

# Results, Sixth Annual ARRL UHF Contest

By Bill Jennings,\* K1WJ

Although the UHF Contest is a mere six years old, with the latest edition having been held on August 6-7, 1983, the contest exchange/scoring format has undergone more changes recently than a chameleon in a kaleidoscope. The original format featured an exchange/multiplier of  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  latitude/longitude blocks. In 1982, the scoring system utilized those same  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  blocks as multipliers, but with a premium placed on QSOs made over longer distances — Range scoring. The 1983 UHF Contest multiplier/exchange, upon recommendation of the ARRL Ad Hoc Committee for VHF/UHF Contesting (based on input from you, the vhf/uhf contest participant), was changed to use the  $1^\circ \times 2^\circ$  (latitude/longitude) grid squares of the Maidenhead grid square system (see Jan. 1983 QST, page 49). Because of its popularity and tie-in to the new ARRL VUCC awards program, this format will probably become permanent, although the Ad Hoc Committee will certainly consider future changes as the wants and needs of UHF Contest participants dictate.

Since the size of the multipliers has effectively doubled and the range scoring system is no longer in effect, it would be difficult to make score com-



WB3ESS, submitted a single-band 432 score from EPA. John uses a homebrew transverter on 432 to his TS-830S. John's skyhooks include eight KLM 16-element beams on 432 at 50 feet, an 8-element quagi on 220 MHz and a single 12-element KLM beam on 2 meters.



parisons between the 1983 contest and any of its predecessors. We'll take these contest results and make them the basis of comparison in the future.

We can say with certainty that, with 126 entries received, the 1983 contest ranks fourth in terms of participation among the six UHF Contests held to date. The QSO and multiplier statistics stand out very clearly in the score listings, and we invite you to use them to make

whatever comparisons or statistical analysis you care to make.

The Ad Hoc Committee on VHF/UHF Contesting and we here in the ARRL Contest Branch of the Communications Department welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments. You are invited to send your input to us here at ARRL Hq. Certificates are scheduled to be mailed by December 15. See you next year.

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## Multiplier Leaders

<b>220 MHz</b>	W3CCX* 18	W3IP 26	VE3LNX* 8	W7TYR 1	VE2KW 2
W2SZ/1* 33	K2GK 16	WA8TXT 25	K7HSJ 1	VE2DUB/2 2	W3CCX* 2
K8DIO 22	K2OS 16	K8DIO 25	WA3RMX 1	W1TKZ* 2	W1TKZ* 2
VE3LNX* 21		WA2SNA* 25	W7UDM 1	K6TZ* 2	
WA8TXT 21	<b>432 MHz</b>				
WB8BK 20	WB8BK 39	<b>1296 MHz</b>		<b>5700 MHz</b>	<b>24 GHz</b>
WB8VPD 20	W2SZ/1* 35	W2SZ/1* 19	W2SZ/1* 9	W2SZ/1* 7	W3CCX* 1
WA2SNA* 20	WB9SNR 34	K2UYH 17	W3CCX* 5	W7TYR 1	W2SZ/1* 1
W1JSTO 20	WB9SNR 34	W3CCX* 12	VE3LNX* 2	WA3RMX 1	
W1JR 19	AB4L* 31	WB8BK 12	WA8TXT 1	W7UDM 1	<b>48 GHz</b>
VE3CRU 18	K2UYH 28	WB9SNR 10	K7HSJ 1	WB7UNU** 1	W7TYR 1
	WB3ESS 28	W2VC 10	WA3RMX 1		WB7UNU** 1
	W3CCX* 27	WA2FGK 10	W7UDM 1		
		N6CA 9		<b>10 GHz</b>	
		VE3CRU 8		W2SZ/1* 8	
			<b>3400 MHz</b>		
			W2SZ/1* 8		

\*multioperator stations

\*\*stations operating from more than one location

## SOAPBOX

432 was just hot. Got almost everything that I heard, including W4s (VE3BFM). How about subsquares for frequencies above 1296 (VE2DUB/2). Hams in the Adirondacks and Green Mountains take note: There were five Gunnplexer-equipped stations active on 10 GHz in the Montreal area in this contest. Forty-mile QSOs were made within a minute of switching the rig on. Such places as Mt. Mansfield, Vermont, and Whiteface Mountain, New York should be a snap. Everyone here is using a 30-MHz i.f. with about a 200-kHz bandwidth (VE1BCZ/2). . . . missed 432 tropo opening while active off the moon on 1296; you just can't win (K2UYH). Sure wish that people would tune around more for those of us who are "rock-bound" (K3AKR). WOW! Six states on 1296 MHz from Minnesota during a contest, and I didn't even work the three adjacent states (W0OHU). Worked my first parachute mobile on 220 MHz — KC4MG at 10,000 feet. I heard him work a number of stations at 8600

feet, 7200 feet, 5100 feet, etc. He was running 150 mW. I included him in the log, but did not count him for contest credit (W8DJY). Good band conditions and activity for a change (WA8EUU). Like the grid squares much better than the lat./long. reports (KC4EG). I can't believe the number of ops I heard call "CQ," get an answer, then ragchew until they QSBed back into the noise (K8TL). I prefer 24-hour contests to 48-hour contests. This allows less chance of a band opening, which favors good equipment over good operators. The good operators will disagree with my preference for short contests, but 48 hours is a bit rough (K2RIW). My first time on 1296. Heard more stations than I worked. The 432 equipment didn't arrive in time. 220 was extremely slow on fm mode (KA2BTD). Sure wish that operating time would include more evening hours and not so much mid-day time. Extend ending time to 0300Z (WB9ZJP). I would like to see the contest committee state clearly the purpose of the UHF Contest. My personal feeling is that it ought to be something other than an imitation of the vhf contests. It ought

to reflect more of uhf and shf experimentation, with plenty of time for setting up and/or moving microwave locations. It should give recognition to distance between grid squares. If it were run from 1800Z Saturday to 0300Z Monday, it would increase the chances for extended tropo and aurora contacts. Anyone can make QSOs. I hope we would be gaining some useful knowledge in the process (K7HSJ). 220 MHz is not uhf (KL7WE). Only able to operate for one hour, but worked more stations than I did in the June contest. Guess that amplifier helps (WA8LLY). Amazed that I could work so far with a 432 antenna that is lower than the roofs of the houses around it (W8TN). I think that I was the only station active on 220 in Georgia during the contest because I did not work anyone in my own state. I did work seven other states, however, and had only seven different grid multipliers (WB4NMA). Portable operation at Four Peaks, Arizona. Heard lots of meteor pings on N6CA's signal on Sunday morning (WB5TCO). I noted with interest W1XX's comment in the January '83 article on grid squares about

