

Contest Soapbox

2002 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

21 Soapbox entries available

N3EMF -- Apr 1, 2003 20:38 ET



The N3EMF Multi-op at FM19hx The South Mountain Project

Thanks to all those who contacted us during this fine VHF QSO event! We assembled an excellent group of operators, who journeyed to the mountain once again this September, thus yielding the results of several third and a second place finish in this years series of unlimited multi-op contest competition! Looking forward to next year, 73
-- N3EMF

W4OZK -- Dec 1, 2002 12:02 ET

I enjoyed another September VHF contest operating from northeast Alabama. Seemed that activity was up for this contest, logging the most Q's to date. I found several new guys on and hope to hear them on the air more often. Looking forward to January! 73 Greg -- W4OZK



September in Northeast Alabama.

N7CFO/R -- Nov 9, 2002 21:21 ET



N7MX/R on Frenchman's Ridge, Washington near the DN06/DN07 line.

I started the contest in DN17 on Steptoe Butte and then N7MX/R and I headed for the coast on Interstate 90. -- *N7CFO*



N7CFO/R north of Ellensburg, Washington at sunset.

KG4BMH -- Oct 27, 2002 21:02 ET

I was only able to work a few hours of this contest, conditions seemed to be quite good with 144mhz showing good enhancement to the North West . There was quite a few stations on in the EN grids ,with my best DX in the 700 mile range on 2 meters.

I will look for all my contesting conrads in January 2003.

73 es good contesting..... -- *KG4BMH*

W0JT/R -- Oct 17, 2002 00:33 ET



The new W0JT/R station in my driveway just before the start of the contest.

I hadn't been out as a rover in 2 years, and decided to hit it really hard this time. Unfortunately, Murphy decided to ride along in the passenger's seat (uninvited, of course), and things didn't work out anywhere near the way I planned. You can read all about it at:
<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~tosca005/2002-09-VHF/index.htm>

Sometimes I think that we rovers are nuts to go to the lengths that we do for a Ham Radio contest, but I **KNOW** that the general public is **CONVINCED** of that, based on the stares and questions I got! -- *W0JT*



Parked in EN15 and hunting for the elusive QSO.

W4EUH -- Oct 9, 2002 21:12 ET



144 FM Beam Pointing to Atlanta

Again, I enjoyed another VHF contest operating from my North GA QTH. My goal is usually to just to try to beat the prior years score after some sort of improvement. That goal was not meant to be this year. Conditions were never exciting. Always good to work the same guys contest after contest & even take a break & shoot the breeze during the contest, or even assist in QSO completions. See everyone in Jan! -- *W4EUH*

KC4AUF -- Oct 7, 2002 16:45 ET

This years Sept.QSO Party contest was especially meaningfull to me because it included two of the students from my Wednesday night "Elmer Hour" class I teach,Dave Keifer N4DWK and Parke Slater N4KFT.They too are from the central Virginia area and reprsented themselves well as newcomers into the VHF/UHF arena. Both being HF contesters with the Central Virginia Contest Club brought with them a solid contesting background. Even though the



After 15 years in ham radio it is nice to finally have a tilt over crank up tower. After this contest the Cubex 2el tri-band Hf quad goes back up and its back to HF DXing. 73 Tony

conditions were poor it was still a wonderful experience. I look forward to being given the opportunity to test my skills against better and more experienced operators so as to give me inspiration to reach higher and do better with my own station. If it weren't for exercises like this in our hobby then it would only just be "talking". My rotator indicator broke so as a last minute fix I tied a white rope to the front end of my 6meter boom. I placed orange highway cones on the ground below where the other end of the rope was hanging just above the ground. I marked the cones with degree markings to give me most of the headings to the NorthEast where 95% of all of my contacts would be coming from. "And that is what ham radio is all about, hi hi" "See you on the bands"

-- KC4AUF

W3KWH -- Oct 6, 2002 09:33 ET



LOOKING EAST TO PITTSBURGH YOU CAN SEE THE CITY BUILDINGS!

