

# Results of the 2020 CQ World Wide VHF Contest

BY JOHN "JK" KALENOWSKY,\* K9JK

**T**wenty-twenty ... a term used to describe perfect vision ... but what an interesting year it turned out to be. A global pandemic continues to grip the world with many negative impacts but amateur radio was generally positively affected, with more overall activity as the world population was subject to orders to stay home and to socially distance from others. As a hobby, amateur radio is quite compatible with social distancing (and achieving greater distance for contacts is a positive factor for contesting, particularly on the 50- and 144-MHz frequency bands).

I was pleasantly surprised at the growth in log submissions in 2019 and described last year's increase as an eclipse over

recent years. If that was an eclipse, then what is the term for an increase of over 50% in (more than 500 additional) log submissions experienced in 2020? Is that a supernova? This year brought 1,477 logs submitted, and an additional 22 checklogs for a total of 1,499.

Propagation on 50 MHz was not as good as it has been in previous years and this impacted activity on that band. Six-meter QSO and multiplier totals in this year's logs were lower than in 2019. This encouraged stations in all band categories to spend more time on 144 MHz, where QSOs are worth two points. It also appears that many stations focused exclusively on the newer digital modes with over 500 logs reporting Digital (DG) or RTTY (RY) as the only mode used for their QSOs. Another 250 logs reported more than 80% and 200 more logs reporting at least one QSO using the digital modes.

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*Peter, WW2Y, made a GridXpedition to semi-rare FN24 in upstate New York for the contest. Peter provided an extended write-up of his effort for the August 2020 edition of "Cheese Bits", the Mt. Airy VHF Club's monthly newsletter. It can be found at the club's website <<https://tinyurl.com/y26j4rxu>>.*



While the count of log submissions increased by more than 50% from 2019, the count of QSOs grew by less than 10%. Of just over 86,000 QSOs reported in this year's submitted logs, the split between 50 and 144 MHz was about 79% / 21%. In 2019, the split was about 88%/12%. Looking at the modes reported on the QSO: Lines, the impact of the WSJT-X program on contesting is quite noticeable — 77% of QSOs on 50 MHz and 42% of QSOs on 144 MHz reported DG or RY as the mode. Phone (PH) was still used in 2020, 13.5% on 6 meters and 34.5% on 2 meters. Activity on CW remained present on 50 MHz, with 9% of QSOs but was only used for 1.5% of QSOs on 144 MHz. FM activi-

ty was fairly popular on 2 meters with 22% of QSOs using that mode, but FM on 6 meters was minimal, just 0.3%.

## USA

Stations in the contiguous 48 U.S. states submitted 854 (plus eight checklogs) logs in 2020, almost 60% of the total. Single-Operator, Single-Band, 6 meters, and Single Operator All-Band were the most popular entry categories with 369 and 351 logs, respectively. There were 42 entries in the Single-Operator-QRP (All Band) category, 39 Rovers, 23 2-meter only, 20 Multi-op, and 10 Hilltoppers made up the balance of categories. The fourth call area continued as the busiest with 180 logs. Seven-land

stepped up with 111 logs submitted, almost doubling the 62 from that area in 2019. Activity from California in 2020 more than tripled over last year, with 75 logs versus 23 in 2019.

Familiar calls return as the U.S. leaders in many of the categories for 2020. With 369 QSOs on 6 and 199 QSOs on 2 meters, K1TEO reclaimed the top spot in Single-Operator All-Band with a total score of 118,716.

As was generally the case, Jeff's QSO and grid count was down on 6 meters but increased on 2 meters as compared to 2019.

Dan, K1TO, continued his reign as leader of the Single-Operator Six-Meter-only category. With a score of 73,514 from "only" 416 QSOs and 178 multipliers (down from last year's 700 Qs and 203 grids), the less favorable conditions on 6 meters clearly impacted Dan's score.



Valya, UTØRQ, at her operating position in Ukraine, along with her antennas.

