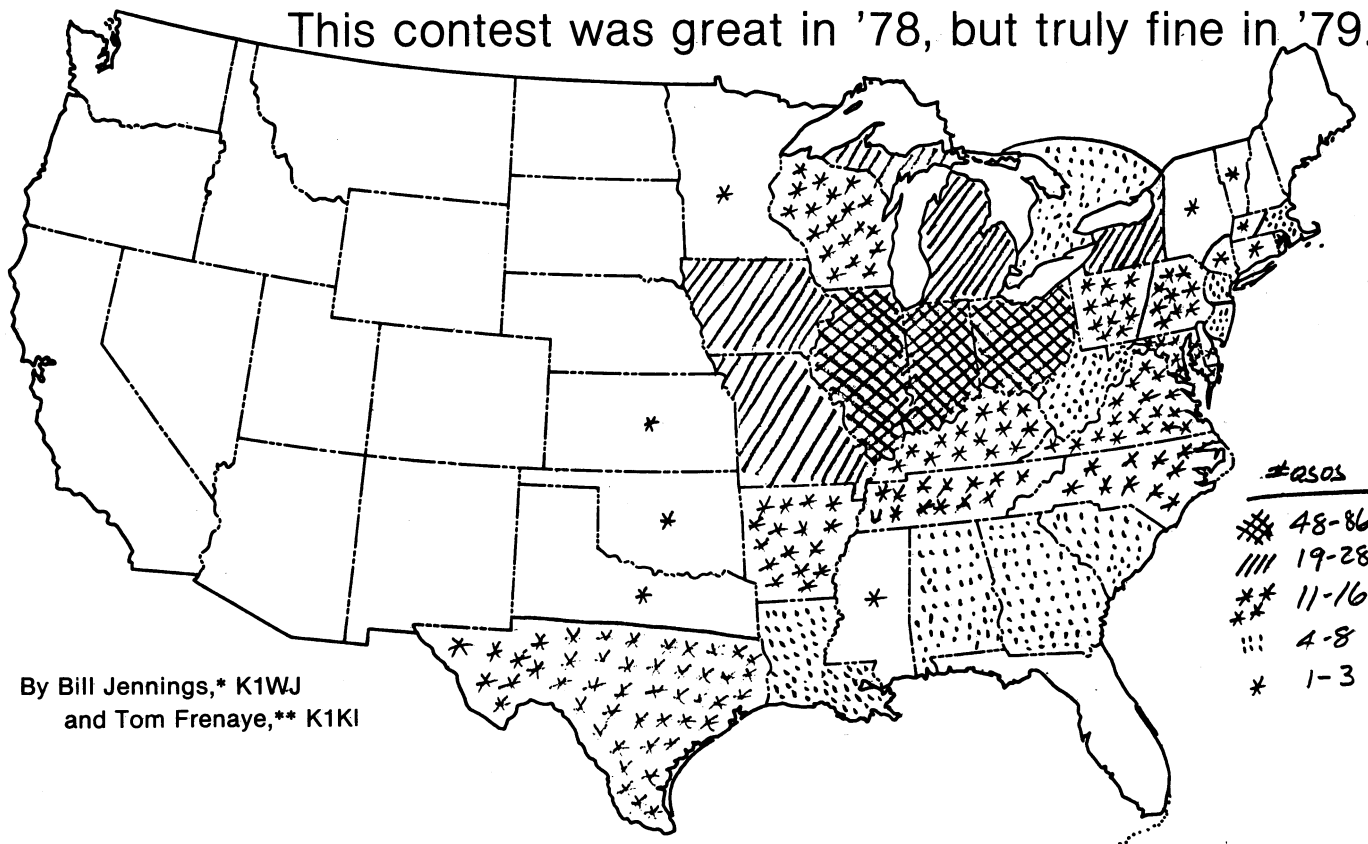


Results, 1979 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

This contest was great in '78, but truly fine in '79.



By Bill Jennings,* K1WJ
and Tom Frenaye,** K1KI

Mike, W9IP, likes to plot 2-meter QSO density by section on a map, after the contest, to see where the action was.

When things are bad, they're very bad, but when things are good, they're great. Pardon our taking the liberty to "adjust" that old saying to describe the increased participation (in terms of entries submitted) and those FB conditions, especially that dandy tropo that intensified late Sunday evening, extending from Northern Texas through Northern New England. Those "things" were great.

