# 1996 ARRL June VHF QSO Party Results 

By Billy Lunt, KR1R<br>Contest Manager and<br>AI Gordienko, KF2FB Assistant Contest Manager

"Band conditions that you dream about, but only experience on a rare occasion!"-Joel, WB5IGF

What a contest! You couldn't have asked for better band condi-tions-tropo, E-skip, meteor scatter, and possibly aurora. It has been a long time since we enjoyed propagation like this during the contest.

If you weren't on 6 meters, you missed out on the best darned contest we have had in about a decade. The band was wide open
to just about everywhere. In fact, 6 meters was so productive that most people didn't take time to work the other bands.

E skip was especially good on 6 meters. You couldn't have asked for much better conditions. Multiplier totals on 6 were incredible! Seventeen (that's right, 17!) stations worked more than 200 grid squares on 6 meters alone! East Coast stations were
effortlessly working stations in the South and the Midwest and as far south as Texas. Stations in Southwestern California were working stations all across the USA and Canada. This was a very exciting contest! The Century Club. Branch will surely be getting a run of new VUCC Award applications and endorsements.

We usually receive several complaints


The sunset on Bald Mountain at the KD6PUD contest team position, with the contest just about to begin.


N6OPR and KA3DSE traveled to Roundtop Mountain in Southern California ( 6300 feet above sea level). They operated Field Day style from DM04.

## Plaque Winners

| Single Operator |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1st | WB5IGF | 563,528 | Mt Greylock Expeditionary Force, W2SZ/1 |
| 2nd | WA8WZG | 429,040 | Bald Knob VHF Contest Group, AA9D |
| 3rd | WA2TEO | 417,186 | Ed Parsons, K1TR |
| 4th | N5HHS | 279,102 | Eastern VHF/UHF Society |
| 5th | NøLL | 240,536 | Wellesley ARS, Mt Equinox Contest Crew |
| 6th | N2WK | 229,362 | KS VHF/UHF OPs Annual on the Hill Get Together |
| 7th | W5UWB | 224,120 | South Mountain Contest Team, K3MQH |
| 8th | KE8FD | 219,700 |  |
| 9th | KD1DU | 203,797 |  |
| 10th | WD5K | 195,657 |  |
| QRP Portable |  |  |  |
| 1st | KH6CP/1 | 129,213 | K2OVS \& K2RIW |
| 2nd | WB2DNE/3 | 98,438 | West Coast VHFer |
| 3rd | W2XL | 92,178 |  |
| 4th | NOQY | 45,600 |  |
| 5th | KB5ZFO | 41,148 |  |
| Rover |  |  |  |
| 1st | ND3F | 96,074 | W2SZ/1, In Memory of Dick Goodman, WB1HIH |
| 2nd | WA8NJR | 89,919 | Wayne King, N2WK |
| 3rd | W2HPF | 83,490 |  |
| 4th | VE4ZK | 67,760 |  |
| 5th | WB9SNR | 66,465 |  |


| Multioperator |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1st | W2SZ/1 | 1,562,880 | Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR N2LIV, N2GHR, N2BFJ Contest Team |
| 2nd | N8FMD | 861,678 |  |
| 3 rd | AA9D | 855,111 | Mt Airy VHF Club Rochester VHF Group |
| 4th | W3CCX | 795,062 |  |
| 5th | W3ZZ | 671,580 | Northern Lights Radio Society \& WøUC |
| 6th | K3YTL | 669,460 | Flagpole Knob Contest Group, W4IY |
| 7th | W4IY | 579,768 | Schenectady ARA, K2AE In Memory of Sid Krauss, WA2VNK |
| 8th | WØUC/9 | 524,407 |  |
| 9th | N0HJZ | 472,500 |  |
| 10th | K1WHS | 407,836 |  |
| Limited Multioperator |  |  |  |
| 1st | K3MQH | 873,579 | W3EP/K9AKS/W9IP <br> Northeast Weak Signal Group <br> WA2TEO, W2GKR, W2GKO, KA1FVG |
| 2nd | W5KFT | 376,893 |  |
| 3rd | W4AQL | 281,280 |  |
| 4th | N2XTX | 241,902 |  |
| 5th | N2HLT | 235,290 |  |
| DX Single Operator |  |  |  |
| 1st | C6AIE (W | D;op) | 104,304 Bill Tynan, W3XO |
| DX Multioperator |  |  |  |
| 1st | C6AFR | 130,500 | Robert J Carpenter, W3OTC |



NC7K and NR6E set up this antenna farm in Nevada. They worked ABCD from DM18, scoring 176,310 points.


