

# 1996 ARRL August UHF Contest Results

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Great weather, participation pins, fun and excitement!  
What more could you ask for?

**D**id you participate in the UHF Contest? If not, you missed out on a lot of fun! The weather usually cooperates in August, and this year was no exception. It was a pleasure to head up to those high spots and mountaintops for the contest. You didn't have to have a big score or break any records to have fun. The fun was in the operating.

Propagation wasn't like it was in June, but we still had pretty good band openings. You didn't see any of the long-haul stuff, like we had in the June VHF QSO Party. Most of the contacts were within 100 miles or so, with a few longer-distance contacts. I guess you could call it pretty typical propagation for August.

The bread-and-butter band for this contest is 432 MHz. This and 222 MHz are the bands where you can work stations and pass them over to any other bands that you are set up for. You don't want to rely on only those two bands, though; try to get as many bands up and running as you can. Adding a few more bands can increase your score significantly. It will also give a boost to overall contest activity. More and more people are giving the microwave bands a try. Twenty-eight stations (23 single operators, 3 rovers, and 2 multi-operators) sent in entries for 2304 MHz and higher: 2304 MHz, 28; 3456 MHz, 18; 5760 MHz, 11; 10 GHz, 19; and 24 GHz, 3.

The number of entries in the contest have been holding pretty steady over the last four years. That was when we kicked off the participation pin program (1993). The participation pin program is still working well—over half the entrants bought a pin! This year we awarded 109 pins and received 195 entries. That's not bad for the UHF Contest, but we could do a lot better. By looking through the logs, we see that there were a lot more people who participated in the contest but didn't submit entries. Send in your logs and support the contest, even if you make only a contact or two. If you don't want to submit a score, you can always submit your entry as a checklog.

If you are looking for a win, the number of bands you activate does make a difference. Tom, WA8WZG, operated on eight bands (222 MHz through 10 GHz). Using that "microwave advantage" and a great station location, Tom easily took first place among a field of 169 other single operators. WW8M finished second place, using seven bands (222 MHz through 5760 MHz). HQ Senior Lab

## Top Five

Single Operator	Multioperator	Rover
WA8WZG 274,950	W2SZ/1 512,298	WB9SNR 77,982
WW8M 143,385	NS9E 23,625	ND3F 55,104
KH6CP/1 123,255	AA4ZZ 20,340	VE3OIK 27,300
AA2UK 102,414	NU7Z 16,146	K9JK 11,130
KD2YB 57,939	N1DGF 7,326	VE3OIL 8,370

Engineer Zack Lau, KH6CP/1, finished third, operating eight bands (222 MHz through 10 GHz) from Mt Equinox, Vermont.

Not only does the number of bands you operate make a difference, but your station location also plays a major factor in your effort. Could W2SZ/1 win without their superb location on Mt Greylock? Maybe, maybe not—who knows? They had both factors going for them—a great location and active on nine bands (222 MHz through 24 GHz). It's easy to understand why they blew away all the competition. The next closest multioperator score was the three-operator station of NS9E. They were on three bands (222, 432, and 1296 MHz) in Western New York.

So find yourself a good location, try to get equipment for a new band or two running, and we'll see you next summer—August 2-3, 1997—for the next UHF Contest.

You might even be able to entice your family to join you for a weekend of camping and picnicking. Just don't tell them that you'll be staring at your radios all weekend....

