

September 2001 VHF QSO Party Results

"The best tropo conditions for a September contest since about 1985!" —K1WHS

Going into every VHF contest, experienced operators wonder "Will this be the year?" Every so often, the contest weekend coincides with a great propagation event—aurora, sporadic-E or tropo—and lucky souls in some part of the country get to work some terrific DX or new grids. For those operating from the northeastern US during the September 8-9 contest weekend, this was "the year" for extended tropo openings through the microwave bands. A quick scan of the boxes reveals some truly stunning scores and QSO/grid totals from entrants in all categories. Just to make things interesting, several West Coast stations reported contacts with KH6HME via the transpacific duct.

The comments included among the 553 logs received, representing over 850 participants, seemed to indicate a fun event even in the areas not blessed by this year's tropo openings. Individual challenges were met; first time testers got their feet wet; old timers commented on how good it is to see "old friends" on the bands every year; and some folks tried new bands or modes, including the new WSJT meteor scatter mode. (See December 2001 *QST* and the Digital Dimension column in this issue for more information about WSJT. It offers a great way to increase your multiplier totals, particu-

larly during the slow overnight periods.)

The biggest contest scores come from those all-band beacons in the Multioperator Unlimited category. W2SZ (the RPI Radio Club), operating from Mt. Greylock in northwestern Massachusetts, has been entering this category for a long time, and they usually win. They won this year—no big surprise. The surprise is that they ended up with just over 3.2 megapoints—3478 QSOs and 517 grids. That's 1.3 million points, 812 QSOs and 134 grids better than the category record they set just last year! This is the first time any station has scored more than 3 million points in any ARRL VHF contest.

Right on the heels of W2SZ is peren-

nial rival K8GP (the Delmarva VHF and Microwave Society), operating from Spruce Knob in West Virginia. Since 1997, K8GP and W2SZ have battled for top Multiop Unlimited honors in this event. Usually K8GP ends up with the most grid multipliers, but not enough to overcome W2SZ's QSO advantage, particularly on the microwave bands. This year the K8GP crew also shattered the old record with 2.7 megapoints, 3094 QSOs and 545 grids. The tropo this year helped K8GP's QSO total considerably—879 more than last year—but only 90 more grids as they have consistently done a great job in that department even without unusual propagation. The intense competition between K8GP and W2SZ in this contest and in the June event has redefined our view of what can be done in a VHF contest. What's next?

The Limited Multioperator category (maximum of 4 bands) continues to see lots of participation and great scoring opportunities as groups of friends and club members pool resources and have fun. The winning team of NC1I in western Massachusetts rode the outstanding tropo duct to a new overall category record above 700k with 1978 QSOs and 278 grids. They faced stiff competition from K3YTL in eastern Pennsylvania, who at 621k also broke the old mark set by K3MQH last

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Medium Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	4,290,914	21
North East Weak Signal Group	3,770,248	18
Northern Lights Radio Society	457,337	27
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	416,010	12
South Jersey Radio Assn	299,376	8
Western States Weak Signal	292,632	7
Downey ARC	216,405	3
Society of Midwest Contesters	214,181	9
Badger Contesters	168,153	19
Rochester VHF Group	164,026	7
Mad River Radio Club	99,196	4
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	26,589	3
Local Category		
Northern New York Contest Club	6,692	5

Top Ten

Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator Portable	Limited Multioperator	Multioperator	Rover
K1TR 306,660	K1TEO 542,984	K6MI 37,665	NC1I 720,020	W2SZ 3,221,427	ND3F 294,063
WB1GQR 274,668 (W1SJ, op)	KA1ZE 452,387	WG1Z 24,786	K3YTL 621,426	K8GP 2,703,200	W3IY 188,895
AF1T 139,564	K1RZ 329,156	KF0Q 16,240	W4IY 528,640	K1WHS 1,085,422	N2JMH 134,758
K2DRH 101,088	W4RX 297,937	N8XA 12,922	AA4ZZ 401,555	W2EA 214,347	K1DS 109,480
W1BQ 88,704	K1FO 263,874	N9MYK 5,680	N3EMF 347,380	W4NH 199,808	N6TEB 103,872
W1PM 76,874	K1GX 262,548	W6AXX 4,092	W2ODH 225,720	W0ZQ 149,625	N0DQS 71,131
KB8U 75,168	K1UHF 251,049	K4NGA 3,096	N2NK 219,780	N8KOL 136,315	N7CFO 69,842
K1JT 59,857	VE3AX 213,010	N7IR 1,562	K2BAR 213,367	K1ZE 121,524	VE3OIL 60,455
W3KJ 55,002	K2SMN 186,240	KE4VCS 1,484	W3SO 155,097	W6TOI 111,840	AL1VE 57,036
K4ZOO 54,522	K4QI 159,424	K2QO 1,400	W1QK 152,278	W1XM 83,578	W7DHC 44,398

