

Results, Third ARRL UHF Contest

There is life above 2 meters!

By Tom Frenaye,* K1KI

Uhf enthusiasts where are you? A total of 120 entries was received for the August 2 and 3, 1980, running of this annual event, which is now in its third year. The 1978 contest saw 118 entries received, while the 1979 contest, with its 159 official entries, seemed to signal that there was an increased interest in uhf contesting and participation might grow as the years passed. What happened?

Seems that at just around the 650 mark, the same number of different call signs showed up in the logs of the contest participants as in 1979. Maybe summer doldrums, vacation time and nice long, warm afternoons at the beach contributed toward a reluctance for doing UHF Contest paperwork.

Not all the Contest news is downbeat though. N6NB, again the top single operator in the UHF Contest (with a new contest record single-operator score, of course), found just about the same number of QSOs in his log as in 1979. The 3 kilopoint difference in Wayne's higher 1980 score over his 1979 effort is because of the nine additional 1980 multipliers — thanks, in part, to the efforts of the AA6DD contest expedition, which provided N6NB with nine additional latitude-longitude block multipliers.

Eight new single-operator division records also came out of the 1980 contest from the following ARRL Divisions: Canadian, Atlan-

tic, Central, Dakota, Delta, Hudson, Southeastern and Southwestern. It might be noted that no entries were received from the Rocky Mountain Division and the N6TX still holds the Pacific Division all-time single-operator record from the 1978 contest — the only record not broken in 1979 or 1980.

The W2SZ/1 group is again the top multioperator station, breaking their own 1979 36,465-point all-time multiop record by more than 12,000 points. K2XR, meanwhile, took second-place multiop honors for 1980 with an impressive 32,238-point showing by operators K2OWR and WB2WIK.

"Best DX" by band among those stations whose operators bothered to record their best DX in miles looks something like this: **220 MHz** — W1XP/1, 350 miles; **432 MHz** — W2SZ/1, 540 miles and K2XR, 475 miles; **1215 MHz** — N6NB and XE2BC, 350 miles and W0VB, 295 miles; **10 GHz** — W2SZ/1, 57 miles.

A few people have suggested rules changes that might stimulate increased UHF Contest activity, including a multiplier for longer-distance QSOs, a change in the band segments either to allow 440-MHz fm or not allow 223.5-MHz fm, or a change in dates to avoid the midsummer vacation season.

A serious evaluation of the contest rules will be made in the next month or two in order to make any changes deemed desirable in time for the scheduled August 8 and 9 running of the 1981 UHF Contest. Make sure your ideas are

Multiplier Leaders

220 MHz		432 MHz		1296 MHz	
N6NB	19	K2UYH	45	N6NB	12
K1FO	16	K8WW	38	W3HQT	11
W2EIF	14	K2RIW	35	K2UYH	10
W1JR	14	WB8BKC	30	WA3AXV	10
W3IY/4	14	W3IY/4	27	K1PXE	9
K1PXE	13	K9KFR	26	W2VC	9
WB8BKC	12	(four)	24	KA1GT	9
W2SZ/1*	28	W2SZ/1*	35	W2SZ/1*	13
WA2SNA*	21	W4ATC*	26	K2XR*	10
		WA2SNA*	26		

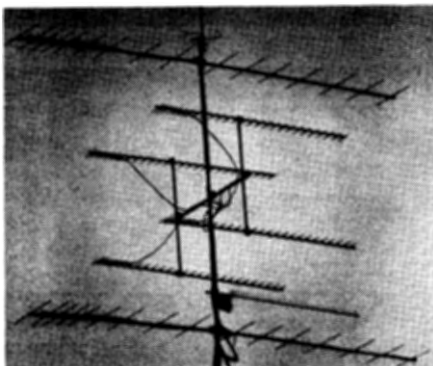
2300 MHz		3400 MHz		5700 MHz	
W7TYR	1	W7TYR	1	W7TYR	1
K7AUO*	2	K7AUO*	2	K7AUO*	2

