## September VHF QSO Party Results



Vermont, always a handy multiplier, was supplied by W1GGM, operated by a group on Mount Equinox.

REPORTED BY JIM CAIN,* WAISTN

GOOD grief! When we mentioned that conditions for the June VHF QSO Party weren't the best on record we weren't asking if the propagation gods could provide more bad news in September. September 6 and 7 were on the downhill slide from at least average conditions which had prevailed in most parts of the cọuntry the previous week.

From our editorial standpoint, the best part of this activity was the terrific input from participants, in the form of snapshots, soapbox comments, short stories, and just lots of logs. Entries totaled 282, up nicely from last year's 231 . We'd prefer to let some of you tell the story:
"Just a quick comment on conditions. I read with interest the write-up on the June contest; I couldn't help but notice all the hand-wringing

about poor conditions. Well, just because we (WA1MUG) submitted the second-highest all-time score, and W1DC and W3CCX submitted scores that were higher than they've ever submitted before (not to mention that they were the third and fourth highest all-time scores), that must mean conditions were poor. Well, the propagation gods must have read that write-up and decided to show what poor conditions are really like." (WB2DRW/WA1MUG). [OK, John, we get the message. - Ed.]
"Six meter conditions were terrible for this part of the country during the contest; managed to work only one out-of-state contact (WB6KBZ), on a probable meteor scatter." (W7KMV).

Finally, here are some comments and an interesting band/mode breakdown from K1PXE. Note Pete had the third-highest single-op score, while not operating any six meters nor any fm on two. "The contest was the most fun in years. Band conditions were average except for a slight tropo coastal opening. The trend on two meters over the

Here's some explanation of WA4MMP's alwayspotent signal from Virginia on various bands.

| Min. Sections | 30 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 1 | Min. Sections | 30 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 1 | Min. Sections | 30 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MHz | 50 | 144 | 220 | 432 | 1215 | MHz | 50 | 144 | 220 | 432 | 1215 | MHz | 50 | 144 | 220 |  | 1215 |
| VE2DFO | 17 | 16 |  |  |  | WA2VWW | 13 | 19 |  |  |  | K4GL | 4 | 5 |  | 4 |  |
| VE3BQN | 3 | 19 |  | 7 |  | WB2CVT |  | 17 |  |  |  | K4DFK |  | 23 |  |  |  |
| K1PXE |  | 20 | 12 | 16 | 5 | W2OMS |  |  |  | 16 | 4 | W5WAX | 16 | 13 |  | 3 |  |
| WA1FFO/1* | 27 | 19 | 12 | 14 | 3 | WB2GKE* | 24 | 21 | 13 | 15 | 3 | WAGJUP/6 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 6 |  |
| W1JAA |  | :1 |  | 12 |  | WA2SNA/2* | 22 | 18 | 4 |  |  | W6BXO | 6 | 7 | 5 |  |  |
| W1JOT |  | 3 |  | 4 | 1 | WA2FZW* | 17 | 13 | 10 | 9 |  | WB6OKK | 11 | 11 | 6 | 5 |  |
| W1MX* | 8 | 13 | 10 |  |  | WA2UDT* | 16 | 19 |  | 8 |  | K6IBY |  |  | 5 |  |  |
| K1WHS | 24 | 21 | 10 | 12 |  | W2EIF | 15 | 19 | 9 | 9 |  | K6YNB/6 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| W1YTW | 9 | 15 | 12 | 7 |  | K2BWR | 22 | 18 | 14 | 6 |  | K60AX | 10 | 8 | 6 |  |  |
| WA1OUB | 22 | 123 |  | 5 |  | W2CNS | 22 | 20 | 5 |  |  | WA6GYD | 9 | 7 | 4 |  |  |
| K1MNS* | 15 | 12 |  | 12 |  | WA2WVL |  | 17 |  |  |  | WB6KBZ/6 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 4 |  |
| W1FMF* | 24 | 14 | 6 | 6 |  | K2JIQ |  | 17 |  |  |  | W6KOG | 13 | 10 |  |  |  |
| W1bim/1* | 16 | 16 |  |  |  | K2EVJ | 8 | 3 |  |  | 2 | WB6NMT |  | 7 | 4 | 4 |  |
| WA2JHR/1** | 18 | 12 | 4 | 3 |  | WA3OPX | 15 | 14 | 6 | 7 |  | WA6RNF/6* | 8 | 6 |  | 3 |  |
| W1GGM/1** | 18. | 20 | 13 | 13 | 5 | W3CGV | 4 |  |  | 1 | 1 | KóJKO | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 |  |
| WA1HON/1* | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | W3HQT |  | 23 | 12 | 20 | 3 | WA6NRV | 8 | 9 |  | 5 | 2 |
| WA1RWU | 22 | 15 |  |  |  | WA3VJU | 20 | 14 |  | 6 |  | K6ZMW | 8 |  |  |  | 3 |
| WA1MUG/1* | 32 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 7 | WA3AXV | 16 | 14 | 2 | 10 |  | WB6YIK/6* | 9 | 8 |  | 3 |  |
| W2CXC | 15 | 16 |  |  |  | WA3NVO | 15 | 12 | 8 | 7 |  | WB6NKO | 7 | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| K2ARO |  | 2 |  | 8 |  | WA3KPS | 6 | 17 |  |  |  | K6KLY/7 K7AUO/7* | 6 3 | 6 3 | 3 | 4 |  |
| W2HF |  | 8 |  | 4 |  | WA3UFU |  | 19 |  | 4 |  | K7AUO/7********** | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| K2CBA* | 18 | 18 | 7 | 14 | 2 | W2OW/3* | 19 | 14 | 5 |  |  | K7WKT/7* | 1 | 3 |  | 1 | 3 |
| WA2BLM* | 21 | 17 | 10 | 5 |  | W3AKW/3* | 4 | 17 | 9 | 10 |  | W7FHZ/7* | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| K2RTH |  | 25 | 13 |  |  | W3TMZ |  | 22 |  | 19 |  | WB8BGY | 26 | 12 |  | 3 |  |
| K2OVs | 11 | 18 |  | 11 |  | K3LFO |  | 19 |  |  |  | K8LZF |  | 6 | 2 | 3 |  |
| WA2PMW |  | 17 |  |  |  | WA3LND |  | 18 |  |  |  | K8LEE | 35 | 5 |  | 2 |  |
| WA2EUS |  | 8 |  | 3 |  | W3PGA/3* | 18 | 12 | 3 | 7 |  | K8UQA |  |  |  | 11 |  |
| K2BF |  |  |  | 9 |  | K3IVO** | 16 | 16 |  |  |  | WA8PLZ* | 27 | 21 | 1 | 4 |  |
| WA2GEZ | 16 | 16 |  |  |  | W3GNR/3** |  | 18 |  |  |  | W4GKM/8 |  | 9 |  | 3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | W4iss | 3 |  |  |  |  | K9HDE | 5 | 5 |  | 4 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | W4BFB/4* | 24 | 15 |  | 6 |  | K9UVJ | 10 | 9 | 3 | 5 |  |

