

Results of the 2009 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY JOHN LINDHOLM,* W1XX

A two-band VHF contest such as the CQ WW VHF Contest always sits on the edge of a precipice of poor conditions. For many, if not most participants, the 2009 contest fell over the edge. What's a reporter to do when the contest he's reviewing was not up to par by most standards? For openers, he can focus on a few brief gems of brightness such as: "It was a fun contest even though it got off to a slow start on dead bands. But 6 meters opened up on Sunday, adding to the excitement." . . . *K4RW*. Or: "My first VHF contest in 45 years of hamming. What a thrill to work NP4A in Puerto Rico on Sunday morning." . . . *K8EG*. CQ VHF Contest stalwart, *KG6IYN*, can offer a U.S. West Coast positive outlook with: "Conditions this year from Mt. Los Pinos in east San Diego county were much like 2007 with short band openings on 6 meters to the Pacific Northwest and then on Sunday a relatively long run to Texas, Louisiana, and the Gulf region. This was followed by Qs with several rovers heading north into northern California and a rover duo heading back home to California from Las Vegas through several grid squares otherwise dead."

Perhaps the DX can offer some solace as well: "Some single-hop DX on 6 meters was welcomed." . . . *GØLGS*. Or: "My best new grid square was ZC4LI, country #77." . . . *SM6WET*. Meanwhile, *GW8ZRE* took advantage of the simultaneous RSGB backpackers contest in the U.K. Also combining activities were *HA4BF*, *HA5CQZ*, *HA6VV*, *HA7UL*, and *OE1CWA*, who took advantage of the Summits On The Air (SOTA) program to work the contest. More bright spots are highlighted in the "Scatter" comments. Thus, all things considered, it was far from a dreadful contest.

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Expanded CQ WW VHF Contest Results

For a listing of the ops and grids activated by the rover stations in the 2009 contest, plus the operators of the multi stations, go to <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>, to the Contests section, to "Expanded Results of the 2009 CQ WW VHF Contest."

As faithful followers of the CQ VHF WW Contest know, these results usually focus on the inane ramblings of the Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI). They are a crotchety bunch. At the fall meeting at the local Grange hall, CQRI dismissed the usual aftermath discussion of the contest with a motion to table, which passed unanimously (with one abstention by the Old Timer). It was a sad commentary on the 2009 contest as perceived in Quahog-city. The saddest part is it leaves this reporter with no thread on which to proceed with this commentary.

The only solution to this predicament seems to be to resort to a *deus ex machina*—a sort of "Wag The Dog"—to redirect attention to an important contest subject, namely recruitment. So here goes.



The CQ WW VHF Contest has become very popular in the Ukraine. This large group of UT hams gathered in Donetsk City on June 13, prior to the 2009 contest, to receive their 2008 certificates and plan for the 2009 contest. CQ VHF Contest activity is spearheaded by coordinator Yuri Yakovenko, UT1IC.



The VHF roving bug can even bite HF contesters and DXers. Shown here is John, K4BAI/PJ4A, who operated with KU8E from the state park on St. George Island, FL (IOTA NA-085). John shows it doesn't take much to slap together a rover station for the CQ VHF Contest.

EmComm: Let's first look at a red, white, and blue phenomenon. At first blush, it may be hard to draw any parallel between emergency communications (EmComm) and VHF contest operating. The common denominator is operating skill and experience. This reporter is active in EmComm activities and notes that many newcomers and even many licensed decades ago are finding a welcome mat at the door of the local Red Cross or Emergency

Management Agency (EMA). The 21st century demise of traditional 2-meter FM repeater chit-chat has left a vacuum to be filled by the more important EmComm needs. This has also attracted many newcomers to the hobby. What better way to learn good operating technique than in a contest? Good contest operators make good emergency communicators in drills, nets, and the real thing. Since EmComm is conducted on the local level, channelized 2-meter FM is the band/mode of choice. It's not a big stretch to use these radios on simplex to call "CQ Contest." It will take an Elmer to do the job. How about you?