## Soapbox

This was my third UHF Contest and my best. Activity on the UHF frequencies keeps getting better! Not bad for FM only (KC5RDI). Very low activity in the Midwest for the contest! Great to get back on the air with outdoor antennas! (N2BJ). What a difference from last year! I had more contacts on 1296 in the first five minutes than in the whole contest last year (KO6CL). As always, I had fun. The contest started out great for me. I am looking forward to the September contest and plan on having a better antenna for 903 MHz (WQ0P). There were good conditions and activity around Lake Michigan, but it was pretty dead elsewhere. Being a rover allowed me to run up plenty of QSOs, but grids outside of Illinois and Wisconsin were tough to find (WB9SNR). It was a good contest. Propagation was poor to the north and south (KK6KE). Thanks to Greg, KB4NVD/rover for several hard-to-work grid squares. We operated portable from WB4WTC's lot at 4700 feet elevation near Boone, North Carolina. There is a good view from the top of a 40-foot tower based at 4700 feet (AA4ZZ). Where was everybody on 222 MHz? One station I worked said I was "brave" for entering 222 MHz single-band (W01G). Conditions were pretty flat, with low activity. I hope more stations show up next year (K8MD). There was no QRM. Local QSOs were hard to get. I did have two stations copy me in



John, KE6GFF, sets up his backpack antenna for the contest. He uses a most unusual mast made out of three sections of graphite fiber all held together with Velcro.

Arizona on 222 MHz, but I couldn't copy them. That's 260 miles on a path through 110° F temperatures (K7ICW). Not a bad contest—conditions were better than last year. We had fun! (WD9IAB). A reasonable amount of activity, but I was expecting more (VE3BFM). Worked my own grid for the first time on 2.3 GHz, thanks to ND3F/R. Actually, I worked three new grids on 2.3 GHz. That, along with chatting with some old friends, made for an enjoyable contest (K2UOP/8). My 1296-MHz antenna had to be aimed—for each contact—by someone climbing the tower and going on the roof! This was a really excellent contest! (NS9E). Participation seemed sparse, but a little better than last year, when I made only three contacts total! At least I can get a pin this year! (KQ6CU). This is the first time that I operated this contest. Activity was better than I expected. Maybe the participation pin helped—several people mentioned it (W0KEA).

**Scores**

Each line score lists call sign, score, stations worked, multipliers, and band (C = 222 MHz, D = 432 MHz, 9 = 903 MHz, E = 1296 MHz, F = 2304 MHz, G = 3456 MHz, H = 5760 MHz, I = 10 GHz, J = 24 GHz, K = 47 GHz, L = 75 GHz, M = 119 GHz, N = 142 GHz, O = 241 GHz, P = 300+ GHz), and ARRL/RAC section. Call signs of division leaders and band indicators are listed in **boldface** type.

