

# Results, Fourth Annual ARRL UHF Contest

By Mark J. Wilson,\* AA2Z

This is a little more like it! Despite generally poor conditions across the country, activity in this year's UHF contest was up substantially. The post office brought us 156 official entries, up 30 percent from last year's 120 and just three shy of the all-time high from 1979. The increase in entries indicates that there is, indeed, interest in the regions above 2 meters.

As usual, 432 MHz was the "bread and butter" band on the East Coast, while 220 MHz was the place to be out west. However, a careful look at the results shows a marked increase in East Coast 220 activity. WB8BKC led the single ops on this band with 23 multipliers, while W2SZ/1 snared 38, 10 more than last year. In addition to the top single- and multi-operator scores, there is a table this year listing the top scores from participants who used one band only. Check out W3GPY's 220-only score of 42 contacts and 22 sections. Also of note: K2RIW again led the Hudson Division with his 432 MHz-only entry. That 16-Yagi array really plays!

The big single operator scores came from the East Coast this year, as two stations beat the previous single-op record. Long-time uhf enthusiast W3HQT edged out K2LNS, operating K2UYH, for top honors, breaking N6NB's three-year win streak. In the multioperator class, the W2SZ/1 group made a tremendous showing from their Mount Greylock QTH, making more than 87 kilopoints — 38,547 better than their own 1980 record multiop score. Out west, the K7AUO group operated all bands from 220 right up to 10 GHz and turned in an impressive 9300-point score.

Nine ARRL Divisions sported new single-operator records at the end of this year's contest. Next year's participants will have to work even harder to set records in the Canadian, Atlantic, Central, Delta, Great Lakes, Hudson, Midwest, Northwestern and West Gulf Divisions.

Each year, the "Best DX" in miles continues to grow. Not all stations remembered to record their farthest contacts, but those who did reported the following: 220 MHz — W2SZ/1,

## Multiplier Leaders

220 MHz		432 MHz		1296 MHz	
WB8BKC	23	K8WW	34	W3HQT	14
W3GPY	22	K2RIW	33	K2UYH	11
WA8TXT	21	K2UYH	33	W2PGC	11
W2CRS	20	W3OZ	33	WA3JUF	11
W3HQT	19	W3HQT	30	WA8TXT	10
W2PGC	18	WA8TXT	30	K8WW	10
WA8JHW	18	WB8BKC	29	WB8BKC	9
W9IP/4	17	W7EKI	28	K1FO	8
VE3CRU	17	WB3CZG	27	K2YCO	8
W2SZ/1*	38	W2SZ/1*	37	W7EKI	8
VE3LNX*	19	W8DJY*	26	WB9SNR	8
W3GNR*	19	W3GNR*	22	W2SZ/1*	17
				WA1UQC*	7