The CTRI Contest Group has done this with its sponsorship the past two years of the very local "Ocean State 2-Meter FM Simplex Challenge," conducted simultaneously with the CQ VHF Contest. Success was modest in 2009, but over 40 stations in the Rhode Island environs were reported active—some crossing over to the "big" fray. For ideas that can be adapted to your local situation, details such as rules, log sheets, past reports, etc., can be obtained with an e-mail request to me. The relationship between EmComm and contesting can be symbiotic.

Rip Van Winkle Effect: How many of you have had an extended hiatus from ham radio to raise a family, have lost interest, have a lack of real estate, etc., etc., only to wake up from a radio-free slumber? There is a wealth of retreads out there who have rediscovered today's sophisticated radios and that you no longer need to be an electrical engineer to be QRV on 6 or 2 meters. These are potential VHF contesters that may need your encouragement.

Rover-mania: Rovers are a great vehicle (catch the pun?) for creating your own conditions. On a dead band they still dispense more Qs and often rare locators. How did they do in last July's contest? In the U.S., rover contacts were up 25% with a 52% increase in the number of rover stations. Rovers were also active in Canada and the Ukraine, and eight entered the contest from Thailand (see sidebar). For those in the U.S. living under restric-

TOP SCORES WORLD

All Band	HA5AZC/P.....1,088
OK1DOL.....32,627	
OK1DC.....15,872	
VE1SKY.....13,500	

6 Meters	QRP
E70T.....32,940	HA6VV/P.....4,760
EI9FBB.....18,090	EB1EHO.....2,992
VE3NNQ.....16,240	RU3GX.....1,440
C4M.....15,456	F0FEK.....1,216
	RU6YY.....1,054

2 Meters	Rover
HS2ZMU.....7,618	E22YS.....20,944
HS4DDQ.....4,720	VE3CRU.....13,072
UW5W.....3,300	E22HMR.....7,056
YU2DX.....3,000	HS2WPJ.....6,930
	HS9WQE.....5,280
	US3ITU.....4,692

Hilltopper	Multi-Op
HA2VR/P.....3,550	OK1KIM.....150,535
HA2UL/P.....2,992	UR7D.....106,095
HS8GLR/P.....2,208	UV6I.....11,040
HA4BF/P.....1,620	HS1AXC.....9,600
G8HXE/P.....1,482	HS3QCT.....8,200
HA5CQZ/P.....1,260	

USA

All Band	W3RGA.....1,134
K2DRH.....104,470	W1QK.....1,118
K1TEO.....85,684	K1ZE.....1,095
WA2FGK.....64,148	
W4RX.....44,239	QRP
W2DAN.....29,670	KA1LMR.....11,650
W3EP.....29,580	WB2SIH.....9,231
N8RA.....25,704	K9AKS.....7,920
W4WA.....21,758	N8XA.....6,500
KG6IYN.....21,540	KO9A.....4,050
K3OO.....20,930	

6 Meters	Rover
K1TOL.....61,770	WB3BEL.....33,553
W2MMD.....15,872	WB8BZK.....28,684
N4BP.....10,024	N9WU.....27,612
N4CW/1.....8,296	K5RNT.....20,516
W5WVO.....7,638	K1DS.....20,262
W4MAY.....7,285	AE5P.....16,376
K1DAT.....5,712	W4VHF.....15,714
KC2HZW.....4,815	AE5BN.....12,874
K5TR.....4,578	WA0VPJ.....11,592
N4WW.....3,960	

