Results, 2004 ARRL UHF Contest

It was Rover Mania August 2-3. Were you in the fray?

was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It's always some of the best fun that many of us can have, when we get to work stations on the UHF and above frequency bands for 24 hours in a row. Fighting some of the worst propagation we've seen since last winter on the East Coast made the microwaves more challenging than they usually are. What is it that attracts us to the higher bands? Is it the technology? Propagation? People? Or is it like fishing, where the possibility of catching the elusive band opening or QSO keeps our interest?

I think many of us like to tackle the challenge of working someone 400 miles away on frequency bands that most microwave engineers would say is too far away. Of course we have our tricks... like big antennas, good transmit power, mountaintops, low-noise receivers...and narrow band methods like SSB and CW ...and then we have the advantage not enjoyed by professional communications engineers, that we can wait for an occasional QSB peak, to snatch the information from the jaws of kTB—oblivion, to score a new QSO or a new grid.

It's the Challenge

How could you possibly have any better fun? Sure, you can work a bunch of DX stations on 20 m...but one can do that almost anytime. It's like using the telephone, compared to the challenge of finding a new station or grid on 2304 CW. The 2004 UHF contest was an exciting time for many, and a challenging time for a few amateurs trapped in UHF-deficient areas of the country. Many of our UHF friends are often on vacation during August, which has always made this event a little more challenging than other VHF/ UHF operating events. Combining lousy propagation with lots of missing operators out on vacation produces a contest where any and all QSOs are greatly treasured by those fortunate enough to capture them. Maybe the word will someday leak out, that UHF contesting is alive and well in many areas of the USA.

One phenomenon that had a big meaning for the UHF contest this year was "Rover-mania." You won't find this word in Webster's dictionary (yet), but it's a nice concept and a good way to really increase activity in a chosen area of the country.

A stalwart group of rovers in the Midwest decided to band together and make a big effort to show support for this exciting operating event. The Northern Lights Radio Society successfully mustered 13 rovers, all getting on the road with lots of UHF and microwave equipment in the same geographic area! This was not a grid-circling attempt to blow all previous big scores out of the water, but rather a well planned effort to activate the bands and have a sort of August UHF QSO Party of previously unseen proportions.

All stations did a good job of working everything they could hear, resulting in a lot of happy contest participants. Everyone within range had a good shot at working these guys. Perhaps the possibility that this could be the last UHF Contest was also spurring folks on to make the big effort. Whatever the cause...it worked! The

Top Ten											
Single Op	Low	Multion									
K2DRH NØKP KB8U W3KJ AF1T K6TSK NØURW K1ZE KØVXM WB2SIH	174,264 105,252 32,160 24,768 20,418 15,936 13,464 9,900 8,580 7,821	W2SZ K1WHS N2PA N3LJK N2BJ K5QE K4EJQ KØSHF W3SO WØIBM	535,680 139,650 56,115 10,302 8,892 7,965 7,470 5,460 4,959 4,140								
Single Op	Hiah	Rover									
KMØT WW8M K1TEO W0GHZ N3EMF K3DNE K3TUF K1GX K4QI K3SIW	349,020 227,205 225,735 214,476 65,484 63,714 53,058 27,387 24,180 23,940	WØZQ W3IY WØAMT KFØQ KØPG K9ILT W3HMS K1DS WBØLJC WB8BZK NØHJZ	168,504 131,238 74,043 65,520 37,701 36,192 23,751 18,135 16,344 15,540 13,965								



Mike, KMØT, and his airborne aluminum farm at his lowa QTH located at grid EN13VC.

Midwest is blessed with lots of flat country, and lots of roadside perches where a cunning operator can stop and stalk lots of UHF contest activity.

