

# Results of the 2013 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY STEVE BOLIA,\* N8BJQ

The 2013 CQ WW VHF Contest provided the 823 entrants some good times and some bad times. Six meters provided nearly everyone at least one good opening and many had a couple. Comments were mixed with some reporting excellent conditions and others the opposite. AC4G commented that he operated 6 hours Saturday and band was hot! Sunday, however, was a different story with only 18 Qs in his log in 10 hours.

The 823 entries are a record for the contest and an increase of 90 from last year. Europe and Asia provided the biggest increase in entries (+75 from 2012). Participation from outside the US is now up to 43% of all logs received. There were at least 350 stations who made 20 or more Qs who chose not to submit a log. Electronic submissions are easy and fairly painless. If you need help, just ask. More logs make log checking more accurate and several of the missing 350 would have been certificate winners. Please send in your log for the 2014 contest.

These results are a month earlier than 2011 and 2012 (the 2012 results are in the Winter 2013 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine.). This is the result of shortening the log deadline and *CQ* readjusting its publication schedule. We should be back in *CQ* now that the dust has settled on the transition. Thanks for your cooperation by getting your logs in earlier. The extra few weeks allowed us to start the log-checking process earlier. The complete line scores, expanded tables, "Scatter" comments, and the operator lists will now be found on the *CQ* magazine website at [http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests). Select WW VHF Contest and then Results.

Thanks to N2CEI, KG6IYN, and E21EIC who made contributions to this article as well. Steve gives a rundown on his winning rover operation, Bruce has a great description of his portable operation, and Champ gives us some insight into VHF contesting in Thailand. If you have an interesting story about your 2014 contest operation and would like to share it, please contact me. Pictures are always appreciated as well.

## USA

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*This is Jaliya, 4S7JL on 6 meters. Jaliya promises they will be back and make more contacts in 2014*

Jeff, K1TEO moved up from fourth in 2012 to win the All Band title, with Bob, K2DRH, dropping down one spot to second. Jeff had an 85 Q advantage (mostly on 2 meters) while Bob had a slight grid advantage. Third place went to Jim, W4RX, with Bob, N4BP fourth and John, W1XX fifth.

George, NR5M and Chuck, W5PR ran a close race for the 6-meter title. In the end, George finished with 25 more Qs and 5 more grids to claim the top spot. Tom, WD5K, Dan, K1TO, and Hud, K5ZG all topped 60K to round out the top five.

Two-meter activity in the US was pretty sparse compared to Europe and Asia. Only four logs were received in this category. John, KN2GSP took the top spot, with N7LKL second and W8DPK third. Don't forget 2 meters. There are lots of potential contacts on the FM simplex frequencies. Try some pre-contest advertising. Especially in larger population centers, there could be plenty of FM simplex contacts to be made.

In his first try at VHF contesting, Dick, ABØCD came away with the top spot in the Hilltopper category. Dick had a blast: "First time VHF contesting. Stuck with QRP Hilltopper class. I am an HF QRPer. Arrow beam on 2 meters. Makeshift rotatable dipole—50 cents worth of hookup

wire and a piece of PVC—on 6 meters. FT-817. Sat on the ground in the hills above Denver. What an absolute blast!" Sounds like a new VHF contester has been hooked. Jon, NØJK finished second, losing two hours to a thunder storm. WI2W, K5TED, and K2ZC rounded out the top five.

Steve, N2CEI led the rovers with an impressive 105K score. His grid total of 234 (216 on 6m) was only surpassed by K5QE's 235. Steve's original plans were to operate from eight grids, but Mother Nature changed her mind on Saturday night. Read more about Steve's trip in a sidebar elsewhere in the article. Mark, K2QO with Dick, K2ZR took second, with 2012 winner Darryl, WW7D third (see <http://tinyurl.com/ww7dCQWW13> for details), K9JK fourth (comments from his "Illinonly" rove can be found in the scatter comments on the web), and Mike, WB8BZK fifth. If my math is right, the rovers activated 35 unique grids worldwide.