2 Meters	Multi-Op
K0KP.....1,040	K1WHS.....126,880
	K5QE.....96,117
	KB1DFB.....79,488
	KA2LIM.....76,962
Hilltopper	W3SO.....56,368
W9SZ.....1,210	W4MW.....45,162

activity by country has had a dramatic effect on DX participation. The concept involves an individual in each country or region promoting activity in the contest from announcements in print, on web-sites, and on reflectors to post contest submission of logs. The template has been Champ, E21EIC, whose efforts in Thailand are legendary (see photo in sidebar). That approach has been duplicated with great success by Yuri Yakovenko, UT1IC, in the Ukraine. His boundless energy resulted in 68 UT log submissions (see photo). Yuri's enthusiasm has been contagious across the border into Russia

where Vlad, RA6HLF (with Cabrillo e-logs from Victor, UA6EM), coordinated activity resulting in 27 log submissions. With urging from Flavio, PY2ZX, South American contest activity in Brazil and Argentina has been launched. It's a formula for success that brings more stations into VHF contesting. In the U.S. and Canada it could be adapted on a lesser scale within individual clubs, which segues nicely to this: Since most logs already specify club credit, a club competition will be initiated for the 2010 contest. Thus, individual clubs would do well to promote intra-club activity. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

tive covenants, what a great way to have contesting fun. For the CQ VHF Contest, a two-band rover station doesn't have to look like it's ready to traverse the moon's landscape. Longtime HF contester John, K4BAI, shows how it's done from a conventional sedan (see photo). Likewise, single-band QRP rover station E22YS, assisted by E22YT, posted the top all-around score from Thailand with 374 QSOs from six LOC (see photo in sidebar). Even your esteemed reporter had a blast "going rove" in the aforementioned Ocean State Challenge. Conclusion: If your home QTH has serious limitations, consider operating in the rover class. It's not hard to do.

DX Coordinators: Coordination of DX

Contest Highlights

Despite the overall flat conditions experienced by most, there were many positive occurrences:

- In the U.S., K1WHS came back from winning two years ago to recapture 1st place multi.
- K2DRH, K1TOL, KA1LMR, and WB3BEL repeated victories in their respective categories.
- OK1KIM was again the high DX multi score, but not without a strong challenge from UR7D with 2-meter QSOs making the difference.
- E70T, VE3NNQ, and EI9FBB all topped 200 QSOs in the SOSB6 (single op single band 6 meters) category.
- DX participation was up 14% over 2008.
- In Thailand, the CQ WW VHF Contest is the contesting event of the year.
- The Ukraine topped all DX countries with number of logs submitted.
- With just 2 watts, M1DUD worked LA9Z in rare grid square JO38.
- KX9X operating portable made 101 Qs from rare northeast U.S. grid FN45.
- OK1DOL put in a nice score from EU with 32K points.
- Welcome to these first timers in the contest: 9A7T, DJ6TK, G3TXF, HS4NOR, K5WPN, K6WSC, and no doubt more.

It's a Wrap

ZC4LI is one of the most consistent contesters on the planet—both HF and VHF. The nice thing about Steve is that he never forgets to pass along his “thanks to all concerned in running the contest.” Thanks to you, Steve, for all the Qs, but there are kudos to give in running this worldwide contest.

Foremost among them is Steve, N8BJQ, a world-class tester himself who produces all the scores and statistics from the log-checking program. Trey, N5KO, makes sure the submissions robot is well oiled. Jon, K9JK, again converted the paper logs to e-submissions using the WA7BNM CabForms. We receive many logs utilizing this on-line post entry service thanks to Bruce. Certificates from the 2008 contest were produced by K9JK and mailed prior to the 2009 contest. Curt, K9AKS, updates all the records for posting on the contest website (www.cqww-vhf.com). We welcome Ed, W1PN, who now does the updates on the website. Gail, K2RED, at CQ, somehow gets all this into print for all to see. Thanks to all. It's a great crew.

Thanks especially to the 594 station operators who submitted logs, up 12% from the previous year. More stats: total number of stations active was 9444; total of 41,767 QSOs claimed; total number of grids activated 873. This represents an overall activity increase of 4% over 2008—even with sluggish conditions.