The K3MQH team, limited category, made 1973 QSOs and 873,579 points for their first-place finish.
about people piling up around the call frequencies, but this year, with all the activity and the bands being wide open, contestants seemed to be spreading out across the bands. It was like trying to find a clear frequency on 20 meters.

Two meters was another hot spot! The band openings on 2 meters didn't last quite as long as they did on 6 meters, but there were plenty of sporadic-E conditions reported from just about everywhere. Melvin, WRøI, reports from Kansas, "The 2-meter skip was just as strong as it was on 6 meters." Phil, K3EW, took advantage of the openings and topped the QSO leader box for 144 MHz with an impressive 536 contacts.

All bands were in good shape with lots of activity. Good band conditions were the key. Good conditions always bring people out of the woodwork. The Contest Branch received

921 entries for this year's contest. This represents a $10 \%$ increase in entries over last year's 837 entries. This is the most contest entries that we have ever received for the June VHF QSO Party! Can this trend continue? Let's hope so. The more people there are to work, the more fun the contest is.

Joel, WB5IGF, has been waiting in the wings for years for his time to shine, and this year was surely his year. Joel put together what could be called a letter-perfect operation, and best of all, he had no equipment failures. Not to take anything away from Joel's effort, but I'm pretty sure the great band conditions played a major factor in his win. Whatever the case, hats off to Joel!

Tom, WA8WZG, put in a tremendous effort from his Ohio location overlooking Lake Erie. Tom finished second place with 429k points, with Connecticut's Jeff,

WA2TEO, right on his heels, in third place with 417 k .

Headquarters' own Senior Lab Engineer Zack Lau, KH6CP/1, took to the hills of southern Vermont with 11 bands ( 50 MHz through 24 GHz ) to mount a serious QRP Portable effort. Zack's efforts earned a first-place plaque. He claims that he "wasn't in the right spot for E skip," but you can't tell it from his score. Zack has been traveling to Mt Equinox in Vermont for a number of years for just about every VHF/UHF contest. (I wonder if Zack has his own reserved parking space!) Ed, WB2DNE/3, finished in second place QRP Portable with 98 k points, and Bob, W2XL, was third with 92 k .

Superstation W2SZ/1 on Mt. Greylock does it again! Led by Dick, WA2AAU, the crew made their annual trek to the highest peak in Massachusetts to again win first-

