

# 2014 ARRL June VHF Contest Results

**Propagation was below average but way better than last year!**

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Good news — the June 2013 contest propagation was much better on June 21 – 23 than it was last year. Bad news — it was still below average even in the best places and really slow in others, such as the whole western half of the country. Better news — at least it seems to be trending back up! Conditions were not especially good, but for the majority of participants it was not totally dismal either. In the Midwest, 6 meters produced only a few scattered sporadic E ( $E_s$ ) openings that were relatively short and narrowly focused. A few sweet spots in Texas and Florida seemed to fare pretty well.

Many of the Top Ten scores were at least half again higher than last year's, with some doubling their score. Once again, tropospheric ducting or other enhanced modes on 2 meters and above did not seem to play a major role for the majority of stations. While there was some excellent enhancement reported from FM grid mountaintop stations in the FM grid well into the EM and EN grids, in fact, most parts of the country experienced average-to-poor conditions.

## Tuning Around the Bands

Despite the majority of stations experiencing only short  $E_s$  openings with sharply defined footprints, some sections had much better 6 meter propagation, notably in Florida and Texas. In the past, 6 meter QSO and grid totals have played a large role in the scores of the top stations in these areas, and this year was kind to them again. Unlike 2013 when there were no stations over 1000 QSOs, Chuck, W5PR (EL29), and Marshall, K5QE's Limited Multiop team in STX (EM31) both broke that barrier with grid multiplier totals well over 200. Also noteworthy, George, K5TR (EM00), had a multiplier total in the 200s. Tom, WD5K (EM12); Mike, AE5EB (EL09), and Dick, K5AND (EM00), posted good 6 meter results, too. Once again, Marshall, K5QE, was able to log more 6 meter multipliers than any other station.

Eleven stations made it over the 500-QSO mark, including the Multiops at W2SZ,



Hector, XE2K, used this eight-element Loop-Fed Array on 6 meters. [Hector Garcia, XE2K, photo]

W3CCX, NØSZ, and Limited Multiops W5ZN and W4IY. This was achieved despite a shortage of sustained  $E_s$  propagation apparent in lower grid counts. Notable 6 meter totals over 500 QSOs were also logged by Florida stations Dan, K1TO (EL87); Bobby, N3LL (EL86); Austin, N4WW (EL98), and Bob, N4BP (EL96). Tom, K4PI, in EM73 (GA) also managed to rack up a 500-plus total. The Limited Multiop teams at W5ZN in EM45 (AR) and W4IY in FM08 (VA) round out the list. But unlike 2013, the Colorado, New Mexico, and

Arizona stations didn't seem to have as much in the way of 6 meter openings.

The 2 meter band is often a starting point for "band running" (moving a station from band to band), because most stations are best equipped for tropospheric propagation (tropo) on 2 meters. The number of stations working more than 100 QSOs on 2 meters increased slightly to 35, from 27 in 2013 and 29 in 2012. Even with essentially flat propagation for most of us, the mountaintop multiops and rovers were able to take advantage of their favorable elevations. They caught whatever limited enhancement opportunities existed and some worked over 200 QSOs on 2 meters. W4IY in FM08 reported working all the way from Canada down to Cuba and the Cayman Island.

In any given contest, 222 MHz has as good or better propagation than 2 meters and lower environmental noise. Often, stations are significantly louder on 222 than they are on 2 meters. In all the ARRL VHF contests, QSOs on 222 score the same higher point value as on 432, and provide multipliers that significantly enhance scores. It's a must-have band for competitive multiops, rovers, and single ops. Five stations in the June VHF contest had 100 or more QSOs on 222; three multiops, K8GP/R, and Jeff, K1TEO.

While more commercial multiband rigs include 432 MHz, propagation on the band is generally more difficult and requires mast-mounted preamps to be truly effective because coax loss can be a significant factor. Often, propagation falls off rapidly and stations are much weaker or unworkable on 432. However, given a little tropo enhancement, stations that are workable on 2 and 222 may actually be as strong or stronger on 432, since practically sized beams are available with more gain than at lower frequencies. Eight stations in the June contest had 432 QSO totals over 100; five multiops, K8GP/R, ACØRA/R, and once again, Jeff, K1TEO.

## Single Operator

The majority of contest activity originates with the single-op entrants who build stations

## Affiliated Club Competition

### Unlimited Club Category

Society of Midwest Contesters	57	579,810
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### Medium Club Category

Potomac Valley Radio Club	31	1,319,404
North East Weak Signal Group	16	986,314
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	18	891,437
Florida Contest Group	16	717,585
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	7	648,691
Southern California Contest Club	23	459,242
Contest Club Ontario	21	395,444
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	9	299,276
Carolina DX Association	4	239,346
Northern Lights Radio Society	17	213,535
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	19	213,092
DFW Contest Club	12	208,427
Badger Contesters	8	208,390
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	29	207,744
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	23	200,670
Florida Weak Signal Society	9	173,957
Frankford Radio Club	8	141,195
Northern California Contest Club	19	136,268
North Texas Contest Club	3	125,190
Tennessee Contest Group	7	122,621
Alabama Contest Group	11	106,589
South East Contest Club	6	69,359
Bergen ARA	3	57,431
Cold Brook Contest Club	4	52,429
Utah DX Assn	3	41,704
Mad River Radio Club	6	39,431
CTRI Contest Group	3	34,573
Georgia Contest Group	5	34,328
North Coast Contesters	3	34,312
Louisiana Contest Club	4	33,409
Roadrunners Microwave Group	3	33,135
Western Washington DX Club	4	19,330
Willamette Valley DX Club	5	14,963
Bristol (TN) ARC	5	10,267
Rochester VHF Group	5	9,973
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	3	2,976
Minnesota Wireless Assn	3	2,376