## DIVISION LEADERS


past few years has been interesting to watch. A-m contest activity above 145 MHz has greatly decreased but has been compensated for by an increase in ssb activity. Most of the contest activity is now in the $144.080-144.120 \mathrm{MHz}$ segment. Here's my breakdown:"

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
144 \mathrm{cw}-67 & 432-35 \\
144 \mathrm{sb}-19 & 432-6 \\
145 \mathrm{am}-26 & 1296-6 \\
145 \mathrm{sb}-20 & \text { all bands phone }-80 \\
220 \mathrm{am}-9 & \text { all bands cw }-125 \\
220 \mathrm{cw}-17 &
\end{array}
$$

Thanks Pete, for the interesting comments. By the way, for those of you who don't know K1PXE, he's sightless.

K2OVS sent us an 8-chapter scenario about the September Party. We chose chapter 5 for everlasting fame and glory (?) :
Non-contester: "CQ, CQ, this is WA 2 XXX calling CQ two meters."


Some antennas at WB4JGG (Tenn.).

Contester: WA2XXX from K2OVS, how about a contest point?
N.C.:"K2OVS, WA2XXX. Good evening, old man, name here is . . .. QTH is . . .. Your signal is . . . My dog just had puppies . . . etc . . . etc.
(By this time I've QSYed and worked two other stations and come back just in time to answer him.)

Contester: "OK, Jack, what's your section?" N.C. "What's a section? I live in Podunk Hollow." Contester: "Your ARRL section."
N.C.: "What's ARRL?"

## End of story.

QST for February, 1975, page 61, documents the all-time records for September QSO Parties. Several individuals and groups sallied forth this time around to break a few of those records: WB2GKE broke their own multi-op record of 1973 by 10,000 points; WA7NAN/7, WB6KBZ/6, and W4VO/4 all broke multi-op records in their respective divisions. In the single-op section, hilltoppers WA6JUD/6 and K6YNB/6 set new marks in the Pacific and Southwestern divisions. If there are a couple more records broken next September, we'll run the complete all-time record box again, suitably updated.

Thanks, everybody, for the pictures and comments. We're only sorry we couldn't print more. Get your requests for January Sweepstakes forms in now, and keep us busy afterward with more photos and comments. GL!