| Region Box |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections) |  |  | West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Dlvisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT/Yukon Sections) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Northeast $\mathbf{R}$ (New Engla Atlantic Div and Quebec | egion <br> nd, Hudson <br> isions; Mari <br> Sections) |  | Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions) |  |  | Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WA2TEO | 417,186 | S | WB5IGF | 563,528 | S | WA8WZG | 429,040 | S | N5HHS | 279,102 | S | AA7A | 140,360 | S |
| N2WK | 229,362 | S | AA4ZZ | 193,200 | S | KE8FD | 219,700 | S | NØLL | 240,536 | S | K6KLY | 136,136 | S |
| KD1DU | 203,797 | S | WA4CQG | 192,080 | S | KU8U | 105,444 | S | W5UWB | 224,120 | S | K7ICW | 108,570 | S |
| K3ZO | 123,327 | S | N8UM | 139,275 | S | K8MD | 103,305 | S | WD5K | 195,657 | S | KJ6FP | 84,150 | S |
| WB3ARZ | 116,926 | S | W2YV | 137,712 | S | K8MFO | 100,656 | S | KøGU | 187,812 | S | WB6AAG | 78,581 | S |
| KH6CP/1 | 129,213 | Q | N8TLZ/4 | 40,098 | Q | N8AXA | 8,970 | Q | NOøY | 45,600 | Q | WA6FIT | 23,240 | Q |
| WB2DNE/3 | 98,438 | Q | KE4LVQ | 13,542 | Q | N8LGP | 2,516 | Q | KB5ZFO | 41,148 | Q | N3EG | 22,784 | Q |
| W2XL | 92,178 | Q | AE4BK | 468 | Q | KE4PZT | 90 | Q | KI7NG | 1,000 | Q | AC6CM | 8,673 | Q |
| VE2PIJ | 5,712 | Q | KE4VCS | 315 | Q |  |  |  | AAØPB | 288 | Q | KD6RMS | 7,712 | Q |
| KB3AFT | 1,400 | Q |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | KE6GFI | 1,947 | Q |
| W2SZ/1 | 1,562,880 | M | N8FMD | 861,678 | M | AA9D | 855,111 | M | NØHJZ | 472,500 | M | N6MU | 258,660 | M |
| W3CCX | 795,062 | M | W3ZZ | 671,580 | M | WØUC/9 | 524,407 | M | KB5IUA | 116,216 | M | K6HXW | 167,175 | M |
| K3YTL | 669,460 | M | W4IY | 579,768 | M | WW8M | 241,080 | M | N0QJM | 95,480 | M | KE6UPN | 161,968 | M |
| K1WHS | 407,836 | M |  |  |  | KU8Y | 136,728 | M | WB9CEP | 82,058 | M | KF7NP | 136,850 | M |
| N2NCU | 393,907 | M |  |  |  | N8KOL | 73,006 | M | N5UYI | 75,026 | M | N6MI | 124,200 | M |
| K3MQH | 873,579 | L | W4AQL | 281,280 | L | W9UI/8 | 164,498 | L | W5KFT | 376,893 | L | WA7JTM | 224,077 | L |
| N2XTX | 241,902 | L | K3LNZ/8 | 159,963 | L | N9LAG | 120,056 | L | WRØG | 226,778 | L | WA6TBO | 198,989 | L |
| N2HLT | 235,290 | L | AD4QR | 67,936 | $L$ | AA8BC | 83,520 | L | WØRRY | 203,040 | L | NC7K | 176,310 | L |
| K1TR | 224,517 | L | N4GKE | 62,100 | L | N9MWB | 44,403 | L | W1XE | 165,184 | L | WA6KLK | 155,630 | L |
| W1TKZ | 173,313 | L | KD4ZMR | 44,730 | L | KJ4VH | 23,718 | L | WVØH | 112,682 | L | N6OPR | 142,800 | L |
| W2HPF | 83,490 | R | ND3F | 96,074 | R | WB9SNR | 66,465 | R | VE4ZK | 67,760 | R | KE6ILX | 65,230 | R |
| K1DS | 53,955 | R | WA8NJR | 89,919 | R | K9JK | 42,874 | R | KK5RH | 48,620 | R | W7HAH | 25,286 | R |
| AA7QZ | 44,405 | R | KC4ZRH | 37,128 | R | KF9US | 23,760 | R | KE9QT | 46,656 | R | K6LMN | 20,046 | R |
| WA3WJD | 34,290 | R | AD4DY | 16,082 | R | WB9UAI | 12,192 | R | NØBEL | 29,440 | R | KA7YOU | 19,564 | R |
| WB1GQR | 28,203 | R | KS4S | 8,246 | R | KF9VZ | 7,560 | R | KK5DK | 11,285 | R | NGØX | 18,778 | R |

