Results, 2006 ARRL UHF Contest

"Rumors of the death of the UHF Contest appear to be greatly exaggerated..."

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he first weekend of August 2006 brought another opportunity for UHF and Microwave radio enthusiasts to exercise their equipment, antenna arrays and listening skills (for the weak ones!) in the 2006 ARRL UHF Contest. The trend of increased entry count from the previous year continued for a third straight year, suggesting that rumors of the death of this event appear to be greatly exaggerated.

The Numbers...

Single Operator, Low Power continues to attract the greatest number of logs, with 86, as compared to 80 in 2005. The 53 entries in Single Operator, High Power for 2006 match the count from 2005. Rover is the next most popular entry category, bringing in 34 logs this year (an increase of 2 from last year's 32) with those rovers reporting contacts from 137 grids (which was actually down from the 150 grids that were reported by rovers in 2005). This year's count of 17 Multi-operator entries is down 1 from the 18 in 2005.

The total count of QSO in all logs submitted for 2006 exceeded 12,000 and the total points broke the 4 million "barrier" which has not happened since 2002 when the point total was just shy of 4.3 million with 10,216 QSOs reported. To compare to 2005, just over 3.5 million points and just shy of 11,000 QSO were in last year's logs. More contradiction to those rumors.

Tables 1 and 2 compare activity between 2005 and 2006, Table 1 showing number of QSOs and stations active by band and Table 2 summarizing the count of stations by how many bands their submitted logs showed contacts had been completed on.

It's interesting to note the increase in activity through 24 GHz, while no one reported any contacts on 47 or 75 GHz in 2006. Another interesting item for 2006 is that, of 190 logs submitted, all but 1 reported a contact on 432 MHz.

Enough with the Numbers... Who were the Winners?

First of all, everyone who participated was a winner and I hope everyone had fun. From reading soapbox comments, both from the logs and in the online area, www.arrl.

org/contests/soapbox/, there were a number of stations who tried the UHF Contest for the first time, or added a new band, or operated from areas where the activity was quite sparse. While we might have hoped that everyone's "buddy" Edsel Murphy was taking his vacation over that first weekend of August, it appears he was busy...thankfully nothing catastrophic for anyone he visited, just the typical broken antenna or rover having to end a trip early; probably the worst was a rover who visited three grids and did not make a single contact.

The big story for 2006 is the incredibly close finish in Single Operator, High Power, between **Mike**, **KM**Ø**T**, who finished narrowly ahead of **Don**, **WW8M**, with less than 1% difference in their final scores. This was close enough that one more multiplier by **Don** or one fewer by **Mike** would have changed the finish. With higher band QSOs being worth 12 points, a change of just one there could have made a similar difference. Congratulations to both **Mike** and **Don** for their efforts. Not too far behind in this category was **Jeff, K1TEO**, with his 3rd place

Table 1 Activity by Band, 2006 vs 2005

	2006		2005	
Band	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations
222 MHz	3229	152	3136	144
432 MHz	4618	189	4228	175
902 MHz	1037	90	827	81
1.2 GHz	1613	131	1427	116
2.3 GHz	585	67	425	54
3.4 GHz	337	49	261	38
5.7 GHz	222	36	170	29
10 GHz	389	56	306	51
24 GHz	38	14	47	16
47 GHz	0	0	3	3
75 GHz	0	0	1	1
Light	1	1	10	6

Table 2 Participation by Number of Bands, 2006 vs 2005

Bands	2006 Logs	2005 Logs
1	26	30
2	32	34
3	40	31
4	25	34
5	8	12
6	18	8
7	12	7
8	19	16
9	10	9
10	0	2



K2KIB looks ready to rove but used this setup "fixed" from High Point State Park in Northern New Jersey to set a new Hudson Division Record.

score for 2006. It's interesting also, that this is the third consecutive year that **Mike**, **Don** and **Jeff** have finished first, 2nd and 3rd in this category.

Another "repeater" is **Bob, K2DRH,** finishing 1st in the Single Operator, Low Power category for the 4th consecutive year. **Bob** was fewer than 4000 points shy of topping his 2004 effort, which is the current Top Score for the "A" category. **Roger, W3SZ,** and **Russ, KB8U**, closed out the top three in Low Power with their respective 2nd and 3rd place scores.

Still another familiar call tops the Multioperator category...13 operators of the **Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force** piloted the **W2SZ** call sign to the top of that category, which they have done for what seems like forever. **Dave, K1WHS**, invited a few operators over to his shack for what ended up being the 2nd place finish among Multi-ops followed by the **Mountain Group, N2PA,** in 3rd place.