## Soapbox

I nominate K1PXE for "best fist" award and W4DFK for "best ears." Too many candidates for "worst chirp" to decide on a winner. (WB2CUT). [We bet K1PXE has a machine to send his code.-Ed.] Our portable site is on Pine Log Mt., elevation 2400'. We thought activity was above average. - (W4VO/4). Got three new states on 432, but not looking forward to January due to possibility of poor band conditions. - (W3TMZ). [Now, what kind of an attitude is that?-Ed.] Our portable operation is from Buck Mt., WA, elevation 4000'. Six meters was especially poor, limited to line-of-sight. Be back in June. - (W7FHZ/7). We object to the multiplier box in the write-up not giving totals for every band, even if the contestant only made the minimum on certain bands. -

(W1MX). [OK, we get the message. - Ed.] Pleased to get all California sections from my spot in the south. - (WB60KK). Worked seven on two-meter EME, and expect this to be a very exciting mode in future contests. - (VE2DFO). Wow! 106 out of 176 two-meter OSOs were on çw. Got four on EME, also. - (K2RTH). Tropo was zilch, the E-layer was made ot cement, scatter was about the worst seen in recent years, and to top it all off, we had lingering thunderstorms in the area both nights. This relatively low score from me has not put a damper on future contest participation, and station improvements will continue. - (WA4MMP). Almost sounded like a band opening on six until I realized it was just a lot of guys operating. (WA4LDU). I'd like to see calling periods on various bands, to help concentrate activity. (K9HDE). Nice to hear W1AW on 2 meters. (W1WEE). First vhf contest getting all W1 and W2 sections, on two bands, at that! - (WA2GEZ). Never did hear any of the usual East Coast mountaintoppers on 432. - (K8UQA). |But he got Sweden and Japan on moonbounce. - Ed. ]Lots of cw on 2 meters, otherwise activity down. Think the lack of a "real" announcement of the contest in QST hurt, too. - (W2EIF). [See item in "lead" story. - Ed.] I'm taking down my hf antennas to put up more for vhf, including a double rhombic for six. - (WB9ETQ). Six was so bad it was hard to hear Denver, only 70 miles away. - (WA8GUB/ $\varphi$ ). Conditions picked up Sunday night, unfortunately after most had ceased operation. W7CNK is worked here so consistently on EME it's getting to be "old hat." By the way, the secret of making a good amplifier is to put 150 screws in the lid so even Murphy can't get into it! - (K1WHS). Cw on 2 meters sounded like 40 meters. - (WA3KPS). My equipment has never been better, but the poor conditions resulted in my just barely bettering last year's score. - (K4MSG). Think activity in the Midwest would increase if the competition were separated by bands. - (KøDAS). Since six died, my score would have been really sad if it hadn't been for good old 2 -meter amplitude modulation. - (WA8EUU). Only three years ago I was turning in division-leading scores without using any fm at all; now fm produces half my total contacts and even some multipliers not available on ssb. Unfortunately, it also produces some ill-will from noncontesters. - (K6YNB/6). Good activity at the low end of 2 meters. I suggest mountaintop beacons, probably from New England, one beaming north and one beaming south, to act as band-opening tip-offs. - (WA3NNZ). Thanks to WA1MUUG for helping us work East MA, our final section. (W2OW/2). Sounded like ssb and cw activity on 220 and 432 is going to rival two meters before long; I'll be ready next time. - (WA3AXV). Sure is a big difference being out in "the sticks" where there are no locals to work. - (W3HDH). Seems like the September Party is turning out to be an annual anti-climax to the June one. - (WB4VLH). I'm going to enter my log from now on, regardless of score, just to let you know I was in there. (WA9LZM). [That's the spirit!-Ed.] It's hard to set big records from 4-land, but I'll keep trying! (WB4JGG) Three separate electrical storms took place during the contest, making operating risky but exciting. Luckily, no power supply diodes lost. - (WA4GPM). Had some scatter and an inversion but ran out of stations to work. We're trying to get a permanent contest call. - (WA7NAN/7). Hope to have towers up and an amplifier going in January, if I don't operate at VE3ONT. - (VE3FVN). The only way to kill this group's enthusiasm is with a wooden stake. W3DQF was sending "CQ Test" while we were tearing down the equipment. (W3GNR/3).

Stan, WA1LOU, is probably hard at work building a vertical by now. He operated 2 fm only after rig failure on 6.




The Mecklenburg ARS, W4BFB/4, has been making big noises from North Carolina this year. Operating from Roan Mountain (elev. 6300') helps, as does having assistance from 18 club members. Here we see 5-over-5 on six assembled and ready to go up.

