

---

# Results of the 2017 CQ World Wide VHF Contest

BY STEVE BOLIA,\* N8BJQ

**W**hat will the 2017 CQ World Wide VHF contest be remembered for? Certainly not stellar band conditions or a record number of entries (I wish). It will, however, be remembered as the first contest to use K1JT's FT8 software, which some believe (and some don't) will revolutionize VHF contesting.

The jury is still out on that, but it certainly made things much more interesting and generated lots of comments after the contest. I probably spent a couple more hours on the air making contacts with FT8 and MSK-144 than I normally would have. My Qs were almost evenly split between CW, SSB, and digital modes. Don't give up on the tradi-



*PY2CDR and PY2LCD did a QRP multi op from Pico do Olho D'água (GG66rq).*



*Here's PY2CDR operating. The station consists of: FT-817ND, MOXON 6 meter, DK7ZB Light 6-element 2 meter, 60-watt solar panel 12 volts, 18-watt solar panel 5 volts, and 18-Ah batteries.*

---



tional modes yet; CW and SSB will be around for a long time. Hopefully, the new digital modes may attract some new blood into the game.

As most of you noticed, entries are down from the record we set in 2016 — 719 vs. 905 the prior year. U.S. and other North American entries were just a few less than last year. European and Asian entries, however, were down by almost 200. Hopefully, 2018 will bring much better conditions and more activity. There were another 100 or so who made multiple Qs but didn't submit a log. Please send in a log, even if it is a check log. While I'd like all submitted logs to be computer-generated, paper logs are accepted and, as long as I can decipher your handwriting, they will be converted to Cabrillo. If you have access to a computer, there is a link on the CQWW VHF website where you can use the form that WA7BNM has created to send your paper log as Cabrillo.

Speaking of the CQWW VHF website <www.cqww-vhf.com/>, a big thanks goes to Randy, K5ZD, for bringing the site into the current century and consistent with the other CQ Contest websites. If you haven't visited it yet, please do so. You can search the results from 2000 forward. Results

articles from 2005 are also available. If you are missing any certificates, those can also be downloaded.

## USA

K2DRH wins, but without Bob. Bob had to be out of town for the contest and asked Wyatt, ACØRA, if he would like to operate the station. Wyatt was planning a major rover operation (maybe next year) and decided he couldn't pass up the opportunity. When it was all over, Wyatt had about 30 more Qs and a healthy 73-grid lead over 2016 winner Jeff, K1TEO. Both of their scores were up quite a bit from 2016. Bruce, KG6IYN, put in a good effort from Los Piños Mountain to finish third. You can read about Bruce's weekend in the Unofficial West Coast Report (see sidebar). There is also a link to a neat time-lapse video. John, N3HBX, finished fourth and John, K1OR, rounded out the top five.

On 6 meters, Jay, W9RM, dominated the field. Tom, WD5K, was second and Vince, KØSIX, finished third. Bill, W4GRW, turned in a great 2-meter score to take first place (and win a new plaque sponsored by Chuck, W5PR). Dick, K1HC, was second and AA2TT third. In the QRP Hilltopper category,

## TOP SCORES WORLD

<b>All Band</b>	EM3U .....456		
EA8DBM .....56,615	E7ØAA .....399		
IT9XTP .....12,870			
OK1DC .....8,610		<b>QRP</b>	
VE3DS .....8,384	UT6EY .....2,924		
EA1ASC .....7,006	RK1AS .....2,720		
	UR8GZ .....1,875		
	UY5ON .....1,512		
	HA2MJ .....1,326		
<b>6 Meters</b>			
XE2X .....28,635			
9H1AE .....26,136			
VE3MMQ .....13,320			
XE2JS .....13,202		<b>Rover</b>	
AM625VQ .....12,512	VE3JAR/R .....11,218		
	HS3NJP/R .....7,040		
	E27DIX/R .....2,898		
	VA2NQ/R .....2,139		
	4S7JL/R .....660		
<b>2 Meters</b>			
S56P .....23,280			
E24QND .....21,510			
OK1GTH .....16,376			
SM4GGC .....16,000			
UXØFF .....10,560			
		<b>Multi-Op</b>	
	HA6W .....45,458		
	HG1Z .....24,888		
	J48KEF .....14,080		
	9AØV .....13,940		
	VE3SMA .....12,750		
<b>Hilltopper</b>			
HA1ZH/P .....5,863			
HA2VR/P .....4,420			
I2ZJNN/IN3 .....1,032			