QSO Leaders By Band

| Single Operator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 50 MHz |  | 144 MHz |  | 222 MHz |  | 432 MHz |  | 902 MHz |  | 1296 MHz |  |
| N5HHS | 1023 | K3EW | 536 | WA2TEO | 87 | K1FO | 168 | WA8WZG | 37 | WA8WZG | 64 |
| WD5K | 847 | WA2TEO | 378 | WA8WZG | 76 | KE6GFF | 117 | WA2TEO | 31 | WA2TEO | 39 |
| W5UWB | 797 | WA3HMK | 369 | KD1DU | 69 | WABWZG | 115 | N2WK | 26 | KD1DU | 32 |
| KøGU | 781 | KD1DU | 356 | KE8FD | 68 | WB5IGF | 110 | KD1DU | 23 | W1RIL | 31 |
| WA4CQG | 751 | K2GAL | 332 | KE6AXJ | 61 | WA2TEO | 108 | WB5IGF | 23 | WB5IGF | 31 |
| N5JHV | 706 | N3OPM | 324 | KE6HPZ | 58 | KD1DU | 107 | WA1MBA | 20 | N2WK | 29 |
| NØLL | 682 | WB2QOQ | 303 | WB5IGF | 54 | KE8FD | 101 | W1RIL | 20 | WA1MBA | 24 |
| WD4MGB | 663 | KE8FD | 247 | WB2WIH | 54 | KG6EG | 96 | K2UOP/8 | 18 | KE8FD | 24 |
| K5AM | 659 | WB2CUT | 214 | WB2VVV | 52 | N3FUJ | 76 | WB2VVV | 18 | K2UOP/8 | 23 |
| C6AIE (WZ8D,op) | ) 634 | KB2RXZ | 210 | W6GGV | 50 | K6KLY | 76 | N1DPM | 17 | N1DPM | 22 |
| N4TWX | 608 | WB5IGF | 201 | K6KLY | 49 | WB2WIH | 72 | AF1T | 16 | WA4VHF | 22 |
| W2YV | 604 | WB2VVV | 180 | N2WK | 48 | KB4TLH | 72 | K2AN | 12 | WB2VVV | 22 |
| W2CRS | 596 | KC6TEU | 178 | N1DPM | 46 | N2WK | 71 | WB2YEH | 12 | WB2YEH | 21 |
| W50ZI | 577 | KC2TA | 177 | KD6CML | 44 | K2UOP/8 | 65 | kB3IB | 11 | KF6CU | 21 |
| KB50AI | 550 | N3FUJ | 177 | AF1T | 43 | KJ6KO | 64 | WAøBWE | 10 | K4QIF | 19 |
|  |  |  |  | N8UM | 43 |  |  | WAdBu |  | KB3IB | 19 |
| Multioperator AF1T 19 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 50 MHz |  | 144 MHz |  | 222 MHz |  | 432 MHz |  | 902 MHz |  | 1296 MHz |  |
| W5KFT -L | 1161 | K3MQH -L | 786 | W2SZ/1 | 199 | W2SZ11 | 320 | W2SZ/1 | 88 | W2SZ/1 | 113 |
| W2SZ/1 | 798 | W2SZ/1 | 605 | K3MQH -L | 171 | KЗMQH -L | 303 | W3CCX | 43 | W3CCX | 69 |
| WøUC/9 | 795 | N8FMD | 581 | W3CCX | 145 | W3CCX | 258 | N8FMD | 37 | K3YTL | 42 |
| WA7JTM -L | 762 | K3YTL | 573 | N8FMD | 118 | N8FMD | 250 | KD5RO | 29 | AA9D | 40 |
| W@RRY -L | 745 | W4IY | 531 | K3YTL | 116 | NC11-L | 184 | AA9D | 25 | N2NCU | 39 |
| NØHJZ | 721 | W3CCX | 506 | N2VOT-L | 97 | AA9D | 181 | K3YTL | 22 | N8FMD | 36 |
| K3MQH -L | 713 | N2WM | 452 | WB2IEY | 93 | N2VOT -L | 138 | K1WHS | 21 | WW8M | 36 |
| W3ZZ | 674 | AB2I | 420 | W3ZZ | 92 | N2NCU | 136 | W3ZZ | 19 | WAGYDI | 35 |
| W4AQL -L | 664 | W3ZZ | 374 | W41Y | 87 | N2WM | 121 | N2NCU | 18 | K1WHS | 34 |
| AA9D | 663 | N2NCU | 342 | N2HLT-L | 79 | K1TR -L | 120 | WW8M | 17 | KD5RO | 34 |
| C6AFR-L | 657 | AA9D | 341 | W1TKZ-L | 78 | N2HLT -L | 118 | NøHJZ | 15 | WB2IEY | 30 |
| K3YTL | 654 | W1QK -L | 330 | K1TR -L | 77 | K3YTL | 115 | W4IY | 14 | WA1HYN | 28 |
| K1WHS | 646 | WB2IEY | 322 | N2NCU | 76 | W4IY | 113 | N2WM | 12 | NOHJZ | 25 |
| W41Y | 631 | K3UZY -L | 319 | AA9D | 74 | N1GPY -L | 110 | WB2IEY |  | W3ZZ | 24 |
| N8FMD | 591 | K1TR -L | 318 | WA6YDI | 70 | W1TKZ-L | 108 | WøUC/9 | 8 | KE6UPN | 24 |
| -L denotes Limited Multioperator KU8Y |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Multiplier Leaders By Band

