

Results, June VHF QSO Party

Persistence: "Stubborn or enduring continuance, as in a chosen course; resoluteness; tenacity" — *Webster's New World Dictionary*

By Mark J. Wilson,* AA2Z

A quick look at the various tables and boxes accompanying this write-up pretty much tells the story of the VHF QSO Party held last June 11 and 12. Conditions were not outstanding, but that would have been too much to expect for two years in a row. This time last year, we were writing about the great aurora, tropo and double-hop E_s of the 1982 contest.

Delving a bit further into the history of the June vhf contest, however, we see that this past event was par for the course. A total of 510 hams sent in logs. The top single-op score was around 75K, and the top multi around 300K. There was single-hop E_s to be worked on 6 meters. There was some aurora for the last half hour or so. There were big mountaintop efforts and little mountaintop efforts. There were big home-station efforts and little home-station efforts. Everyone had a great time.

The single-hop E_s on 6 gave the South and the Midwest the opportunity to rake in the multipliers. N5KW and crew found the most — 61 — followed by WD4MBK and crew at 57, single-op KC5GB at 55, and multiops AAØL and W9UD at 54. Besides the same old stateside stuff, there were a few DXpeditions to work. Thanks to C6ADV, FPØSM (K1TOL), XE2XW (W5XW and friends) and ZF2EW (K1FJM) for taking the trouble to make the contest more exciting for everyone.

Two meters took a bit of a beating this time. Reports from all call areas indicate that general activity was not as good as in other years, and that things were especially slow on Sunday. As it turned out, the June contest was also one of the first decent weekends of the season weather-wise in many parts of the country. For many ops who normally spend the second weekend of June glued to their radio sets, the lure of the beach and barbecue was just too much. This same weather, however, made a wonderful weekend for mountaintopping. The aurora during the last half hour made 144.100 sound like the low end of 20 during a DX contest, adding to section totals and general excitement.

Activity on the higher bands has been growing every year as more and more people move upward and commercial equipment becomes more and more available. Just four years ago, in June 1979, top multiop W1FC posted a single-band 220 score of 2006 points (59 QSOs in 17 sections). This year, W3BBS had 26 multipliers and almost three times the score. The 432-MHz QSO total to beat this year was 172 by W2SZ/1. A quick comparison of the top three multiop logs shows that there were about 200 QSOs to be had (nobody ever works them all!). And on 1296 all call areas appeared. The big mountaintoppers are

Top Ten

Single Operator		Multioperator	
AA2Z/3	76,358	W2SZ/1	298,560
K1PXE	50,130	W3BBS	203,145
K2CBA	44,932	W1VD	181,536
WA1UQC	38,802	K1TR	173,476
K1EM	33,820	K3YTL	119,416
KA1APR	30,723	W1TKZ	108,300
WA2TEO	30,388	WA2SNA	108,226
KA2BTD	29,852	W8VP	103,621
K3HP	29,700	W1QK	84,800
W2EIF	28,440	N2SB	84,148



Are these guys nuts, or what? The W4BFB crew took their traveling road show on a 22-hour round trip to Woodall Mountain in Mississippi. Operators (l-r) included N4VC, AA4ZZ, WD4ABZ, KU4V, WA4VCC and KS4S.

getting more serious about this band all the time — the W3BBS group lugged a 16-ft dish and a 500-W amplifier to their site.

The scores reflect the mediocre conditions and lower activity levels. Only the top two single-op stations — AA2Z and K1PXE — would have made last year's Top Ten listing. And without any spectacular 6-meter openings, the top scores all came from the Northeast. No W9IP, WB8IGY or W9OEH near the top of the list this



WD5CAW and K9IKI lugged their gear up a New Mexico mountain in this 1961 Jeep. (K9IKI photo)

time. Among the multiops, the W2SZ/1 group cashed in their microwave chips again this year and won by quite a bit. The familiar W3BBS call sign took second place, while W1VD made third. All of the Top Ten single ops this year were home stations, while all of the top multiops except W1VD and N2SB were mountaintoppers.