Rover Mania

Perhaps the biggest benefactor of rovermania was Mike, KMØT. Mike managed his first-ever 1st place win in the SOHP category this year. With a score of over 349k, Mike cemented his 1st place finish by more than 120k points over 2nd place finisher Don, WW8M. Having many rovers to work on lots of bands no doubt had a lot to do with this great contest effort. Mike reports that it was challenging to maximize the QSOs with the rovers, as there were so many, especially at the beginning of the contest. A great deal of respect is due to Mike and others in the NLRS group, as they did a fantastic job of assembling and loaning-out spare equipment, helping to increase the interest level and the activity on the higher bands. Mike put in a lot of hours in the basement, slaving over a hot soldering iron. It paid off, netting him QSOs through 24 GHz.

Don, WW8M, and Jeff, K1TEO, both put in a strong showing capturing the 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, nationwide, in the SOHP category, scoring only about 1500 points apart. The 4th place spot was taken by Gary, WØGHZ, with a powerful 214k effort from EN34-MN. It's great to see such a nice effort from this part of the country.

Leading the pack of QSO-hungry roving hunters was Jon, WØZQ/R. Jon won the nationwide rover category this year, which is a major accomplishment from Iowa and the surrounding territory. Scoring 374 QSOs in 68 grids Jon capitalized on great rover turnout, and a good availability of reliable base stations to win the category from the Midwest. Being president of the NLRS club, Jon deserves much credit for inspiring and helping to plan rover-mania in the upper Midwest this year. He makes a point of indicating how other clubs around the nation can do similar services for the VHF and UHF frequency bands. Other strong rover efforts were turned in from this area by Jon, WØAMT/R; Clare, KØNY/R; James, KBØTHN/R; Andy, KØSM/R, and Larry, KFØQ/R. It's great to have a group like this on multiple bands, hitting multiple grids in your operating area. It's enough to make you want to add some new bands and antennas!

Winning the popular SOLP category again this year from EN41 was Bob, K2DRH. Using his experience and big antennas, Bob managed over 174k from his QTH near the Mississippi River. Dave, NØKP, took 2nd place in SOLP from his QTH in EN34.

The top multioperator spot was again captured by the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force station, W2SZ. From FN32, these guys cranked out the top score of the UHF contest at over 535k. A little over half of the W2SZ QSOs were with rovers, in case there is any doubt about the roversignificance factor. It's fun to be one, and it's fun to work one (or many!) rover. The



Matt, KFØQ, and Tim, KØPG, meeting out on the rover-range during "rover-mania."



Jim, KBØTHN, checking the skyhooks while setting up at one of his rover sites in rural Minnesota.

2nd place MU effort was turned in by K1WHS in FN43. Dave's group effort of nearly 140k is a bigger accomplishment than it seems from the northern hinterlands of New England, and with no enhancement. 3rd place MU was won by the N2PA group operating from WNY. Their 56k showing represented much sought-after activity on bands through 5.7 GHz.

One interesting aspect of the 2004 UHF contest was that 12 logs showed QSOs on 24 GHz. This band is becoming more popular, and is usually capable of supporting QSOs out to 100 km or more. As equipment becomes more available, stations are encouraged to capitalize on the additional grid multipliers possible using these frequencies. The availability of surplus equipment is making 24 GHz operation affordable.

10 GHz—Great Rover Band

There were 169 entrants for the 2004 UHF contest, up over 20% from 2003. As expected, 432 was, again, the most popular band with 3659 QSOs reported. 222 MHz ranks next with 2734 QSOs, followed by 1296, 903, 2304, 3456, 10,368 and 5760. This is probably a good guide for the desired order to add bands to one's station. Many stations seem to favor 10 GHz after 2304, however, as the point values are high and there is often random activity with the occasional mini-DXpeditions taking place. (10 GHz is a great rover band, as a good station nicely fits in your trunk.)

Wherever you were, or whatever bands you were on there is no doubting the fact that UHF enthusiasts across the country enjoyed the chance to see who they could work, without first having to make contact on the lower frequencies. Even with flat conditions on the East Coast, we had a fantastic time trying to extend the limits of nature by sneaking some microwave energy into distant antennas feeding hungry ears. Conditions are always changing from hour to hour, and it is great fun to keep trying for QSOs on paths that don't always cooperate with us.