## TOP SCORES

### WORLD

<b>All Band</b>	HA4BF .....952
UR6F .....61,122	JK1VUZ/P .....217
VE3WY .....34,450	
R6KA .....29,737	<b>QRP</b>
UW8SM .....21,658	EM9Q .....39,730
VA6AN .....17,716	UT8AL .....14,553
	UT3LL .....6,760
<b>6 Meters</b>	M5W .....6,270
UX2X .....52,246	UT4RZ .....5,016
EA8DBM .....43,175	
UWØK .....37,268	<b>Rover</b>
VE4VT .....24,871	E27DIX/R .....1,204
UT4XU .....21,060	VE2NR/R .....560
	VE3WJ/R .....464
	VE3OIL/R .....260
	G1E/R .....169
	<b>Multi-Op</b>
<b>2 Meters</b>	HA6W .....154,428
US4IEK .....10,384	UZ2I .....22,736
US8AR .....5,772	OP2D .....20,498
HA1WA .....5,394	E27AC .....19,320
HS3SMO .....4,608	E27AAA .....14,250
PY2NF .....4,004	
	<b>Hilltopper</b>
UT1I .....1,800	
I2ZJNN/IN3 .....1,157	
UR8IW .....1,023	

### USA

<b>All Band</b>	K7IW .....140
K1TEO .....118,716	NZ6N .....120
W8ZN .....97,344	KG9OV .....117
K2DRH .....83,082	
N2NT .....69,496	<b>QRP</b>
AA5AM .....52,080	KO9A .....30,135
	NJ4Y .....21,244
<b>6 Meters</b>	NØUR .....13,912
K1TO .....73,514	K6MI .....2,204
KC4PX .....53,284	K4PPK .....2,183
W5PR .....50,880	
N1AV .....33,108	<b>Rover</b>
N4BP .....31,460	ACØRA/R .....378,308
	WB8LY/J/R .....41,756
<b>2 Meters</b>	W9FZ/R .....37,252
AA4ZZ .....18,560	NV4B/R .....25,916
W1VD .....16,432	AE5P/R .....19,008
K1HTV .....5,508	
KT8O .....3,100	<b>Multi-Op</b>
N1RR .....3,072	N4SVC .....93,120
	WD9EXD .....91,107
<b>Hilltopper</b>	W3SO .....61,744
K9PW .....2,214	WS9V .....36,432
WA5RR .....902	



*Buck Bald in Polk County, Tennessee, where Matt, NJ4Y, set up to operate in the contest.*

ACØRA/R adapted to 2020's different propagation conditions and, again, raised the all-time Rover category top score by another 51,000 points over 2019. Wyatt's 385 QSOs on 6 meters were about 2/3 of his 2019 QSOs on the band, but 227 QSOs on 2 meters were almost double last year's 121.

In the Single-Operator All-Band QRP category, KO9A repeated as the top scorer, achieving a score of 30,135. Jim capitalized on the digital modes, utilizing both FT8 and MSK-144 to collect 76 multipliers on 50 MHz.

There was a close race in the U.S. Single-Operator Single-Band 2 meters category with Paul, AA4ZZ, just edging ahead of last year's top scorer, W1VD. While Jay grew his QSO count to 164 (he had 103 last year), versus Paul's 163, Paul prevailed in multipliers with 58 for a final score of 18,560 over Jay's 52 multipliers.

With limited time on the contest weekend, K9PW put together a Hilltopper effort and operated in the last six hours of the contest. Pete stretched his QRP signal to complete 63 QSOs for a final score of 2,214. The team of operators at K5QE returned to the top spot in the Multi-Operator category, trading places with the team at N4SVC (2019's Multi-op leader). Marshall and his operating team completed 395 QSOs for a final score of 118,000. As Marshall noted in his Scatter comments, "we had a decent contest this time. We were way short of ops, but everyone seems to be scared of the stupid virus.

After just about wiping us out in the June ARRL contest, Murphy stayed away this time."

From 42 U.S. clubs from which more than three logs were received, the Potomac Valley Radio Club stepped up to lead the club competition with 54 entries for an aggregate score of 316,873. W8ZN's score of 97,344 from Terry's GridXpedition to EM87 was the top score in the Club category.

## DX

There were 603 logs (plus 14 checklogs) received from all six continents. You can see the breakdown in the table below:

Continent	Logs	# of different DXCC Countries
Africa	2	1
Asia	87	9
Europe	272	36
Oceania	54	4
South America	119	3
North America (other than U.S.)	69	6

With 114 logs submitted (96% of the logs submitted from South America), Brazil was the top source of logs among the non-U.S. countries. Ukraine was the participation leader for



Billy, PY2LCD, and Francisco, PY2NF, set up two stations at Pico do Diamante in Brazil (GG77). Billy operated All-Band while Francisco was 2-meter only.

