

Results, Second ARRL UHF Contest

Activity was way up on the microwaves.

By Tom Frenaye,* K1KI

The ARRL UHF Contest is here to stay! A total of 159 entries were received this year, up nearly 35 percent from last year, showing that the enthusiasm and activity on the uhf bands are really on the upswing.

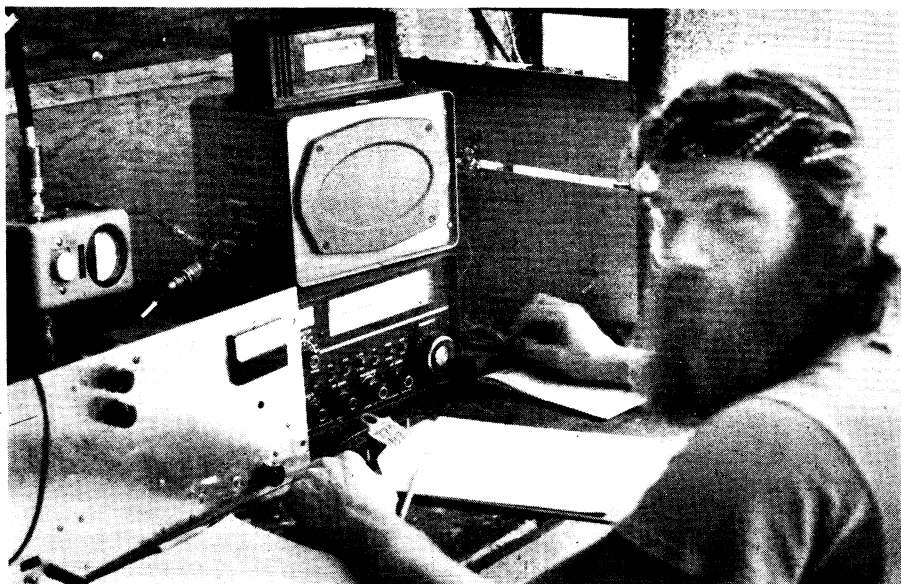
Despite average to poor conditions, all but one of the division records were broken. Activity was still very sparse in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States but the population centers of Los Angeles and the Philadelphia-New York-Boston corridor had excellent activity.

A careful look through the entries received showed a lot more people making contest contacts than had been expected. Of the 686 different call signs in the logs received, only about 25 percent sent in entries. Most activity was on 220 MHz with close to 500 stations active; 430 had nearly 300 and 1215 had 67. Only 11 stations used anything above 1215 MHz.

Many people felt that there was no good reason to restrict fm on 430 MHz while allowing it elsewhere. While others wanted fm eliminated completely. Maybe some allowance should be made for the distances involved in QSOs. For weak signal work with no QRM, there isn't that much difference between an fm and an ssb signal, though a cw signal will always be the best. Those 1° by 1° longitude-latitude blocks are about 70 miles from north to south and 55 miles from east to west. Would a listing of longest QSOs (no EME) stimulate more weak signal work?

One thing about uhf enthusiasts became very clear — they're very opinionated and very serious about uhf. The percentage of entries that include comments about the contest, the rules, their equipment, etc., is greater than any other ARRL-sponsored contest. On the other hand, prying pictures out of uhfers of their prize construction projects is very difficult.

The battle for the biggest point total was won by N6NB with 27 points more than K1FO not even one QSO difference, though uhf in Southern California, with a big 220-MHz fm advantage, can hardly compare with the 432-MHz Connecticut edge. The biggest increases in scores came from several areas.



W3HQT (above) at the 220-1296 station and N3AHI (below) at the 432 station put W3HQT/3 on the map from eastern PA.



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Division Leaders — Single Operator

Canadian	VE3BQN*	3906
Atlantic	K2UYH*	14,835
Central	WB9SNR*	6384
Dakota	W0VB*	429
Delta	AA4ZZ*	1728
Great Lakes	K8WW*	8190
Hudson	W2VC*	9030
Midwest	WB0ZXU*	528
New England	K1FO*	19,239
Northwestern	K7HSJ*	1512
Pacific	W6XN	3540
Roanoke	K4QIF*	8520
Rocky Mountain	W5FF*	60
Southeastern	WB4NMA*	1197
Southwestern	N6NB*	19,266
West Gulf	WB5LUA*	1344

*New Division record

Total Activity

Band	Different Stations
220 MHz	494
430 MHz	298
1215 MHz	67
2.3 GHz	5
3.4 GHz	2
5.8 GHz	3
10 GHz	9
All Bands	686



The 12-foot dish shown here brought K4QIF the Roanoke Division record again this year.