Only two of the Division Leader scores reflect new all-time records. Single-op AA2Z added 31,000 points to the Atlantic Division record held previously by K3SXA from the 1981 contest. In the Midwest Division, W9UD and crew traveled to Missouri, where they erased the 1979 WØOHU record by 11 kilopoints.

When band conditions are only average at best

Division Leaders

Single Operator Call	Score	Division	Multioperator Call	Score
AA2Z/3	76,358 [†]	Atlantic	W3BBS	203,145
VE3ASO	21,868	Canadian	VE3VHF	31,570
W3EP/9	8925	Central	K9MRI	30,400
WØXG	8924	Dakota	KØALL	3914
N4JS/5	14,400	Delta	W4BFB/5	40,107
WB8BK	19,825	Great Lakes	W8VP	103,621
K2CBA	44,932	Hudson	WA2SNA	108,226
NØLL	10,600	Midwest	W9UD/Ø	80,004 [†]
K1PXE	50,130	New England	W2SZ/1	298,560
W7ZSL	5852	Northwestern	N7NW	21,482
N6CT	12,150	Pacific	K6GSS	46,400
WD4GXN	17,536	Roanoke	K3LNZ/8	83,106
W5FF	8140	Rocky Mountain	AAØL	34,950
W4ODW	18,666	Southeastern	WD4MBK	65,700
WB6DTA	14,577	Southwestern	WA7LYI	37,468
KC5GB	21,376	West Gulf	N5KW	61,288
ZF2EW	8028	DX	XE2XW	7095

[†]Indicates new division record

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Top Single Band Scores

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz
WA1OUB 16,250	K1KA 13,680	AA2Z/3 1740	K2RIW 6116	W2VC 1155
WB8IGY 16,000	K1FO 7946	K1PXE 1394	K1PXE 3916	K1PXE 891
KC5GB 13,805	WB2KEC 7392	K9HMB 1344	W2VC 3400	WA3JUF 780
AF1T 12,556	N2BJ 5334	W8SR 1190	N1BC 3384	N6CA 594
KA1APR 10,841	AA2Z/3 5313	K8DIO 1122	KA2BTD 2844	K8WW 570
WD4MGB 10,692	WA2TEO 5208	W2EIF 1014	AA2Z/3 2516	AF1T 459
WB5DSH 10,458	W1QXX 5060	W3BBS† 5512	N2BMN 2484	W3BBS† 1800
AA2Z/3 9945	W8RLI 4968	W2SZ/1† 4600	W3IP 2108	W2SZ/1† 1710
W3ZR 9328	K3HP 4374	W1VD† 4320	W4DFK 2070	K3YTL† 1014
CY1YX 8569	KA2BTD 4368		W2TC 2040	
W1VD† 23,100	W2SZ/1† 16,392		W3BBS† 8262	
N5KW† 22,997	W3BBS† 14,160		W2SZ/1† 8256	
W2SZ/1† 21,216	K1TRV† 13,725		W1VD† 7682	

†denotes multioperator stations

Multiplier Leaders

Single Operator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz
WA1OUB — 50	K1FO — 29	K1PXE — 17	K1PXE — 22	K1PXE — 11
K2CBA — 40	KA2BTD — 24	W2EIF — 13	K2RIW — 22	W2VC — 11
AA2Z/3 — 45	WA2TEO	K2CBA	AA2Z/3 — 17	WA3JUF — 10
WB8IGY — 50	WA3FYJ — 23	AA2Z/3 — 15	W3IP	W3IY4 — 5
	WD4GXN — 24	WD4DGF — 11	K4CAW — 15	
			W4DFK	
			WD4GXN	
KC5GB — 55	W5RCI — 12	W5RCI — 8	W5RCI — 9	WA5VJB — 1
N6CT — 31	N6AMG — 13	WB6DTA — 6	AJ8T — 7	N6CA — 9
K1SC7 — 30	WA1JXN — 20	(7 stns) — 2	WB9AJZ — 5	(4 stns) — 2
WB8BKC — 32	WB8DRR — 20	K8DIO — 17	K8WW — 16	K8WW — 10
W3EP9 — 33	WB9MSV — 23	W8SR — 17	WBUT9 — 8	—
N6LL — 41	WB8SWD — 15	K8DAS — 8	K8DAS — 10	—
		N8CIH		
CY1YX — 41	VE3ASO — 23	VE3BFM — 8	VE3FN — 12	VE3BFM — 2