Not to be outdone in familiarity, **Jon**, **W**Ø**ZQ**, piloted his 8 band "rover-mobile" through 7 different grid squares to produce another 1st place finish in the Rover category for a third consecutive year. The club call of the **Mt Airy VHF Packrats**, **W3CCX**, was pressed into rover service by **Rick**, **K1DS**, through 4 grid squares with 9 bands. Third place in the Rover category was claimed by **Bruce**, **W9FZ**, with his visit to 8 grid squares and making contacts on 5 bands.

New Divisional Records

While the general consensus about conditions is they were "normal" or slightly below that, this year's entrants managed to update a number of divisional records.

In Single Operator, Low Power, the previously mentioned national 2nd and 3rd place finishes by **Roger**, **W3SZ**, and **Russ**, **KB8U**, were new records for their Atlantic and Great

Table 3
Regional Leaders

(A = Single Op Low, B = Single Op High, M = Multioperator, R = Rover)

	id, Hudson and sions; Maritime		Southeast Re (Delta, Roano Southeastern	ke and		Central Regio (Central and O Divisions; On	Great Lakes)	Midwest Regi (Dakota, Midw Mountain and Divisions; Ma Saskatchewa	est, Rocky West Gulf nitoba and		Southwester	hwestern and n Divisions; sh Columbia a	
W3SZ	114,210	Α	KN4SM	3,870	Α	K2DRH	170,382	Α	NØKP	94,000	Α	KI7JA	4,347	Α
K2KIB	41,607	Α	K4FJW	2,193	Α	KB8U	95,811	Α	NØVZJ	5,856	Α	W7RV	3,240	Α
AF1T	24,288	Α	WA4QYK	2,091	Α	KC9BQA	68,110	Α	NØUGY	3,834	Α	W6OMF	1,920	Α
WB2SIH	20,160	Α	N4AK	1,440	Α	KB9TLV	18,228	Α	W5ROK (WA8			KK6KE	1,080	A
W1PM	13,505	Α	WA4YRK	1,053	Α	N9TZL	15,675	Α		2,160	Α	N7IR	648	Α
									WØRT	2,070	Α			
K1TEO	241,956	В	W4ZRZ	30,378	В	WW8M	269,616	В	KMØT	271,026	В	N7EPD	23,754	В
K3TUF	134,895	В	K4QI	27,216	В	K8MD	70,272	В	WØGHZ	119,892	В	K6TSK	6,048	В
K1RZ	49,464	В	W4WA	21,420	В	K2YAZ	51,578	В	KFØQ	57,708	В	WA7TZY	2,592	В
K1JCL (K1G)		В	KE2N	17,280	В	K3SIW	44,992	В	WB5ZDP	19,280	В	KC6ZWT	2,352	В
KA1LMR	21,824	В	K4XR	13,818	В	WA8RJF	30,745	В	K5LLL	6,588	В	WB7BST	2,295	В
W2SZ	390,544	М	K4RF	15,300	М	N2BJ	19,894	М	K5QE	42,545	М	KI6BEW	609	M
K1WHS	121,788	M	AG4V	12,393	M	W9CDL	1,122	M	WØEEA	4,200	M	K7HSJ	189	M
N2PA	103,320	M	N4JQQ	1,680	M				K5CCC	810	M			
N3EMF	79,722	M												
W3KWH	20,703	M												
W3CCX	86,496	R				W9FZ	77,946	R	WØZQ	179,478	R	K6NKC	1,560	R
WA3PTV	44,892	R				VE3SMA	29,097	R	WAØVPJ	12,215	R		ŕ	
W3HMS	37,206	R				KF8QL	25,917	R	WBØLJC/R	11,736	R			
KE3HT	26,529	R				WB8BZK	24,288	R	KCØP	7,524	R			
N3LJK	21,168	R				VE3CRU/R	9,720	R	NØHZO	7,458	R			

Table 4

Top 10 Scorers

The table shows bands activated, total QSOs and multipliers

Band Key: C = 222, D = 432, 9 = 902, E = 1296, F = 2304, G = 3456, H = 5760, I = 10 GHz, J = 24 GHz, K = 47 GHz, L = 75 GHz, P = Light