| Single Operator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 50 MHz ; |  | 144 MHz |  | 222 MHz |  | 432 MHz |  | 902 MHz |  | 1296 MHz |  |
| N5JHV | 235 | KE8FD | 69 | KE8FD | 42 | KE8FD | 45 | WA2TEO | 19 | WA8WZG | 28 |
| W5UWB | 234 | WA3HMK | 65 | WB5IGF | 39 | WB5IGF | 43 | WA8WZG | 19 | WB5IGF | 24 |
| N5HHS | 232 | K2GAL | 52 | W9UD | 34 | K1FO | 36 | WB5IGF | 18 | KE8FD | 18 |
| WD5K | 231 | WB5IGF | 52 | WA2TEO | 32 | WA8WZG | 35 | N2WK | 16 | WA2TEO | 17 |
| WA4CQG | 228 | WA2TEO | 50 | KU8U | 29 | K2UOP/8 | 33 | K2UOP/8 | 15 | N2WK | 17 |
| W2YV | 228 | K2YAZ | 47 | WA8WZG | 27 | K4QIF | 32 | KD1DU | 14 | K2UOP/8 | 16 |
| K5AM | 218 | K4QIF | 45 | KD1DU | 26 | WA2TEO | 31 | WB2VVV | 11 | KD1DU | 15 |
| AA4ZZ | 209 | WA8WZG | 44 | N1DPM | 23 | KD1DU | 30 | N1DPM | 10 | K4QIF | 15 |
| NØLL | 208 | K2UOP/8 | 44 | N2WK | 23 | KU8U | 30 | W1RIL | 10 | W1RIL | 13 |
| W5OZI | 208 | VE3FGU | 44 | N8UM | 22 | WQØP | 29 | WA1MBA | 10 | WA4VHF | 12 |
| KøGU | 199 | KU8U | 44 | WF9X | 20 | N2WK | 26 | WA8TJL' | 9 | WB2YEH | 12 |
| WB5IGF | 196 | KD1DU | 43 | K8MR | 20 | K2YAZ | 25 | WB2YEH | 9 | WB2VVV | 12 |
| AA7A | 190 | N2WK | 43 | AA9AO | 20 | K8MD | 25 | K2AN | 9 | NO31 | 12 |
| KF4FL | 187 | N3OPM | 42 | KB3PD | 19 | N1DPM | 24 | AF1T | 8 | K2YAZ | 12 |
| K5CM | 178 | VA3ST | 42 | WAØBWE | 19 | K9EA | 23 | N2BJ | 8 | WAØBWE | 11 |
| KB5OAI | 178 |  |  | WB2VVV | 19 | AA9AO | 23 | KB3IB | 8 | KB3PD | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | KBØPYO | 23 |  |  | WM7A | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | VA3ST | 23 |  |  | N1DPM | 11 |