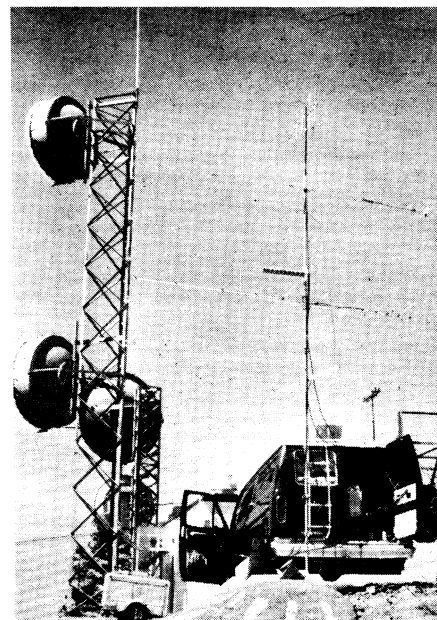
The 422 entries received for this September contest are not only an increase of 25 percent from the 338 logs checked in 1978, but represent the largest turnout since 1963.

When we say that individual and multiop division records were broken we're putting "gross understatement" in a new category. Check the division leaders' box for yourself. See all those asterisks? Each call sign that has an asterisk after it has broken the previous all-time division record and now holds the new record for that particular division. Mind you, these are now the record holders, not counting all those in the same ARRL division that also broke the old division record but were just shy

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W6SFH and WA6KOD multioped from 'KOD's "portable shack" from the Sacramento Valley Section. They relate, somewhat unhappily, that those dishes on the tower next to the van belong to Western Union and were not used during the contest.



of the score submitted by the new record holder.

The overall, all-time, single-operator high score is just slightly over 102K points (yes, you read that correctly — 102 with three 0s after it) by N6NB. Wayne operated portable from Vermont, and we don't think that it would be improper to mention that a single-operator score of over 100K points had never before been achieved in *any* ARRL VHF contest. To make our point a little clearer, scan the score listings and the scoring leader boxes in this report and see how many single operators managed to break K1FO's one-year-old, 45K-point, single-operator high score for the September contest.

The multioperator stations were not about to be outdone by their single-op counterparts. Those starred call signs, denoting new all-time division leaders are as plentiful on the multioperator side of the division leader box as on the single-operator side. It might be casually mentioned that a new all-time-high multioperator score appeared in the September bash. Ho hum, another of those giant multis from the Northeast found a "bonus opening" on 432 while everyone else was asleep? Not quite. The Roanoke Division multiop leader is also the all-time multiop leader. Who? Who else? W4BFB. After several frustrating years of good solid effort, some "nice try — but, wait 'til next year," division, but not overall, winning efforts, the gang from the Mecklenburg ARS got down and got hot to the tune of better than 190,000 points. After "well done," what else need be said? The 175K-point score at W2SZ/1 "ain't no shabby effort." 'BFB, 'SZ, and the old WA1MUG group (from whence evolved the W2SZ team) are the only multiop entries to ever break into that magic 100,000 point circle in September.

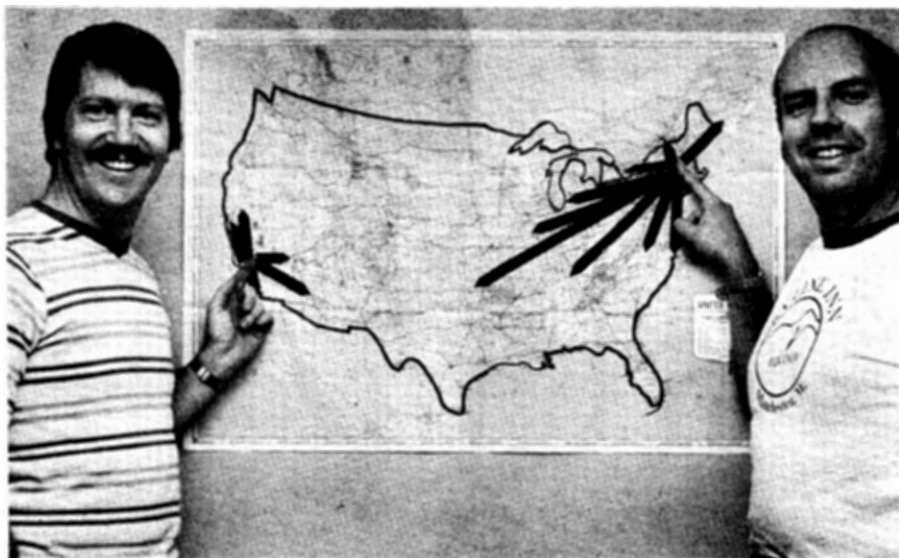
Ted Goldthorpe, WA4VCC, vice president down at Mecklenburg, sends the following narrative on how the winning effort really came together. "The goal was set. Over 70,000 points were needed to comfortably take a 12-year-old record for the Roanoke Division. WA8PLZ, the Drake Radio Club, signed portable 8 in WV and came home with 67,000 points. 'BFB wanted that record, to own all three contest certificates (January SS, June and September VHF QSO Parties) for the Roanoke Division.