K = 47 GHz, L = 75 GHz, F = Light									
Call	Score	Bands	QSOs	Multipliers					
Single Op K2DRH W3SZ KB8U NØKP KC9BQA K2KIB AF1T WB2SIH KB9TLV N9TZL	perator Lo 170,382 114,210 95,811 94,000 68,110 41,607 24,288 20,160 18,228 15,675	W Power CD9EFGHJ CD9EFGHJ CD9EFGHI CD9EF CD9EFGI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHIP CD9E CD9E CD9E CDE CDE	232 188 187 154 160 130 107 112 117 95	146 90 109 94 98 69 44 48 49 55					
Single On	erator Hig	nh Power							
KMØT WW8M K1TEO K3TUF WØGHZ K8MD KFØQ K2YAZ K1RZ K3SIW	271,026 269,616 241,956 134,895 119,892 70,272 57,708 51,578 49,464 44,992	CD9EFGHIJ CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI CD9EFG CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHI	228 329 321 232 193 151 117 118 117	162 164 141 115 97 96 84 82 72					
Multioper									
W2SZ K1WHS N2PA N3EMF K5QE W3KWH N2BJ K4RF AG4V KB1JDX	390,544 121,788 103,320 79,722 42,545 20,703 19,894 15,300 12,393 9,588	CD9EFGHIJ CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHIJ CD9EFG CD9E CD9E CD9E CD9EFI CD9EFI CD9EFI	383 225 204 160 139 81 104 68 57 68	154 102 120 86 67 67 49 50 51					
Rover W0ZQ W3CCX W9FZ WA3PTV W3HMS VE3SMA KE3HT KF8QL WB8BZK N3LJK	179,478 86,496 77,946 44,892 37,206 29,097 26,529 25,917 24,288 21,168	CD9EFGHI CD9EFGHIJ CD9FI CD9EFGHI CD9EFGIJ CD9EFGH CD9EFI CDE CD9EFI	340 207 251 126 113 97 107 115 148 94	78 68 66 58 54 53 37 53 46 48					

Lakes Divisions, respectively. **Roger** shattered a record that had been set in 2002 and **Russ** broke his own record set in 2005 (and with a bit of margin as well). **Jim, K2KIB**, also set a new top score for the Hudson Division in the "A" category.

Two divisional records were "reset" in the "B" category and, in both cases, the "resetter" was the previous record holder. Lynn, N7EPD, bettered his 2002 effort in the Northwestern Division and Jimmy, W4ZRZ, "high-powered" his way to top the Southeastern Division, replacing the record he had just claimed in 2005.

Among Rovers, **Jon**, **WØZQ**, now claims top divisional scores in *two* divisions. His effort in 2004 remains the best for the Midwest division but his efforts in 2006 bettered the previous best for the Dakota Division. This year's **W3CCX/R** is a new best for rovers in the Atlantic Division...the operator, **Rick**, **K1DS**, actually topped the record he had set in 2002.

Regional Highlights

Forty-nine logs were received from the Northeast Region, with W3SZ leading the 24 SOLP entries and K1TEO finishing tops among the 8 SOHP entries. W2SZ was first within the 7 Multi-op entries from the Northeast (in addition to having the top Multi-op score nationally) and W3CCX was best among the 10 rovers in that region.

The Southeast Region produced 27 entries, with **KN4SM** and **W4ZRZ** achieving the highest scores from 12 logs in each of their respective "A" and "B" classes. **K4RF** finished atop the three Multi-op entries from the Southeast.

From the Central Region, 44 logs were submitted. **K2DRH's** top national finish naturally leads the 22 Single Operator, Low Power entries from the region. The other category bests in Central were **WW8M** (among 11 High Power Single-ops), **N2BJ** (among 2 Multi-ops) and **W9FZ** (among 9 Rovers).

The Midwest Region's 45 entries included the national top scorers in the "B" and "R"

classes, those being KMØT (among 15 SOHP entrants) and WØZQ (from a group of 14 Rovers who submitted logs from the region). NØKP scored best among 13 SOLP entries and K5QE topped the 3 Multi-op submissions from the region.

Twenty-five logs were submitted from the Western Region with 15 of those in Single-Op, Low Power, lead by **KI7JA**. **N7EPD's** score was best among 7 Single-Op, High Power entrants from the region. The team at **KI6BEW** was the top finisher among 2 Western Region Multi-op entries, not bad for their first ARRL UHF Contest. **K6NKC** was the top (and, unfortunately, the only) Rover who submitted a log from the region.

So...What about Future ARRL UHF Contests?

It is on the ARRL Contest Calendar for 2007, August 4-5. Can "we" keep it going and growing? I've already heard that there will be a *Rover Mania IV* so there should be a lot of Rover activity, at least in the Midwest Region...hopefully Rover Mania will spread through more of the country. "We" also have the opportunity to suggest some possible changes or enhancements to this contest (as well as all the other ARRL sponsored VHF & Up Contests) through the special "Contest focused" VHF-UHF Advisory Committee that was formed earlier in 2006. Might "Club Competition" be an asset to this contest? I'm sure there are other ideas and I encourage everyone to contact the VUAC Member for their region to share their thoughts on what might be done to enhance and improve this and all ARRL VHF & Up contests.

So...let's remember to keep finding our enjoyment (ie, the "fun") in these contests, and to always *listen for the weak ones*. See you in 2007.