FUN AS USUAL. WE FINALLY PULLED OUT SOME OF THE AMPS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN USED SINCE THE MID 90'S AND THEY WORKED. THE BEST WAS FIRING UP THE JOHNSON THUNDERBOLT FOR 2 METERS HITTING THE SWITCH AND SEEING IT PLAY AGAIN. WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE OLD TS-820 AND XVTR WITH A 6155 UP AGAIN ON 222 AND IT WORKED GREAT. LOST THE 1296 MODULE IN THE TS-2000 SUNDAY MORNING SO SORRY TO THE GUYS WE COULD NOT WORK. SEE YA IN JANUARY. OPS. WERE

WA3TTS, N3LL, W3IOH, W3SVJ, WA3VXJ, KB3DPU, W3LA. HERE IS PIX LOOKING EAST FROM W3KWH, PITTSBURGH BUILDINGS IN BACKGROUND. -- N3LL

K1TR -- Oct 4, 2002 16:33 ET



The set up at K1TR FN42BU, 2290' Pack Monadnock Mtn.

Expected high winds from tropical storm Hannah kept me from original destination (Mt. Washington) so I did a little hilltopping on Saturday from Pack Monadnock Mtn, NH. Had some fun and got home before the rains.
-- *K1TR*

KF8QL/R -- Sep 26, 2002 22:14 ET



KF8QL/R and K8DOG set up in EN72. Log Ant. for 6/2/220, smYagi for 432, Loopers for 903/1296

KF8QL/R would like to thank all the Great Lakes Ops that worked us. Bob, K8DOG and I especially want to thank K2YAZ for all those microwave contacts, and the great coffee while we visited. Nice shack Bob! No help from propagation this year around the lakes, but we had great fun none the less. 73! Dave, KF8QL
-- *KF8QL*



KF8QL/R and K8DOG work a "quickie" with K2YAZ with handheld 903 loop yagi. Here we have not set up the tower, and are operating on loops only.

N2MO -- Sep 23, 2002 23:44 ET



Early morning rigging of one of the aerial arrays aboard the trawler BUMPS prior to departure.

Many enjoyed the second expedition this year welcoming OMARC, N2MO members to participate in a 24+ hour high seas adventure to activate rare Grid Square FM-39 in the VHF/UHF contest from the vessel BUMPS belonging to fellow club member Edward Thomas N2IHN. We worked on 6m, 2m and 70cm in shifts around the clock. The members of our FM39 team, Steve N2CKH, James KA2MAL, Joe N2FW and Ed N2IHN experienced the thrill of being in high demand while maritime mobile. This time we stayed anchored for a full 24 hours in FM39 with 20+ knot winds until the seas grew from 4 to 6 feet to 7 to 9 feet with rain and fog. Sunday morning we hauled anchor and were Rover in FN20 and

FN30 grids during the 2 hours back to the marina.

-- N2IHN

W3IY/R -- Sep 21, 2002 19:32 ET



Even though the contest was a week late (missing all the good propagation condx) we had a great time roving in FM15,25,26,16,17,27,28,18,29,19,09 & 08. The bands were flat most of the weekend, but there was some interesting enhancement on 3cm in the rain. Signals to the NE were noticeably below average on 432-3456. Like many January contests, though, it can be fun to try and make the most of the situation. Activity was good, and we were able to run bands with several stations thru 3cm with ease from the Va Beach area. W4RX was loud all weekend on 5.7/10 GHz.

W3IY/R Ready to Go in FM15vx

several stacks of potential microwave QSOs. We completed most of the attempts, and survived the wind, fog, and rain, as a bonus. Thanks to all for the efforts and activity! CU down the trail... Listen for the weak ones! 73 -- *W3IY*

Finishing the contest from Hogback Mountain in FM08 was a blast, trying to keep up with

N5QYC -- Sep 22, 2002 21:02 ET



N5QYC Antenna Array

This was our first ever Multi-Limited effort. The fun of sharing the excitement of VHF Contesting with someone new to contesting made the experience all the more fun. Carol N5MDO was nervous at first but quickly overcame the "First timers Butterflies" and went on to make quit a few contacts.

6 Meters was not very active here in the Middle West so a lot of grids and multipliers were not available as in contests passed. We put our concentration into working them close in on 2 meter SSB to the local Grids out to about 400 miles. A minor Topo opening on 432 gave us the chance to work quite a few new ones for us and sure didn't hurt our overall score.



Carol N5MDO and I N5QYC at the controls!

We here in the Ozarks have the advantage of elevation as the N5QYC contesting QTH is on a Mountain Ridge at an elevation of 2,175 feet. One disadvantage we have is the distances between stations is greater then in other areas so when we operate we are really "reaching out there" to pull them in and add them to the log. This makes VHF/UHF contesting in our area of the country quite a challenge.