## USA

<b>All Band</b>	W9SZ .....779		
K2DRH .....144,534	W1QK .....420		
K1TEO .....101,084	AB1YK .....416		
KG6IYN .....62,640			
N3HBX .....41,132		<b>QRP</b>	
K1OR .....39,269	N4SVC .....10,366		
	WA2TMC .....6,435		
	K9AKS .....5,252		
	K2GMY .....938		
	AD7KI .....900		
<b>6 Meters</b>			
W9RM .....116,736			
WD5K .....65,037			
KØSIX .....43,952			
N5JR .....35,464			
K7CW .....34,410			
		<b>Rover</b>	
	WW7D/R .....43,710		
	N2SLN/R .....23,712		
	KK6MC/R .....22,425		
	W3DHJ/R .....20,585		
	AE5P/R .....14,760		
<b>2 Meters</b>			
W4GRW .....15,080			
K1HC .....3,444			
AA2TT .....2,318			
N4QWZ .....1,518			
W1XX .....1,482			
		<b>Multi-Op</b>	
	K5QE .....180,155		
	K2LIM .....119,024		
	K8GP .....107,484		
	W3SO .....85,760		
	NN7AZ .....76,024		
<b>Hilltopper</b>			
K1ZK .....3,168			
WA7JTM .....1,848			

## 2017 CQWW VHF TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

**WORLD:** Dr. Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ Memorial. Won by: **Aleksandr Maksimov, EA8DBM**  
**USA:** Steve Bolia, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **K2DRH operated by Wyatt Dirks, ACØRA**

### SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

**World 50MHz:** Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **Jorge Alvarado, XE2X**  
**USA 50MHz:** Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **Keith Morehouse, W9RM**  
**WORLD 144 MHz:** Bostjan Sever, S56P Trophy. Won by: **Bostjan Sever, S56P**  
**USA 144MHz:** Chuck Dietz, W5PR Trophy. Won by: **Bill Fisher, W4GRW**

### ROVER

**USA:** Northern Lights Radio Society Trophy: Won by: **Darryl Holman, WW7D/R**

### MULTI-OPERATOR

**World:** Dr. Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ Memorial (Joe Devenyi, HAØLC donor). Won by: **Station HA6W operated by: HA6ZFA, HA6WX, HA5OKU, HAØMK, HAØLZ, HAØMP, HAØLO, HAØLC**  
**USA:** Bob Striegl, K2DRH Trophy: Won by: **Station K5QE operated by: K5QE, N5NU, N1XS, N5YA, AE5VB, K5MQ, W4KXY, K7RSM**