| Multioperator |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $50 \mathrm{MHz}$ |  | 144 MHz |  | $222 \text { MHz }$ |  | 432 MHz |  | 902 MHz |  | 1296 MHz |  |
| W5KFT -L | 269 | W3ZZ | 74 | KЗMQH -L | 49 | K3MQH -L | 53 | W2SZ/1 | 24 | W3CCX | 25 |
| WØUC/9 | 239 | N8FMD | 69 | W3ZZ | 45 | N8FMD | 49 | N8FMD | 22 | W2SZ/1 | 23 |
| WA7JTM -L | 238 | K3MQH -L | 67 | N8FMD | 43 | AA9D | 47 | W3CCX | 21 | K3YTL | 21 |
| AA9D | 236 | WRØG -L | 61 | AA9D | 41 | W3ZZ | 45 | KD5RO | 19 | KD5RO | 20 |
| NØHJZ | 234 | AA8BC -L | 59 | W3CCX | 36 | W2SZ/1 | 45 | AA9D | 17 | AA9D | 20 |
| W3ZZ | 219 | AA9D | 58 | W4IY | 35 | NC11-L | 43 | K3YTL | 14 | WW8M | 18 |
| W4AQL -L | 218 | WøUC/9 | 57 | N2NCU | 33 | W3CCX | 40 | W3ZZ | 14 | N2NCU | 18 |
| W4IY | 199 | K3YTL | 57 | N2HLT -L | 33 | N2NCU | 38 | NØHJZ | 13 | N8FMD | 18 |
| WORRY -L | 198 | W3CCX | 56 | W2SZ/1 | 33 | N2HLT -L | 36 | N2NCU | 11 | NØHJZ | 16 |
| VP5H -L | 192 | NOHJZ | 55 | K3YTL | 33 | W4IY | 33 | K1WHS | 11 | W3ZZ | 16 |
| N8FMD | 191 | K3UZY -L | 55 | WØUC/9 | 29 | NØHJZ | 32 | W4IY | 11 | WB2IEY | 15 |
| NC7K -L | 189 | NC7K -L | 55 | N2XTX -L | 27 | N2XTX -L | 31 | WW8M | 11 | K1WHS | 15 |
| N6MU | 189 | W4IY | 55 | W1TKZ -L | 26 | WøUC/9 | 30 | N2WM | 9 | WA6YDI | 14 |
| K3MQH -L | 188 | N2XTX -L | 52 | KD5RO | 26 | KD5RO | 30 | WB2IEY | 6 | AB2I | 13 |
| WRøG -L | 188 | W2SZ/1 | 51 | NØHJZ | 25 | K3YTL | 30 | WØUC/9 | 6 | N6MU | 12 |
| -L denotes Limited Multioperator |  |  |  | WB2IEY | 25 | K3LNZ/8-L | 30 |  |  | WA1HYN | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | WA6KLK -L | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | W3IP | 12 |