The W4ATC/4 group set up on top of Whitetop Mountain, VA, next to some other uhf gear. WD4MBK is on the tower putting on the finishing touches. (N4BYK photo)



The NNJ 432/1296 antenna setup helped earn them the Hudson Division winning multiop score.

WB9SNR more than tripled his Central Division record of last year, while K4QIF's Roanoke Division total this year was about seven times that of last year. AA4ZZ in the Delta Division and WB4NMA in the Southeastern Division completely demolished the old records. The most competitive scores showed up in the Atlantic Division, where K2UYH edged past W2EIF, and in the New England Division where K1FO edged a strong challenge from K1PXE.

Multioperator scores were also up with the W2SZ/1 group from RPI adding 20 percent to last year's winning score. The close battle in the Great Lakes Division was won by W8DJY over WA8HGX. The Tektronix group (K7AUO) went at it again with a couple of portables driving around western Oregon but found an inversion layer prevented big microwave results. Nevertheless, their score was up more than 20 percent.

The most interesting multioperator effort was put in by the K6TZ/6 group who flew to Santa Cruz Island off the Southern California coast. They backpacked to the top of the island and ran 10 watts on 220 fm, 2 watts on 432 and less than one watt on 1296, all powered by solar cells. Watch out for them in the years ahead!

If you've wondered what uhf is like in the sparsely populated parts of the West, W7LUX and W5FF can tell you. W7LUX says there is only one other uhf station within 120 miles of his Prescott, AZ, location, though he notes 1215-MHz activity is on the rise. W5FF never did work his own state of New Mexico. His nearest QSOs were over 200 miles away and farthest nearly 400.

A number of comments were received indicating that August wasn't the best time of year for many people because of vacation schedules. The Contest Advisory Committee is studying UHF Contest dates and a change may be made for the 1980 contest. The UHF Contest is here to stay.

Not enough room for a map showing activity across the country this year, but if you'll send an s.a.s.e. and ask for the "uhf activity charts" for the August UHF Contest you can get a listing that shows the total number of stations active on each band in each 1° longitude/latitude block.

Certificates go to the top combined DXpedition score, to all division winners, to second-

Centers of Activity

Overall (1° × 1°)	Active Stations
Los Angeles-S.F. Valley	50
Los Angeles-Long Beach	48
Santa Barbara-Ventura	37
Philadelphia-North	36
Portland	32
Anaheim-Orange County	30
San Diego	27
Philadelphia-South	26
Cincinnati	23
Hartford	19
220 MHz	
Los Angeles-Long Beach	46
Los Angeles-S.F. Valley	45
Santa Barbara-Ventura	36
Philadelphia-North	33
Portland	29
430 MHz	
Philadelphia-South	16
Cincinnati	16
Hartford	13
San Mateo-S.F.	11
Boston	11
1215 MHz	
Portland	9
Boston	7
San Mateo-S.F.	5
Santa Barbara-Ventura	4
Los Angeles-Long Beach	3
Philadelphia-South	3



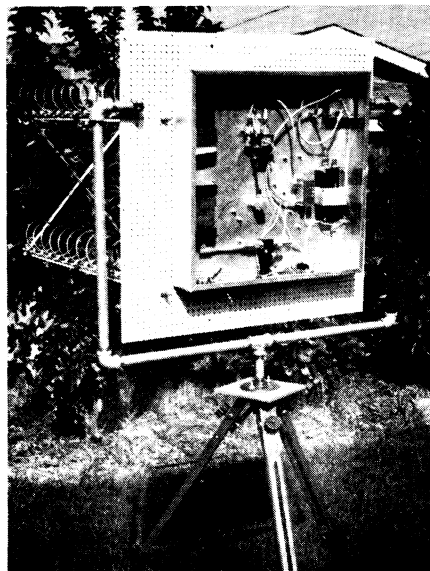
The 2500-foot K6TZ/6 QTH on Santa Cruz Island overlooked much of the Southern California coastline, though a plane ride, 1-1/2-hour jeep ride and 2-1/2-hour hike on sheep trails make it pretty remote.