"Plans were made, the best equipment secured and permission obtained for us to be atop 6300-foot Roan Mountain for the contest. On Friday afternoon, September 7, 16 fired-up Mecklenburg operators began the assault on the North Carolina side of Roan Mountain.

"The first antenna was in place before nightfall on Friday and the last in place by 2:30 P.M. (local) on Saturday. Ten elements on 6 meters, 32 elements on 2-meter ssb, 14 elements and a Hustler G-7 on 2-meter fm, a Ringo Ranger on 220 fm, and 38 elements on 432. Whew!

"At 2:45 P.M. a procedural meeting was held by the group and operating schedules were handed out. At 2:57, those on Roan Mountain heard a loud cheer carry across the mountain and at exactly 3, four stations were going full-bore.

"How were conditions? Unbelievable. Right off the bat, the 2-meter station had Midwestern stations stacked up waiting to work us. By 3:30 P.M. the 220 station had logged seven states. By midnight on Saturday, we were still caught up in our frenzy of enthusiasm; it sounded like a pep rally. Over 70,000 points were now in the bag and a new goal of 100,000 points was established.



Who said "east is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet"? N6VI (left), the top single-op scorer on the West Coast in the September Party meets "Mr. 105," N6NB, who came up with the first-ever 100,000-point single-op score in an ARRL-sponsored vhf contest, just back from his successful contest operation in Vermont. Martin ('VI) and Wayne got together after the contest to compare (see the arrows on the map) the difference in the DX each worked in the 'test.

Division Leaders

Single Operator

Call	Score	Division
VE3BQN*	16,254	Canadian
WA2DPU*	45,360	Atlantic
GW3NJV/W9*	35,310	Central
K0CJ	1008	Dakota
WB4JGG*	28,424	Delta
WA8TTS*	33,495	Great Lakes
WB2WIK*	54,202	Hudson
N0IS*	20,119	Midwest
N6NB/1*	102,795	New England
WA7RTA	2641	Northwestern
K6KLY	5084	Pacific
N4CD*	14,112	Roanoke
WA4EWA*	9108	Rocky Mountain
N6VI	21,756	Southeastern
WD5FZM*	6020	Southwestern
JA1RJU*	8	West Gulf
		DX

*Indicates new division record

Multioperator

Call	Score
VE3AEA/3	6798
WA3CPH/3*	52,298
W9IP*	84,739
K0SE*	10,492
WB4LHD/5*	58,050
W8DJY*	53,382
WA2SNA*	98,746
K0TLM*	7470
W2SZ/1*	175,835
W6SFH/6	1734
W4BFB*	190,210
N0KV*	2970
W4VO*	24,426
K6MEP*	18,960
KA5AAW	1802

"The trend carried on through the night and into Sunday afternoon. The crew was dead tired, but enthusiasm kept the sandman at bay. The new goal was 200,000 points, but the bands had been worked out. Only stragglers were being logged. So the stations came down, one at a time, as individual band conditions

dictated. At about 3:30 P.M., our last contact in the contest had been logged. At 5:00 P.M., now 20 strong, we left the mountain with 75 log sheets clutched in our tired, sweaty but happy little hands.

"Score? It's hard to believe but — over 190,000 points. It is interesting to note that some 1000 QSOs had been logged on 2 meters and a total of 115 section multipliers had found their way into the logs.

"Sure, the Mecklenburg ARS, W4BFB, was happy with their performance, but you can't rest on your laurels, with at least a couple of dozen multioperator stations across the country capable of winning the whole ball of wax. Wonder how we can improve the operation for next year?"

Can you imagine what second thoughts may have occurred when the 'BFB gang got home and discovered that they missed the big tropo opening Sunday night? Other Southeastern stations were working 5s, 9s and 0s until the end of the contest. Scheduling required off time can be a difficult decision.

The Sunday night tropo seemed to be centered over the lower Ohio River Valley



Number two, single operator, Eastern Massachusetts Section, WB1FUB.