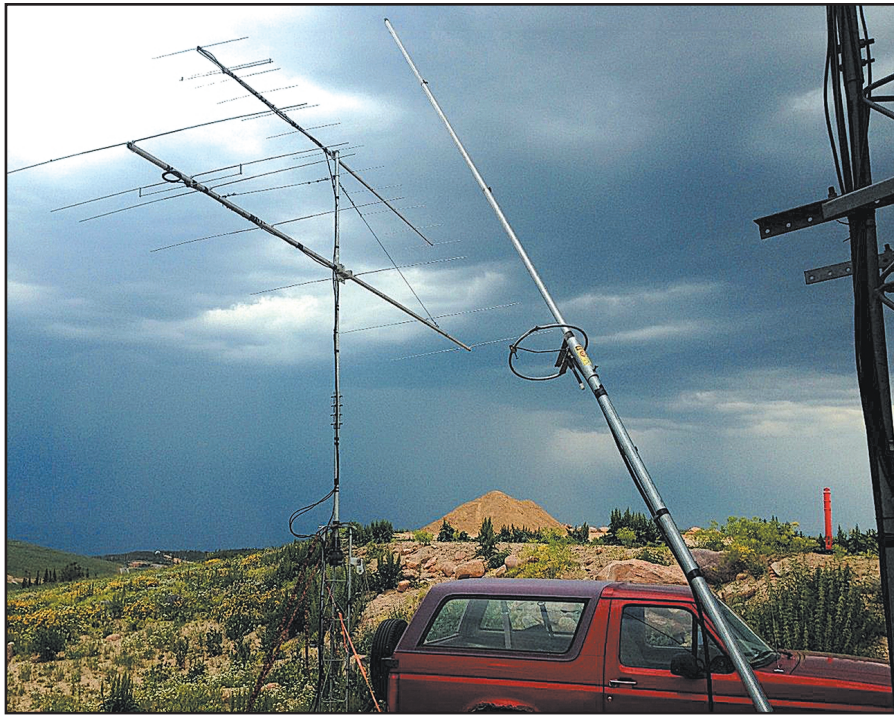
### CLUB

**USA:** Won by: **Potomac Valley Radio Club**

*\*Denotes awarded to runner-up in category*

## ROVERS & GRIDS OPERATED

4S7JL/R	.....MJ96, MJ97, NJ07, NJ06, NJ09
ABØYM/R	.....DM79, DM78, DM88, DM89, DN70, DN71
AC7MD/R	.....CN78, CN77, CN76, CN86, CN87
AE5P/R	.....EM21, EM22, EM32, EM31, EM20, EM30, EL29, EL39
E22EXA/R	.....OK03, OK04
E27DIX/R	.....OK02, OK03, OK04, OK05, OK06
HS3NJP/R & E23JMM	.....OK03, OK04, OK15, OK14
K2JB/R	.....EM96, EM85
K7ATN/R	.....CN85, CN95
K9JK/R	.....EN52, EN51, EN62, EN61
K9PW/R	.....EN62, EN52
KK6MC/R	.....DM65, DM64, DM74, DM75, DM63, DM73
KT5TE/R	.....EM21, EM22, EM32, EM31, EM20, EL29, EL39
N2DCH/R	.....FN22, FN12, FN21, FN11
N2SLN/R & KC2SFU	.....FN11, FN12, FN22
N6GP/R	.....DM13, DM03, DM14
N6JET/R	.....CM88, CM98, CM97, CM86, CM87,
N9GH/R	.....EN61, EN51, EN60, EN50
VA2NQ/R	.....FN45, FN35
VE3JAR/R & VE3CRU	.....FN04, FN13, FN14, FN03, EN93, FN02, EN92
W1RGA/R	.....FN42, FN33, FN43, FN32, FN41, FN31
W3DHJ/R	.....DM88, DM87, DM77, DM78
WA5GVQ/R	.....EM21, EM22, EM32, EM31, EM20, EM30, EL29, EL39
WB2SIH/R	.....FN33, FN32
WD5RAH/R	.....EM21, EM22, EM32, EM31, EM20, EM30, EL29, EL39
WW7D/R	.....CN98, CN88, CN87, CN97, CN86, CN96, CN76, CN77, CN85



Mike, K7ULS, operated from Powder Mountain (9,000-foot elevation) in DN41.

## QSO & GRID LEADERS

6-Meter QSOs		2-Meter QSOs	
W9RM	608	E24QND	239
K2DRH	448	S56P	194
WD5K	399	OK1GTH	178
K1TEO	355	K1TEO	164
KØSIX	328	W4GRW	145
K7CW	310	KG6IYN	106
KG6IYN	310	9A9I	103
K1TO	300	K2DRH	103
N5JR	286	SM4GGC	100
NI\$G	279	OK1DC	98
N\$KE	275	K1OR	91
EA8DBM	271	K1HC	82
NR7T	270	UXØFF	80
W5PR	270	N3HBX	65
WA5DM	254	PY2NF	64

6-Meter Grids		2-Meter Grids	
W9RM	192	SM4GGC	80
K2DRH	169	UXØFF	66
WD5K	163	S56P	60
EA8DBM	140	W4GRW	52
KØSIX	134	K2DRH	52
WA5DM	129	OK1GTH	46
N5JR	124	E24QND	45
9H1AE	121	UR3EE	45
NØKE	116	K1OR	43
XE2X	115	K1TEO	42
WB2FKO	115	R6CS	40
KO9A	113	RD3FD	39
K7CW	111	RK1AS	34
K1TO	111	OK1DC	34
NR7T	111	R3CT	34

Zach, K1ZK, operated from the top of Mount Equinox in Vermont to take first, with Pete, WA7JTM, operating from W7A/MN-147 (Summits on the Air designator for Hedgepeth Hills, Minnesota) in second and Zack, W9SZ, third. N4SVC (operated by Steve, N2CEI) is the QRP champion with Bruce, WA2TMC, second and Curt, K9AKS, finishing third.

