

# Results, 2006 ARRL UHF Contest

*“Rumors of the death of the UHF Contest appear to be greatly exaggerated...”*

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**T**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/](http://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, KMØT**, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> place



**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in this category.

Another "repeater" is **Bob, K2DRH**, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Single Operator, Low Power category for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place scores.

Still another familiar call tops the Multi-operator 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish among Multi-ops followed by the **Mountain Group, N2PA**, in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Not to be outdone in familiarity, **Jon, WØZQ**, piloted his 8 band "rover-mobile" through 7 different grid squares to produce another 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes by **Roger, W3SZ**, and **Russ, KB8U**, were new records for their Atlantic and Great

**Table 1**  
Activity by Band, 2006 vs 2005

Band	2006 QSOs	2006 Stations	2005 QSOs	2005 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

**Table 3**

**Regional Leaders**

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

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)		
W3SZ	114,210	A	KN4SM	3,870	A	K2DRH	170,382	A	N0KP	94,000	A	K17JA	4,347	A
K2KIB	41,607	A	K4FJW	2,193	A	KB8U	95,811	A	N0VZJ	5,856	A	W7RV	3,240	A
AF1T	24,288	A	WA4QYK	2,091	A	KC9BQA	68,110	A	N0UGY	3,834	A	W6OMF	1,920	A
WB2SIH	20,160	A	N4AK	1,440	A	KB9TLV	18,228	A	W5ROK (WA8ZBT, op)			KK6KE	1,080	A
W1PM	13,505	A	WA4YRK	1,053	A	N9TZL	15,675	A		2,160	A	N7IR	648	A
									W0RT	2,070	A			
K1TEO	241,956	B	W4ZRZ	30,378	B	WW8M	269,616	B	KM0T	271,026	B	N7EPD	23,754	B
K3TUF	134,895	B	K4QI	27,216	B	K8MD	70,272	B	W0GHZ	119,892	B	K6TSK	6,048	B
K1RZ	49,464	B	W4WA	21,420	B	K2YAZ	51,578	B	KF0Q	57,708	B	WA7TZY	2,592	B
K1JCL (K1GX, op)	40,320	B	KE2N	17,280	B	K3SIW	44,992	B	WB5ZDP	19,280	B	KC6ZWT	2,352	B
KA1LMR	21,824	B	K4XR	13,818	B	WA8RJF	30,745	B	K5LLL	6,588	B	WB7BST	2,295	B
W2SZ	390,544	M	K4RF	15,300	M	N2BJ	19,894	M	K5QE	42,545	M	K16BEW	609	M
K1WHS	121,788	M	AG4V	12,393	M	W9CDL	1,122	M	W0EEA	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	W0ZQ	179,478	R	K6NKC	1,560	R
WA3PTV	44,892	R				VE3SMA	29,097	R	WA0VPJ	12,215	R			
W3HMS	37,206	R				KF8QL	25,917	R	WB0LJC/R	11,736	R			
KE3HT	26,529	R				WB8BZK	24,288	R	KC0P	7,524	R			
N3LJK	21,168	R				VE3CRU/R	9,720	R	N0HZO	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

Call	Score	Bands	QSOs	Multipliers
<b>Single Operator Low Power</b>				
K2DRH	170,382	CD9EFG	232	146
W3SZ	114,210	CD9EFGHIJ	188	90
KB8U	95,811	CD9EFGI	187	109
N0KP	94,000	CD9EFGHI	154	94
KC9BQA	68,110	CD9EF	160	98
K2KIB	41,607	CD9EFGI	130	69
AF1T	24,288	CD9EFGHIP	107	44
WB2SIH	20,160	CD9E	112	48
KB9TLV	18,228	CDE	117	49
N9TZL	15,675	CD	95	55
<b>Single Operator High Power</b>				
KM0T	271,026	CD9EFGHIJ	228	162
WW8M	269,616	CD9EFGHI	329	164
K1TEO	241,956	CD9EFGHI	321	141
K3TUF	134,895	CD9EFGHI	232	115
W0GHZ	119,892	CD9EFGHI	193	97
K8MD	70,272	CD9EFG	151	96
KF0Q	57,708	CD9EFGHI	117	84
K2YAZ	51,578	CD9EFGHI	118	82
K1RZ	49,464	CD9EFGHI	117	72
K3SIW	44,992	CD9EFGH	115	76
<b>Multioperator</b>				
W2SZ	390,544	CD9EFGHIJ	383	154
K1WHS	121,788	CD9EFGHIJ	225	102
N2PA	103,320	CD9EFH	204	120
N3EMF	79,722	CD9EFGHIJ	160	86
K5QE	42,545	CD9EFG	139	67
W3KWH	20,703	CD9E	81	67
N2BJ	19,894	CD9E	104	49
K4RF	15,300	CD9EFI	68	50
AG4V	12,393	CD9EF	57	51
KB1JDX	9,588	CD9EFI	68	34
<b>Rover</b>				
W0ZQ	179,478	CD9EFGHI	340	78
W3CCX	86,496	CD9EFGHIJ	207	68
W9FZ	77,946	CD9FI	251	66
WA3PTV	44,892	CDEFHGI	126	58
W3HMS	37,206	CD9EFGHI	113	54
VE3SMA	29,097	CD9EFGIJ	97	53
KE3HT	26,529	CD9EFGH	107	37
KF8QL	25,917	CD9EFI	115	53
WB8BZK	24,288	CDE	148	46
N3LJK	21,168	CD9EF	94	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**, **W0ZQ**, 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 **KM0T** (among 15 SOHP entrants) and **W0ZQ** (from a group of 14 Rovers who submitted logs from the region). **N0KP** 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 **K17JA**. **N7EPD**'s score was best among 7 Single-Op, High Power entrants from the region. The team at **K16BEW** 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.

