

By Bill Seabreeze, W3IY

Results, 2003 June VHF QSO Party

After a long winter's nap...

After a long winter's nap, VHF and above activity begins to recreate itself every spring. As the weather improves, the amateurs interested in the higher bands begin to dream of outdoor activities, new antennas, station repairs, and better propagation. Rovers begin to dream of good locations, mountaintops, and what they can erect on their rover-ships. The dedicated 6 meter operators usually notice the occurrence of occasional E_s propagation weeks before the contest.

This year they were rewarded by a monster band opening that seemed to explode during the weekend of June 14-15. Six meters always has a great equalizing effect on VHF contest scores. With 6 meter E_s on the scene, even small stations have the chance to accumulate large numbers of QSOs and multipliers. The weather was not a major factor, and most rovers and portable stations that were able to get out and have a great weekend on the bands.

Summary

The total number of logs submitted was up significantly this year to 818 compared to 673 last year. This is the largest number of June contest logs in the last 5 years, a very positive sign for VHF and up Amateur Radio operators.

The number of single op-low power (SOLP) logs grew dramatically from 319 to 445 logs! There were 157 single op-high power (SOHP) logs received, identical to last year's tally.

There were 93 rovers who submitted logs this year as opposed to 85 last year. 10% growth is a good sign, and I'm convinced that this category will continue to grow. The limited multi-op category (LM) produced 55 logs, up from 49 last year. There were 38 multi-op-unlimited (MU) logs received compared with 36 in 2002. The in-box also found Single Op-Portable logs, up 10% from last year.

Propagation

Make no mistake about it... if you weren't on 6 meters, you just weren't in the game this year. Widespread E_s dominated the contest scoring, providing coast-to-coast excitement. Looking at KMØT's results, the E_s clouds enabled paths from northwest Iowa to all corners of the US. The best and longest-duration 6 meter E-skip occurred on Saturday. Other parts of the country weren't far behind, giving some insight into this widespread nature of this 6 meter opening. Double-hop E_s brought the East and West Coasts together numerous times. European and Central American DX made it into several logs in the east. Balancing the 6 meter activity with average conditions and good activity on the higher bands was a challenge that left few operators bored for very long.

On the West Coast, the 6 meter propagation was reported to be best on Saturday. Many new microwave stations and several new rovers did a great job of generating activity in the Southern California region. In the northwest, some respectable north-south tropo was reported on 144 and 222 MHz.

Nationwide Perspective

Top honors in the single-op low-power category go to Bob, K2DRH/9. This is the

first time Bob has won the category. From 6-land, N6MU (operating from N6NB) put in a great effort on bands 6 meters through 1296, less 903. A bigger total on 6 meters from John couldn't quite compete with the effort on the higher bands from Bob.

The top spot in SOHP was again captured by Jeff, K1TEO. From his great location in CT, Jeff combined years of contesting experience with good equipment and propagation on 6 meters to out-distance 2nd place winner, Mike, KMØT, by about 53k. Hearty congratulations to Jeff for a first place finish for the 7th year in a row! Finishing 2nd overall in SOHP, KMØT continued to capitalize on good rover activity in the midwest from NØDQS/R and others, while keeping the QSOs pouring in on 6 meters. It's also no small feat to finish 2nd from NW Iowa. The skip in FL was mainly north-south until around 2100Z, when Gary, NW5E, noticed a westerly shift in the band. At about 2230Z, they were working 6s, 7s and some TG9 DX. After this, the band seemed to open to many areas of the country from FL. NW5E was 2nd in the nation for SOHP total QSOs on 6 meters.

The multi-operator classes were a huge factor for all in this exciting contest. The gold medal for the limited multi (LM) class goes to K9NS operating from the "Mount Frank" K9HMB QTH. This is a significant accomplishment, as this category is usually dominated by stations located closer to the activity centers on the East Coast. An outstanding 792k score smoked the nearest competition by almost 330k points. An incredible 861 QSOs in 233 grids on 6 meters was a key contribution to the effort. The 2nd place spot went to a great effort (463k) from K3YTL on their mountaintop QTH in central PA. Third and 4th place LM spots went to K5TR and W4IY, both turning in great efforts.

Expanded Results, Line Score Printouts Available

For complete contest results online, please visit www.arrl.org/contests/results. ARRL members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.