Top Ten

Single Operator	Multioperator
N6NB/1	102,795
K1FO	62,128
WB2WIK	54,202
WA2DPU	45,360
GW3NJY/W9	35,310
WA8TTS	33,495
WB4JGG	28,424
K1PXE	28,045
WA2FGK/2	26,940
WA1NGR/3	22,632



KØTLM (front) and WBØDRJ, 2-meter and 70-cm stations, respectively. KØTLM, multiop, Missouri.

where even the low-power stations ran up the multiplier totals. Those on the edge of the tropo, WB5LUA in the Southwest and N6NB/1 in the Northeast, had to rely on the kW's or altitude to pick up the numbers. The tropo was bounded by the remnants of Hurricane David, over the Canadian Maritime provinces; Hurricane Frederick just moving south of Florida and a cold front trying to sweep down across the Plains States.

Who would have guessed that 430 MHz would outdo 50 MHz in the September contest? The biggest 430 multiplier came out of MO where NØIS snagged 30. On 2 meters the big totals came from NC (W4BFB), IL (W9IP) and Western NY (K2OWR).



The Bug Mountain Boys, WA3CPH/3. The players and the playing field. (From the left): Larry, W3IW, on 432; the station including 2 x 4-elements on 6 meters, 80-element collinear on 432, and 4 x 8-element Yagis on 2 meters; and Ralph, WA3QKM, handling the 6-meter operations.

Call Area Leaders (QSOs — Multipliers)

	50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	430 MHz	1215 MHz	10 GHz
N6NB/1	193-27	502-31	58-18	78-25	4-4	
W2SZ/1*	348-28	667-30	78-18	140-26	25-12	1-1
WB2WIK	187-29	318-27	33-10	45-16		
WA2SNA*	239-25	372-26	105-18	76-21	15-7	
WA1NGR/3	102-20	80-21	22-10	48-16	2-2	
WA3CPH/3*	214-27	344-32	—	52-20		
WB4JGG	88-31	248-33	—	19-12		
W4BFB*	345-34	1017-39	78-16	68-26		
WA5FDF	5-2	235-30	—	4-4		
WB4LHD/5*	165-28	380-33	—	65-25		
N6VI	53-11	291-11	87-5	26-7	6-3	
K6MEP*	65-9	297-7	205-5	9-3		
WA7RTA	42-9	46-5	9-2	12-2	3-1	
K7UA/7*	2-1	60-2	4-1	1-1		
WA8TTS	153-26	166-25	5-1	53-25		
W8DJY*	148-30	319-25	35-6	57-21		
GW3NJY/W9	92-17	311-25	—	66-24		
W9IP*	144-32	515-38	17-7	73-24		
NØIS	—	191-29	—	75-30		
KØSE*	86-23	114-11	4-3	18-6		
VE3BQN	35-21	168-21	6-5	40-17	2-2	
VE3AEA/3*	71-13	101-13	—	17-7		

*Indicates multioperator station

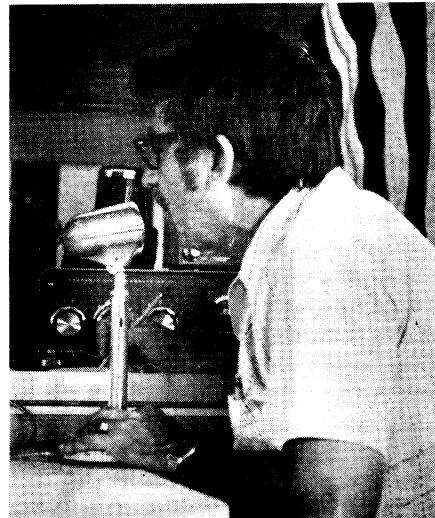
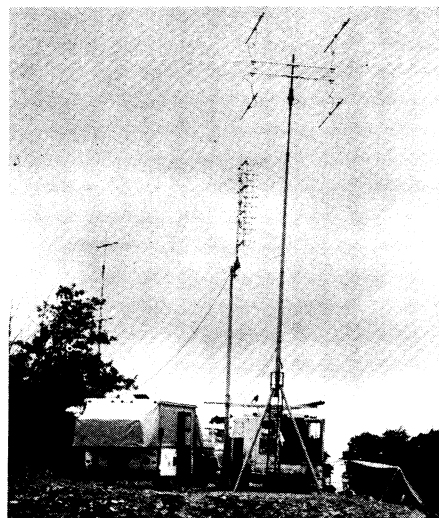
Sure is nice to have a contest weekend fall on the same weekend as the good propagation.

Don't forget to send an s.a.s.e. for summary, logs and dupe sheets for the 1980 VHF SS — January 12-13, 1980.