### QSO & GRID LEADERS

#### 6-Meter QSOs

K1TO .....	416
ACØRA/R .....	385
K1TEO .....	369
KC4PX .....	356
W5PR .....	322
W8ZN .....	321
N4SVC .....	307
UX2X .....	307
AA5AM .....	296
EM9Q .....	284
EA8DBM .....	279
N1AV .....	275
N4WW .....	272
K5QE .....	272
N4BP .....	261

#### 6-Meter Grids

ACØRA/R .....	287
K1TO .....	178
UX2X .....	173
W5PR .....	160
EA8DBM .....	157
UWØK .....	154
KC4PX .....	154
N4SVC .....	151
K5QE .....	150
EM9Q .....	145
AA5AM .....	144
W8ZN .....	139
N4WW .....	135
R6KA .....	131
K2DRH .....	129

#### 2-Meter QSOs

E27AC .....	461
E27AAA .....	375
HA6W .....	271
HS7AP .....	257
ACØRA/R .....	227
K1TEO .....	199
W1VD .....	164
AA4ZZ .....	163
N2NT .....	154
E23GBD .....	150
HS3SMO .....	145
W3SO .....	137
HS1AN .....	134
E22WMI .....	129
K5QE .....	123

#### 2-Meter Grids

ACØRA/R .....	171
K5QE .....	86
HA6W .....	77
WB8LYJ/R .....	74
WD9EXD .....	63
AA4ZZ .....	58
UR6F .....	55
K2DRH .....	54
W8ZN .....	53
W1VD .....	52
W3SO .....	51
W9FZ/R .....	51
K1TEO .....	47
N9FN .....	47
WS9V .....	47
W9VW .....	47
W9YOY/R .....	47

Europe, with 70 logs submitted; DL9NEI noted, “seemed like Ukrainian Contest to me” in his Scatter comment. Among non-U.S. North America, Canada was the top log submitter, with 54. Japan was the leader in log submissions from Asia with 36, but Thailand continued its string of participation with 27 entries. With significant activity from Indonesia and the Philippines, log submissions from Oceania grew substantially, from just 8 in 2019 to 54 in 2020.

By category, Single-Operator Single-Band 6 meters was the most popular among the DX stations, with 226 entries. Single-Operator Single-Band 2 meters was next in popularity, with 155 entries. There were 117 logs submitted as Single-Operator All-Band and there were 57 Single-Operator All-Band QRP logs. The remaining 48 DX entries consisted of 27 Multi-Operator, 11 Hilltoppers, and 10 Rovers.

Hungary’s HA6W team repeated as the world top scorer in the Multi-Operator category. Seven operators logged 223 QSOs on 6 meters and 271 QSOs on 2 meters for a final score of 154,428. Ukraine was the place to be for a top score in many categories. UR6F, operated by UXØFF, claimed the best score for Single-Operator All-Band. Nikolay completed 283 QSOs in 183 grids for a final score of 61,112.

In the Single-Operator Six-Meter-only category, UX2X, operated by Anatoly, UT2XQ, prevailed with a final score of 52,246 from 307 QSOs and 173 Grids.

Sergei, UR9QQ, operated using the call EM9Q to claim the #1 spot in the Single-Operator All Band QRP category with a score of 39,730. All of Sergei’s 275 QSOs and 145 multipliers were completed on the 50-MHz band.