220 MHz		430 MHz		1215 MHz	
N6NB	19	K8WW	42	K1FO	12
W2EIF	16	GW3NJY/W9	35	K2UYH	11
K1FO	16	WA8TTS	33	W2VC	11
K1PXE	14	K2UYH	32	WA3JUF	11
WA2TEO	13	W3IP	30	K4QIF	10
K2DNR	13	K4QIF	30	W2EIF	9
VE3BQN	10	WB9SNR	29	K1PXE	9
W1GXT	10	K2RIW	28	W3CXU/2	8
WA2FUJ	10	K8AT	28	K3IUU	7
WA3JUF	10	WA4IP	26	W1JR	5
WA8EUU	10	K1PXE	26	N6NB	5
W2SZ/1*	23	W8DJY*	30	WA2SNA*	12
W3HQT/3*	18	W2SZ/1*	29	W2SZ/1*	11

*Multioperator

The only correction from last year's results is that K2UYH was the single-operator winner from the Atlantic Division (SNJ).

Last year I worked all the stations I could find on uhf within 300 miles. I totalled 144 points. There was simply no one else to work using normal equipment. I object to being in the same division as all the stations in Southern California (W7LUX). I hope that the remainder of the country had as large an increase in activity as the Southeast had (WA4WZQ). A 220-fm rule like that of 146.52 in the VHF Contest should be implemented. Heard the KH6HME 432 beacon during the contest which parallels last year's opening (WB6NMT). Was amazed at the good ears/operators at most stations. My vote for most active station on 432 goes to W2SZ/1 who was going at 4:30 A.M.! (K2GK). My first successful try at 432 was the day before the contest! (WA2BPE). I believe operating time should be 24 out of 35 hours like the other vhf contests to allow for two evenings of openings and one morning shot (WA4IP1). I just got my feet wet, both on uhf and in contests (WB4AYE). I enthusiastically support the multiplier method and scoring scheme presented by this contest (W0VB). Activity did tend to follow band conditions, which were generally bad Saturday. Sunday did come through with many short-lived openings (mostly short range and intense) which did bring in low-power stations in the 200- to 300-mile range and could be pushed to 400-500 miles with high power (WB9SNR). New England lend an ear. We listen and call but they never turn the beams on us (W4ATC). This contest is certainly more enjoyable and challenging than the ones in September and June (W1JR).



WA6EJO's homebrew 1296 station attaches directly to the quad helix antenna.

Call sign, total score, QSOs, multipliers, bands operated (C = 220 MHz, D = 430 MHz, E = 1215 MHz, F = 2.3 GHz, G = 3.4 GHz, H = 5.8 GHz, I = 10 GHz).