10 GHz

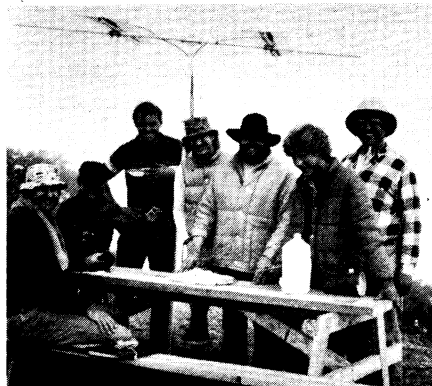
VE3CRU	1
VE3QF	1
WA2ANZ	1
W2SZ/1*	5

*multioperator stations

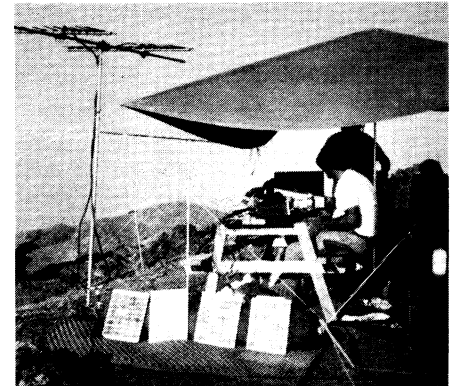
heard by sending them to the ARRL for distribution to the Contest Advisory Committee members. Those of you who have the equipment to get on in the contest and for one reason or another did not are especially encouraged to supply some ideas. Can anyone schedule a good tropo opening?



The VE3QF antenna farm includes two 16-el 144 MHz Yagis, four 27-element 430-MHz Yagis, and a 28-element, 1296-MHz loop Yagi with the transverter on the boom. (photo by VE3AND)



(Left to right) WA6VNN, David, WB6ACU, WB6HOZ, WA6OUZ and WA6MBZ, members of the Santa Barbara ARC, went to a lot of work to backpack their gear, including a solar-panel power supply, to the summit of Diablo Peak on Santa Cruz Island off the California coast.

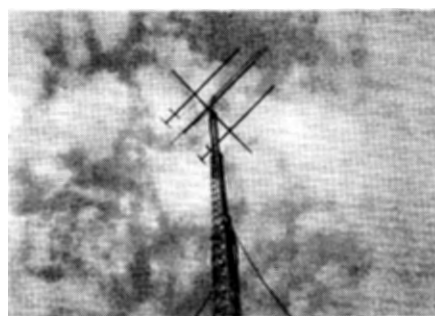
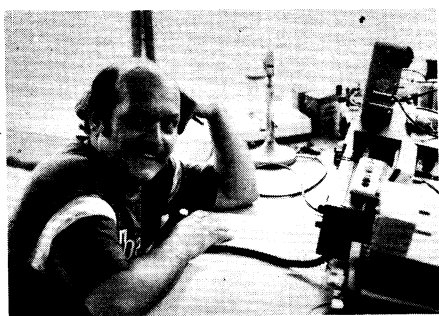


SOAPBOX

Why could multiop groups make contacts with their own members above 2304 MHz in the June contest, but not in the UHF Contest? The UHF Contest seems a natural for that rule! Many contacts lost on 1296 MHz because of some stations not firing up on that band until the last hour. We have found hf liaison (i.e. 3815 kHz) very valuable in the past. Hope to see more activity there (WA6EJO). The 1296 operations were hindered slightly by a loss in receiver sensitivity. The 50 watts available on ssb didn't help much either, since most others were only running a couple of watts also. Most of the stations that were QSO'd were well over 300 miles away. One of the more frustrating aspects of contesting from here in Mexico is that we don't get to work our own section/latitude-longitude block. Indeed, in the past three years of travelling into Mexico for the contests, we have yet to work XE on 1296. This may require that we bring another rig along in the future (WB6NMT/XE2BC). It seems to me that August is not the best time for our UHF contest because the number of logs submitted, and the number of stations on the air during the contest are far

below the number of stations that I know to be active on the bands. Maybe the problem is that August is vacation time for many. Maybe it is because the weather is generally too hot in August to either be in the shack or to produce good uhf propagation. I would suggest the possibility of an October date for the UHF Contest (WIGXT). I was very disappointed with the low activity on 432 MHz this year. What can be done to encourage the noncontesters to make some noise on our rather sparsely populated uhf bands? For one thing, it would help to show everyone the often overlooked DX potential of the uhf segments, making the bands ultimately more attractive for contesters and noncontesters alike (AJ6T). This was our first UHF Contest and we did not set up the big stations we would have normally used for a VHF QSO Party. But the two of us (K2OWR and WB2WIK) did have fun and we kept pretty busy! Our QTH was incredible: Sunrise Mountain, the second highest point in the State of New Jersey, ground elevation — 1653 feet above sea level. We were really in the woods. Our portable crank up tower was borrowed from N6NB and it really came in handy. Had to crank it up and down several times: Up in nice weather and down when the