The team at K5QE (K5QE, K5MQ, N5NU, N1XS, N5YA, N5KDA, KE5VKZ) were the Multi-Op champs with 185K. Marshall and crew started slowly but propagation got better as the contest went on. The K2LIM crew (KA2LIM, KB2YCC, WA3CSP, N2IK) made the most 2-meter

contacts (198) on their way to second place. KB0HH with KA0KCI and KD5EKX finished in third, with W4MW fourth, and W3SO fifth.

Chris, W1MR and Curt, K9AKS again were the QRP leaders. While most scores went down a bit in 2013, Chris was able to increase his score by about 7,500 points. The battle for third was extremely close, with John, W4IX edging out Tom, K3TW by 10 points. John, W0PV finished in fifth, only 136 points ahead of Lisa, N6LB.

## DX

While most US scores went down slightly, DX scores increased considerably in many areas and categories. Some of the increase is likely due to the increased interest and participation from Europe and Asia. The All Band race was hotly contested with the top four separated by less than 2,500 points and all five besting the

top score last year. Antonio, CR5A ending up number one at 26.7K with Dusan, OK1DC edging Janos, HA3UU by 90 points for second. Nikolay, UX0FF was fourth and IW2NOD/4 fifth. All five beat the 2012 top score.

Six-meter scores were also up considerably from last year. Drago, S59A was the 2013 champ with a very fine 63K.

## TOP SCORES WORLD

<b>All Band</b>	HS8JNF/P .....468
CR5A ..... 26,760	HS8XKL/P .....246
OK1DC ..... 24,892	
HA3UU ..... 24,804	<b>QRP</b>
UX0FF ..... 24,265	HA5KDQ .....16,240
IW2NOD/4 ..... 19,976	HS6RMY ..... 6,344
	US6IF .....5,400
<b>6 Meters</b>	E21GJC .....5,348
S59A .....63,358	E22HUV ..... 4,858
9A5Y .....46,248	
E70T .....45,288	<b>Rover</b>
EA8DBM .....41,028	US3ITU/M .....14,070
E11A .....29,853	VE3RKS/R ..... 2,145
	PY2CDR/R ..... 448
<b>2 Meters</b>	F5MYK/MM ..... 100
OK1OUE ..... 28,536	R8CAA/R ..... .66
US11Y ..... 6,344	
UT5DV ..... 4,898	<b>Multi-Op</b>
HG5BVK/P ..... 4,806	HA6W .....128,982
US4IEK ..... 2,484	HG1Z .....62,988
	UT11/P .....45,441
<b>Hilltopper</b>	UT5B .....43,920
HA2VR/P .....6,765	VE7JH .....30,099
UW4/P .....6,028	
HS9XDF/P ..... 520	

## USA

<b>All Band</b>	K5TED .....350
K1TEO .....135,372	K2ZC .....126
K2DRH .....118,314	
W4RX .....101,378	<b>QRP</b>
N4BP .....79,508	W1MR .....19,500
W1XX .....65,076	K9AKS .....9,045
	W4IX .....4,794
<b>6 Meters</b>	K3TW .....4,784
NR5M .....146,688	W0PV .....4,312
W5PR .....138,567	
WD5K .....69,496	<b>Rover</b>
K1TO .....68,226	N2CEI/R .....105,768
K5ZG .....60,755	K2QO/R .....61,663
	WW7D/R .....52,771
<b>2 Meters</b>	K9JK/R .....36,530
KN2GSP ..... 266	WB8BZK/R .....32,096
N7LKL ..... 190	
W8DPK ..... 120	<b>Multi-Op</b>
KB3VSP ..... 2	K5QE .....185,885
	K2LIM .....129,192
<b>Hilltopper</b>	KB0HH .....109,548
AB0CD .....2,640	W4MW .....106,377
N0JK .....1,665	W3SO .....97,908
WI2W .....780	