Regional Leaders

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT/Yukon Sections)		
K1TR	306,660	A	K4ZOO	54,522	A	K2DRH	101,088	A	K0MHC	50,228	A	N6MU	34,370	A
WB1GQR	274,668	A	KU4R	22,250	A	KB8U	75,168	A	N0LL	15,792	A	(@N6NB)		
(W1SJ, op)			AD4DG	17,082	A	K8MR	48,688	A	WA2HFI	15,732	A	KC6TEU	28,652	A
AF1T	139,564	A										W7GHZ	22,040	A
K1TEO	542,984	B	W4RX	297,937	B	VE3AX	213,010	B	KM0T	131,144	B	K6TSK	35,574	B
KA1ZE	452,387	B	K4QI	159,424	B	N2BJ	158,776	B	N0LL	15,792	B	N7EPD	30,646	B
K1RZ	329,156	B	W4DEX	36,630	B	K8TQK	153,216	B	N0KQY	13,160	B	W6KBX	23,030	B
WG1Z	24,786	Q	K4NGA	3,096	Q	N8XA	12,922	Q	KF0Q	16,240	Q	K6MI	37,665	Q
W6AXX	4,092	Q	KE4VCS	1,484	Q	N9MYK	5,680	Q	KF0GX	560	Q	N7IR	1,562	Q
K2QO	1,400	Q	W4SW	1,305	Q	N9OU	372	Q				KQ6EE	896	Q
NC1I	720,020	L	W4IY	528,640	L	N8ZM	59,704	L	N5XU	7,470	L	W2ODH	225,720	L
K3YTL	621,426	L	AA4ZZ	401,555	L	W9ICE	56,816	L	W0JH	4,096	L	KF6YYV	10,261	L
N3EMF	347,380	L	W4EUH	36,050	L	K8CC	50,000	L	NE0P	966	L	K7JMH	6,960	L
W2SZ	3,221,427	M	K8GP	2,703,200	M	N8KOL	136,315	M	W0ZQ	149,625	M	W6TOI	111,840	M
K1WHS	1,085,422	M	W4NH	199,808	M				KA0MR	16,640	M	K6WLC	11,682	M
W2EA	214,347	M							W0KVA	3,300	M			
ND3F	294,063	R	W3IY	188,895	R	VE3OIL	60,455	R	N0DQS	71,131	R	N6TEB	103,872	R
N2JMH	134,758	R	W4/ON1CFX	15,861	R	N8KWX	10,360	R	K0PG	30,294	R	N7CFO	69,842	R
K1DS	109,480	R	K8DXN	4,320	R	N9RLA	4,332	R	K9ILT	29,467	R	W7DHC	44,398	R

Division Leaders

Single Operator Low Power

Atlantic	K1JT	59,857
Central	K2DRH	101,088
Dakota	K0MHC	50,228
Delta	KU4R	22,250
Great Lakes	KB8U	75,168
Hudson	K2MLB	41,700
Midwest	N0LL	15,792
New England	K1TR	306,660
Northwestern	W7GHZ	22,040
Pacific	N6MU (@N6NB)	34,370
Roanoke	K4ZOO	54,522
Rocky Mountain	NJ7A	1,190
Southeastern	W4OZK	7,238
Southwestern	AC6TA	9,324
West Gulf	W3XO	11,946
Canada	VE3KZ	24,682

Single Operator High Power

Atlantic	KA1ZE	452,387
Central	N2BJ	158,776
Dakota	K0SQ	13,110
Delta	K8WW	19,170
Great Lakes	K8TQK	153,216
Hudson	W2FCA	51,816
Midwest	KM0T	131,144
New England	K1TEO	542,984
Northwestern	N7EPD	30,646
Pacific	W6KBX	23,030
Roanoke	W4RX	297,937
Rocky Mountain	W6OAL	10,314
Southeastern	W4ZRZ	24,140
Southwestern	K6TSK	35,574
Canada	VE3AX	213,010

Limited Multioperator

Atlantic	K3YTL	621,426
Central	W9ICE	56,816
Dakota	W0JH	4,096
Great Lakes	N8ZM	59,704
Hudson	N2NK	219,780
New England	NC1I	720,020
Northwestern	K7JMH	6,960
Pacific	KF6GFG	4,992
Roanoke	W4IY	528,640
Southeastern	W4EUH	36,050
Southwestern	W2ODH	225,720
West Gulf	N5XU	7,470
Canada	VE7NUT	2,016

Multioperator Unlimited

Atlantic	W2EA	214,347
Dakota	W0ZQ	149,625
Great Lakes	N8KOL	136,315
Hudson	N2UJZ	20,740
Midwest	KA0MR	16,640
New England	W2SZ	3,221,427
Roanoke	K8GP	2,703,200
Rocky Mountain	W0KVA	3,300
Southwestern	W6TOI	111,840