<b>Atlantic</b>		KA0RYT 2,940 37 18 D MN		WB2DUS 2,904 17 10 C ENY		N1DGF (+N1KAT,WA1HYN,ops) 7,326 28 14 C ME		K5RHR 234 6 3 C NM	
AA2UK	102,414	52 24 C SNJ	WA2HF/IØ 2,499 12 6 C MN	KC2QF 2,700 20 8 C ENY	<b>Northwestern</b>		KBSZDV 81 3 1 C NM		
		23 18 D	KBØZQ 2,256 11 6 C MN	NB2T 1,350 50 9 D NLI	<b>W7YOZ</b> 12,969 26 8 C WWA		KBSZSK 72 5 1 C NM		
		39 19 E		W2JHO 819 11 3 C ENY			<b>Southeastern</b>		
		11 6 F		WA2BAH 744 11 3 C ENY			<b>WN6W</b> 5,520 21 5 C SFL		
		6 5 G					WD4MBK 2,310 12 4 C GA		
KD2YB	57,939	3 2 H WNY	WØOHU 660 20 11 D MN	NB2V 594 22 9 D NLI			NA4I 1,566 5 4 C GA		
		55 26 D WNY	WA2VOI 456 3 2 C MN	K2RI 486 14 3 C ENY			WA4OYH 462 5 4 C GA		
		20 16 F		N2NCQ 420 10 3 C ENY			K4KAZ 210 2 2 GA		
		27 21 E	WBØLJC 405 13 3 D MN	KA2MCU 342 6 2 C ENY			<b>Southwestern</b>		
		3 3 F	WØPHD 96 8 4 D MN				<b>N6RMJ</b> 2,898 14 9 C LAX		
		1 1 G	KAØPQW 63 1 1 C MN				KE6GFF 1,200 40 10 D ORG		
N2WK	45,162	25 17 C WNY	KØOXU 60 5 4 D SD				W6IST 600 4 3 C LAX		
		14 11 9	KBØTZA 42 7 2 D MN				WB2ODH/6 390 4 4 C LAX		
		26 17 E	<b>Delta</b>				KD6UIH 288 3 3 C ORG		
		5 5 F	<b>KA4CHT</b> 351 5 5 D TN				N5BF 198 5 3 C LAX		
		5 5 G	WB4ZUG 162 9 6 D TN				KE6NRO 180 10 6 D SDG		
WB2JHG	42,228	34 17 C SNJ	K5CZD 75 5 5 D LA				KE6LEA 120 2 2 C LAX		
		41 19 D	<b>Rocky Mountain</b>				KE6SQG 72 6 4 D SDG		
		18 12 9	<b>NØIVN</b> 4,386 14 7 C CO				KQ6CU 80 5 4 D LAX		
		22 13 E					W6XS 54 6 3 D LAX		
		10 5 F					N7GJD 30 5 2 D AZ		
		3 2 G					<b>WØTRW (+KØ6TVJ,KDØ6 IGI,WYQ,KE6SNF,KF6EXC,ops) 783 8 3 C LAX</b>		
N2SB	41,925	38 18 C SNJ					W6RDF (+KØ6EFQ,KØ6ET,ops) 693 5 4 C SDG		
		65 22 D SNJ					14 6 D		
		11 7 9					1 1 E		
		19 11 E							
		8 4 F							
		3 2 H							
N3NGE	34,209	29 18 C EPA							
		56 23 D							
		14 9 9							
		20 10 E							
		7 3 F							
K2AN	30,318	30 16 C WNY							
		37 17 D WNY							
		13 10 9							
		21 13 E							
		7 6 F							
KB3PD	11,466	25 14 C DE							
		39 16 D DE							
		17 9 E							
K3GNC	10,584	28 17 C EPA							
		24 9 D							
		7 3 9							
		16 7 E							
AA3GM	540	7 6 C WPA							
		8 6 D							
WA3BZT	360	15 8 D DE							
KB2NFS	288	6 4 C WNY							
		6 4 D							
N3QWE	264	11 4 C EPA							
KB2UJG	105	3 2 C WNY							
		4 3 D							
N3DUE	54	6 3 D MDC							
KE3RJ	54	6 3 D EPA							
<b>NS9E (+KB2DMK,N2HLT,ops)</b>									
		23,625							
		57 29 D							
		13 9 E							
<b>Central</b>									
K3SIW/9	46,134	45 20 D IL							
		13 10 9							
		25 14 E							
		8 7 F							
		8 6 G							
		9 7 H							
		3 2 I							
N2BJ	38,148	41 21 C IL							
		56 22 D							
		15 10 9							
		30 15 E							
K9EA	8,580	21 17 C IN							
		44 27 D							
KB9FZQ	3,078	19 13 C IN							
		19 14 D							
WD9IAB	2,838	25 14 D WI							
		9 8 E							
WA9LWJ	2,553	14 9 C WI							
		23 14 D							
N9UIZ	1,767	11 8 C IL							
		20 11 D							
WA9ACI	1,581	21 13 D WI							
		0 0 E							
N9LAG	1,125	11 6 C IL							
		12 8 D							
		1 1 I							
N9KJE	792	10 5 C IL							
		10 6 D							
		1 1 E							
WB9CEP	660	10 6 C IN							
		10 5 D							
NE9O	528	5 3 C IN							
		11 8 D							
WB9DRB	72	4 2 C IN							
		4 1 D							
<b>Dakota</b>									
NØHJZ	3,180	12 4 C MN							
		23 11 D							
		2 2 9							
		5 2 E							
		1 1 F							