## GRID LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

<b>Single Op 50 MHz</b>	<b>Multi Op 50 MHz</b>
S59A .....158	HA6W .....111
EA8DBM .....156	UT5B .....90
9A5Y .....141	EE5SR .....81
E70T .....136	YU7W .....81
CR5A .....115	HG7T .....76
<b>144 MHz</b>	<b>144 MHz</b>
OK1OUE .....58	HG1Z .....57
UX0FF .....53	HA6W .....55
UR3EE .....38	HG6Z .....43
US3ITU/M .....37	9A5G .....38
UT5DV .....31	UT5B .....31

## USA

<b>Single Op 50 MHz</b>	<b>Multi Op 50 MHz</b>
NR5M .....192	K5QE .....181
W5PR .....187	W4MW .....160
K2DRH .....152	KB0HH .....156
N0URW .....145	N0MA .....133
K5ZG .....145	KO3T .....131
<b>144 MHz</b>	<b>144 MHz</b>
K1TEO .....41	K5QE .....54
W4RX .....39	K2LIM .....48
K2DRH .....37	W3SO .....46
K2OS .....30	KB0HH .....23
KG6IYN .....24	KO3T .....18

## QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

<b>Single Op 50 MHz</b>	<b>Multi Op 50 MHz</b>
S59A .....401	HA6W .....297
E70T .....333	VE7JH .....273
9A5Y .....328	UT5B .....243
VE7XF .....305	YU7W .....212
E11A .....279	HG7T .....163
<b>144 MHz</b>	<b>144 MHz</b>
HS1EFA .....499	HA6W .....240
E29RZQ .....444	HG1Z .....224
E29AD .....417	HS4AK .....176
E22FFJ .....391	HG6Z .....171
E21GJC .....382	9A5G .....123

## USA

<b>Single Op 50 MHz</b>	<b>MULTI OP 50 MHz</b>
NR5M .....764	K5QE .....606
W5PR .....739	K2LIM .....371
N4BP .....572	KB0HH .....520
WD5K .....511	W4MW .....421
K1TO .....497	W3SO .....309
<b>144 MHz</b>	<b>144 MHz</b>
K1TEO .....170	K2LIM .....198
KG6IYN .....144	W3SO .....144
W4RX .....123	K5QE .....92
K2DRH .....103	W4MW .....90
K2OS .....68	KB0HH .....46



9A5Y was second, with 2012 champion E70T third, EA8DBM fourth, and E11A operated by Olivier, ON4EI in at number five.

Libor, OK1OUE used 1500 watts and lots of antennas to grab the top spot in the 2-meter category with an excellent 28.5K score. Second place went to US1IY, with UT5DV third, HG5BVK/P fourth, and US4IEL fifth.

Gyula, HA2VR/P and Vlad, UW4I/P turned in fine scores in the Hilltopper category with Gyula emerging on top with a very good 6.7K score. Nice scores were turned in by HS9XDF/P, HS8JNF/P, and HS8XKL/P rounding out the top 5.

The 128K score by the ops at HA5W (HA0LZ, HA6ZFA,

HA0MK, HA0HO, HA5OKU, HA6WX, HA0DU, HA6WP, and HA0LC) topped the DX Multi-op category. Their score was the #3 Multi-op score in the world, only behind K5QE and K2LIM. Nice job, guys. The HG1Z team finished second, with UT1I/P in third, UT5B fourth, and VE7JH fifth.

HA5KDQ operated by HA5IW led the DX QRP ops with a world second high 16.2K. Second place finisher HS6RMY made 70 more Qs but was only able to work 13 grids, compared to 70 for Simon. US6IF took third, followed by E21GJC and E22HUF.

Alex, US3ITU took the Rover title with a nice 14K score. Nice job, Alex. VE3RKS came in second and PY2CDR in third.