place multioperator. They have been winning from this location in Western Massachusetts for decades. N8FMD, tops in the Southeast Region, finished second place overall, with 861 k points, and Central Region champs AA9D finished third overall, with 855 k .

Dick's crew at K3MQH took top honors with 873 k points in the Limited Multioperator category, blowing away all the competition by nearly a half a million
points. Great showing! W5KFT finished in second place, with 376 k points, and W4AQL finished third, with 281 k .

Last, but not least, are the rovers. The rover category proved to be very competitive, with only a few thousand points separating the top finishers. Brian, ND3F, topped the list with 96 k points. Byron, WA8NJR, finished in second place, with 89 k points, and Jeff, W2HPF, was third, with 83 k . Without these rovers, we
wouldn't have those rare grid squares to work. The rules indicate that a rover must activate at least two grid squares, but some go the extra mile (or the extra many miles!). Hats off to Kelly, VE4ZK, who activated 15 grid squares and Byron, WA8NJR, who activated 13 grids.

This year was an excellent year for the June VHF QSO Party. Let's make 1997 even better! Talk up VHF contesting in your area, help a friend get on the bands,
and do anything and everything you can to support our hobby. See you next June 1416 in the 1997 June VHF QSO Party.

## SOAPBOX

Whew! Montana is doing its share to replace the ozone (WA7PDC). Bands were great, except for Saturday night. Had to shut down because the static crashes were so bad that I couldn't complete my QSOs. I didn't do as well on the other bands because 6 was open so much (K1DAT). This was a very difficult backpack trip ( 60 lb again) which left little time to do actual operating. I did have fun hiking with Pete, N6QIX. We are planning to do future contests together (WA9TKK). The wind blew 50 to 60 mph and the rain never stopped the entire contest-still had a great time! (N8TLZ/4) Originally planned for the multioperator category but, the night before the contest, I fried the 222/ $903 / 1296 / 2304$ station. We made the quick decision to run limited multioperator, limping along on 6 and 2 meters, 432 MHz and 10 GHz ! Thanks to a rally of local $10-\mathrm{GHz}$ ops, it worked out okay Actually, we set an all-time station record for grids worked on 2 meters and 432 MHz , running 500 W and 70 W , respectively. We started out moping, but ended up shouting with joy! Thanks for sponsoring such a nice contest (WB2ELB). Two operators four bands, and one computer made for some tough logging situations. We missed most of the good openings on Saturday. Nailing VP9MZ sure made things feel good! (WB1GQR). Our first multioperator experience-great fun! We will be back next year-but bigger and stronger (KC8CC) I was amazed at what I was doing with 10 W and a dipole on 6 ! There was also a fair amount of local activity on 2-meter FM, which made things nice. I hope to have $70-\mathrm{cm}$ gear for September (KB3AFT). Good contest-not real good tropo, but we had a half-hour of E skip to Nevada! Good signals, but not too many stations to work (NØWJY). My first attempt at $70-\mathrm{cm}$ QRP without hilltopping in the Los Angeles area worked out quite well. Only worked one new grid on 2 meters (K1FJM/6). It was a big thrill to work VP5H with 20 W and a sloper! (N9CIQ). Pretty good score for a hand-held Kenwood TH-78A and 5 W output using a Maldol dual-Yagi antenna at about 1000 ft elevation on the coast of Southern California in Laguna Beach. I really enjoy the thrill of contesting and making the contacts using minimum power. Found a new grid square this time out, DM05, and that just made my day! (KE6GFI). I'm backpack portable, solar powered and work 70 cm only. Experience in two contests has been a real help, permitting me to significantly best my earlier QSO party scores. The opening to Arizona (DM35) came as a complete surprise, not to mention contacts with Gordon West's Marine Mobile. Talk about an exciting contest-this was it! (KE6GFF). Nice 6 -meter opening all weekend. This is how it should be! Although 222 and 432 were down from January's contest, this was my best score yet! (KD4UPF). The 6-meter E skip was wild on Saturday! The microwave bands really add to the enjoyment. A highlight was working Hal, KC4YO, on 2 meters via meteor scatter. I was also glad to hook up with Stan, KA1ZE/R, in FN26 (AF1T). Six meters on Sunday was like a cat approaching a bird-at first slow and methodical, DM79, DM81 just above the noise, then faster, and finally chaotic as the feathers flew and S meters sailed off scale Then ENs and EMs-first low-number 60's 70's and even 80 's-and, finally, a VE6 at 30 dB over S9. For a newcomer to 6 meters, this was a day to remem-ber-where 5 W behaved as a kilowatt in disguise (N6ZFO). I cried a river at missing Sunday's 6-meter opening to attend my kids' piano recital! (N6KN) The 6 -meter opening adding a lot of excitement Adding 222 to the station lineup really boosted my score. Maybe I'll have 1296 MHz running next year (KU8U). This was a part-time effort, as the log shows. I was mainly trying to see if my all-band 8877, with the 10 -meter band modified for 6 merters, would actually work! (K4VX). The highlight of the contest was making our first contacts on 2.3 GHz . And, to top it off; we completed a $2.3-\mathrm{GHz}$ QSO with KD5RO in FN12 (from FM08) with our 2 W All the thanks goes to K4HWG and KA4CKI for all their efforts in getting us up and running on a new band (W4IY). Six was great, but 2 meters and above


At the C6AFR operating site, which looks out over the Caribbean Sea in FL06Freeport, Bahamas


Dave, W2YV, operated from EM95 in North Carolina and made 137,712 points. Does anybody remember the old "Yankee Victor Bash" in Eastern New York?