K5QE and teammates N5NU, N1XS, N5YA, AE5VB, K5MQ, W4KXY and K7RSM are the U.S. Multi-Op champions. They survived a failure of their rotatable 2-meter antenna and losing the 6-meter station for a couple of hours. The crew at K2LIM (ops: KA2LIM, W9KXI, and KB2YCC) were second, followed by K8GP (ops: W8ZN and K1RA), W3SO (ops: W3IDT, WA3TTS, W3BTX, W3XOX, W3BC, and W3YOZ) and NN7AZ (Ops: AA7A, KC1BB, KC7V, and WO7R).

WW7D tops the USA rovers with a fine 43,000 score. You can read about Darryl's rove at <<http://bit.ly/2zBgEAq>>. N2SLN

with KC2SFU finished second, KK6MC was third with Jonesy, W3DHJ, in fourth, which is his best finish since 2006; and Army, AE5P, finishing fifth. There were a total of 20 rovers active this year. I'd like to thank all those who provide many Qs and multipliers from grids that may not normally be active.

In the Club category, the Potomac Valley Radio Club submitted 33 entries to finish first with 378,734 points and win the first USA Club champion plaque. The North East Weak Signal Group was second with 235,883 points (10 entries) followed by the Society of Midwest Contesters with 228,523 points (20 entries) and the New Mexico VHF Society with 228,037 points (14 entries).

## DX

Aleksandr, EA8DBM, remains at the top of the DX Single-Operator, All-Band category with 56,615 points. Salvatore,

## CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

### UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	33	378,734
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	10	235,883
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	20	228,523
NEW MEXICO VHF SOCIETY	14	228,037
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	22	144,077
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	18	134,651
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	9	114,770
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	5	82,533
DFW CONTEST GROUP	5	58,564
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	7	51,827
NACOGDOCHES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	5	50,170
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	11	49,558
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	6	28,870
GEORGIA CONTEST GROUP	3	26,396
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	4	21,952
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	7	19,966
BADGER CONTESTERS	4	16,093
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	6	15,030

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP	4	12,319
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	8	9,489
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	7	7,676
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB	3	5,828
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	4	4,633
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	3	1,979
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	3	1,827

### DX

CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	11	53,935
HA-DX-CLUB	3	17,357
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	5	14,743
EA CONTEST CLUB	4	10,809
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	3	8,166
CDR GROUP	11	2,690
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	3	2,463
YO DX CLUB	3	1,112
ASOCIACION DE RADIOEXPERIMENTADORES-DE NUEVO LEON AC (Mexico)	3	1,106
CSM CRAIOVA (Romania)	3	402