## CQ WW VHF 2013 as N2CEI/R

*By Steve Kostro, N2CEI/R*

Wanting to do something different for the contest this year, I got the Rover Rig ready for 6 and 2 meters and left Saturday morning of the contest for the four grid corner of EM90, 91, 80, and 81. This is located within the Okfeenokee Swamp in south Georgia. The southeastern part of the US had been experiencing an above-normal amount of rain this summer, but the issue did not become reality to me until I turned onto the farm road I normally use. It was flooded! The road is used by large machinery and trucks for the crops, so with a 4x4 Jeep, it was useable as long as I didn't run into any deep water. The feature of this road is that it connects all four grids in the corner and is off the public road.

Setup was easy but the bands were dead until late afternoon, and of course, that's when the local rain showers started. As it got closer to sunset, 6 meters picked up but the rain came down harder. I operate an open trailer with a tarp, so when it rained hard, I closed the equipment box and drove to the next grid. I can travel slowly with the antennas extended, which turned out to be maximum speed on the flooded muddy road anyway! All was going well until I came across some deep water before I could cross into the last grid of the night, EM90. Well, I didn't try! I backtracked and re-operated in the three previous three grids. By 9 PM it stopped raining and the moonlight "woke up" the swamp life. I noticed that water I had crossed before was deeper now and the swamp was reclaiming the fields with me in them if I stayed, so I packed up around 10:30 local and hit the road. Six meters was still open.

My original contest plans were to go to eight grids, two separate four corners, but after gassing up and changing my wet clothes, I changed my plans. Missing EM90 was disappointing, so I headed for the EM90, 80, EL99, 89 corners instead of the four corners farther south. That would now give me six grids total instead of eight for this contest. There is a logging road that connects all four grids with a place to camp out in the Jeep over night. I think it was the right thing to do. I was ready at sunup and I re-operated EM80 then gave out three new grids until the band died a little after noon time. There was one nasty lightning storm that shut me down for almost 45 minutes but—had lots of fun! I may do it again next year with my roving partner K4SME.



*Steve's well-thought-out rover operating position.*



*Here's the N2CEI rover rig.*



## CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

### UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	25	397,285
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	12	302,783
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	26	239,710
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	7	214,858
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	14	196,343
FLORIDA WEAK SIGNAL SOCIETY	4	180,252
DFW CONTEST GROUP	5	176,558
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	8	134,137
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	9	117,218
BADGER CONTESTERS	9	98,884
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	3	84,213
COLD BROOK CONTEST CLUB	3	72,568
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	4	65,393
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	9	54,828
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	12	47,510
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	14	44,446
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	4	36,971
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	5	33,775
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	5	29,992

BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	5	14,576
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	4	13,766
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	3	13,116
KANSAS CITY DX CLUB	3	11,974
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	5	10,057
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	3	7,938
MERIDEN ARC	3	7,275
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	6	6,583

### DX

UKRAINIAN VHF INTERNATIONAL CONTEST CLUB	19	128,366
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	19	54,395
ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	39,274
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	9	38,355
BERGEN ARA	5	28,903
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	5	13,439
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	3	6,597
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	3	6,330
YO DX CLUB	3	1,529
CDR GROUP	7	1,472

Here's a few words from the custodian of records, K9AKS. Curt will update the records pages at <[www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com)> by the time this article is published.

In the all-band entry category, USA winner K1TEO attained his highest score ever, 135k (not counting the exceptional year of 2006, when scores skyrocketed in many parts of the country). Two rather high scores, and country records, were attained by IW2NOD/4 in Italy (19.9k) and HA3UU in Hungary (24.8k).

As usual, the 6-meter-only category was not only popular but also generated some fine scores. In the USA, NR5M and W5PR

both worked over 700 QSOs on 6, over 100 more than any other station in any category, and W7JW in Michigan reached the highest score ever in 8-land, 38.5k. The all-time highest score from Africa, 41k, was posted by EA8DBM, and S59A's 63.3k was the third highest ever reached in Europe. Two nice scores from Ireland—EI1A (ON4EI op) (29.8k) and EI9FBB (27k)—were by far the highest ever recorded from that country.