Top Ten

Single Operator, Low Power

K2DRH	274,942
N6MU	221,088
K9HUY	188,244
WA7JTM	177,313
N2BJ	145,343
K5MA	141,361
WB1GQR	132,300
(W1SJ, op)	
W5PR	129,888
NU6S	117,180
N0LL	113,796

Single Operator, High Power

K1TEO	443,240
KM0T	389,754
K1RZ	369,633
NW5E	351,226
KC4PX	337,845
K5AM	322,839
WA2FGK	284,553
(K2LNS, op)	
N4IS	282,753
WB9Z	263,900
K3DNE	248,980

Single Operator Portable

K6MI	106,950
N7IR	77,331
K9AKS	60,615
NR5O	50,065
N0HJZ	22,080
N3EG	20,331
KG4LEV	19,355
W7KK	18,321
N7QF	9,758
K8RS/3	9,660

Limited Multioperator

K9NS	792,427
K3YTL	463,572
K5TR	426,070
W4IY	390,885
W3SO	341,728
AA4ZZ	300,032
K8CC	254,172
N7LQ	237,150
W1QK	203,196
W5KFT	128,953

Multioperator

W2SZ	2,019,814
K8GP	1,727,691
K3EAR	1,383,316
W3CCX	793,134
N2PA	524,830
K1WHS	363,814
W4NH	295,320
W9ICE	282,252
W4ZRZ	232,716
W6NS	219,490

Rover

W3IY	270,200
(+ON1CFX)	
N6TEB	230,048
(KG6EPM)	
W6TOI	217,978
(KE6HPZ)	
KC3WD	162,652
(+KA1TB)	
N2JMH	116,688
(+N2WVK)	
N6NB	116,290
VE3NPB	88,900
(+VE3OIL)	
K6FZZ	88,561
(+K6FZY)	
W4VHF	86,172
(+K4MQG)	
WB6NTL	85,272
(+KG6HXI)	



The W7AV Limited Multioperator team from Bald Mountain in the EWA section. Wonder what it would take to get them to compete from that great location in the background...

effort from K8GP in WV by some 293k points. K8GP did a great job from Spruce Knob, WV, although unexpected receive problems on 2.3 and 5.7 GHz kept many usual QSOs out of their logs this time. A strong 3rd place MU showing by K3EAR in FM19hx gave many East Coast operators a lot of action from 6 meters through 24 GHz. All of the MU efforts deserve great respect, as the amount of work involved is a huge labor of love. We are all benefactors of this, and we owe them many thanks for all that glorious RF.

The rover category shows a whopping 93 entries this year. It was a pleasant surprise for yours truly (W3IY) to capture the no. 1 spot. The effort was largely made possible by my rover partner ON4IY (ex-ON1CFX), who brought lots of expertise and enthusiasm into the rover-mobile. Brian, ND3F/R, also had a great performance, but a computer glitch unfortunately ate his logs. Brian's strong enthusiasm has helped a large group of East Coast rovers get things going. A strong 2nd place effort in the rover sector was submitted by Dave, N6TEB/R, on the West Coast, co-piloted by Greg, KG6EPM.

The all-time multi-region Single Op-Portable award has to go to Pete, N6ZE, for most miles traveled. He started the contest in FN20, followed by FN30 near Times Square, NYC, DN30, 31, 40 and 41 near Salt Lake City. He arrived in Seattle, just before the end of the contest to cover CN87. Totals were 38 QSOs in 15 grids, and many miles covered (Pete's an airline pilot). John, K6MI, won the Single-operator portable (SOP) category from the Santa Barbara section of CA with an amazing 107k! Ten bands were carefully utilized to create this powerful record-setting score. N7IR and K9AKS captured 2nd and 3rd place, nationwide, in this class with nice efforts from AZ and MN, respectively. As you can see, there certainly were winners from all over the country this time due to the great propagation, and some FB operating.

Regional Highlights

The 6 meter conditions provided opportunity for stations in different categories to do well, all over the country. The 6 meter totals were biggest from FL, TX and NM. The most 6 meter multipliers were worked by Ivars, KC4PX, in the SOHP class from Merrit Island, FL. A close 2nd and 3rd in the grids-worked arena were Mark, K5AM, in NM, and Gary, NW5E, in FL, both with 260 grids on 6 meters! Conditions or not, it takes great operating skills to work this many grids on any band. Several SOLP stations weren't far behind as Jim, K9HUY, managed 240 multipliers on 6 meters from Englewood, FL, and Peter, WA7JTM pulled 210 grids out of the QRM from Arizona.

Northeast

The Northeast region is blessed with good activity levels, and several large multi-op stations. K5MA landed top SOLP honors for the region from Cape Cod, MA. Jan racked up 141k, operating on just the lower four bands. A close 2nd place finish in SOLP was captured by WB1GQR, operated by Mitchell, W1SJ. The Single Op-Portable class was won by K8RS/3, and a great rover effort from Jim, N2JMH (with co-pilot N2WVK) captured the top position for rovers in the Northeast region.