Canadian Division				WB4JGG 126- 7- 6-D TN				WA1HYN 600-20-10-D CT				Southern Division			
VE3BQN(VE3CRU,opr)				WA4QYK 90- 6- 5-D TN				K1LPS 528-16-11-D VT				WB4NMA 1197-21-19-D GA			
3906-11-10-C ONT				W5UCY 36- 4- 3-D MS				WA1GTP 360-15- 8-D CT				W41SS 864-18-16-D GA			
27-19-D				Great Lakes Division				K1SU 288-12- 5-D CT				WA4CQG 324-12- 9-D AL			
2- 2-E				K8WW 8190-65-42-D OH				WB1CWZ 150-10- 5-D CT				W4ODW 189- 9- 5-D NFL			
VE2BBK 330- 9- 9-D QUE				WA8TTS 4455-45-33-D OH				K1JDN 144- 8- 6-D CT				W4EQR 105- 7- 4-D NFL			
1- 1-E				WA4IPI 3159- 8- 3-C KY				K1WGN 105- 7- 5-D EM				WB4BSZ 72- 6- 4-D NFL			
VE3FN 330-11-10-D ONT				K8ADW 2625-11- 8-C OH				K1COW 913- 9- 5-D CT				W4GCB 48- 4- 4-D GA			
VE2SH 189- 7- 6-D QUE				K8ATW(9W1P,opr)				W1JOT 72- 6- 2-D EM				W8UT 27- 3- 3-D WVA			
1- 1-E				24-17-D				W1JAY 54- 6- 3-D EM							
VE3IHB/3 96- 8- 4-C ONT				WA8EUU 2046-13-10-C MI				W1AYG 12- 2- 1-E EM				Southwestern Division			
VE3IQZ 27- 3- 3-D ONT				WA8VPD 2046- 6- 5-C MI				W1JG 3- 1- 1-D WM				N6NB 19,266-12-17-19-C SBAR			
				W8DIO 1539-27-19-D OH				W2SZ/1(WB1CBH,K2TR, W2GN,WA25 FKS GFF,WB2S BXP PKO,WA8USA,Arsl)				32-14-D			
				W8BPAT 1440- 6- 6-C OH				81-29-D				5- 5-E			
				16-13-D				18-11-E				7521-64- 9-C SDGO			
Atlantic Division				WA8ULG 1404- 6- 3-C MI				W1XM(W1XG,WA4TTG,opr)				29-10-D			
K2UYH 14,835-89-32-D SNJ				W8DJY(WB8ULC,WB8NFJ)				8208-19-11-C EM				4- 3-E			
W2EIF 13,530-48-16-C SNJ				7548-21- 7-C OH				31-16-D				19- 7-D			
40-16-D				47-30-D				1218- 4- 2-C WM				4- 3-E			
11- 9-E				WA8HGX(WB8BKC)				W2JHR/1(WB4RVA)				1560-42- 7-C SBAR			
K3IUUV 11,118-38- 8-C EPA				7353-19-14-C MI				13- 9-E				1- 1-I			
53-19-D				4- 4-E								W6NXB 1440-60- 8-C LA			
9- 7-E				Hudson Division				Northwestern Division				K6BRD 1368-57- 7-C ORG			
WA3JUF 6930-12-10-D EPA				W2VC 9030-58-24-D NNJ				K7HSJ 1512-21- 6-C OR				K4JSI/6 1071-51- 7-C LA			
32-12-D				WA2FUZ 8118-26-11-C NLI				W7TYR 1350-15- 6-C OR				W6CWN 1032-43- 8-C LA			
13-11-E				28-11-E				N7DB/7 132- 6- 2-C OR				WB6OKJ 888-37- 8-C LA			
W3CXU/2 6417-12- 6-C SNJ				K2RIW 6972-83-28-D ENY				K7AUO/7(W7s ADV BKN UDM,WB7HF,opr)				W6ABW 7852- 7-C ORG			
39-17-C				WB2WIH 2142-14- 9-C ENY				12-15-D				WA6QCS 735-35- 7-C ORG			
9- 8-E				WA2TEO 1008-16-13-D NNJ				11- 6-E				W6BDCT 528-22- 8-C LA			
W3IP 6222- 4- 4-C MD				K25HB 897-23-13-D ENY				W7TYR 1350-15- 6-C OR				W6BTRW 525-25- 7-C ORG			
57-30-D				WB2TFH 828-23-12-D NNJ				N7DB/7 132- 6- 2-C OR				K6KH/6 495-1- 7-C ORG			
N3MW 2337- 7- 6-C EPA				K2DNR 663-17-13-C ENY				K7AUO/7(W7s ADV BKN UDM,WB7HF,opr)				N6AVW 462-22- 7-C ORG			
21-13-D				WA2ANZ 36- 4- 3-C ENY				11- 7-D				KA6DGV 450-25- 6-C ORG			
W3CL 1620-33- 6-C EPA				WA2SNA(K2BJG,K2LPG, KA2AVA,N2AAZ,W2S LVT MJA,WA2UPK,WB2CAM,opr)				5- 2-D				W6ABN 336-14- 8-C ORG			
12- 6-D				22,752-62-17-7-L NNJ				9288-30-18-C OR				N6NO 240-10- 8-D AZ			
W3XO 1620-30-18-D MD				16-12-E				Pacific Division				W7LUX 240-10- 8-D AZ			