With 100% of received logs checked, the following error rates were evidenced: invalid or “not in log” 1.5%; “busted calls” 1.2%; dupes claimed as valid 0.3%; overall error rate 3.2%. This is an overall 11% improvement in log keeping over the year previous. This is truly outstanding operating shown by contest participants!

We look ahead to the second decade of the CQ WW VHF Contest, July 17–18, 2010, when we will do it all over again. 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 multi-lingual summary of the rules also will appear on many DX contesting websites.

A nice close to these proceedings is offered by N1BCL, who noted in his log: “The gods of propagation do not always

smile on us, but fun is always available to all.” With that, it's a wrap. See you all in the 2010 contest.

73, John, W1XX

Scatter

No real activity here but managed 53 QSOs. Pleased to take part. Have entered as M3RCV in the past ... **2E0RCV**. Conditions weren't very good, but the FT-450 sure makes a nice roving radio for 6 meters ... **AA5JG**. I operated from Mt. Kearsarge, NH, in FN43 alongside N1JHJ who operated a separate station. We managed to catch some 6-meter E-skip ... **AF1T**. I really enjoyed this contest. Congratulations to E22YS who showed true ham spirit in operating rover station. I will join next year's contest for sure and operate as a rover. Thanks for organizing this great event ... **E22KNY**. Only managed one quick E-skip contact but highlight was working several other rovers and having two beautiful days of sunshine and clear weath-

The 2009 CQ WW VHF Contest in Thailand

By Champ C. Muangamphun, E21EIC

Each year after the results of the previous year's CQ WW VHF Contest are announced, awards are presented to the Thailand winners at a national gathering. New hams are encouraged to participate through the University Amateur Radio Club system where they are “Elmered” by senior hams. An official website created by Jaycie, E20NKB, provides all the details of the next CQ VHF Contest event. Thus, many newer hams are QRV for it.

In 2009 the rover class especially grew in popularity. YL op Chu, E22YS, loaded up her car with equipment and homebrew antenna to make a good score. Also operating rover with homebrew antennas were HS1KZH, HS8JYX, and HS9WQE. The true spirit of VHF contesting was exemplified by Thiti, HS8VZW, who, despite a handicap, operated his three-wheel motorcycle as a rover in the contest.

Thanks to HS8KGG who assisted in keyboarding the many paper logs to Cabrillo-formatted e-log entries.

73 from Thailand, where VHF contesting is alive and well!



Hilltopper E20YLM/P.



Multi-op E22KNY.



Rover E22YS.

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
E70T	270	UR7D	187
VE3NNQ	203	OK1KIM	151
EI9FBB	201		
VE1SKY	178		
C4M	161		
144 MHz		144 MHz	
HS4DDQ	295	HS1AXC	480
HS2ZMU	293	E21LXK	414
HS8LUR	284	HS3QCT	410
HS8TAB	282	OK1KIM	392
E22HUV	232	E29KRM	373
		HS1EFA	338

USA

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K1TOL	435	K1WHS	485
K1TEO	313	KB1DFB	341
K2DRH	302	KA2LIM	272
WA2FGK	283	W3SO	218
W3EP	278	W4MW	213
W2DAN	263	K5QE	171
W2MMD	248	K4SME	167
W4RX	219	NE1B	154
144 MHz		144 MHz	
K1TEO	189	K5QE	213
K2DRH	186	W4MW	183
W4RX	157	KA2LIM	167
WA2FGK	135	W3SO	162
KA3ZLS	101	K1WHS	154
		KB1DFB	140

