter groups after call letters denote the following:
 Class (A = all bands, B = 6 meters, 2 = 2 meters, Q = QRP, Q* = QRP portable hilltopper, R = rover, M = multi-operator),
 Final Score, Number of QSOs, Number of grid locators,
 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.

2010 VHF RESULTS

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

K1TEO	A	110,664	539	159	CT	FN31	WA2EMF	A	90	10	6	SC	EM84	K4XU	6	522	29	18	OR	CN56	K7MDL	6	675	33	15	3	
W1XX	A	79,772	452	148	RI	FN41	K4KAY	A	63	8	7	NC	EM95	K85HMU	6	280	20	14	MT	DN25	KJ6GZ	6	495	22	15	3	
W3EP	A	44,888	343	124	CT	FN31	WA4EMF	A	90	10	6	SC	EM84	K85HMU	6	280	20	14	MT	DN25	KJ6GZ	6	495	22	15	3	
N8RA	A	37,022	285	107	CT	FN31	KG4OEN	A	12	4	2	NC	EM95	K7P7JG	6	230	23	10	WA	CN87	K8LMN	6	270	22	10	3	
W2DAN	A	18,834	219	73	RI	FN41	WA4SO	6	13,275	177	75	FL	EL96	K17BP	6	216	18	12	ID	DN13	K9MMMM	6	90	10	5	2	
W2WZOW	A	15,010	162	79	MA	FN32	K4W1	6	12,935	199	65	AL	EM62	K77YAQ	6	216	18	12	OR	CN74	K8BI	6	81	9	5	2	
W1RZF	A	12,104	143	68	MA	FN42	K4SN	6	10,824	164	66	FL	EL96	W0G0H	6	63	5	7	AZ	DM43	WOETT	6	72	9	8	2	
AD1DX	A	8,640	138	54	MA	FN41	N4LR	6	10,065	165	61	GA	EM73	FM05	6	35	7	5	NV	DM09							
KA1R3	A	8,541	131	64	MA	FN41	N4LR	6	10,065	165	61	GA	EM73	FM05	6	35	7	5	NV	DM09							
N1ORR	A	6,250	100	50	CT	FN31	N4PN	6	7,137	117	61	GA	EM82	W8KEN	6	216	18	12	ID	DN13	K9MMMM	6	90	10	5	2	
K1VUT	A	5,831	107	49	MA	FN41	N4NX	6	5,886	109	54	GA	EM84	K8BX	6	193	51	31	MI	EN82	VE3TLT	Q	260	17	13	ON	FN03
KB1JDX	A	4,280	90	40	CT	FN41	N4BP	6	4,704	98	48	FL	EL96	K8DXR	6	1,344	42	28	OH	EN90	VE3CWM	Q	132	12	11	ON	FN02
W1DYJ	A	3,003	64	39	MA	FN42	K4OMG	6	4,144	112	37	TN	EM62	K8AB	6	1,260	47	21	OH	EN91	VA3RKM	Q	3	3	1	ON	FN05
K3IU	A	1,972	67	29	RI	FN41	WX4MM	6	3,744	96	39	AL	EM72	W8KNO	6	936	33	24	OH	EN91	VE3RCA	M	15,876	158	84	ON	FN25
N1VVV	A	1,944	48	36	ME	FN43	K8UE	6	3,192	76	42	GA	EM72	WB2DFC	6	592	34	16	OH	EN91	VE3HHT	M	1,829	44	31	ON	FN27
KC1MA	A	1,914	50	33	MA	FN51	N04Y	6	2,849	77	37	FL	EM70	WBIDM	6	490	26	14	OH	EN91	VE3HHT	M	1,829	44	31	ON	FN27
KK1X	A	1,560	53	26	MA	FN42	W4WP	6	2,016	63	32	TN	EM66	N8JG	6	248	20	7	OH	EN90	VE3CRU	R	19,760	135	104	7	
KB1MAO	A	1,379	39	15	RI	FN41	W6UB	6	1,995	57	35	TN	EM75	K8WV	6	4,752	99	48	OH	EN81	VE4AK	6	2,552	58	44	MB	EN19
W1PN	A	595	32	17	RI	FN41	N4ZO	6	1,914	58	33	FL	EL88	K8BUZ	6	2,812	74	38	OH	EN91	VE4EX	6	1,715	49	35	MB	E000
KA1C	A	480	23	20	ME	FN54	K3KO	6	1,770	59	30	NC	FM06	N8II	6	1,682	58	29	WV	FM19							
KB10TB	A	275	20	11	NH	FN42	KR4F	6	1,656	69	24	AL	EM64	N8BJQ	6	957	33	29	OH	EN89	VE6CPP	6	42	7	6	AB	DN39
W1W1U	A	208	20	8	RI	FN41	N2WN	6	1,219	53	23	TN	EM86	WB8LCD	6	656	41	16	OH	EN91							
K1NPT	A	125	15	5	RI	FN41	AB4SF	6	1,176	42	28	VA	EM17	W18E	6	546	26	21	OH	EM89	VE7DXG	A	16,077	176	69	BC	CN88
K1TOL	6	80,106	507	158	ME	FN44	KM4H	6	1,080	45	24	TN	EM75	K8YTO	6	500	25	20	MI	EN82	VE7DAY	A	1,764	54	28	BC	C070
K1MI	6	5,355	105	51	ME	FN53	N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
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							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
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							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
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							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090
							N4NW	6	987	47	21	AL	EM64	N8PPF	6	192	16	12	OH	EN80	VE7WVW	A	18	6	2	BC	C090