horrendous thunderstorms blew through, which was every couple of hours (K2XR/WB2WIK). I have called one of the few 70-cm nets in the country now for almost a year and feel fairly well acquainted with propagation and conditions. I feel that the contest weekend was nothing special, enhanced far more by increased concentration of activity than tropo, inversion, etc. Our contest QSOs ranged from Massachusetts to southern Georgia, with almost all the highly populated blocks represented between these two areas. Interestingly enough, we didn't work anyone in our own block, around Raleigh, North Carolina. Everyone either forgot about the contest or was out of town (W4ATC/W4MBK). All that I can say for the contest this year is that I hope this combination of bad conditions and pitiful activity doesn't happen again soon, or all the interest in this event is going to die out (WB9SNR). This was my first crack at the UHF Contest, and I enjoyed it so much that it may be a long time before I get my 6- and 2-meter gear back on the air. I had to take down my 6-and 2-meter antennas to make room for 220 and 1296. Unfortunately, the 1296 system bombed out quite badly, but we'll make it work — eventually (W31Y/4).



K2OWR (left) and WB2WIK operated multiop station K2XR with help from the borrowed portable 80-foot crank-up tower.

Scores list:

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	Central Division	WA2SNA(K2BJG,N2AAZ,WA2s DTJ EK M UPK,WB2RFB,opr)	Northwestern Division	Southwestern Division
VE3CRU 4452-12-8-C-ONT 29-16-D 4-3-E 1-1-I 4-4-C-ONT -13-6-D -4-3-E -1-1-I 630-15-14-D-ONT 585-27-4-C-QUE -10-9-D	WB9SNR 6510-11-9-C-ILL -39-22-D 6-4-E K9KFR 5670-6-5-C-IND -40-26-D -4-4-E WB9NTL 312-3-2-C-IND -8-5-D -1-1-E KA9ASH 294-9-4-C-IND -1-1-E WD9EME 264-11-8-D-IND WB9FNR 210-10-7-D-IND K9XY 18-3-2-D-WI	W1QK2/(WA1s PMA WXV, WB1HCA,opr) 7968-26-9-C-ENY -57-23-D	W7TYR 1056-10-4-C-OR -9-3-D -9-1-E -1-1-F -1-1-G -1-1-H K7HSJ 870-20-5-C-OR -7-4-D -1-1-E K7KOT 288-6-3-C-WA -2-2-F K7AUO/7(K7UUM,W7s GFP UDM,opr) 792-5-1-C-OR -2-2-G -2-2-H -1-1-I WB7FHF/7(+K7IU) 285-3-1-C-OR -1-1-F -1-1-G -1-1-H -1-1-I	N6NB 22,842-115-19-C-SB -37-16-D -13-1-D AC6C 5418-63-10-C-OR -13-7-D -5-4-E W6ABW 1755-65-9-C-LA WB6OKJ 1176-49-8-C-LA WA6IJZ 792-12-5-C-SB -12-3-D W6CN 720-40-6-C-LA KA6DGV 576-24-8-C-LA W6NKB 567-27-7-C-LA N6AVW 504-24-7-C-LA WA6DCT 360-20-6-C-LA K6ZMW 324-9-6-E-LA W7LUX 36-4-1-D-AZ -1-1-E W6KBD 18-3-2-C-SDG W6OAL(+WA6s EJO OYS, WB6YQN,WB9KMO) 9360-82-10-C-SB 22-11-D 6-4-E 6-1-I