Single Operator Portable

Atlantic	W6AXX	4,092
Central	N9MYK	5,680
Dakota	KF0Q	16,240
Delta	KD4NOQ	4
Great Lakes	N8XA	12,922
New England	WG1Z	24,786
Pacific	K6MI	37,665
Roanoke	KE4VCS	1,484
Southeastern	K4NGA	3,096
Southwestern	N7IR	1,562

Rover

Atlantic	ND3F	294,063
Central	N8KWX	10,360
Dakota	K0PG	30,294
Delta	WA4JA	3,675
Great Lakes	NE8IR	816
Hudson	WA2ID	34,342
Midwest	N0DQS	71,131
New England	AL1VE	57,036
Northwestern	N7CFO	69,842
Pacific	K7XC	17,424
Roanoke	W3IY	188,895
Southeastern	AB4WL	1,254
Southwestern	N6TEB	103,872
West Gulf	KI5DR	4,879
Canada	VE3OIL	60,455

cut. Jeff took top honors in the Single Operator High Power category and became the first single operator to break the half-million point barrier in this contest at 542k. Stan, KA1ZE, took his traveling station to western New York this year, finished second, and at 452k came within a whisker of also breaking the old record set by WA8WZG in 1998.

Though undergoing a name change from QRP Portable, the Single Operator Portable category continues to pose challenges to those gallant warriors who choose to leave the comforts of home and established antenna farms and take on the challenges of operating with 10 W output or less. The winner's laurel for the category in this first year of the new name goes to a station on the West Coast. John, K6MI, had the winning total of 37k. The number 2 score came from the other coast — Joe, WG1Z, at 24k.

These days when you think about rovers, Brian, ND3F, usually comes to mind. While not setting a category record this time, Brian and his partner (and son) Adam, N3SLN, put together the top rover entry. Their score of 294k stood up against the challenge of 51 other rover entries, lead by Bill, W3IY, who took second place honors with a score of nearly 189k.

In the Affiliated Club competition, the 21 entries of the Potomac Valley Radio Club took the Medium Category gavel by with 4.2 million points. Not far behind (and much closer than in the past several years) is the North East Weak Signal Group at 3.7 meg. The Northern New York Contest Club earned the gavel in the Local club category.

The skills contesters bring to the table are yet another reason Amateur Radio continues to grow in respect and service.

year, and from W4IY in Virginia.

This is the second year for the Single Operator Low Power category, and low-power entrants account for about 70% of single-op scores reported here. Congratulations go to Ed, K1TR, in New Hampshire; Mitch, W1SJ (operating as WB1GQR) in Vermont and Dale, AF1T

(also from New Hampshire) who each managed to top the old record of 137k, set by K2DRH last year. In the end, Ed's score of just over 300k outdistanced the others and is now the overall category record.

Jeff, K1TEO, had another great contest from his home station in Connecti-

Multiplier Leaders By Band

Single Operator, Low Power		Single Operator, High Power		Multioperator	
50 MHz					
K1TR	47			K8GP	101
WB1GQR	47			W2SZ	86
(W1SJ, op)		KA1ZE	56	NC11 -L	77
N4GN	40	N2BJ	54	AA4ZZ -L	74
K8MR	37	K1TEO	53	K3YTL -L	73
KB8U	36	W1VHF	51	W4NH	71
K2DRH	36	K4QI	46	K1WHS	69
		VE3AX	46	N3EMF -L	67
				W4IY -L	65
				W3SO -L	62
144 MHz					
WB1GQR	57	K8TQK	65		
(W1SJ, op)		N2BJ	64		
K1TR	49	K1UHF	63		
N4GN	47	KA1ZE	61		
KB9NKM	46	K1TEO	61		
K2DRH	43	K4QI	61		
222 MHz					
WB1GQR	40	VE3AX	53		
(W1SJ, op)		KA1ZE	44		
K8MR	31	K1TEO	43		
WA3EOQ	31	K8TQK	37		
K1TR	31	W4RX	37		
KB8U	28				
KA3SSD	28				
432 MHz					
WB1GQR	44	VE3AX	54		
(W1SJ, op)		K1TEO	50		
K1TR	42	KA1ZE	49		
WA3EOQ	32	K1FO	48		
WA8RJF	32	K4QI	47		
KB8U	32				
902 MHz					
K1TR	21	K1TEO	24		
K2DRH	13	K1RZ	22		
W1PM	12	W4RX	20		
AF1T	9	KA1ZE	20		
K2HZN	9	KM0T	19		
1296 MHz					
K1TR	24	K1TEO	29		
WA3EOQ	19	KA1ZE	28		
K2DRH	18	VE3AX	26		
W1PM	15	K1RZ	26		
K0MHCH	13	K1FO	24		
		KQ6EE	5		

-L denotes Limited Multioperator

The 2002 ARRL September VHF QSO party will be held the weekend of September 14-15. Good luck as you plan your participation and find ways to challenge your personal talents. And if you weren't in on the big tropo openings of 2001, maybe 2002 will be "the year."