The joy of passing out a few grids and working a few new initial QSOs on a new band is hard to describe. Helping a fellow ham to work a new grid on a new band is great fun. Every contest is different, and the UHF contest has given us many fond memories over the years. It's a special treat to have an event, which concentrates on our favorite bands for a whole contest, giving us the chance to persevere a little farther than before on the UHF, SHF and EHF bands, where each QSO is a sense of accomplishment and joy. Listen for the weak ones...

Be sure to visit **www.arrl.org/ contests/results**, where you will find an expanded write-up, the member-usable database, additional tables and Soapbox comments.

Scores Each line score lists call sign, score, stations worked, multipliers, entry category (A = Single Operator Low Power, B = Single Operator High Power, M = Multioperator, R = Rover), ARRL/RAC section, and bands (C = 222 MHz, D = 432 MHz, 9 = 902 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). Band winner is in bold.

Atlantic							WA4QYK	72	7	3	А	ΤN	CDE	KI7JA	432	18	8	А	OR	CD
W3KJ	24,768	106	48	Α	EPA	CD9EFI	W5ZN	3	1	1	А	AR	D	W7USB	156	12	4	А	ID	CDE
K3EGE	3,969	49	27	Α	EPA	CD	WB4JGG	3,075	41	25	B	TN	CD	K7AWB	81	9	3	A	EWA	CD
WA2RQC	1,479	23	17	A	NNY	CD9E	AA4H	936	20	13	в	IN	CD9E	N7DB	36	6	2	A	OR	CD
AA3GM	84	6	4	A	WPA	CDE	K4EJQ (+) =0	20	м	TN	CDOFECULI	N/EPD	5,976	58	10	В	WWWA	CD9EFH
	/5 E4	5	5	A	EPA	CD	AG4V (+n	acket)	39	30	IVI	1 IN	CD9LI GI IIJ	WB7BST	1 296	26	12	B	WWA	BDE
N3.INX	12	2	2	Â	FPA	D	//d/// (/p	3.219	34	29	М	ΤN	CDE		.,200	20		2		002
N3EMF	65.484	143	68	В	EPA	CD9EF GHIJK		-,						Pacific						
K3DNE	63,714	159	82	В	MDC	CD9EF	Great Lak	es						K7ICW	1,386	31	14	А	NV	CDE
K3TUF	53,058	181	74	В	EPA	CD9E	KB8U	32,160	112	67	A	MI	CD9EFG	KC6SEH	345	19	5	A	SV	CDE
W3OR	18,603	65	53	В	DE	CD9EFG	W8RU	1,125	25	15	A	MI	CD	KE6QR	165	11	5	A	EB	D
W3KWH	9,576	64	42	B	WPA	CDE	WRRTCV	1,071	21	1/	A	OH	CDE	N6KOG	2 / 9/	27	10	A	SJV	AB
W3SZ	6,480	37	30	В	EPA	CD9EFHI	WEav	02/	17	1/	Δ	MI	DE	NC02WV	2,404	40	10	Б	31	00