73, From Joe N5QYC and Carol N5MDO
Arkansas Section EM36JE -- *N5QYC*

KA6AMD -- Sep 20, 2002 22:54 ET

The contest started out well with good weather and strong signals from all over Southern



Sunset on a desert mountain.

California. Then the propagation to distant grids didn't materialize. Then on Sunday, the wind started picking up. Pretty soon it was overspeeding the wind generator. I was blown off the hilltop, with winds over 50 MPH. I had to take down the antennas 3 hours before the contest ended to keep them from being blown over. Despite that, I had one of my better contests. -- *KA6AMD*

K1DS/R -- Sep 20, 2002 22:48 ET



more rover pictures -- *K1DS*

**FT736 and brick amps for ABCD,
transverters to FT100D for the rest**

K1DS/R -- Sep 20, 2002 22:41 ET

Operated only Saturday, starting on Camelback FN21 with a rendezvous with Wayne, N6NB (ex-K6YNB) who flew east with a load of VHF gear to try east-coast roving in a rental car and see what we are doing on the microwaves. I had my usual bands thru 10G + laser, and was able to stay active for 3 hrs, then headed west to FN11, 10 and 20. As all experienced, conditions were flat, but just being out and with Wayne and his friend Oli was a special treat for me, having worked him when he was in his VHF trailer on the east coast over 20 yrs ago. I am making a point of having an aviation type check list prior to departure from home, and with each stop--that way I'll make sure that everything is stowed properly before moving, the



Wayne (right) arrives atop Camelback in his rental to meet me and observe activity in my rover van

computer log is "saved" (nearly lost it all with a computer freeze between grids), and that the switched are flipped for charging during the rides between stops. 73, Rick -- *KIDS*

K7MDL/R -- Sep 20, 2002 02:45 ET



Stacked KB6KQ loops on 2M and 432, single on 6M. 21 element M2 432 yagi (2/3rds shown) proved a little too sharp for hand pointing and quick QSOs. Mast travels at 13ft. and easily pushes up to 17ft.

Was rover again hitting 10 grids this time out with 3 the same three bands as the June contest - 6, 2 and 432. The objective was to beat the June score and test out an improved mast with stacked loops this time out. Given the reasonably good operating spots I could get to on the 800+ mile trip, the hassle of pointing a too long 21 element UHF beam proved not worth it. I am leaving the beams at home next time out except for possibly on 1296 when my transverter arrives. I have a big wheel stack ready for 1296 to try first though.

Started out in hot 90+ sunny weather in 4 grids on the east side of Washington State and was greeted by what I thought was better than normal activity. VA7ISL in CN88 on Vancouver Island (on the west side of the Cascade mountains) was booming in on the east side. Sunday I hit the west side covering 6 grids. I did not think I was going to beat my June score but my CN98 Green mountain spot pulled through in addition to the last minute stations that got on.

Was an easy shot hitting the Oregon Coast down in CN84 all the way down to CN82, CN83 and

CN72, even DN12. KD6OSV, K7MI, and W7MQY had some awesome signals from down south. Over on the east side N7AU, W7MEM, and W7MSM were reaching the west side from most any decent location I roved too.

I did not decide on my route until the engine was running in the driveway Saturday morning, but I knew what not to do based on the strategy mistakes of the last contest! -- *K7MDL*

K1WHS -- Sep 19, 2002 09:56 ET

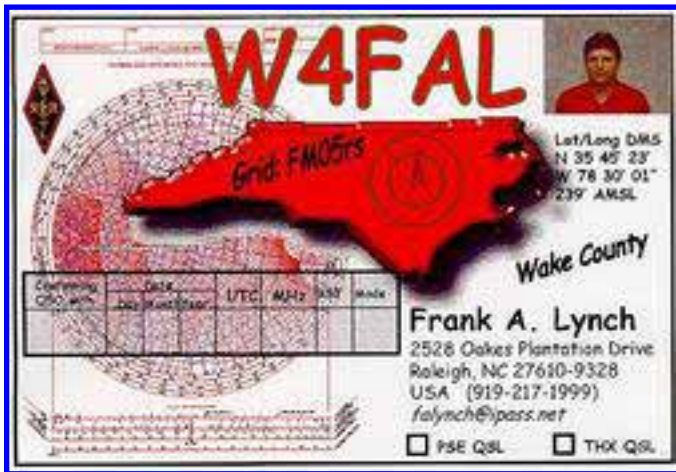


Microwave Tower, 903 thru 24 GHz as seen from the 144 MHz tower. The top antenna is 135 ft above ground.