2300 MHz		3400 MHz		5700 MHz	
N6TX	2	N6TX	1	K7AUO*	6
K6UQH	2	K7AUO*	5	K7WWR*	4
W2SZ/1*	7	K7WWR*	3		
K7AUO*	5				

## 10 GHz

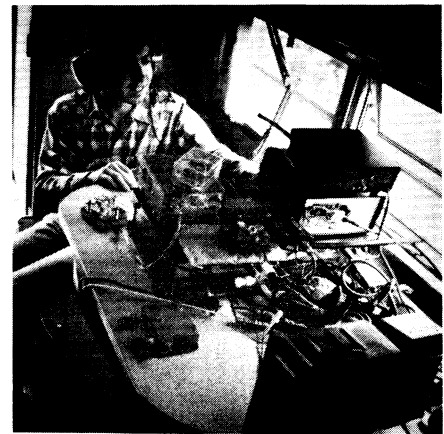
W1VD	5
W2CRS	3
W2SZ/1*	8
K7AUO*	6

\*multioperator stations

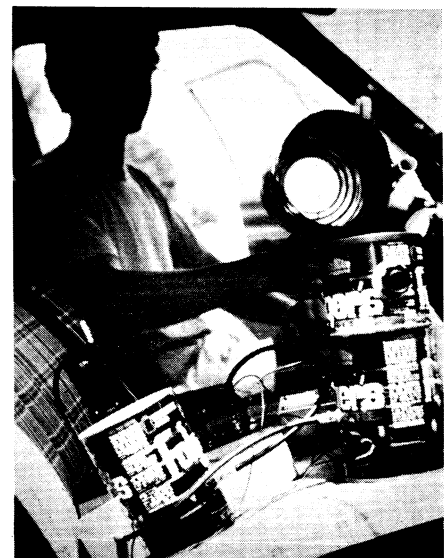
537 miles, WA8TXT, 496 miles and W3HQT, 470 miles; 432 MHz — K2RIW, 541 miles, W2SZ/1 and WA8TXT, 496 miles, W3HQT, 475 miles and WB5LUA, 430 miles; 1296 MHz — W2SZ/1, 421 miles, W3HQT, 370 miles and WB9SNR, 350 miles; 2300 MHz — W2SZ/1, 91 miles and K7AUO, 80 miles; 3400 MHz and 5700 MHz — K7AUO, 80 miles; 10 GHz — K7AUO, 80 miles, W1VD and K1ZZ, 78 miles and W2SZ/1, 67 miles.

The microwave contacts reported above point out what can be done with relatively modest equipment. For example, the contact between W1VD and K1ZZ was made using Gunnplexers with the stock 17-dB horn on one end and a 2-foot dish at the other.

With the growing interest in uhf and the availability of commercial equipment, next year's contest should be even better.

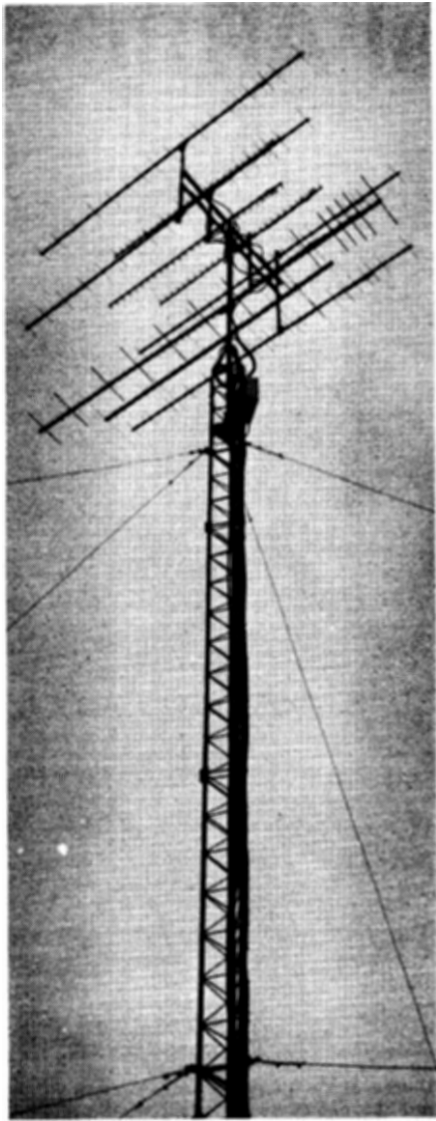


WD4MBK at the W4ATC multiop. The group spent about 50 man-hours to put North Carolina in 23 logs, but they think uhf is worth the effort.



KF5N put together this 1296 portable station, which was good for a 45-mile contact with WB5LUA during the uhf contest.

\*Assistant Communications Manager, ARRL



WB9SNR used this antenna system to set a new Central Division record. The 52-foot tower supports four 19-el 432 antennas, four 32-el loop Yagis for 1296, 14-el on 220 and a 2-meter Yagi.

## SOAPBOX

To say it was bad would be an understatement, but I'm still enthused (N0ALV). How about starting time revision? 1100Z Saturday to 1100Z Sunday would take advantage of early morning improved propagation (N3AH). At last — QRM on 432! (K4CHE/3). This was my first time on 432 in 20 years (W3ZZ). With all the vhf/uhf activity in the Philadelphia area, you



K4CHE put 7539 on the map, working stations on 220 and 432.