SOAPBOX

We worked Europe on 50 MHz in June and 144 MHz in September (DL5MAE on EME). I guess we need to try 432 next (AA4ZZ)... Super conditions, and I'm stuck with small antennas again. What a bummer! (AD4TJ)... First time rover on the East Coast, way different from the West! (AL1VE)... Very nice opening to KH6 on 2 and 432 on Sunday—especially strong signals on 2 meters. Thanks also to W1LP for activating several maritime grids (KØDI/6)... This was the best rover score ever for me—cooperative conditions and equipment, despite no QSOs on 5 or 10 GHz or LASER (K1DS)... Best September Contest Tropo Conditions in many years. This caused bump in my score from past operations (K1RZ)... Great tropo up to the Canadian maritimes and down to Tennessee made it a fun contest (K1UHF)... The best tropo conditions for a September contest since about 1985! I am glad we had all our microwave bands working to take advantage of it! (K1WHS)... Very good band conditions, except 6 meters (K2SMN)... Great Conditions (for a change) all the way up and down the East Coast (K3TV)... Not my best Rover effort but the best we have ever done north of Sacramento. Our treatment by the folks in Williams, CA was excellent, Thank you! (K7XC)... Saturday fair, Sunday dismal pickings (K8AB)... Fantastic conditions Saturday really helped the score, not to mention the outstanding contribution by ALL the Rovers; GREAT job to them all! (K8GP)... The CW mode is still conspicuously missing... why? (K8KFJ)... Conditions were poor to ugly. No openings and very little scatter in Florida (K9HUY)... Propagation conditions were quite flat, so I had to work hard for the contacts I managed to get. But I enjoyed the challenge anyway. Thank goodness for the rovers out here in the Midwest! (KBØZEV)... We had a great time working this contest. We used 2 and 6 meters (KB1HAR)... This is my first-ever contest! I hope I do well!!! I am 11 years old, and I just got my license on July 1, 2001 (KB3GWB)... My first contest as a new ham, thanks to all the operators who were patient with my inexperience (KC2IDT)... I heard what I thought was a local station in DM06, so I skipped by. Hours later I realized that it was a long DX station in Hawaii. KH6HME had a wonderful signal into CM98. It was one of the most fun contacts I had. My two 400 mile 432 contacts were awesome! Thanks, KI6FF and K6TSK. (KC6TEU)... The contest bug has bit again and this has been my first serious effort in 7 years! (KF6AJ)... What a fun weekend! First full Rover effort. Lots of things to improve on—bigger antennas, more powerbetter locations to select. It was great to hear everyone on! Looking forward to the next contest! (K15DR)... Bad propagation for tropo, 6M was dead, worse than a January Contest! Still had lots of fun however! Oh—had a surprise opening on 2M to Colorado, did not last long, however. Lots of mults on 2.4 and 3.4!

QSO Leaders By Band

Single Operator, Low Power		Single Operator, High Power		Multioperator	
50 MHz					
WB1GQR	348	W1VHF	350	K8GP	957
(W1SJ, op)		WA2WQZ	249	W2SZ	873
K1TR	252	KA1ZE	238	K3YTL -L	677
N6MU	166	K1TEO	224	NC11 -L	628
(@N6NB)		K1RZ	193	K1WHS	507
W1BQ	146			W4IY -L	483
AF1T	123			AA4ZZ -L	469
144 MHz					
WB1GQR	441	K1UHF	422	N3EMF -L	454
(W1SJ, op)		K3TV	417	K2BAR -L	445
K1TR	244	K1TEO	399	W1QK -L	404
KBØLYL	194	K1FO	352		
WB2CUT	194	KA1ZE	313		
AF1T	177				
222 MHz					
WB1GQR	135	K1TEO	123		
(W1SJ, op)		K1FO	106		
K1TR	87	K1UHF	103		
AF1T	63	KA1ZE	100		
K1JT	57	VE3AX	100		
W3KJ	57				
432 MHz					
WB1GQR	201	K1RZ	135		
(W1SJ, op)		VE3AX	128		
K1TR	146				
KE6GFF	143				
N6MU	88				
(@N6NB)					
W1BQ	82				
902 MHz					
K1TR	45				
AF1T	20				
W1PM	20				
K2DRH	15				
W1BQ	15				
1296 MHz					
K1TR	60				
W3KJ	33				
W1PM	32				
WA3EOQ	28				
K2DRH	27				

-L denotes Limited Multioperator