Multioperator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz
W1VD — 50	K1TR — 25	W1VD — 24	W2SZ/1 — 24	W2SZ/1 — 15
N2SB — 42	W1VD	N2SB — 19	WA2SNA — 21	K2BWR — 10
	K2NE — 23	WA2SNA		
W3BBS — 42	N2SB	W3BBS — 26	W3BBS — 27	W3BBS — 15
WD4MGB — 57	W3BBS — 30	W4IY — 13	AB4L — 17	WD4MBK — 4
N5KW — 61	AB4L — 25	N5DL — 9	N5DL — 11	N5KW — 2
W6XJ — 33	N5DL — 17	K6GSS — 11	W6XJ — 15	WB8AAG — 6
	K6GSS — 11			
	K6HXW			
	W6XJ			
WA7LYI — 41	WA7LYI — 9	WA7LYI — 6	KA7CVV — 7	WA7LYI — 5
			WA7LYI	
WD8ISK — 52	W8VP — 32	W8VP — 23	W8VP — 22	W8VP — 6
WB8HUC — 40	K9MRI — 28	K9MRI — 10	K9MM — 8	K9MM — 1
AA0L — 54	W9UD/0 — 25	W9UD/0 — 14	W9UD/0 — 16	W9UD/0 — 4
W9UD/0				
VE3VHF — 33	VE3LNX — 20	VE3LNX — 12	VE3VHF — 12	VE3LNX — 4
				VE3VHF

and activity is down, what is the key to a winning operation? One of the most important qualities an operator can possess is persistence. This is true of all contests to some degree, but it is most important in a contest with a limited number of stations to work. When the QSO rates on Sunday are down to five per hour, the successful op will hang in there. While the others who found five contacts an hour too much to stomach are off sleeping or watching TV, the winning ops will be there slowly building their contact totals and even occasionally working a new multiplier. After all, 10 slow hours can produce 50 or so QSOs that a less-persistent op won't get.

The other thing a successful op can do when there isn't much to do is find new things to do. For example, Alaska is probably the closest thing to a vhf wasteland. Yet WL7ACY submitted a 161-QSO 6-meter single-band entry — filled with 160 JA contacts. W2SZ/1 added another microwave band this year and picked up four multipliers on 5.7 GHz.

EME is growing in popularity during the vhf contests. Single-op WA1JXN/7 and multiop AA0L used this mode to boost their 144-MHz section totals to 20 and 17, respectively — great totals from the boonies! K1FO got on 144 EME also and posted the top first-call-area section total for that band. Speaking of EME, we got

single-band 432 logs from DL9KR and JA9BOH. Who did they work? Look at the 432 section totals for W6XJ and W3BBS for starters. There are ways of increasing the score when things aren't great. It's just a matter of identifying these ways and then doing them.

The rules changes adopted for this past June contest were generally well received. Most ops agreed that dropping the mandatory off-time was long overdue. Most of the big multiops and a few of the single ops took advantage of the new rule and operated 'round the clock. Generally, the new ending time was appreciated, although some stations expressed disappointment that the best opening of the weekend occurred just after the contest ended. The expanded multiplier scheme brought favorable comments. All four VE1/VO multipliers were active this year, including an expedition to New Brunswick by W1JR.

Although this June's vhf contest had its problems, it was still a great way to spend a weekend. Certificates will be in the mail by September 15. Are you ready for the September VHF QSO Party in a few weeks?