### Top Scores

#### Single Operator

W3HQT	28,728
K2UYH	27,018
WB8BKC	17,568
WA8TXT	17,202
K8WW	12,126
W2PGC	12,087

#### Multioperator

W2SZ/1	87,633
WA1UQC	20,304
W1XM	10,710
W8DJY	10,449
K6TZ	10,260

#### Single-Band

W3GPY (220 MHz)	2772
W6ABW	2430
K2RIW (432 MHz)	9702
W3OZ	6336
K2DNR/7 (1296 MHz)	12

would think that 223.5 would be busy. Not so! It was like a herd of turtles in the middle of winter (WA3AAJ). Conditions and activity were as usual, awful, except for 1296 where virtually every active station showed up. Quite an increase in activity in Ohio (WB9SNR). Score should be good for last place (K3QQ). I found the 432-MHz conditions quite poor, but activity quite good. The quality of equipment being used on 432 is improving rapidly. Rather few *do not* have ssb (K2RIW). This contest is too short. I suggest that the next ARRL UHF Contest begin at 1600Z and last for 36 hours. This would give more potential operating time to the person who works on weekends (N2CG). QRP on 432 sure is different from QRO on hf. My 5 watts worked 8 multipliers and 6 states (W2RS). The 220-MHz activity continues to look good, and this time no QSOs were on fm (K1PXE). I hurried home from a cross-country backpacking trip to the Pacific Northwest just in time to catch the last few minutes of the contest (AF1T). Murphy took his toll on WA1PBU's 1296 tonnage (again). With all the bugs out of the system, Kim expects to have 1296 operating reliably for the Sept. VHF QSO Party (K1TR). Aug. 8 temperature in Portland was 107 degrees. Rotors wouldn't work right. When 1296 collinear wouldn't work, I laid a 3-lb coffee can on the chimney and made contact with W7TYR (K7HSJ). UHF activity in Alaska is a little scarce!!! So, to amass this fantastic score, I equipped Curt, KL7IUJ, with my spare 432-MHz gear. He and his family took a Saturday drive through four 1-degree squares. My best DX was about 42 miles (KL7WE). Next year, I gotta get on 24 GHz (N6TX). I called CQ on 432 and 1296 for about 18 hours of the contest. The bands did not quite open to the mainland, but my best DX on 432 was about 205 miles to WH6AMX near Pearl Harbor. Had a very good time and will try next year (KH6HME). Nice shakedown cruise for the newly acquired N6NB red bus. Location was my favorite, Mount Hamilton (K6GSS). My closest QSO was about 75 miles and my longest about 350, so again I failed to work my own "square" (VE3FN). For the contest, I loaded up my 220 and 432 gear and headed for Kentucky. This was pretty much a spur-of-the-moment trip, and the lack of advance advertisement hurt. I have the feeling many stations didn't even look in my direction. I very much like the grid square format (W9IP). Much more contest activity than in past years. Sure makes the contest more fun with the multiplier sections being the same for everyone (W0OHU). All QSOs were made while operating mobile in my pickup truck. The longest contact on 432 was about 200 miles, and I was running 18 watts to a homebrew mini-wheel (WD8KLU). Now I know why N6NB goes east for vhf contests (K2DNR/7). Propagation was definitely below par. The Saturday morning cold front that took away our 100-degree days also wrecked propagation. Wow! The logs are a lot easier to recopy than the June contest's (WA5VJB). Had my first official 1296 QSO at 1903Z. Had to QSY to hospital at 1939Z with my pregnant wife, who gave me my first son at 2145Z. A few things are more important than uhf contesting (W31Y/4). Where were all the New England stations? I thank Marconi that SZ/1 goes there every year; without them, no one west of the Hudson would hear anyone from the Land of Nod! (W2PGC).



Santa Barbara ARC members went to Diablo Peak on Santa Cruz Island again this year. This time, however, they managed to find a helicopter to drop in over 500 pounds of gear. Sure beats backpacking it all up there! Antennas included four-bay quagi arrays on 220 and 432, a 28-el loop Yagi on 1296, and a 17-dB horn for 10 GHz. All equipment was solar powered.