In the Multi-Operator category K2LIM broke their own 2-land record with a 129k performance. Significant state record scores were made by W4MW in North Carolina (107k) and NØMA in

## Operating the VHF Contest from Thailand

By Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC

This was the 17th year of CQ WW VHF Contest in Thailand. The first year of this contest in Thailand was 1996 and at that time I was still a student at high school. The CQ WW VHF Contest is very popular for Thai VHF hams. We now have around 300,000 VHF hams in Thailand who use 144–146 MHz and only in FM mode.

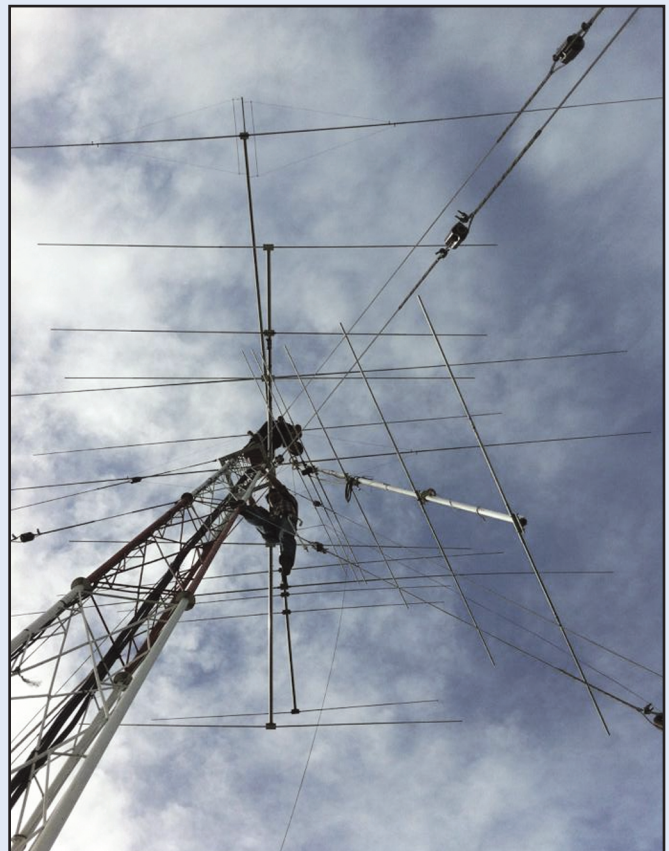
For the last two to three years, the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) has sent a request to the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) asking for permission for Thai hams to be able to operate on 6 meters. We finally got a special permit from NBTC which allows Thai hams to operate on 6 meters during the CQ WW VHF Contest but only for all club stations in Thailand, which normally only have 2-meter permission.

Thailand's CQ WW VHF Contest 2013 had a total of 32 stations and only three stations operated on 6 meters: HSØAC, HS4AK, and HS5AM. Just before the contest, these three stations set up the 6-meter antennas. HSØAC used a 6el Yagi, HS4AK used 2x6el Yagis, and HS5AM used a 3el quad.

Saturday morning Thailand time was when we could start operating 6 meters according to the license received from NBTC. All three stations started at almost the same time and got more than 200 QSOs. But during the contest period, which started Sunday morning Thailand time, 6-meter propagation was so bad that they got only a few QSOs.

For the 2-meter band all enjoyed the operation and many new Thai hams joined this contest for the first time. The Thailand prefix HS is no longer available since the beginning of year 2013. Now we have no call areas, which mean all Thai hams will get a call by a running process no matter which location they are in. The current call is now E23Mxx.

In Thailand the CQ WW VHF Contest is still popular for hams who study in university. Many thanks to CQ for understanding the importance of the VHF contest.