SOAPBOX

The homebrew 4CX250B amp dumped one power transformer Saturday with a shorted primary. The remaining power transformer shorted the secondary on Sunday and sent a 5-ft blast of "chapopote" and smoke

with all the fury of "El Chichonal." The fuse, per Murphy's Law, protected itself and will be reused next year (XE2XW/W5XW). The last 19 minutes of the contest made the rest of the slow, sometimes boring 32 hours and 41 minutes all worthwhile. Just wish that the aurora had arrived sooner (WA1STO/W1VD). This was our trial run at contesting from a very famous vhf mountaintop location, Cadillac Mountain, near Bar Harbor, Maine. Cadillac Mountain is the highest point on the entire Atlantic seacoast in all of North and Central America; at over 1500 feet directly above the ocean, and on an island, it is a superb site. We only operated for 4-1/2 hours and made 130 QSOs using low-powered solid-state gear and simple antennas, but could tell that the site is terrific and we're looking forward to returning in June '84 for an all-out effort...we did manage a few 600-mile contacts on 220 and 432 MHz, using only 80 W to single Yagi antennas... If you've never been to Cadillac Mountain, you cannot imagine what a really clear sky looks like. Breaking down our antennas at 2 A.M. became a major effort because we were so distracted by the dazzling array of stars overhead. Mother Nature put on quite a show, and we view constellations that we had only heard about previously, and are never visible in the NY/NJ area (WA2VUN/1). Our operation this contest was from the summit of Green Mountain, west of Boulder, Colorado, at an elevation of 8144 feet. No roads exist to the summit, so all equipment was backpacked up to the site (W1XE/W8IA). I always thought that Rhode Island was a "rare" Section, so I decided to be "big DX" and operate from my sailboat in East Greenwich Harbor in Narragansett Bay. Well, others had similar ideas. I found out that 10 W to a dipole swinging on an anchor does not compare to 150 W to an F9FT Yagi. I was buried, or shall we say, drowned (W1JP). This was the best aurora I've caught in six years of vhf work. I never worked east of PA before on aurora. The signals were so loud (W0RT). Our best vhf contest yet. Addition of 432 and 10 GHz kept things interesting. Good 6-meter openings really livened things up. Would prefer to exchange grid squares in all future vhf/uhf contests. We hope to have a 4-ft dish at 200-plus feet for the uhf contest on 10 GHz. In Montreal, there are six or seven people on 10 GHz (VE2CUA). First perfect weekend in over 13 weeks (hot and sunny), and I contest. Thanks to my very understanding family (WA2ABN). As for contesting out West, it's the pits! I'd be ashamed to turn in a score like this in Virginia, but out here (UT) things are different. Mountains, long distances and a paucity of vhfers make the contest a definite challenge (WA4GPM)...260 QSOs and 15 bug bites for a whopping rate of 17.3 QSOs per bite (QP7)...you know things aren't going well when the chair that you are using collapses midway through the contest (WB1GQR). The last three QSOs of the contest added almost 370 points, or 16%, of the final score. I think that the contest is won or lost on Sunday afternoon (VE7ASI). You cannot imagine how difficult it is to explain to a DX station during a cw contact via moonbounce what that station is supposed to send for an exchange. Actually, they must think we're crazy since we already know what country they are in from their call. I actually had one station start again and do the contact right from the beginning. He obviously thought that if I kept asking for his country that I could not possibly have his call correct...Of course, it would be more sensible to use some internationally understood exchange if the contest is to continue to be open to DX stations. Until then, however, I suggest that the rules be changed to permit DX stations to give a signal report instead of their country name (WA1JXN). We didn't have any objections before the contest about the earlier ending time, but if you are going to end the contest at 11 P.M., why did you have to schedule that beautiful aurora to start at 10:30? It sure caused quite a rush at the end, but it would have been nice if we could have had more time to work it. On the other hand, if the contest had not ended early, we would not have had the chance to go outside and actually see the aurora, which was quite a sight as viewed from Mt. Equinox (W1TKZ). Finally, at long last, I worked Arizona on 144 MHz. And he answered my CQ (K5MAT)! My 4-element beam on 6 meters was a 6-element beam on 6 meters until the tornado hit (KC5GB).