JR8QFG	6	4	2	2	QN03	9M4COK	M	990	33	15	JJ00	FINLAND			MALTA								
JA0NFP	6	4	2	2	PM97	9M4CRX	M	28	5	4	OJ05	OF8U/9	6	504	24	21	KP46	9H1AE	6	26,136	216	121	JM75
JG1GGO	6	0	0	0	PM95	EUROPE						FRANCE			MOLDOVA								
JR2WLL	2	2	1	1	PM84	AUSTRIA						F6HZZ	6	690	30	23	JN23	ER2RM	6	30	6	5	KN46
J11WWL/1	H	55	11	5	PM96	OE1SOW	2	108	9	6	JN88	F6CZVP	6	25	5	5	IN77	NETHERLANDS					
JA1GZK/1	H	1	1	1	PM96	OE3MDB	Q	451	22	11	JN88	GERMANY						PASWT	A	399	21	19	JO22
JR1UJX	Q	924	64	11	PM95	BALEARIC ISLANDS						DL3JJ	6	7,200	100	72	JO60	PASKT	A	330	19	15	JO11
JR1NKN	Q	16	4	4	PM95	AM625VQ	6	12,512	136	92	JM19	DK2OY	6	884	34	26	JO44	NORWAY					
JE1ILP	Q	9	3	3	PM95	BELARUS						GREECE						LA9BM	6	1,435	41	35	JP40
JJ2YZK	M	12	3	3	PM84	EU4AX	2	220	11	10	KO13	J42T	6	792	33	24	KN00	POLAND					
SI LANKA						BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA						SV4RRK	6	20	5	4	KN09	SP3UR	6	418	22	19	JO92
4S7JLR	R	660	33	10	5	E7TT	6	9,315	115	81	JN92	SV1NZX	6	9	3	3	KN17	SP7AWG	6	36	6	6	JO91
THAILAND						Op: E73S						J48KEF	M	14,080	159	88	KN08	SP9RCX	2	648	27	12	JO90
HS3LSE	2	324	18	9	OK14	BULGARIA						HUNGARY						PORTUGAL					
HS3ANP	2	306	17	9	OK14	E71W	6	154	14	11	JN93	HA8XI	A	9,776	109	52	JN96	CT7AIX	A	352	22	16	IM59
HS4QLM	2	210	15	7	OK17	E70AA	H	399	21	19	JN93	HG3X	2	28,320	240	59	JN96	CT1BOL	6	4,263	87	49	IN51
HS4LKW	2	200	25	4	OK16	CZECH REPUBLIC						HA5JX	2	8	2	2	JN97	CT1GVN	6	3,978	78	51	IM67
E23UYT	2	174	29	3	NJ99	LZ2ZY	A	1,600	40	20	KN13	HA5UA	6	2,700	60	45	JN97	ROMANIA					
E29UGB	2	132	22	3	NJ98	LZ1YE	6	460	23	20	KN22	HA7LW	6	858	33	26	JN97	YO2GL	A	2,244	43	34	KN05
E24VSR	2	128	16	4	OJ06	LZ2JOW	Q	12	3	3	KN34	HA1RJ	6	72	9	8	JN87	YO7LYM	A	364	17	13	KN14
HS5MFM	2	114	19	3	OK03	CROATIA						HA2KSD	6	16	4	4	JN97	YOSBRE	A	330	16	15	KN07
HS8JWH	2	102	17	3	NJ98	9A1CBM	A	2,562	52	42	JN83	HA1ZH	H	6,125	87	49	JN86	YO7LDT	A	8	2	2	KN14
E24KHS	2	94	15	3	OK14	Op: 9A5ST						HA2VR/P	H	4,588	79	37	JN87	YO2NAA	6	828	36	23	KN05
HS8GLR	2	64	16	2	OJ07	9A3CJW	A	42	6	6	JN83	HA5HX	Q	1,218	42	29	JN86	YO7AWZ	6	272	17	16	KN14
E29AU	2	36	6	3	OK03	9A91	2	5,562	103	27	JN85	HA6OA	Q	12	3	2	JN97	YO2LEL	6	54	9	6	KN05
Op: E211ZC						9A0V	M	13,940	170	41	JN95	HA6W	M	95,029	382	163	KN08	YO7CKP	6	30	6	5	KN14
HS6ZBQ	2	36	6	3	NK96	ENGLAND						HA6Z	M	8,424	117	36	JN97	YO3GNF	6	20	5	4	KN34
E20YLM	2	18	3	3	OK16	OK1DC	A	8,610	107	42	JN69	IRELAND						YO5CUQ	6	20	5	4	KN16
HS4GZG	2	12	3	2	OK07	OK1GTH	2	16,376	178	46	JN69	EI5IX	6	2,232	62	36	IO53	YO6MT	6	12	4	3	KN26
HS4WLA	2	8	2	2	OK17	DENMARK						ITALY						YO8SAO/P	H	18	6	3	KN26
HS8JKY	2	8	2	2	NJ98	OU3U	6	16	4	4	JO45	IQ4FF	6	456	24	19	JN64	YO8AXF/P	Q	176	14	11	KN16
E21HSY	Q	8	2	2	OK03	ENGLAND						I4JEE	6	210	15	14	JN54	SCOTLAND					
E27AAA	M	11,400	300	19	OK04	G0FPU	6	1	1	1	IO92	I21DFG	6	120	12	10	JN44	GM0V	A	588	28	21	IO85
E24TAQ	M	10,836	258	21	OK04	EUROPEAN RUSSIA						I22JNV/IN3	H	1,032	43	12	JN55	Op: GM00CV					
E27JAL	M	10,800	270	20	OK25	R6KA	6	825	33	25	KN75	I23NVR	H	30	6	5	JN65	SERBIA					
HS9JGQ	M	8,600	172	25	OK06	RD3FD	2	4,368	56	39	KN95	I23ALW	Q	1	1	1	JN65	YU1AHW	6	1,302	42	31	KN13
E24SBC	M	5,916	174	17	OK03	R6CS	2	4,320	54	40	KN95	LATVIA						Op: YT2TA					
HS00QB	M	5,180	185	14	OK04	R3CT	2	3,196	47	34	KO86	YL3CAAC	H	2	1	1	KO06	YU1RA	6	108	12	9	KN04
HS1EFA	M	2,400	150	8	OK03	UA1ANA	2	2,340	39	30	KP40	YL3CAAD	H	2	1	1	KO06	YU1BFG	M	11,084	128	68	KN04
HS3PHK	M	1,496	68	11	OK05	RK1AS	Q	2,720	40	34	KP40	LITHUANIA						SICILY					
E28AD	M	1,296	54	12	NK98	RN3DKQ	Q	162	9	9	KO85	LY2FN	2	40	5	4	KO14	IT9XTP	A	12,870	143	90	JM68
E23VVK	M	1,122	51	11	OK16	UA6AH	M	168	12	7	KN94	MACEDONIA						IT9NAN	6	986	34	29	JM77
E20AE	M	468	39	6	OK04	EUROPEAN TURKEY						SLOVENIA						Op: YL2TA					
HS3WZO	M	264	22	6	OK14	TA1D	6	4,655	95	49	KM39	Z3K	6	16	4	4	KN02	S59A	6	6,633	99	67	JN76
HS9AY	M	114	19	3	OJ06	WEST MALAYSIA						Op: HA5IW						Op: YL2TA					
E28LX	M	96	12	4	OK08	9W2JMW	Q	1	1	1	OJ12	Op: HA5IW						Op: YL2TA					
HS3NUP/R	R	7,040	176	20	4	Op: HA5IW						Op: HA5IW						Op: YL2TA					
E27DX/R	R	2,898	63	23	5	Op: HA5IW						Op: HA5IW						Op: YL2TA					
E22EXA/R	R	64	8	4	2	Op: HA5IW						Op: HA5IW						Op: YL2TA					