*The 6-meter antenna array being set up.*



## The Unofficial “Left Coast” Report . . .

By Bruce Krypton, KG6IYN

Saturday morning 0600, I departed from home to go to the hilltop contest location (otherwise known as my “secret, above ground lair” with intentional Dr. Evil intonations). I had my daughter Kira, an aspiring soon-to-be-ham radio operator and contester with me, as she wanted to run the computer and do the logging effort for the contest. My son Robert was also along for the ride, as he likes spending time on the hill exploring and doing photography of the event.

We arrived on Los Pinos Mtn., CA (4900 ft. ASL, DM12rr) at approximately 0715 AM local time to find that an approaching storm front was generating winds and gusts ranging from 25 to 50 MPH. This is not unusual for this location, but I have always been able to find “gaps” to set up and or tear down for a contest. We waited until about 0830 local time for any break in the winds, but with none found, moved ahead with assembling and staging the M<sup>2</sup> 'JHV, Cushcraft 13B2's, keeping them lowered in hopes the weather would taper off. With 1030 hours approaching, we decided to put up the 13B2's, with a wrestling match and both of the “harmonics” helping with the guy lines. At 1130 we did the same for the 'JHV, which was much more exciting in the high winds than the 2-meter beams. We had everything done and secured shortly thereafter, and almost as if on cue, and as if the weather had given in to our refusal to admit defeat, all winds died down immediately.

Radios, rotor controls, and computer were set up in the vehicle. I had the radios, Kira had the computer for logging ... modest openings in to the Pacific Northwest, along with “local” traffic on 6 meters. Es died out for about an hour or so, leaving us to work the locals on 6 and 2 until about 0120 GMT when the band opened back up on 6 meters into the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, Oklahoma, Kansas, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, and more. . . . Although the contest for us was almost all PNW, the handful of one plus and double-hop contacts and grid squares kept it interesting.

On a side note, many thanks to all of the Canadian ops who were on the air for the contest: VE7XF, VE7JH, VE7FPO, VE7FFW, VE7DAY, VE7CX, VE7CUS, VE7BEE, VE6PL, VE6JMB, VE6CPP, and VE6BEE. Great to have worked you from DM12rr.

Also interesting was the light and random Es conditions, especially for this late in the season and on 2 meters. From this location it's an “easy” shot for almost all adjacent grid squares and the next ones beyond. It's also fairly easy working into Phoenix (330 miles east, roughly) with little to no enhancement and into the San Francisco Bay Area (500+ miles to the north) with light to moderate Es. This weekend we were extremely pleased to work “unofficial” rovers that happened to be on the air travelling to Arizona from San Diego, as well as surprised home operators in Fresno and farther north in California, as well as Nevada and Utah, which is a tough



*The KG6IYN setup on top of Los Pinos Mtn.*

shot over the higher local mountains from this location. As such, between tropo and the favorable although sporadic Es, the 2-meter score was better than I think I have ever turned in for this contest. Also important were all of the FM operators who were supporting a regional drill and were pleasantly surprised they were able to make contacts from Imperial Valley back in to San Diego.

The contest setup started with winds delaying setup, was interrupted twice for thunderstorms (unplug coax and rotor controls, move vehicle away from the antennas until the lightning and rain cleared), and ended roughly an hour early Sunday for another round of rain and thunderstorms. While the lightning did subside, the rain did not, so tear down was conducted solo, while the harmonics watched from the fire lookout tower where it was warm and dry. It was not until 6 PM local time when I was done, gear

packed, and the last antenna strapped down on the roof of the SUV when the weather completely cleared up. Go figure :-)

Thanks to everyone who participated and were on the air supporting the event. Thanks to my two children for setting up and hanging in there with me . . . Robert for taking the photos, and Kira for running the computer (she apologizes in advance for any logging errors that might have occurred; this was her second run at doing this and there's nothing quite like the excitement of a 12-year-old daughter when she hears a station calling and says “Dad! That's a new grid square we don't have yet!”). This is still my favorite VHF contest, and I'd have to check to make it official, but I believe I started this contest in either 2003 or 2004, with only one year missed due to a family event :-).