In the Single-Operator Single-Band 2-meters-only category, it was Gennadij,

### ROVERS & GRIDS OPERATED

AA5PR/R	.....	DM63 DM76
ABØYM/R	.....	DM78 DM79 DM88 DM89 DN70 DN71 DN80 DN81
ACØRA/R	.....	EM59 EM69 EN31 EN32 EN41 EN42 EN50 EN60
AD4IE/R	.....	EM95 EM96
AE5P/R	.....	EM20 EM21 EM22 EM30 EM31 EM32
AE8AT/R	.....	EM79 EN70 EN80
AF1R/R	.....	FN32 FN33 FN41 FN42
AF5WN/R & KK5WA	.....	EM34 EM35 EM43 EM44
E27DIX/R	.....	OK02 OK03 OK04 OK13
G1E/R (Op: G1TPA)	.....	JO00 JO01
HS7WMU/R	.....	NK93 OK02 OK03
IZ3NVR/M	.....	JN65 JN66
JL3DQX/R	.....	PM74 PM75
K5ND/R	.....	EM03 EM24
K6JO/R & W6MFJ	.....	DM12 DM13 DM14 DM22 DM23 DM24
K6LMN/R	.....	DM03 DM04 DM14
K7JSG/R	.....	CN87 CN97
K9JK/R	.....	EN51 EN52 EN61 EN62
KAØRYT/R	.....	EN25 EN26 EN35 EN36
KA7RRA/R	.....	CN86 CN87 CN88 CN97 CN98
KE7MSU/R	.....	CN84 CN85
KI5FIQ/R	.....	EM20 EM21 EM22 EM30 EM31 EM32
KK4BZ/R	.....	FM08 FM09 FM18 FM19
KM6ZJK/R	.....	CM94 DM04
KT5TE/R	.....	EM20 EM21 EM22 EM30 EM31 EM32
LU7MC/R	.....	FF56 FF57 FF66
N2DXT/R	.....	FN20 FN21 FN30 FN31
N2SLN/R	.....	FN12 FN22 FN23
N4DKF/R	.....	EM85 EM86 FM04 FM05
N4HWH/R	.....	EM85 EM86 EM95
N6GP/R	.....	DM03 DM04 DM12 DM13 DM14
N6RH/R	.....	EM20 EM21 EM22 EM30 EM31 EM32
N6ZE/R	.....	CM99 CN82
N8OC/R	.....	EN56 EN57 EN66 EN74 EN75 EN76 EN85 EN86
N9TTX/R	.....	EN33 EN34 EN43 EN44 EN45 EN54 EN55
NV4B/R	.....	EM52 EM53 EM54 EM55 EM61 EM62 EM63 EM64 EM65
VA3PAF/R	.....	EN93 EN94 FN04
VE2NR/R (Op: VE2DDZ)	.....	FN26 FN45
VE3OIL/R	.....	EN93 FN03
VE3WJ/R	.....	FN03 FN04 FN14
W3DHJ/R	.....	DM77 DM78 DM87 DM88
W4GRW/R	.....	EM85 EM86
W5TV/R	.....	EM21 EM22 EM31 EM32
W9FZ/R & KA9VVQ	.....	EN25 EN26 EN33 EN34 EN35 EN36 EN43 EN44
W9YOY/R	.....	EN50 EN51 EN52 EN60 EN61 EN62
WB5IDY/R	.....	EM20 EM21 EM22 EM30 EM31 EM32
WB6AGE/R	.....	CN85 CN86
WB8LYJ/R	.....	EM73 EM80 EM81 EM82 EM83
WD5HJF/R	.....	EM23 EM24 EM33

## CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

### UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	54	316,873
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	13	251,738
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	43	234,130
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	18	224,620
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	16	217,378
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	35	167,327
DFW CONTEST GROUP	5	140,515
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	19	120,934
FLORIDA WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	8	111,458
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	23	106,743
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	18	96,804
FOUR LANDERS VHF/UHF GROUP	10	91,708
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	20	85,145
MICHIGAN VHF-UHF SOCIETY	5	79,596
BADGER CONTESTERS	8	70,390
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	5	65,464
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	6	57,856
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	3	48,047
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	14	44,446
NEW MEXICO VHF SOCIETY	8	39,204
ARIZONA VHF SOCIETY	4	38,482
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	12	35,615
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	29,794
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSOCIATION	4	29,576
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	14	29,302
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	13	27,373
NACOGDOCHES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	24,080
ROCHESTER VHF GROUP	4	21,517
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSOCIATION	11	19,594
BERGEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION	5	17,512
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	3	13,620

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	4	12,997
NORTH TEXAS CONTEST CLUB	3	12,538
SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY	6	12,419
ST LOUIS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4	9,407
DALLAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	8,439
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	7	7,645
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	3	7,271
KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	3	3,411
EDMONDS WOODWAY ARC	3	3,032
CONEJO VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	2,242
VENTURA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY	4	1,107