Southeast Region

Jim, K9HUY, dominated the SOLP class with a 188k performance from West Central FL. Second and third places were grabbed by KE4KVV and WC4H with great scores. KG4LEV turned in the top SO-Portable score from NC using just four bands. The battle for the LM flag was won by the W4IY group near Harrisonburg, VA with 391k. This effort was followed closely by the tenacious AA4ZZ entourage from the NC mountains with 300k points. A great rover effort from Matt, KC3WD/R (with co-pilot John, KA1TB) followed W3IY/R with an impres-

Club Competition

Club	Entries	Score
Medium		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	23	3,696,618
Society of Midwest Contesters	24	1,978,878
South Mountain Contest Club	3	1,399,470
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	5	928,356
Northern Lights Radio Society	21	899,226
North East Weak Signal Group	14	629,079
Northern California Contest Club	9	580,174
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	9	528,481
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	8	451,202
Western States Weak Signal Society	7	396,324
Carolina DX Assn	6	388,933
Badger Contesters	12	378,503
Rochester VHF Group	6	362,161
Florida Contest Group	5	351,263
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	16	340,928
Mad River Radio Club	5	274,997
Downey ARC	3	234,926
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	4	223,815
Contest Club Ontario	9	107,571
Tennessee Contest Group	7	92,240
South East Contest Club	6	32,555
Lawton Fort Sill ARC	3	27,693
Local		
North Texas Microwave Society	3	117,864
Roadrunners Microwave Group	3	97,256
Dominion DX Group	7	45,747
Delaware Valley VHF Society	4	44,007
Rappahannock Valley Radio Club	3	39,688
Medina 2 Meter Group	3	14,966
Dauberville DX Assn	6	13,098
Meriden ARC	3	3,999
South Jersey Radio Assn	3	3,078

The multi-op unlimited (MU) top spot again went to W2SZ/1 operating from Mount Greylock in FN32. No other station in the country even comes close to these guys on the microwaves. The 2.02M points from this group outdistanced the

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 Sections)		
K5MA	141,361	A	K9HUY	188,244	A	K2DRH	274,942	A	W5PR	129,888	A	N6MU	221,088	A
WB1GQR	132,300	A	KE4KWV	92,120	A	N2BJ	145,343	A	N0LL	113,796	A	WA7JTM	177,313	A
AF1T	81,534	A	WC4H	77,488	A	KB8U	102,483	A	W3XO/5	97,110	A	NU6S	117,180	A
K1TEO	443,240	B	NW5E	351,226	B	WB9Z	263,900	B	KM0T	322,839	B	AF6O	244,812	B
K1RZ	369,633	B	KC4PX	337,845	B	K8TQK	154,804	B	K5AM	389,754	B	AA7A	211,715	B
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	284,553	B	N4IS	282,753	B	K8MD	115,800	B	K0GU	204,700	B	K6KLY	166,056	B
K8RS/3	9,660	Q	KG4LEV	19,355	Q	WN8ATM	6,552	Q	K9AKS	60,615	Q	K6MI	106,950	Q
WB2AMU	966	Q	W4RXR	8,736	Q	N8XA	5,800	Q	N0HJZ	22,080	Q	N7IR	77,331	Q
N3OBY/MM	816	Q	N3AWS	1,620	Q	K8FH	4,278	Q	N7QF	9,758	Q	NR5O	50,065	Q
K3YTL	463,572	L	W4IY	390,885	L	K9NS	792,427	L	K5TR	426,070	L	N7LQ	237,150	L
W3SO	341,728	L	AA4ZZ	300,032	L	K8CC	254,172	L	W5KFT	128,953	L	KR7O	102,025	L
W1QK	203,196	L	KV4T	77,914	L	N8ZM	105,248	L	W5LCC	109,848	L	W6DTA	86,208	L
W2SZ	2,019,814	M	K8GP	1,727,691	M	W9ICE	282,252	M	W1XE	185,265	M	W6NS	219,490	M
K3EAR	1,383,316	M	W4NH	295,320	M	K9RN	184,680	M	W0EEA	125,643	M	W6MMM	182,736	M
W3CCX	793,134	M	W4ZRZ	232,716	M	WW8M	179,988	M	KA0MR	47,263	M	K7CW	180,648	M
N2JMH (+N2WVK)	116,688	R	W3IY (+ON1CFX)	270,200	R	VE3NPB (+VE3OIL)	88,900	R	N0DQS	84,640	R	N6TEB (KG6EPM)	230,048	R
N2MH	56,160	R	KC3WD	162,652	R	AL1VE	48,720	R	N5RZ	52,608	R	W6TOI (KE6HPZ, KB6WKT)	217,978	R
AA2YG (+N2SLN)	43,442	R	(+KA1TB)			K9ILT	42,320	R	N0IO (+KC0LEG)	24,648	R	N6NB	116,290	R
			W4VHF (+K4MQG)	86,172	R									