FEEDBACK

Please refer to Sept. 1982 QST, page 77, for the following corrections. In the multiplier leader box for single-op stations, WA2GSX should be listed as the 144-MHz second call area leader, with 28 sections; W2VC should be listed as the 1296-MHz second call area leader, with 11 sections; and W0RWH should be listed as the 144-MHz tenth call area leader, with 20 sections. In New Mexico, the second-place single op is really W5RKS, not WB5RKS. In Michigan, the call sign of the top multiop should read WD8M/Q. In Washington, add WA6NHB/7 with a line score of 3097-163-19-AB to the single op list; we found his log with the Field Day entries.

WB4HX 10,089-155-57-ABCD KF4ST 1180-59-20-A N4AR 3040-152-20-B N4ELQ (+K4A 7AY, TET, N0AR) 9592-199-44-ABD	Northern Texas K5GK 10,638-197-54-AB WB5KTC 7298-176-41-ABD W5VJB 5096-137-28-ABCD W5ETG 3128-90-34-AB K5DHU 1846-58-26-ABD WB8TCY/5 144-18-8-A	Oklahoma WB5DSH 18,144-321-54-ABD W5SAGO 8775-204-39-ABD K5WE 6864-142-44-ABD W5EJK (K5SW, opr.) 1932-70-21-BCD K7CW/5 1515-87-15-BD W5DUB 1488-62-24-A W5SFEH 800-100-8-B W5SGZQ 750-75-10-B N5KX (+K5CM, N5CG, W0RRY) 61,288-601-94-ABCD W5NZS (+K5J5Q) 8415-167-45-ABD DB7SQ/W5 (-K5DSRQ, W5SLMJ) 2565-95-27-AB	Alaska 7 KL7WE 45-14-3-ABC KL7OX 6-3-2-AB WL7ACT 322-161-2-A	Arizona K2DNR/7 3322-151-22-ABCD K1SC/7 4470-149-30-A WB7FDQ 3225-129-25-A WB5TCO 9-3-1-E WA7LYI (+K700, WA6JTM) 37,468-482-68-ABCD	Idaho W7ELJ 2438-106-23-AB WA9DYU 432-36-12-A	Montana W4LJX 600-30-20-B K87Q 45-9-5-B	Nevada K3ZAP/7 1938-83-19-ABCD WB9AJZ/7 836-66-11-BD KA7CVV (+K87BZ, N7BA, WA7J00) 14,256-259-44-ABCD	Oregon W7DB 5796-179-28-ABCD W7TYR 3750-102-25-ABCD K7HSJ 3340-125-20-ABCD W7UDM 3120-127-20-ABCD W7YTN 120-23-4-BD K7AUO (K7URN, NA7T, W7S ADV, BKN, W7S REC, UNO, oprs.) 10,075-258-31-ABCD FC1HK	Utah W7BHC 1120-62-16-ABCD W7ETT/7 1500-75-20-A K7SDQ 55-11-5-A WA4GPN 22-11-2-B	Washington W7ZSL 5852-249-22-ABCD W7UCK 2346-129-17-ABCD KK7B 828-33-12-ABCD FC1 W7ERH 803-60-11-ABCD WA7PVE 770-70-11-ABCD W7FI 4128-172-24-A N7NM (+K7ND, N7AMX, W7T0Z, W6NHB, W7DTT) 21,462-439-42-ABCD FC1 WA3RMX/7 (+W7VRM) 3528-93-24-ABCD FC1H WB7PEK (+K7ICT) 3444-145-21-ABCD	Wyoming W7LFL 640-40-16-AB