# The “Unofficial” Left Coast Report for the 2017 CQWW VHF Contest

BY BRUCE KRIPTON, KG6IYN

It was the analog of times. It was the digital of times.

As would be the norm for my operating in any contest, I started this event about two hours after the starting gun. With work and family obligations (both of those are also important), there wasn't time to stage and build a day in advance as I normally try to. All work to set up and run the event happened Saturday morning with subsequent teardown Sunday afternoon, once the contest was over (for those interested, a “complete” time lapse video of the event from beginning to end is available here: <<http://bit.ly/2zkOnLv>>).

Radios turned on, computer running, time synced to WWV and it's off to the races. Coming out of the gate, it's all local traffic, with a few exceptions 300 miles east in Arizona on 2 meters.

About an hour in for me (close to three hours in from the official start time) propagation on 6 meters starts up to the Pacific Northwest: Oregon, Washington, Idaho and various parts of Canada. As the next couple of hours progress, Es starts a slow, clockwise rotation towards the Midwest and Great Lakes region and some odd hits to the Northeastern U.S. that became more of a persistent “path” for well over two hours.

After that, on 6 meters, it was random contacts in the 500- to 1,000-mile range to the Texarhoma region. As we got into the late afternoon hours and rolling in to early Saturday evening, it

was back to the Pacific Northwest again, which is where the evening ended.

Sunday morning, all was quiet on the 6-meter side, but it was time again to catch the “early birds” in Arizona and Nevada on 2 meters (Thanks to the Desert Rats and other clubs that are encouraging activity during these events). As midmorning progressed, 6 meters came to life in a big way to the southern central states again [with shorter and longer hops via Sporadic E (Es) mixed in] and stayed that way until the closing bell at end of the contest.

