

Results, 1989 UHF Contest

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Success can be measured in small victories, especially in a lower-key activity like the ARRL UHF Contest conducted each August. In discussing the joys of VHF (and UHF) contesting with a fellow compatriot recently, this notion hit home. "You know," he said "you work 500 stations on 2 meters, and yet it is only the unique contact you remember—maybe a rare grid square. The rest is all a blur."

In the UHF Contest of last August 5-6, WA1MBA's unique victory was "to finally get the 902 amp on the air just in time for the contest." Great signal, Tom. KØRI worked some "exceptional distances" that he will remember for a long time. W5UGO finished his VUCC on 3456 and had a 5760 QSO of 210 miles. Those are the things you remember in a contest.

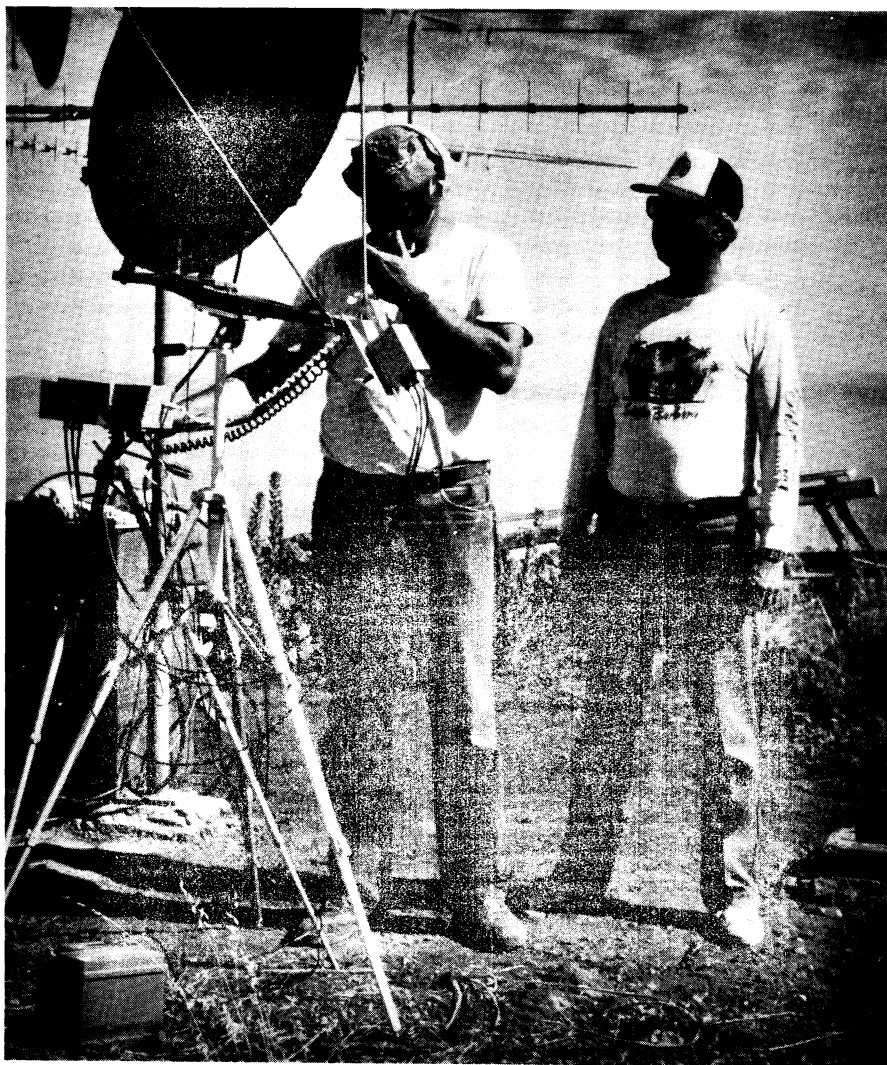
Similarly, K7HJS was surprised by a contact "with a mobile on a ridge north of Mt St Helens with good copy on 220 FM simplex, 141 miles away." WQØP was simply glad to be on. He put up his antennas the day of the contest and had a blast.

These are the little encounters that breed the ultra highs from contesting. Sharing the experience involves introducing others to the UHF Contest. Thanks to NS2P, N8DJB and W8XT who took the time to detail their successful recruitment efforts in getting more folks on for the contest.

Of the 108 total submitted entries, WA2FGK (operated by K2LNS) copped single-op honors, with W2SZ/1 by far the top multiop scorer. Check the top-five box for the other top scorers, but don't neglect to look through the score listings for the heroes of this contest—each with a tale of victory in the ARRL UHF Contest. See you next August.—W1XX

SOAPBOX

I operated three hours from West Peak State Park but didn't hear the 1296 southern DX that I worked the night before in a parking lot in Newington (KH6CP/1). I missed my own grid on 220! I missed prime time on Saturday evening, and the score shows it (WA1HYN). The weather was against us for the second contest in a row, so we did not go mountaintopping. But for a home station, I did quite well. I finally got the 903 system going and the 1296 system back on line. I worked RI on 1296 for a new state and grid (K1LPS). Activity down—conditions above 432 were up! (W1RIL). Conditions were fair to poor. Many thanks to the hilltoppers for the extra grids (WA1MBA). Had a ball! I haven't been in a contest since 1978. It was a lot of fun. See you in September (WA1LWC). Low activity!



Operators, WA6VNN (at the mike) and WB9KMO, at the controls of the 10-GHz station of multiop station K6TZ, are busy making another QSO.

(N2BJ). Wow! What a slow contest! I thought something big was going to happen Saturday afternoon after working FN42 on 2304, then EN90 and FN00, but whatever enhancement we had, dissipated down to the usual "scratch and dig" type contacts (KD5RO). I had equipment and op problems. I was on the right bands at the wrong times (K2GK). A successful contest is getting through the contest with all your equipment still running. It didn't work out for me this time—1296 failed! (K2LNS). This was my first UHF contest. I just got on 220 MHz a few months ago. I made a few contacts here and there. There was not much activity from FN00.

I just tried to keep the grid square active (KA3RWP). Excellent band conditions on 2304 MHz on Saturday afternoon and early Sunday morning. The lower bands seemed only average. Our only equipment failure was a 5.7-GHz transverter that would not lock after being outside in the heat and direct sunlight. By the time we got it cooled down and working, the contest was over (WA3TTS). We had excellent propagation to the northwest and southwest (KØRI). We got chased off by lightning Saturday! (WD5AGO). Activity in the Silicon Valley area was a little sparse. Hopefully next year will be better, and I will be on more bands by then (K6KL). I was leaving

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