

Results, ARRL UHF Contest

The UHF contest is becoming a favorite of mine to operate!—*Joe, N8HNS*

By Billy Lunt, KR1R and Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J
Contest Manager Assistant Contest Manager

Bring on the Rovers! That seemed to be the sentiment of most people in this year's UHF Contest. The hard work of several operators who moved from grid to grid proved to be the highlight of the contest for many people. Roving and the increasing availability of equipment for the UHF and microwave bands, may hold the key to the future of this contest.

The bright spots were the standout efforts of NØHJZ, WA2VOI, WØUC and K9PW, who operated from a combined total of 24 grids. This boosted the score of a number of stations in the Central and Dakota Divisions. In fact, they helped to set new score records for both Divisions in the single- and multioperator categories. Rich, NØHJZ, reports, "I wound up activating 10 grids and put 700 miles on the car. Roving is not without its thrills—I picked up my first speeding ticket as a rover, saw a wall cloud (and reported it to the weather service) and almost got hit by lightning." Maybe the time has come to inject some of the fun and excitement Rich had into this contest.

More people should use FM to make contest QSOs. Joe, N8HNS, says, "I encourage all those 222 FM people to give 223.5 a try at contest time—they might be surprised at what they can work." Walter, AJ6T, added FM gear for 70 cm and 23 cm to double his score from the previous year. If you have FM equipment for any UHF bands, and have never tried contesting, give



Rich, NØHJZ, poses in grid square EN34 during his 700-mile, 10-grid expedition.

Top Five

Single Operator		Multioperator	
Call	Score	Call	Score
N2CEI	66,243	W2SZ/1	291,852
VE3ASO	48,720	WØUC/9	28,770
N3CX	47,232	K5MA/1	13,734
W1RIL	39,846	N8HNS	7,650
WW8M	34,875	WØKRX	7,104

a listen—you never know what might turn up. If you're in the contest to run up a big score, you should be on FM to take advantage of the extra points.

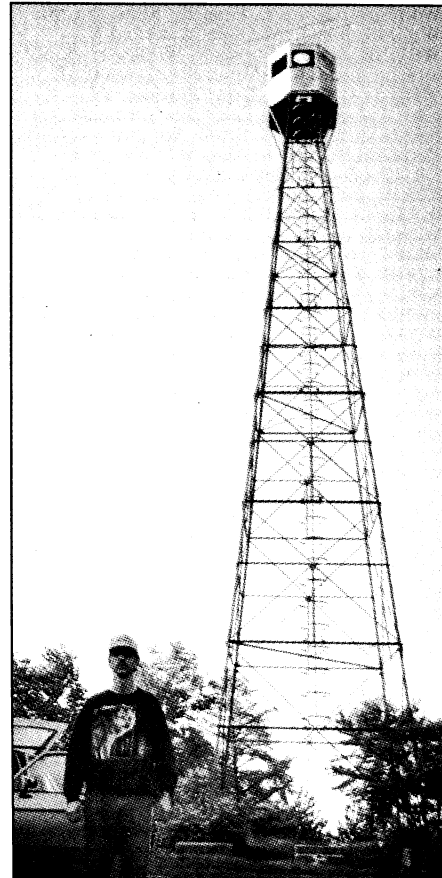
Once again, we received numerous remarks about the lack of activity on the bands. Even in areas where conditions were good, the turnout was less than we'd have hoped. Entries were down from last year, with 91 single ops and 17 multioperator efforts sending in logs. It seems a shame that this contest doesn't attract more attention. A comparison of activity with the popular June VHF QSO Party shows that roughly 50% of the people who operated on 902 MHz and above in June got in on the UHF contest, yet only 25% of June's 222- and 432-MHz ops caught the action. Were you one of these?

Although many people may have had a hard time making contacts, some entrants found enough stations to work. Perennial multiop winner W2SZ/1 made 291k points this year, and N2CEI again took the single-operator honors.

If you like to experiment on the higher bands or have an itch to rove around the country, the UHF contest is a perfect opportunity to try out new gear, go mountain-topping or just have a good time operating. It's also a great time to introduce newer hams to the world of UHF contesting. Make it a family outing. Next year's contest is August 7-8; plan now to make the 1993 UHF Contest a success!

SOAPBOX

The toughest contact I made was with N3FYD on 1296, but persistence and timing got us through. I also noted strong enhancement on 1296 Sunday morning to K4QKR. I had a good time overall (K1RZ). Where does everyone go once I get my gear up and running? (KB3PW). The bands were occasionally open, but activity seemed low (N2LXD). 222 MHz is alive and well in Delaware (K4CHE). This was my first VHF/UHF contest.



Neil, VE3SST, gave this tower a first-time try in the contest and made 21 QSOs on 432 MHz.

I only worked about 10 hours and had 13 contacts on 222 MHz, but I loved it (N3HBE). This isn't a good score, but it isn't too bad, considering the problems I encountered in the field. The rig had a distortion problem that came and went, and on the second day, the amplifier blew out the phasing line (AL7LQ/3). It's time for a rover class in this contest. Without the rovers, my score would be much lower (WAØBWE). Kudos to those who operated from multiple grids; it takes a lot of work to do that (KBØZQ). The rovers accounted for a lot of my contacts (KØFQA). My thanks to everyone who followed me around (NØHJZ). The conditions were mediocre, but at least it stopped raining. God bless those rovers! (WA8EUU). This contest definitely needs a shot in the arm. Conditions weren't all that bad, but activity was extremely sparse (W8UCI). Where was all the activity to the south and west? (WA2FUZ). Activity was low and the band conditions were flat (N2FHC). I hit the wrong switch and zapped the 222 and 1296 preamps (WØYPT). Conditions were flat during the contest, only to have tropo arrive the day after (W1RIL). Conditions were flat and activity was low, but it was nice to see more stations on 2304 MHz (WA1MBA). I lashed up some newly acquired FM rigs for 223.5 and 1294.5 to try to enhance my score over what could be obtained on 432-MHz SSB only. I finished with double my score from last year