And now for the weird and Left Coast-related observations:

If you happened to “watch” the contest on the propagation reporting sites on the internet, it was clear that almost all of the reported activity was from the central states to the east coast or thereabouts. Way off to that infamous lower left-hand corner of the continental United States, there was only a small group of operators working the openings on 6 meters. Here is where I describe why I opened the ULCR for 2017 with “It was the analog of times. It was the digital of times.”

If you happened to participate in the ARRL June VHF Contest a month earlier, there was a big “game changer” that happened with the latest release of WSJT X and its JT65 updates right before the contest. Effectively it made contacts possible even when there was no apparent propagation mechanisms avail-

S56P	2	23,280	194	60	JN76	UT2UB	2	408	17	12	KO50
S59GS	Q	1,058	31	23	JN75	UR8OE	2	252	18	7	KN77
SPAIN											
EA1ASC	A	7,006	104	62	IN70	UR7ODO	2	160	16	5	KN77
EB1DJ	A	4,459	88	49	IN52	UR0QA/P	2	150	15	5	KN77
EA1HRR	A	2,914	56	47	IN83	UR7ODU	2	14	7	1	KN77
EA3HUJ	A	962	37	26	JN11	EM3U	H	456	19	12	KN59
EA4DE	6	6,528	102	64	IN80	UT1ZZ/A	H	4	2	1	KN48
EA5IDQ	6	4,674	82	57	IN98	UT6EY	Q	2,924	48	34	KN77
EA1DHB	6	2,948	67	44	IN82	UR8GZ	Q	1,875	40	25	KN66
EA4AA	6	2,820	60	47	IN80	UY5ON	Q	1,512	37	24	KN89
EA3AYQ	6	1,666	49	34	JN11	UX4UJ	Q	1,218	29	21	KN88
EA3KN	6	64	8	8	JN01	UT3G/P	Q	1,088	32	17	KN76
EA4CU	Q	180	14	12	IN80	UR6QW	Q	256	16	8	Op: US0GB KN77
SWEDEN											
SM6WET	6	49	7	7	JO68	UZ7W	M	3,108	60	42	KN18
SM4GGC	2	16,000	100	80	JO69	UT7E	M	2,346	44	34	KN78
UKRAINE											
US1Q	A	6,751	99	43	KN86	SOUTH AMERICA					
UY1HY	A	4,230	61	47	Op: UT1IC	BRAZIL					
UT7OF	A	2,204	50	29	KO60	PU2TRX	A	220	30	4	GG66
UY7ON	A	1,632	40	24	KN77	PY2ZZ	A	168	28	3	GG66
UT8LE	A	1,232	31	22	KN77	PY2AXH	A	51	9	3	GG66
UT7GB	A	765	31	17	KN79	PU1XZU	A	32	4	4	GG77
UT3UA	A	648	27	24	KN77	PP5EK	A	2	1	1	GG43
UZ2Q	A	319	20	11	KO50	PV8DX	6	63	9	7	FJ92
UZ5Q	A	208	13	8	KN87	PV8AZ	6	15	5	3	FJ92
UY5QO	A	104	9	8	KN77	PY2NF	2	768	64	6	GG66
UT2QQ	A	99	11	9	KN77	PU2TYA	2	30	15	1	GG66
UY5YA	A	28	7	4	KN87	PY2KS	2	30	15	1	GG66
UT5EL/A	A	18	3	3	KO31	PU2NAX	2	28	14	1	GG66
UR5LEH	A	8	2	2	KN89	PY2TTE	2	20	5	2	GG76
UR7LL	6	1,656	46	36	KN79	PU2MVE	2	16	8	1	GG66
UR1HM	6	1,140	40	35	KN69	PY2RBN	2	10	5	1	GG66
UT8IO	6	1,140	38	30	KN87	PU2PSP	Q	111	21	3	GG66
US8ZAL	6	660	30	22	KN66	PY2BI	Q	16	4	2	GG67
UX4UA	6	285	19	15	KN87	PU2MMP	M	1,192	77	8	GG66
UY9VY	6	121	11	11	KO50	PY2LCD	M	200	27	4	GG66
UT6UJ	6	108	11	9	KN68	VENEZUELA					
UT4XU	6	99	11	9	KO40	VV6CR	A	168	14	8	FJ78
UZ5U	6	72	9	8	KO71	CHECK LOGS					
UT5CB	6	16	4	4	KN59	These logs were used for cross-checking. Checklogs are always appreciated. AB3AI, CT1AVR, E72U, EA8BPX, FP/KV1J, GW6KLO, IK7LMX, K0GU, K3MEC, LY2X, LZ1VQ, N1FD, PY2SHF, RN6MA, SP2HHX, UR11, UR4LIN, UR5WMM, UT4UFZ, YO5OHO.					
UR5QW	6	6	3	2	KN77	DISQUALIFIED					
UX0FF	2	10,560	80	66	KN45	E24QND – Excessive unverified QSO's and grids.					
UR3EE	2	5,220	58	45	KN88						
UT7EL	2	1,560	39	20	KN77						
UX0QQ	2	990	33	15	KN87						
UY7LO	2	900	25	18	KO80						
UT8LN	2	736	23	16	KN89						
UR3GS	2	420	21	10	KN66						
US5IUF	2	418	19	11	KN88						