W2SJ	4,200	32	20	B	SNJ	CD9EFGHI	WW8M	227.205	321	135	B	MI	CD9EFGHIJK	Roanoke						
N2SLN	40	2	1	B	WNY	C C	K8MD	21,411	90	61	В	MI	CD9EF	K4RTS	4,368	35	26	А	VA	CD9EF
N2PA (W3)	DAB. NŽJ	IOR. I	J2KG.	N2Y	B. ops)	Ŭ	K2YAZ	15,453	62	51	В	MI	CD9EFGHI	K4FJW	1,188	30	12	А	VA	CDG
	56,115	158	87	M	WNY	CD9EFGH	K8TQK	7,626	47	41	В	OH	CD9EF	W8QKO/4	180	12	5	A	NC	D
N3LJK (+K	3YŴY)						K8CC	627	19	11	В	MI	CD	WF4R	162	9	6	A	VA	CD
	10,302	72	34	Μ	EPA	CD9EF	K4IIF (+A	K4V, KI4H	-GF)				00		36	4	3	A	VA	
W3SO (W3	BTX, W3	ITEF,	ops)					714	17	14	IVI	Κĭ	CD		24,180	901	00 56	D	NC VA	CDOE
	4,959	57	29	M	WPA	C	Hudson							W4DFX	2 583	25	21	B	NC	CD9EFG
W3HM5	23,751	93	39	К	EPA	CD9EFGHIJ	WB2SIH	7.821	68	33	А	ENY	CD9E	W4VHH	1.872	27	16	В	NC	DEFG
WASPTV	0 / 32	6/	24	R		DEGI	WA2NXK	45	5	3	A	NNJ	D	W4SW	36	4	3	В	VA	CD
KESHT	6 768	46	24	B	WPA	CD9EEGH	KC2JDU	18	3	2	В	ENY	D	W3IY (+ON	14IY)					
NE3I	1.326	27	13	R	EPA	CDE	WB2LLP	6,588	51	18	R	ENY	CD9EFGHIJ		131,238	345	69	R	VA	CD9EFGHI
K2QO	495	14	11	R	WNY	CDE	KC2HIZ	6,384	49	16	R	ENY	D9EFGHIJ							
							N2UD	5,355	47	17	R	ENY	CD9EFGHI	Southeast	ern	50	00			ODOFFOUL
Central							KJ1K	3,933	31	19	к	NNJ	CD9EFGHI		8,580	00	20	A	SEL	DOFECHU
K2DRH	174,264	266	137	A	IL	CD9EF	Midwost								264	11	0	~		CD
N9DG	5,856	61	32	A	WI	CD	NØURW	13 464	88	51	Δ	IA	CD	WASTTM	4 275	32	25	B	NEL	CD9FFG
N91ZL	5,115	55	31	A		CD	NØTTW	405	15	9	A	IA	D	K4NGA (W	B4AEG. I	K4AEK	.ops)	D		0000110
NOTE	2,280	25	20	A			WØRT	396	12	11	A	KS	CD		684	19	12	М	GA	CD
KOMII	36	23	3	Δ	WI	D	WØJRP	81	9	3	А	MO	С							
N9NDP	18	3	2	A	wi	D	KMØT	349,020	361	140	В	IA	CD9EFGHIJ	Southwest	tern					
KC9FVW	3	1	1	А	WI	D	KØCQ	1,125	25	15	В	IA	CD	K6TSK	15,936	136	32	A	ORG	CDE
K3SIW	23,940	84	57	В	IL	CD9EFGHI	WØZQ	168,504	374	68	К	IA	CD9EFGHI	W6AQ	2,808	45	18	A	LAX	CDE
K9SM	2,793	31	19	В	IL	CD9EF	KØPG	37,701	165	59	R	IA	CD9E	K6NKC	2,346	39	1/	В	SDG	CDE
N2BJ	8,892	57	38	М	IL	CD9EF	KONV	12 260	102	20	R D		CDOELI	KEIRY	2,104	42 24	16	B	ORG	CDE
WB8BZK	15,540	102	35	R	IL	CD9E	KOAKS	10 920	20	20	n D	MO	CD9EHI	N6BM.I	13 260	98	26	R	IAX	CDEEL
K9JK	13,230	102	30	R	IL	CD9E	NJANO	10,000	00	50	n	WO	ODL	N6DN (+K	36VOF)	00	20		27.07	OBEIT