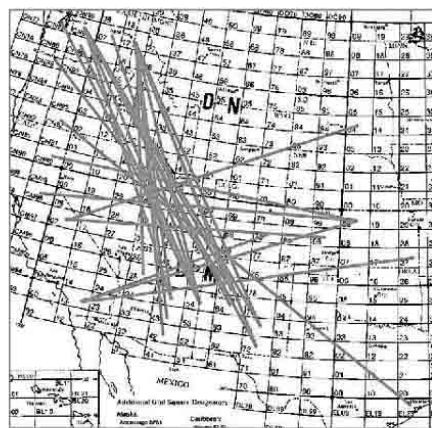
sive 163k score. W4VHF/R, N8UM/R and N4OF/R also hit the roadways, and turned in good efforts, passing out QSOs to grid-hungry contesters everywhere.

Central Region

Activity from this part of the country produced many big scores. Following K2DRH's overall top score in SOLP was Barry, N2BJ, and Russ, KB8U. Experienced contester Jerry, WB9Z, again won the SOHP class with an excellent 264k. Big scores from Bob, K8TQK, and Mark, K8MD, helped their calls into many logs across the country. SO-Portable was nailed by Mark, WN8ATM. A great LM effort by K8CC landed 2nd place in the region. In the MU category, W9ICE came out on top, and placed 8th nationally with 282k. Impressive rover efforts were put forth by Murray, VE3NPB/R (with VE3OIL), Tim, AL1VE/R, Pat, K9ILT/R, Tim, K0PG/R, and John, K9JK/R.

Midwest Region

Charles, W5PR, took the no. 1 spot in the SOLP category. Larry, N0LL, and Bill, W3XO/5, found the next two positions on this totem pole with nice efforts. Coming in just behind 2nd place national winner KM0T in the SOHP class was Mark, K5AM, from NM, operating his awesome-homebrew station. Mark's 323k earned him the 6th spot nationwide. K9AKS won the SO-Portable class, and also pegged the no. 3 position on the national scene. The LM category was won by the K5TR team, who also came in 3rd in the national competition with their 426k. George reports that they had 2 hours of action on 6 with over



A graphical look at some of the 2 meter E-skip during the contest.

200 QSOs...an experience that only great operators with great equipment and conditions ever indulge. First runner-up here was W5KFT followed by W5LCC. A top unlimited effort was advanced by the W1XE group in the Midwest region. A first-class rover score was turned in by Gene, N0DQS/R. Gene's 85k was followed by Ralph, N5RZ/R, with 53k.

West Coast Region

Taking 2nd place SOLP in this region was Pete, WA7JTM, with 177k from AZ. The SOHP category saw several great performances, topped by Ron, AF6O operating from OR. Big efforts were also in evidence from Ed, AA7A, Russ, K6KLY, Dave, W6TE, and K7RAT (piloted by Tree, N6TR). A large number of significant SO-Portable operations were conducted by in this region including Gary,

N7IR, Mike, NR5O, Earl, N3EG, and Dave, W7KK. The LM class was led by N7LQ, followed by KR7O. The unlimited class was won by W6NS followed by W6MMM, and K7CW, K6SSN, and KF6YYV. The rover class saw lots of spirited operating, with Dave, N6TEB/R, leading the region with a 2nd place finish, nationwide. This big rover effort was followed by W6TOI/R operated by Glenn, KE6HPZ, and Bill, KB6WKT; Wayne, N6NB/R, and Phil, KF6ZZ/R, all with very respectable scores. Evidence of big rover activity here spells lots of action for West Coast region VHFers.

Club Competition

New for June 2003 was the introduction of club competition. Being part of a group is a good thing, as enthusiasm for VHF contesting is contagious, and can be more fun when you share experience with other like-minded hams.

Wherever you were, you probably had many opportunities to find some exciting action, either via the 6 meter E_s, or from some portable or rover activity. Looking at the winning grid totals, it's easy to see what's required to be competitive in this contest. It's always great to see small stations find the elusive DX from remote locations with enhanced conditions. Whether you're a highly competitive contester, or a casual hilltopper, there's a lot to like about the June contest. Whatever the propagation brings us next year, we are now a little better able to understand what can happen on a nice weekend in June. See you next year on the bands. Listen for the weak ones...

QST