K2UYH 20,532-8-4-C-SNJ -22-45-D -13-10-D WA3AXV 13,455-24-7-C-EPA -61-22-D -15-10-E K31UV 8460-33-9-C-EPA -41-14-D -10-7-E -14-17-D W3HQT 8436-14-9-C-EPA -14-11-E W3CXU/2 8160-10-4-C-SNJ -44-22-D -23-19-D -13-6-E W2EIF 6696-31-14-C-SNJ -27-13-D -7-4-D W3IP 5148-10-7-C-MDC -42-24-D W2PGC 5049-14-10-C-WNY -29-20-D -4-3-E WB3CZG 2448-10-3-C-EPA -24-21-D N3MW 2220-14-7-C-EPA -23-19-D WA3JUF 1998-5-3-C-EPA -10-7-D -11-8-E -14-9-D W3CL 1887-7-8-C-EPA -14-9-D WA2DKB 1734-16-7-C-SNJ -18-10-D LA4LN/W3 1620-27-20-D-WPA K3AKR 1482-7-6-C-MDC -19-13-D W3XO 1092-26-14-D-EPA K3GO/3 720-30-8-C-EPA K3VVG 285-19-5-C-EPA W4NVW/3 165-5-2-C-MDC -6-3-D W3MSN 12-3-D-MDC W3GNR/3(+K3TFL,K3s AWL DWR,WA3s BUC FFC JBY, WB3IQE) 3441-80-25-D-C-WPA -30-24-D	Dakota Division W9VB 1296-5-5-C-MN -13-10-D -3-3-E W9OHU 627-17-10-D-MN -1-1-E Delta Division AA4ZZ 1800-13-6-C-TN -17-14-D WB4JGG 297-11-9-D-TN W5UKQ 210-8-6-D-LA -1-1-E Great Lakes Division WB8BKC 7434-15-12-C-MI -44-30-D K8WW 7182-63-38-D-OH WA4IP 3741-10-5-C-KY -31-23-D -1-1-E WA8VPD 3042-10-8-C-MI -25-16-D -2-2-E KD8Z 1080-20-18-D-OH WA8ZCO 231-5-3-C-MI -6-4-D Hudson Division K2RIW 9240-88-35-D-NLI W2VC 6696-44-22-D-NNJ -14-9-D WB2WIH 1680-18-8-C-NNJ -17-8-D WB2TFH 1008-28-12-D-NNJ K2SHB 975-25-13-D-ENY K2OVS 567-21-9-D-NLI WA2ANZ 180-8-4-C-ENY -1-1-I K2XR(K2OWR,WB2WIK,opr) 32,238-87-19-C-NNJ -16-10-E	Midwest Division WB9TEM 270-3-2-C-IA -7-7-D K9Y 189-9-7-D-IA W9RAP 126-7-6-D-IA K9DAS 48-4-4-C-IA New England Division K1PXE 15,870-22-13-C-CT -59-24-D -17-9-E K1FO 12,402-35-16-C-CT -47-16-D -12-7-E W1JR 11,931-27-14-C-EM -52-22-D -9-5-E KA1GT 4968-40-14-D-CT -16-9-E W1GXT 2106-17-9-C-EM -14-7-D -4-2-E K1LPS 2046-10-8-C-VT -21-14-D WA1UQC 1653-12-9-C-CT -17-11-D W1FAJ 1512-11-8-C-CT -16-9-E WB1FKF 1296-12-5-C-EM -16-11-D AF1T 858-8-4-C-NH -1-1-E WB1CWZ 435-74-28-C-CT K1ZZ 351-3-3-C-CT -10-6-D AC1J 270-5-1-C-NH -10-5-D W2S1/(K1DH,WB1CBH, W2GN,WA2s AAU GFP,WB2s PKO QCJ,N4CD,WA8USA,opr) 49,086-74-28-C-WM -46-35-D -19-13-E -1-1-I W1XM(AG1E,W1XG,WA2EYC, WA4TTG,N6BYK,opr) 11,628-28-13-C-EM -50-19-D -12-6-E W1XP/1(+K1KG,N1HR, WA5IOD) 390-10-7-C-ME -1-1-I W1TKZ(+K1s OGF TJB, WA1PQY,opr) 36-4-3-D-WM	Pacific Division AJ6T 195-13-5-D-SCV W6SFH/7(+WA6KOD) 108-6-6-D-NEV Roanoke Division W3IY/4 8364-21-14-C-VA -47-27-D K4QIF 5115-37-24-D-VA -9-7-E WA4ZIA 4092-10-7-C-NC -34-24-D WA4SBC 3024-37-5-C-VA -4-1-E W4FJ 966-23-14-D-VA W4ISS 798-19-14-D-NC K4GL 585-2-2-C-SC -13-11-D WA4LDU 546-14-13-D-SC WA4WZQ/4(+KA4HKK, WA4WZP,WB4HIE,WD4GQU) 4293-28-10-C-NC -25-17-D W4ATC(AA4OO,WA4s BPJ OFP, WB4s ILW TQD,WD4s MBK MZX, opr) 3960-7-4-C-NC -37-26-D	West Gulf Division WB5LUA 840-14-6-D-NT WA5VJB 486-20-3-C-NT -7-3-D W5JTA 45-5-3-D-NT N5EX 3-1-1-D-NT DX XE2BC(WB6NMT,opr) 4347-29-7-C -24-10-D 8-4-E DXpeditions* AA6DD(+K6CA) 732-16-11-C-SV/LA/SB (5 locations) -16-11-D 5-5-E VE3FHM/3(2 locations) 153-10-9-D-ONT Check Logs WA2ECH,K4EJQ,K9SLQ *Combined scores from all locations.