NUHZO	2,457	35	13	к	VVI	DEI	New Engl	and							6,600	71	22	R	Org	CDEI
Dakota							AF1T	20,418	92	41	А	NH	CD9EFGHIP	N6ZE	336	14	5	R	SDĞ	D
NØKP	105.252	174	98	А	MN	CD9EFGHI	K1ZE	9,900	71	30	А	СТ	CD9EFI							
WØAUS	6.786	50	26	A	MN	CDEFHI	KA1LMR	3,480	58	20	А	NH	CD	West Gulf						_
WØJT	621	16	9	А	MN	D9E	WG1Z	1,680	31	16	A	EMA	CDE	K5WPN	1,575	25	21	A	OK	D
W9FZ	492	20	4	Α	MN	DI	AA1YN	1,170	22	13	A	NH	CD9E	NM5M	1,170	23	13	A	NIX	CDAFI
KBØOZN	264	16	4	А	MN	DI		120		5	A	NH	CD9	NL/CO	0	2	1	A	OK	D
NØVZJ	162	9	6	Α	MN	D	N17CV	90	0	4	A		CD	NHECT	3	1	1	Δ	OK	D
WØJLF	36	4	3	A	MN	D	K1VII	12	2	2	Δ	EMA		N5PYU	3	1	1	Δ	OK	D
NØAI	18	3	2	A	MIN	D	K1TEO	225 735	283	149	B	CT	CD9FFGHI	W5LUA	1.767	25	19	В	NTX	CD9EI
WØGHZ	214,476	286	122	В	MIN	CD9EFGHI	K1GX	27 387	101	51	B	CT	CD9EFGHI	K5QE (+K5	5MQ, KD5	SHM)		2		
KOOJ	7 470	69	20	D	MN	CDE	WZ1V	11.016	72	34	B	ČŤ	CD9FG		7,965	53	45	М	STX	CD9E
WALEB	/,4/0	16	50	B	MN		W1FKF	6,723	41	27	В	EMA	CD9EFGIJ	W5LCC (K	C5MVZ, ł	C50B	X, op	s)		
KØSHE (+V		10	'	D	IVIIN	DL	W2SZ (K1	PNQ, K2.	JJB, K	2LM, ł	KA2F	WN, K	B1DDS,		351	10	9	M	WTX	CDE
	5.460	53	20	М	MN	CD9EFI	KB1EKŻ,	KB1KAM,	KC2F	IAJ, N	1MU	, N2BN	Y, N2HPA,	AF5Q	540	15	10	R	OK	CDE
WØIBM (W	ØOHU, K	CØP, d	ops)				N2SZ, N2	YCA, N2Y	(ZO, V	V1RZF	, W2	ARQ, V	VA1HCO,	NEØP	324	9	9	R	OK	CDE
	4,140	49	23 ²	Μ	MN	CDE	WA1ZMS,	WA2AAU)	100			000550111	KD5ULG (-	+KE5BZO	"	-	-	WTY	005
WØAMT (+	NGØR)							535,680	458	192	,Μ	WMA	CD9EFGHIJ		120	6	5	н	VV I X	UDE
	74,043	236	57	R	MN	CD9EFG	r i WHS (4	120 650	0//	DAILY	1		CDOFECUL	Canada						
KFØQ	65,520	210	70	R	MN	CD9EFG	N10VE	139,000	244 56	20	R		CD9EFGHIJ	VE3HHT	324	12	9	А	ON	CD
WBØLJC	16,344	103	24	К	MN	CD9EFGHI	WIAIIV	4 617	49	19	R	WMA	DFI	VE3NPB	294	12	7	A	ON	CDE
NØHJZ	13,965	133	35	К	MN	CD	KB1FAA (+KB1FUE	4) -73	15				VE3CVG	270	14	6	A	ON	CDE
KCOR	2 040	12	31	К D	MN	CDAFHI		2.160	., 31	18	R	WMA	CD9E	VE3XK	36	6	2	А	ÔN	CD
KCØIVT	2,940	40	14	R	MN			_,						VA7MM	36	6	2	А	BC	D
ROUTT	400	14	10	11	IVIIN		Northwes	tern												
Delta							K7MDL	567	20	7	A	WWA	CD9E							
WB4IXU	108	9	4	А	ΤN	CD	K/YO	552	23	8	А	OH	CD							