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we were swimming in tropo contacts all along the Eastern Seaboard. This time around, the conditions were flat and generally agreed to be below typical summertime levels. Stations normally worked didn't quite make it into the log this time! There were tremendous winds for the few days before the contest began. Did I mention that I had 5 VHF bands on the ground on Thursday morning? It was a struggle to get everything up in the air. We were an unlimited multi-op station trying to be on all the bands all the time! This summer we had dropped most of the microwave antennas and revised the towers to make things work better. I am glad we did, because the poor conditions made the changes more important. The six thru

432 ops had very low QSO totals, but we worked hard and got respectable grid totals on all the bands. We tried WSJT on 144 for the first time ever, and after some corrections, actually made some contacts. Really we were neophytes at it. Many thanks to those who perservered to finally complete. It really helped our score on 144. The six meter ops complained about poor scatter, and poor tropo conditions as well. The higher bands above 432 were all on a new taller tower and our grid totals went way up as a result. Some good QSOs were AA2UK on 10 GHz (rain scatter). K1OR/R on 24 GHz rain scatter, and the fish that got away was WA3DRC on 3456. He was peaking 559, but we failed to complete! The contest ended in some heavy rain which dampened the festivities and curtailed the fine dining provided by Chef Monte, N1LBI. He really outdid himself this time. The barbequed ribs were great. Maybe if more VHF operators discover the "Chef Monte" factor, they might want to join the group! We sure could use the help! Operators included: 50 MHz...K1TOL, K7KX 144 MHz... W2PED, WA1T, 222 MHz: N2CEI, 432 MHz: K1DY, 903 MHz...K1WHS, 1296 MHz... W1MRQ, Chef Monte, N1LBI Culinary Delights, BA1LY: Guest Op/ Mouse chaser -- *K1WHS*

W4FAL -- Sep 18, 2002 12:36 ET



I only got to work the contest for a few hours on Sunday. Band conditions on Sunday morning were not great on 2M or 70cm as the much needed rains in the area prevented good conditions for ducting on Sunday morning.

I didn't pick up any new grids but I still had a great time. It was great working a lot of the stations that I hadn't talked to since last contest.

73,

Frank, W4FAL -- W4FAL

KD7TS -- Sep 17, 2002 21:36 ET



5 bands on the mast through the roof

I spent 3 weeks getting my old rover van licensed and fixed up for the contest. Glad I did !! I met up with Ernie, W7LHL on Friday and we set up Friday night on Mt Crag at about 4000 feet. Ernie ran tests on 10 GHz with W7SZ and W7PUA from his station while I contested from my station. Lots of action for one guy and 11 bands. I know I missed a lot, but never a dull moment. Ran the whole time with 350 watt generator, and 2 1/2 gallons of gasoline. Didn't get on Sunday due to threatening weather forecast. Thanks to the rovers that started on the west side on Saturday, my score wasn't too bad.
-- KD7TS

NØURW -- Sep 18, 2002 10:50 ET

Sept. VHF Contest 2002

NØURW EN 41 GO

During this contest I decided to run Hi-Power Single Op on 50mhz,144mhz,222mhz,432mhz. What can I say, A cold front hit us friday nite saturday morning causing rain . This pretty much shut down any chance of above average long distance contacts on any bands on Saturday. So I concentrated on 2 meters 1st .With all my contacts on 2 meters being 450 miles or less I would

put 2 meter conditions as average. With almost all of my contacts on 6 meters being 600 miles or less, I would put 6 as below average this time. I did have a few contacts to the east coast & Florida on 6 meters Sunday Morning. But nothing like a year ago. 222 was open 1 minute & closed the next, well below my average score. 432 was by far the best band for me as I doubled my previous score. Well above average. There was a very strange band enhancement in the last hour of the contest. The higher up bands seemed to do really well. Big Thanks goes out to all the rovers, Your dedication & wisdom show everyone how fun & exciting this hobby can be. Until next time. 73's NØURW (ô¿ø)I'll be listening your way come January! -- NØURW

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