Thanks to CQ magazine and all of those who help make this event happen each year. We'll “see” you all next year!

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Iowa (44.6k), and KBØHH broke their own state record from 2012 (61k) with a 109k score. In Canada, VE7JH's 30k score came close to the all-time Canadian Multi-op record by VE7DXG in 2000 (32k).

HA2W's 128k score more than tripled the previous high in Hungary.

In the QRP category, HA5KDDQ posted the third-highest QRP score in the history of the contest in Europe, 16.4k. In the USA, N6LB's 4.1k score from Washington was the second highest ever in 7-land. The 2-meter QRP multi-op crowd in Thailand was very active and very productive. Three of them made over 400 contacts on 2 meters and several others over 200. Totals like that on 2 meters, for stations in any category, are occasionally reached in Europe, but rarely elsewhere. The highest 2-meter total in the USA this year, 198, was attained by the multi-op group at K2LIM.

wrong category. Warnings about club names are just warning. The club name you list will not be deleted. The message is only telling you that your club name is not listed in the master CQ Contest Club database. Send me an e-mail with your club's name and it can be added to the database. If you need help submitting your log please send me an e-mail.

There appears to be a bit of confusion about the use of spotting assistance during the contest. Assistance *is* allowed in *all* categories as long as you don't spot yourself. Those using EME/MS can post only your call, the sequence, and your frequency.

Thanks to K9JK, K9AKS, E21EIC, and UT1IC for their invaluable assistance. Curt, K9AKS maintains the contest records, John, K9JK prints all of the certificates, and they answer my dumb questions and keep me reasonably in line.

Champ, E21EIC and Yuri, UT1IC have really been promoting the contest in their countries and working hard to get logs into the system. Thanks to all for your efforts for the contest. Also again thanks to Dave, W3KM for his excellent software support.

The 2014 running of the CQ WW VHF contest will be July 19–20. Rules can be found on the CQ magazine website at <[http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_ww\\_vhf\\_contest/index\\_cq\\_ww\\_vhf\\_contest.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_vhf_contest/index_cq_ww_vhf_contest.html)>. If you haven't tried the contest, you should. If we get a good 6-meter opening, the band will sound like 10 meters did in 2013 CQ WW DX SSB contest. If you are an HF con-tester and have not tried a VHF contest, give it a shot. Many of the newer radios include 6 meters and it doesn't take much of an antenna to make lots of contacts if the band is open. Hope to see you on.

73, Steve, N8BJQ

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## Other Stuff

There were 68.5K QSOs reported in the logs. Of these, 53.8K were 6-meter Qs with the remainder on 2 meters. About a third of the 2-meter Qs (4800) were made in Thailand. There were 417 different grids active at some point during the contest period, up from 368 in 2012. There were entries from all continents with 506 from North America, 213 from Europe, 81 from Asia, 16 from South America, 5 from Africa, and 2 from Oceania. Logs were received from 56 countries plus 1 maritime mobile station.

Please send in your log. All logs (including paper ones) are greatly appreciated. If you are still paper logging and have a computer, there are several "free" contest logging programs that are available that are easy to set up, will generate the Cabrillo file required, and don't require high-power computers. If you are using a DX logging program and it does not generate a Cabrillo file, you can send an ADIF file directly to me and I can convert it to the right format as long as it has all of the required information. Electronic log submission is relatively quick and painless. As long as your log is in Cabrillo format and you have filled out the header fields correctly, your log will go through on the first try. If you do get a reject notice, read the note at the bottom of the e-mail. It will tell you what is wrong. Often it is just something minor that you can change quickly and resubmit. If you go to <<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/logs.htm>>, you can find the answers needed to fix the errors. Some of the most common errors are using 6 and 2 for the CATEGORY-BAND: field instead of 50 and 144. The robot will send you an error message that it does not recognize 6 or 2 as valid bands and change your log to an All Band entry. This could result in your log being placed in the

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