K2KG 990-29-15-D WNY				Midwest Division				W6XN 3540-13- 6-C SCV				W6VIO(W6ABW,opr)			
K3BWD 726-22-11-D EPA				WBØZXU 528-16-11-D IA				K6JKQ 1458-14- 9-C SJV				105- 5- 5-C LA			
N2AQJ 690-14- 5-C SNJ				WBØTEM 297- 2- 2-C IA				WA6UAP 1287-17- 8-D SCV				K6TZ/6(WA6s GNY MBZ, WB6s HOZ OUZ QDS,opr)			
K3QQ/M 651-31- 7-C EPA				9- 7-D				AJ6T 156-13- 4-D SCV				9135-11- 7-C SB			
WA3DMF 594- 1- 1-C MD				New England Division				Roanoke Division				15- 7-E			
17-10-D				K1FO 19,239-25-16-C CT				K4QIF 8520-47-30-D VA				AA6DD(+K6LPF)			
W2HXF 540-18-10-D MD				62-25-D				K4QIF 8520-47-30-D VA				3694-34-10-C SBAR			
WA2BPE 351-13- 9-D WNY				17-12-E				WA4SBC 1782-33-18-D VA				12- 8-D			
K3VYG 306-34- 3-C EPA				K1PXK 17,640-25-14-C CT				WA4ZIA 1404-11- 5-C NC				5- 4-E			
WB2KIW 72- 6- 4-D WNY				71-26-D				N4CD 540- 2- 1-C VA				WB6ESQ(+WA6PMX)			
K3GAS 63- 7- 3-C EPA				12- 9-E				W4FJ 480-16-10-D VA				1302-21-10-D ORG			
WA4NVW/3 18- 6- 1-C MD				W1JR 11,100-15- 7-C EM				WA4GBE 264-11- 8-D VA				5- 4-E			
K3DLS 12- 4- 1-C EPA				59-23-D				W4MVI 189- 9- 7-D NC				West Gulf Division			
W3HQT/3(+WA4HJ)				9- 5-E				W4KAE 105- 7- 3-D CT				WB5LUA 1344-22-13-D NT			
19,635-25-18-C EPA				9- 5-E				WB4AYE 18- 3- 2-C VA				3- 3-E			
66-27-D				1- 1-F				WA4ATC(AA4OO,WA4DFS, WD4s AHS MBK,opr)				WB5KIA 54- 6- 3-D NT			
14-10-E				1- 1-I				2673- 6-C VA							
K2BWR(+K2ZRJ)				W1GXT 2835-20-10-C EM				WA4WZQ/4(+K4YBC, KA4HKK,WA4WZP, WB4HIE,WD4GGU)				DXpeditions (*)			
5310-15-10-C SNJ				15- 8-D				2112- 5-C NC				K7RUN (4 locations)			
38-17-D				1- 1-F				20-17-D				118- 8- 8-C ORE			
3- 3-E				W9KDR/1 2451-10- 7-C CT				WA4PGI(+WA4ZRP)				4- 4-D			
W3GNR/3(+K3TF,WA3FC)				K1ZZ 1944- 4- 4-C CT				900-18-14-D VA				K7WWR/7(+WB7CHK)			
4794- 8- 8-C WPA				12- 9-E								(8 locations)			
39-26-D				33-12-D								1320-22-17-C ORE			
WA2ZJF(WA2RQC,WB2MYZ, oprs)				W1UHE 1845-41-15-D RI								13-13-D			
108- 6- 6-D WNY				AC1WJ 1782- 7- 4-C NH								2- 2-F			
				WA1PBR 1632-10-11-D RI								2- 2-G			
Central Division				N1QG 1377-11- 8-C CT								2- 2-H			
WB9SNR 6384- 5- 5-C ILL				WA1YUW 1312-31-14-D CT								2- 2-I			
41-29-D				WB1FKF 1125- 7- 4-C EM								K7UHU(Multitop)			
5- 4-E				12- 9-E								(4 locations)			
GW3NJY/W9				1- 1-E								278-13- 7-C			
5250-50-35-D ILL				K1VYU 792-24-11-D CT								4- 3-D			
180-10- 6-D ILL												1- 1-F			
W9IFA 147- 7- 6-D IND												1- 1-H			
WD9EME 126- 7- 6-D IND															
WB9NTL 126- 7- 6-D IND															
K4SASH 60- 5- 4-D WI															
WA9CUH 18- 1- 1-C WI															
K9XY 2- 1-D															
Dakota Division															
W9VB 429- 3- 3-C MN															
10- 8-D															
K9VXM 360- 1- 1-D SD															
11- 9-D															
W9OHU 297-11- 9-D MN															
WB9YQS 24- 4- 2-D SD															
Delta Division															
AA4ZZ 1728-16- 6-C TN															
16-12-D															
				</											