Sunshine, great weather, palm trees and 653 QSOs; that's all it takes in the Bahamas for C6AIE (WZ8D, op) to get a first-place DX plaque.
were just average to below average. The rain and fog kept us from working a second grid on lasers (AA9D). Six meters was a feast! Wish the higher bands had been more active. It was interesting having N2NCU blasting away with 1500 W on 2 meters only six miles away (N2HLT). Better than last year- 26 QSOs this time, only 10 last year! So VHF participation is increasing. It probably helped that I talked it up on the repeater (before the contest) and on PacketCluster. About half-and-half FM and SSB (NH6YK). This is my first contest entry. I've worked them before, but never sent any results in. I don't think I did too badly, considering the lack of time I could dedicate to it and a dead rotator. As always, 6 meters was truly fun! Thanks for providing a venue to really work those grids! (KA4ZZQ). Like always, I had a tremendous time during the contest! Six meters? What can you say-WOW! Unfortunately, 6 meters was my weak band. I had not been on 6 for quite some time. A week before the contest I converted a driven element from a $10-$ meter beam to a 6 -meter dipole. I sold my 6 -meter brick last year with anticipation of building a 4CX250 amp, but that has not materialized yet. I was fortunate to get in on some $144-\mathrm{MHz}$ E skip on Sunday-it was the most fun of the weekend. On 1296 I encountered some troubles-it seems like I was suffering from water in the feed line. I had climbed the tower several times during the contest and blew water out of the connectors. All in all, I had a very good time (WQØP). I'm primarily an HF/ CW operator, but could not resist the openings during the contest. My rig was the Tokyo Hi-Power HT-750 hand-held (40/15/6-meter CW and SSB), running 2 W in all modes. Believe it or not, the GAP Titan vertical loads on 6 and 2 meters, as well as its specified 80 to 10 meters! It just goes to show you can have lots of fun, even with a modest/compromise VHF setup (VP9MZ). A very noticeable lack of rovers this year. Six meters was a kick! Open just about the entire last 12 hours of the contest! I thought everyone spread out pretty well on 6 meters this year, instead of piling up on the calling frequency, as in years past (N5UYI). Terrific band conditions. Never a let-up...the pile-ups just kept coming and coming. On Sunday I had to move to above 50.2; it was unbelievable that the pileups followed. Thanks to all for the great exhilaration! (N5HHS). This was starting to look like a pretty boring contest, without even much local activityuntil Sunday afternoon, when E skip into California, Arizona, New Mexico and even Texas appeared for an action-packed few hours. Yow! (KX7L). Great E skip both days. Family activities kept me from being able to fully participate (WA8LLY). Highlights were working XE3EB and COØFRC on 6 and catching the tail end of the 2-meter E-skip opening Sunday evening. Worked N7WS in Arizona on 2-meter E skip, running 10 W and a fourelement Yagi. No tropo enhancement noted (NOØY). This was the first contest that I really "got into." Since I only had 10 W on 2 meters, the 6 -meter opening really made the contest for me! The contest brought my total grids worked so far on 6 meters up to $96!$ I also learned how essential a decent amount of power is on 2 meters during a contest (KB $\emptyset \mathrm{PGJ}$ ). This was my first VHF QSO Party! I used my Oscar antennas and had a ball! Looking forward to September (W3BBO). Now I remember why 6 meters is my favorite band (KDØBT). I had more fun this VHF contest than in the past two years (NB2T). Gotta love E skip! (N2QXF). Best 6-meter conditions I've seen in years! (KK4NO). Murphy killed my $222-\mathrm{MHz}$ station after the first QSO, but I still beat my last year's score (K2UOP/8). Nobody can complain about propagation this year- 6 meters open nearly all the contest period, a 2 -meter opening Sunday evening. Regardless of my standing, it is a personal best! (KF4FL). Six-meter activity was quite pleasing to experience. A special thanks to the folks in the Midwest that stayed up late at night for us West Coasters (WA7IQH). I really enjoyed the contest. Got too tired and had to quit early while 6 meters was running hot and heavy. Laser was fun, but I need to work on aiming it! Bomber signals at 15 miles! (WB9AJZ). Best contest in a long time, as far as activity goes down here in western Virginia! (N4BG). Sure glad my portable operation was weatherproof-it poured all weekend. Six meters was terrific! I used a full-size, fully rotatable sqloop and worked 137 grids (N8UM). Conditions were great, weather was terrible (W2YV). Six and 2-

meter propagation may have been fabulous elsewhere, but they were quite ho-hum up here. We were working Europeans on 50 MHz 15 minutes before the contest, but, of course, they vanished as 1800 UTC approached, despite our repeated calls! (VY2/W3EP). This is the fifth time we have operated a VHF contest from this grid and had a great time (WB9CEP).

The crew of W4IY had some problems with this 902 and $1296-\mathrm{MHz}$ array. They took it down during the contest and got it going again.

Scores
Each line score lists call sign, score, stations worked, multipliers, hours, number of grids activated (if Rover), and bands ( $A=50 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{B}=144 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{C}=222 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{D}=432 \mathrm{MHz}, 9=902 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{E}=1296 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{F}=2304 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{G}=3456 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{H}=5760 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{I}=10 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{J}=24 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{K}=47 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{L}=75 \mathrm{GHz}$, $M=119 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{N}=142 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{O}=241 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{M}=300+\mathrm{GHz}$ ). Call signs of Division leaders and band indicators are listed in boldface type.