SOAPBOX

Where were all the 220 and 440 "fmers"? Worked only one Virginia station on each band on simplex (W3MSN). The big opening really didn't get here until midnight on Sunday. I ran out of time at 0142 local and the opening really got cooking about 0200 local (K1FO). Conditions below average but 432 activity was very good. It was really frustrating to listen to WNY and Southern ON working W5s on Sunday night (VE2DFO). Our operation was portable (battery-powered) from Mt. Sedgewick, NM. Band conditions and activity in the Albuquerque area generally very poor. Longest DX was to Phoenix, AZ (WD5GNW/WØZYF). Had a great time with the tropo session even though the rotator had quit. Having a 15-degree beam width makes it tough (W2AV). Lost 42 minutes on the first night in having to explain to the police what I was doing and why (WB3ERE). Even though no contacts were made, the enthusiasm of the Phoenix 1296-MHz operators for conducting tests was very encouraging (W7LUX).

This vhf contest came in an off-year for me. Hurricane David did in my 144-MHz beam, so I mainly played around on 432 (W1JR). I wish more of the participants would submit logs after the contest. I won top spot in the SF Section for the June contest, but I only had one other competitor, thus didn't feel too overwhelmed by the accomplishment. There were many other stations on here in the section that seemed to be doing real well in June, but I guess none of them sent in their logs. Hopefully we'll see better results this time! (WB9LOZ). Highlight of the contest was working WA4WZQ/4 in NC on 220 with 10 watts fm and a small Yagi (distance covered — 483 miles) (AC3T). Propagation conditions on 6 meters were rather disappointing. Heard KØSE in MN plus two IA stations on brief bursts of scatter at approximately 0200 UTC on September 9, but that was it as far as openings were concerned (WAIGDR). My first VHF QSO Party from the home QTH — seems strange not to be signing VE7ASM/7. Heard Oregon on 432 but no QSO. No enhancement on 432 — poorest weekend for some time. More activity on 432 and 2-meter ssb than on 6! (VE7ASI). I'm sure that many other operators in this part of the country experienced the same frustrations that we did, but this didn't help our morale any, knowing that the ops to the south and southwest of us had a monster tropo opening, while we apparently had a duct too high for us to use. I wish someone would explain why W4BFB should be so strong and consistent on 144 into MO, IA, NE and KS, but nonexistent



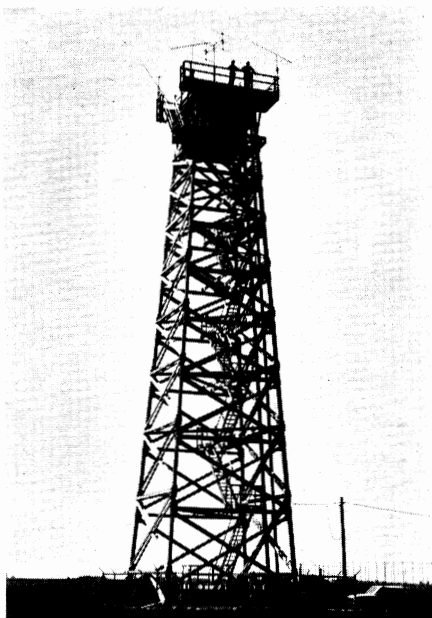
Multiplier Leaders (Call — Multiplier)