able on 6 meters. So, for that event, there were more folks on digital than I have ever seen ... either on the radio by listening, or on the computer via the waterfall. The humorous note for me was seeing 20 to 30+ traces (or more) going by on the computer screen, all of them more than strong enough (many were S-9+) to have easily been worked by phone. So, for those of us on the Left Coast, we were taking advantage of slow, but solid runs, as well as search-and-pounce operations, without contention on phone and CW (analog), while others were fighting it out on digital with lots of other folks and making a digital Q every three to four minutes at best.

Jumping back to the current CQWW VHF Contest, the previous week saw the release of WSJT X and its improved FT8 mode. Now clearly there's an advantage that FT8 can potentially make a valid contact and exchange in about 30 seconds, instead of three to four minutes with JT65, but we observed the same challenges noted in the June ARRL VHF Contest. Twenty to 40 signals at a time on the waterfall, most signals over S-9, and many stations running more power than needed while causing interference to other stations also trying to make contacts. The folks out here on the Left Coast once again leveraged phone and CW to work the spotty Es conditions that prevailed for the duration of the contest, where often there was only a short window for a full exchange of information to make a valid contact entry. For much of the contest, the propagation did not support second chances.

The other interesting aspect was that so many participants were playing with digital, the calling frequencies and spots adjacent to them on CW and phone were often dead quiet. No one calling CQ, no local chatter, etc. So while all was quiet here, there were huge pileups in the central states and eastern seaboard on phone, CW, and digital. If you weren't calling CQ from the Left Coast, you weren't making contacts, despite

reports several of us were in "solid" to Texas for several hours, we heard no traffic on our side — just CQ replies from random grid squares that the Es was kind enough to "light up" for us.

## Lessons Learned

We observed and "eavesdropped" on many PSK-31 and WSJT-X based QSOs. It was interesting, but it was clearly a detractor that so many were learning the ropes in a contest venue. It was also interesting to "see" a signal jump from a mid-S "something" to S9+20 or more when the operator got frustrated and didn't think he was getting out. The point again was that there was a lack of folks using more conventional modes (CW, phone) when the propagation supported it. For those on the Left Coast, jumping on the radio and listening to the calling frequencies for a few moments, hearing nothing and turning off the radio was an opportunity lost. Call CQ for at least several minutes, spin the dial up beyond 50.200, and at least to 50.350, to see if you can "hear" any digital activity, which could be an additional indicator the band is open to somewhere.

For the folks doing digital — if you're getting chewed up in the dogpile or pileup and the propagation is good, go back to CW or phone where you'll likely make loads of contacts with those who do not have digital capabilities, then fall back to digital modes when the propagation enhancement starts to fade.

As always, I want to thank to folks at CQ Magazine for sponsoring and supporting this event each year as well as the operators who also played on the airwaves over the weekend. To date, and having enjoyed this contest for over 10 years, from here on the Left Coast, this was a new high-water mark for new and longtime operators participating in the contest — a trend I hope will continue to grow.

Comments and feedback are always welcome, you can email here: <kg6iyn@arrl.net>.

– 73, Bruce, KG6IYN

---

---