er ... **K1DS**. Sunday morning I worked VE1SKY in FN74 then the band opened to New England for a couple of hours. Then I worked WA4PGM who sent FM72 which seemed odd. Then I heard him sign VP9/WA4PGM. Woo-hoo! ... **K1LT (in Ohio)**. First time trying the Hilltopper category. I pared down and went with a simple rig, portable antennas, Armstrong rotation, and paper logs. Mistake! What I thought was simple turned out needing brain surgery precision to set up in the wind on top of a hill ... **K2QO**. First time working this contest and first time roving. From EM73 atop Pine Mtn., GA, on Sunday there was very little 6-meter *Es*, but lots of long-distance ground wave. Heard K1TOL and K1WHS off and on for most of the 18 hours I was on, but never worked them ... **K4ESA**. Fun contest as usual. Activated rare grid DN02, Lake County, OR, same as last year. 6-meter propagation was not as good as last year ... **KB7ME**. A few dozen new calls in the WI and IL area really helped. The local and semi-local activity was really needed because prop was mostly flat. Very enjoyable CQ WW VHF Contest from EN63ao ... **KC9BQA**. It was a fun contest and I'm looking forward to doing it again. Mike, NØEXE, and I made it a camping trip and set up on top of Decorah Peak in EN44. Most of the time we were at 1W powered by a gel cell and solar panel, as we were limited to what we could carry over the rough terrain. Still, it was fun ... **KC9ECI**. Conditions were spotty, but there were a couple of double-hop openings to the East Coast and Midwest ... **KI7JA**. Just a last-minute opening to NA here in the US Virgin Islands working only W4WA who was loud ... **KP2DX**. Operated Hilltopper on a hill near El Dorado, KS Sunday morning with some *Es* to Montana and Washington. KB7ME was

the best DX ... **NØJK**. Great weather and a lot of fun. A short-lived 6-meter opening to the Midwest on Sunday morning made things a little exciting for a while ... **N1KPW/R**. Very few contacts overall but still one of the most enjoyable VHF contests. Keep up the great work! ... **N1LF/R**. *Es* for only two hours Sunday morning, working six skip grids mostly in Florida plus the mostly water grid FM02. Since there was so little action on 6, I had my best 2-meter score and the chance to chat with lots of friends and other contest ops ... **N3UM**. It's fun just being back on 6 after being off for over 55 years ... **N4PN**. My first rover operation ... **VE2PIJ**. Glad there were several 6-meter *Es* openings on Sunday ... **WØETT**. I operated from home and got into a very good *E*-skip opening to Florida on Sunday. I really enjoyed the contest ... **W1MKY**. Even though conditions were flat, our new locations, strategies, and planning resulted in a significant improvement overall. It was win-win, as the food was great at the new diners we got to explore! ... **W3BC/R**. Thanks to the rovers who helped out ... **W2UDT**. Operated Hilltopper in FN10kr at 2100 feet with a single loop for each band. Only DX was VO1KVT ... **W3RGA**. There was no really good 6-meter opening, just some Caribbean, Florida, and Midwest short openings. On 2 meters we got as far west as Indiana. Once again, thanks to the rovers ... **W3SO**. Saturday was a complete skunk here in New Mexico but Sunday morning produced a good opening to the Midwest and double hop to New England and the Canadian Maritimes ... **W5WVO**. I did some EME during the night and picked up some nice grids in Europe. Right before the end of the contest, I went to the low end on 50.095 MHz, called CQ, and worked CT1HZE and CN8KD with a minute to spare. Don't ever quit! ... **WA2FGK**. The band opened up late Sunday morning and we managed to get a moderate run going on CW ... **WB2AMU**. This contest is always a lot of fun. When roving you always get a chance to explain ham radio. I met K2RAY and his son on the Skyline Drive. CT1HZE called me right near the end of the contest ... **WB3BEL**.

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
E70T	122	UR7D	105
C4M	96	OK1KIM	78
EI9FBB	90		
144 MHz		144 MHz	
OK1DOL	47	OK1KIM	83
UW5W	30	UR7D	60
HA6VV/P	28		
EA2TO/1	25		

USA

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
K1TOL	142	K1WHS	133
K2DRH	100	KB1DFB	103
W3EP	97		
K1TEO	89		
W2DAN	78		
144 MHz		144 MHz	
K2DRH	55	K5QE	90
WA2FGK	50	W3SO	47
		KA2LIM	46
		W4MW	28
		K1WHS	27