50 MHz		W7YOZ	5	WA3CPH/3*	32	WD8RMT	22	K3LNZ/8*	7	WB4LHD/5*	25
W2SZ/1*	28	WA7ADK*	5	WB3FWF*	32	W9IP*	38	W8IDU	6	WB5LUA	22
N6NB/1	27	WA7WXI/7	5	K3ARN	31	GW3NJY/W9	25	W8DJY*	6	N5DL*	21
K1TOL	25	W8DJY*	30	WB3CZG*	30	K9RO	24	AA9D*	7	K6KLY	7
WB1FUB	24	W8VP*	27	K9MRI/3*	30	WB9NTL	23	W9IP*	7	N6VI	7
K1FO	21	WA8TTS	26	K3HCE	27	WD9EME	21	WB9SNR	4	W6XN	7
KA1BRD	19	K3LNZ/8*	23	K3HZO	27	K9UNM	20	WB0PKN	3	WB6ESQ	7
K1FWF	19	W9IP*	32	K1GSR/3	27	N9AZC	20	K0SE*	3	WB9KMO/6*	6
K1MON*	19	W9ZX*	26	W3ZR	27	W9ZX*	20	VE3BQN	5	K7ND	3
W1XM*	19	K9RO	19	WB2DNE/3*	26	N0IS	29			W7YOZ	3
K2OWR*	31	GW3NJY/W9	17	W4BFB*	39	W0FY	27			K8WW	27
WB2WIK	29	K0SE*	23	W4ATC*	35	A10L	20	432 MHz		WA8TTS	25
WA2WVL*	28	K0TLM*	20	WA4WZQ/4*	35	W0RT*	17	W2SZ/1*	26	W8DJY*	21
WA2SNA*	25	WB0ZKG*	19	WB4JGG	33	VE3UH	34	N6NB/1	25	K8AT*	19
W2YX	24	WB0PKN	14	WD4EKA/4*	28	VE3FGU	26	K1FO	20	K3LNZ/8*	15
WA2DPU	23	VE1ASJ	22	WB4IXU	27	VE3BQN	21	K1PXE	20	K8DIO	14
K2CBA*	21	VE2DFO	22	WD4IIS*	27	VE2DFO	18	W1JR	18	W8IDU	14
WA3CPH/3*	27	JA1RJU	4	W4VO*	25	VE3FN	17	K1MON*	14	GW3NJY/W9	24
N3AHI	25			WA4IPI	25			W1XM*	14	W9IP*	24
WB3CZG*	25			W3IY/4	24	220 MHz		K2RIW	25	WB9SNR	14
K9MRI/3*	23	144 MHz		WB4LHD/5*	33	N6NB/1	18	W2VC	23	N0IS	30
WA1NGR/3	20	N6NB/1	31	N5DL*	30	W2SZ/1*	18	K2CBA*	23	WB0TEM/0*	12
W3IWU	20	W2SZ/1*	30	WA5FDF	30	K1FO	14	K2GE*	22	K0TLM*	11
W3KWH*	20	K1FO	26	N6VI	11	K1PXE	13	WA2DPU	21	VE3BQN	17
W4BFB*	34	W1FJH	25	WB6ESQ	11	W1EJ	12	WA2SNA*	21	VE2DFO	12
WD4IIS*	32	K1WHS	24	K6BPC*	10	W1XM*	11	K2OWR*	20		
WB4JGG	31	K1PXE	23	K6KLY	9	WA2SNA*	18	N2CB	18		
WD4EKA/4*	29	W1BAT	23	W6YKM	9	K2OWR*	15	WA2FUZ*	17	1296 MHz	
W4VO*	27	W1XM*	20	WA6ALA	8	W2EIF	12	WA3CPH/3*	20	W2SZ/1*	12
WA4WZQ/4*	24	K1GVM	19	WB9KMO/6*	8	WA2FGK	12	WB3CZG*	18	W1XM*	8
WB4LHD/5*	28	WA1VUW*	19	WA7JTM	7	WA2FUZ*	11	K3IUV	17	K1FO	7
N5DL*	25	K2OWR	37	WA7EPU	5	WA1NGR/3	10	N3AHI	17	K1PXE	5
N6VI	11	W2YX	30	WA7RTA	5	WB3CZG*	8	K3IVO*	17	W1JR	5
W6YKM	11	WA2FGK	29	K8AT*	30	W4BFB*	16	WA1NGR/3	16	W1EJ	5
K6KLY	10	K2GE*	29	K3LNZ/8*	28	WA4WZQ/4*	12	K3HCE	15	WA2SNA*	7
WA6HCI	10	K2QR	27	W8IDU	27	WA4IPI	8	K3HZO	13	W2VC	5
N6AMG	9	W2AV	27	W8VP*	27	K6KLY	5	W4BFB*	26	W2EIF	5
K6MEP*	9	WA2TIF	27	WA8TTS	25	N6DN	5	W4ATC*	26	K2CBA*	4
WB9KMO/6*	9	WA2DPU	27	W8DJY*	25	N6VI	5	WA4IPI	22	K2GE*	4
WA7RTA	9	WB2WIK	27	WB2DIN/8	24	W6YKM	5	WA4WZQ/4*	22	K3IUV	4
W7KNT	5	WA2SNA*	26	WA8SQL	22	K6MEP*	5	K4QIF	17	K4QIF	5
		WB2RRK*	26	WD8CTX	22	K6TZ*	5	W3IY/4	14	W6XN	5
						WB9KMO/6*	5	WA4EWA	13	WB9KMO/6*	5
								W4VO*	13	W6SFH/6*	5
								WB4JGG	12		