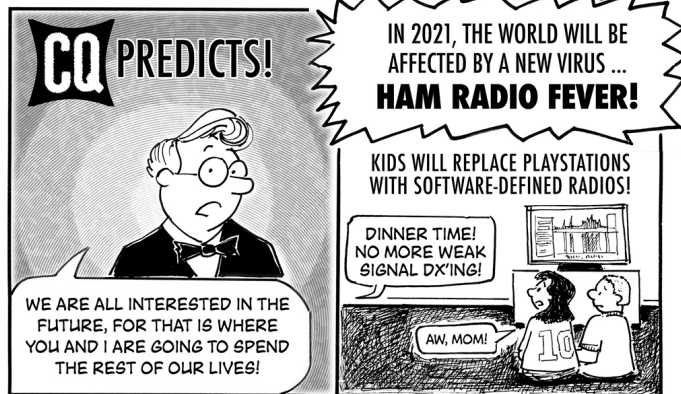
### DX

UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	18	281,463
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	16	72,022
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	8	23,789
UKRAINIAN VHF INTERNATIONAL CONTEST CLUB	8	20,041
CDR GROUP	22	10,098
CABREUVADX	31	9,161
CSTA SUCEAVA	3	4,588
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	4	2,630
599 DX GROUP	8	1,648
THRACIAN ROSE CLUB	3	1,567
CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	3	1,133
RIO DX GROUP	4	1,080
DX7HQ	3	900
ARAUCARIA DX GROUP	7	886
SPDX CLUB	3	864
YU1HFG	10	588
ORARI	5	168
LU CONTEST GROUP	4	136
YB LAND DX CLUB	6	78

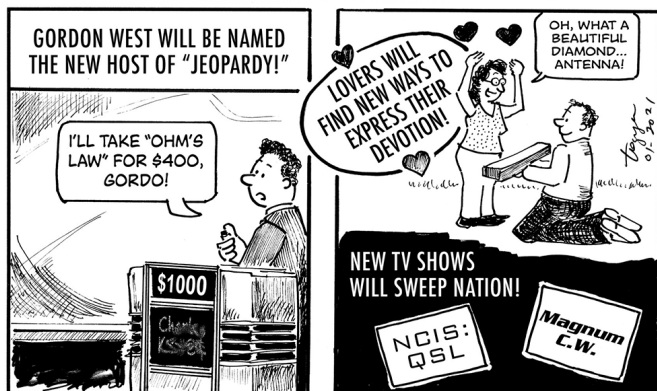
## SPURIOUS SIGNALS

By Jason Togyer W3MCK

[spuriouscomic.blogspot.com](http://spuriouscomic.blogspot.com)



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US4IEK, finishing at the top with 118 QSOs and 44 grids for a final score of 10,384.

Completing Ukraine's top scoring spree was the Hilltopper effort of UT1I, operated by Yuri, UT1IC. Yuri's score of 1,800 resulted from 45 QSOs and 30 multipliers in his six hours of operating time.

This year's world leader in the Rover category was from Thailand. Somsak, E27DIX, travelled to four grids, completing 44 QSOs and collecting 14 multipliers for a score of 1,204.

Among 19 DX clubs that met the minimum requirement of three log submissions, the Ukrainian Contest Club claimed the top aggregate club score with a total of 281,463. UR6F's score of 61,112 was the leading score among the 18 logs from the club.

## Putting 2020 Behind Us ... On to 2021!

The dates for the 2021 CQWW VHF Contest are set as July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Let's hope that the global pandemic will ease but even if it doesn't, we can still "socially distance" on the 50- and 144-MHz bands. With the sun appearing to be waking up and starting a new cycle of sunspots, perhaps there will be some interesting propagation on 50 MHz when the third weekend of July comes around.

One more thing about 2020, your contest director dropped the ball on confirming plaque sponsorships this year. Look for plaque information in the February 2021 issue.

Repeating the constant plea of past directors, if you operate, please send in a log. Any size log is greatly appreciated. If you need help, please ask. More logs make cross-checking more accurate.

Don't forget to check out the CQWW VHF website at <[www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com)>. Comments, suggestions, and corrections are always welcome. Quite a bit of the data was entered manually. If you find an error, please let us know.

(Scores on page 107)