W7XFP 1826-83-22-A K7CJY 960-60-16-A WA4GPN 72-12-6-B WB7RSM 180-36-5-B	Michigan 8 WB8BK 19,825-237-61-ABCD WA8FTA 4482-166-27-AB W8BRI 1748-19-1-B K8RDDQ 414-46-9-B WB8KAY (+N8CKH, WA8ZYK) 21,842-295-67-ABCD	Ohio WBAXA/8 8550-150-50-ABCD K8WV 3770-63-26-DE N8CCC 1554-67-21-ABCD K8W 1534-50-15-ABCD WB8JHT 750-50-15-A W8BTTU 806-62-13-B W8LCY 451-41-11-B N8BJQ 216-27-8-B K8MR 35-7-5-B K8DIO 112-33-17-B K8TL 16-4-2-B W8VP (K8AL, K8S DFX, FRI, N8CQX, W5UA, W8S DJY, PR, TN, ULC, W8S AHD, NTO, W8S DQE, ERB, TRK, TSI, W8Y9CY, oprs.) 103,621-647-131-ABCD	Kansas W8LL 10,600-200-53-AB K8DAS 9720-189-45-ABCD W8CIS 3948-116-28-ABCD AE9C 1953-93-21-AB K8W 900-50-18-AB K8VUA 495-44-9-BD W8CFQ 34-408-34-AB K8FFC 231-33-7-B	Minnesota W8XG 8924-194-46-AB W8RG 3808-101-32-ABCD K8VP (+K8CRO) 1598-82-17-ABCD 441-48-9-ABC	Missouri W8HOK 8528-172-41-ABCD K8TLM 391-16-34-AB W8YI 2470-89-26-ABD	Nebraska W8JRP 2233-77-29-AB K8CB 1478-62-23-ABCD K8NNO 1372-49-28-A W8U9/O (+AE9M, AK8P, K9S AKZ, CHZ, W9IP, W8OHU, W8QPI, W8FSA) 80,004-610-113-ABCD	New Brunswick W8AJU 4224-132-32-AB K8FY 3810-127-30-AB K8US 3255-93-35-AB K8CRI 1728-72-24-AB N8US (+K8NG, K8S ABA, JGH, K8S BM, OC, QR, W8WRI, W8S DCF, HXY) 8448-174-44-ABDEFG	North Dakota K8ALL (+K8NA, K8QC) 3914-99-38-ABCD	Quebec VE2PUT 2607-70-33-ABC VE2KX 144-16-8-ABI VE2CUA (VE1BCZ, VE2S BAB, DUB, oprs.) 4440-101-40-ABCDI VE2ADE (+VE2EHN) 846-94-9-B	Saskatchewan VE3ASO 21,868-283-71-ABD VE3FCU 11,628-228-51-AB VE3BFM 7176-139-39-ABCD VE3FNG 7120-168-40-ABD VE3EYR 4278-126-31-ABD VE3FN 3937-105-31-BD VE3FDP 1242-54-23-ABD VE3VHF (VE3S ABC, AIA, CRU, DSS, oprs.) 31,570-336-77-ABCD VE3LNX (+VE3S ADJ, MLW, NSQ) 21,352-248-68-ABCD VE3CKU/3 (+VE3BXI) 5508-150-36-ABCD	British Columbia VE7ASI 2244-93-22-ABCD VE7PRC/7 (VE7S BHM, DMT, oprs.) 1680-120-14-AB CY7NOR (VE7S ASY, EIE, EKT, oprs.) 100-50-2-B	Japan JA2DDN 15-5-1-A JA1RU 8-4-2-A JA9BOH 18-3-3-D	Mexico XE1GE 54-18-3-A XE2XW (K5HVC, KASDNT, W5XW, oprs.) 7095-215-33-A	Cayman Is. ZF2EW (K1FJM, opr.) 8028-223-36-A	Checklogs K1BJ, W1LKJ/8, W3PGA, W3WFM, W3BCU, W4GZA, KASLVP, W6LPL, W6GVB, KD7IY, W7IDZ, W8CAP, W9CY, KQ8J,
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