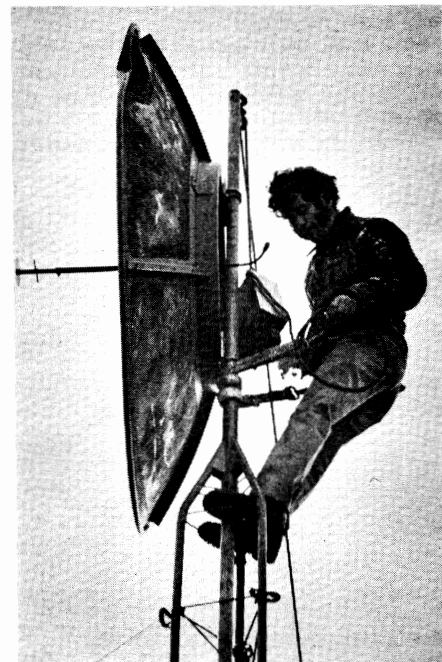
*Indicates multioperator station

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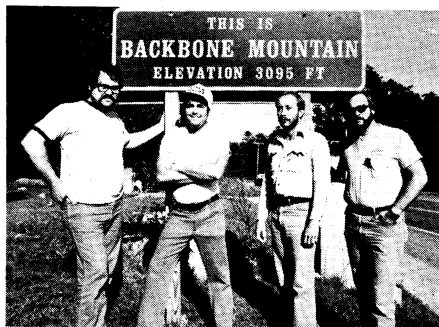
on 432 MHz. The main redemption for our score was 50-MHz meteor-scatter, which was really quite good (K0TLM). In spite of no big 6-meter openings, we did quite well. Two meters and 432 seemed to be helped along by the hurricane activity (WA3CPH/3). Although mine was strictly a single-operator effort from Mt. Equinox in Vermont, I don't think that I could have made it without the pre- and post-contest logistics and morale support of people like W1SL, WB2WIK, K2OWR, KB2M and N2ADH (N6NB/1). One group out here was told about their very poor signal quality *before* the contest began, but still they chose to start the contest putting out a very distorted signal. Maybe in future contests if everyone will avoid making contact with those ops who have distorted signals, then they will get the message (WB5JAR). This was the first time we have been at a decent location for the contest. It is amazing what you can work on the vhf bands when you are not *behind* a mountain. The high point of the weekend was working WB9KMO/6 in the Santa Barbara Section on 1296, using about 1 watt of power (distance about 250 miles) (W6SFH). Conditions were very poor with only a very short opening on 6 meters Saturday night. Mostly scatter contacts on 6 anyway. Highlight was 2-meter EME QSO with K3NSS, which only took 10 minutes. We had 1296 all set up and ran several schedules but no luck. Our best effort ever in terms of participation — 14 ops. We also had our local radio club picnic/meeting at our contest site thereby exposing the rest of our local amateurs to a full scale vhf contest effort (K0SE). Near the beginning of the contest, we heard a W7 under a pileup of Midwestern stations. They (the Midwestern stations) didn't hear him. The nearest W7 to our location would've been a 1400-mile drive to Cheyenne, WY . . . WB5LUA and K4QIF heard us off the moon . . . we had line noise and closing clouds so we were unable to copy WB5LUA (with whom we had a sked). Could hear K4QIF well enough to tape and use as a good EME tape . . . WB5LUA removed all of his preamps and heard us in Dallas, TX, on a Bic pen stuck in the mixer input



W9IP and K9AKS atop the 120-foot wooden tower near Champlain, IL. The antennas are six elements on 6 meters, eight-element Quagi on 220, four x five-element Yagis on 2 meters, and 16 elements on 432. The third op at W9IP was Emil, W3EP, who took the photo and still had all those stairs to climb.



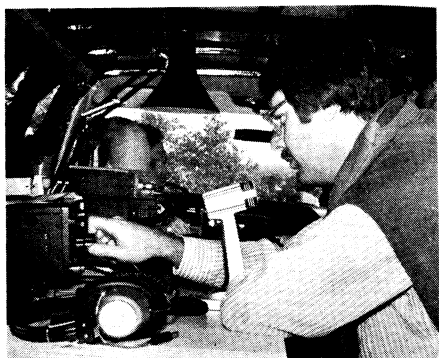
Dick, WB2BXP, is attaching the converter to the 1296 dish for W2SZ/1 on Mt. Greylock in Western Massachusetts. Dick has been the man in charge of planning the W2SZ/1 contest strategy.



The K9MRI/3 mob from the left are Joe, K9MRI; Wayne, K9SLQ; Bill, K9TVZ and Larry, WD9FAO. Considering the 30 multipliers on 2 meters and the 23 multipliers on 6, it appears to have been a pretty worthwhile trip up to Backbone Mountain in Maryland.



WA4MMP/1, Rhode Island.



At multiop station, W9CSF/9, Indiana, K9DZE operates the station while AG9S goes in for a little relaxed kibitzing.



That Signal/One, CX-7 and Hallicrafters HA-2 Transverter feed a KLM 13-element, long-boom antenna. Howard, WA3EOQ, does 2 meters for K3LNZ/8 — number-one multiop station from West Virginia.

(WD4MBK/W4ATC). Before this, my first mountain-top contest, I expected fierce QRM, frayed tempers and lots of jamming. However, I found widespread patience and cooperation, especially with the other "big signals." I don't think I made any enemies and I know that I made some friends (N6VI). After the tropo started on 2 meters, I believe we worked every W8 and W9 there is. Very lucky that the opening shifted to the east, which gave us four more sections on 2 meters. Before it was over, we had *fed* the 432 amp at least 10 diodes (WD4IIS). Six meters was rather quiet, little scatter until early Sunday morning, 1000 UTC. Two meters was unbelievable, W4VO, W4BFB consistently S-9 for almost the entire contest. Two opened up Sunday morning and late Sunday evening to TX and the northeast — QRM all over the band . . . 432 put on the biggest show of 'em all! Sunday morning called CQ Contest and W5LDV comes back from South Texas (1000-mile path) S-8 to S-9 . . . I've never heard a band opening on 432 like this. We overheard K8AT make a sked on 2 meters with N6NB/1 for 432. They moved up to 432.150, we listened, and to our surprise, he was in there about S-3. As soon as Kelly signed, I called him and he came back for my first 432-VT QSO. I'd like to tell him how well his 432 quagis work, all eight of them (W8DJY). We think that our section total of 38 on 2 meters is a new record for that band in any ARRL vhf contest (unless someone did better in this contest). All that, and we didn't work a couple of sections that are usually within range from here in central Illinois (NE, SD). It would have been nice to have gotten them (40 sections), but I guess we'll just have to settle for 38 this time around (W9IP). Last June, the guys east of me had the tropo and this September the guys west of me had the good conditions. Maybe one year it'll be my turn! (VE3FN). After suffering some problems with mountain sickness last year (due to long-term oxygen deficiency, operating from Pike's Peak — elevation 14,110 feet), we decided to try some supplementary oxygen this year. Several of us slept a few hours on Saturday night with about two liters of oxygen flow and were able to get a lot more rest than is otherwise possible. Even so, manual dexterity needed for keyer operation degraded pretty badly by late in the day on Sunday! (N0KV). Murphy dealt us his worst blows this time (no relation to my helper Mike Murphy, WA1VKO!). The 144-MHz-amplifier power supply shorted out, two VFOs completely ceased to oscillate, the 432-MHz exciter blew up in a cloud of thick black smoke, and the 220-MHz transverter never got off the ground. January should be better, because it couldn't be any worse (AFIT).

FEEDBACK

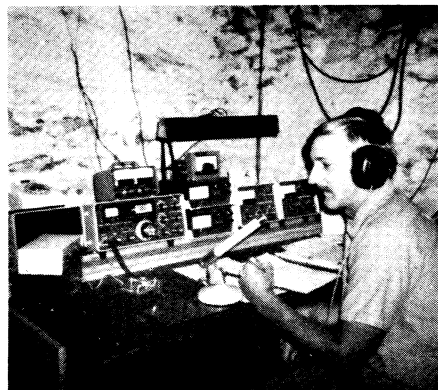
Reference December 1978 *QST*, page 89.

Through no fault of theirs, the New Hampshire multiop score of WA1TZV and WA1TFH (operating WA1TZV) was omitted from the score listings of the 1978 ARRL September VHF QSO Party. The line score should read: 17,595 - 291 - 51 - ABCD.

Again in the 1978 September contest, correct the line score of WA4WZQ/4, multiop in North Carolina to read as follows: 6300 - 193 - 28 - ABCD.

WA8TTS should have been credited with a score of 18,304 - 309 - 52 - ABD for his Great Lakes Division leading effort from OH.

In the sorting of the January '79 VHF Sweepstakes logs, the Roanoke Division leading score from WD4LGR was attached to another entry and overlooked. Credit Woody with a score of 13,680 - 176 - 26 - ABD and a very slim victory over arch rival KA4DCZ.



WB0RMT, number two, single operator, Iowa Section.



Weather Satellite photo from Tiros-N taken early on September 11. Hurricane Frederick can be seen about 200 miles west of Key West, FL. The remnants of Hurricane David are just off this photo, to the north and east of Nova Scotia. Tnx, David and Frederick, for some FB condx for the contest. (Thanks to W4TNT for the photo)



K2MM learns that you handle a 96-element 2-meter array with kid gloves. W2SZ/1 multiop.

From December 1979 QST © ARRI