### Local Club Category

Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers	3	82,516
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	3	49,001
Eastern Connecticut ARA	3	28,849
Rappahannock ARA	3	24,966
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	4	8,047
Ventura County Amateur Radio Society	4	6,824
Burlington County Radio Club	3	5,637
Meriden ARC	3	3,490
Contoocook Valley Radio Club	4	3,126
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	3	1,557
Radiosport Manitoba	3	366

that range from a single band with a modest antenna to a multi-band powerhouse with stacked arrays. These stations have been the backbone of VHF+ contesting — even the modest single-band stations make an essential contribution to the winner's success. These stations allow others to enjoy the bands by providing a lot more stations to work.

Low power stations with 100–200 W amplifiers have always been the mainstay of contest activity since well before the category was established, so it's no surprise that the Single Op, Low Power (SOLP) category proved to be the most popular. The Overall SOLP W3ZZ First Log Award — Memorial has been sponsored by Tim, K3LR, and Dave, W9PA, for the third year and goes to Dale Porterfield, KJ4ZYB. Good job and welcome to the ranks of SOLP VHF+ contesting!

This article's author, Bob, K2DRH, in EN41

(Illinois) took first place in SOLP with a score of 241K using eight bands through 3456 MHz. His overall multiplier total was augmented by working a lot of weak 6 meter stations while being on the fringe of the real 6 meter E<sub>s</sub> openings. Frequent Top Ten finisher WB1GQR, manned by Mitch, W1SJ, moved up to second with 138K, also using eight bands through 3456. While he had 94 fewer QSOs and 16 fewer grids, it was the higher point values on 222 and above that gave Mitch the edge over 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher N3LL.

The Single Op, High Power (SOHP) category is where big guns of the VHF+ contesting world really get to play. Jeff, K1TEO, in FN31 (Connecticut) with his 10-band station took top honors with 415K, despite few E<sub>s</sub> opportunities, flat tropo conditions, major tower repair, equipment troubleshooting work before the contest, and suddenly losing 5 and 10 GHz capability toward the end. When the desire to excel kicks in, getting down and doing all the hard work it takes to get things back up and working after a disaster really separates the leaders from the followers.

The Single Operator Portable category limits station to 10 W, making it 10 – 20 dB more difficult to be heard on the bottom four bands and a few opt to run amps and enter as single op low power instead. Chris, W1MR, from FN43gd (New Hampshire) moved up from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> place this time with his eight-band station, scoring 23K. Tor, N4OGW, is a newcomer to VHF+ contesting who really made a big splash his first time out from Little Mountain with a five-element, 6 meter Yagi hanging from a tree and a 2 meter, nine-element beam. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 14K and made a new Mississippi Section record.

This is the second year for the two new single-operator categories. Single Op, 3-Band (SO3B) is clearly a popular choice with 118 entries, defecting mostly from the SOLP category. Single Op, FM-Only (SOFM) almost doubled in size, with 17 log submissions. As expected, many of these set new section, division, and overall records.

Sporadic E made SO3B a faceoff between Texas and Florida for the top spot. Mike, AB5EB, used his EL09 (STX) sweet spot with another 49 contacts on 2 meters and 432 to vault himself into 1<sup>st</sup> place. Entries in the SOFM category spanned both coasts and many included QSOs on all of the bottom four bands. The top score in the SOFM category was logged by Ev, W2EV, of FN03 in WNY. Ev doubled last year's first-place ef-

## Top Ten

Single Operator, Low Power	Limited Multioperator
K2DRH 241,450	K5QE 483,448
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 138,171	W4IY 466,880
N3LL 135,975	W3SO 411,554
N3RG 119,314	K2LIM 294,756
N4QWZ 115,322	W5ZN 269,028
AF1T 81,900	AA4ZZ 217,074
W9GA 81,738	W2LV 133,224
N0LL 80,698	N2NT 113,687
K1KG 71,020	N8ZM 95,632
	W4NH 61,480
Single Operator, High Power	Multioperator
K1TEO 415,336	W2SZ 1,093,902
K5TR 281,796	W3CCX 521,260
K1RZ 258,272	K1WHS 257,570
W5PR 235,840	KB0HH 136,960
K5AND 143,200	N0SZ 109,392
WD5K 122,574	W6TE 88,328
W3PAW 115,404	WE1P 87,176
W4ZRZ 113,231	W6TV 82,176
W9RM 102,912	AD4ES 80,808
	N7CW 58,656
Single Operator Portable	Rover
W1MR 23,310	K8GP 295,317
N4OGW 14,673	VE3SMA/R 127,641
KB5WIA 10,291	VE3OIL/R 125,704
W9SZ 5,763	W6TTF 70,416
W0PV 4,895	W3PPTV 50,676
AF6RR 4,743	K4SME/R 45,652
NV4B/5 3,381	AG4V/R 43,888
WB2AMU 2,730	NB3Q/R 42,186
N2SPI 2,320	VE3WJ 41,107
KG2A 2,160	W9SNR/R 32,307
Single Operator Three Band	Limited Rover
AB5EB 138,891	AC0RA/R 146,692
K1TO 105,376	WW7D/R 40,140
AA5AM 94,080	K2QO/R 39,624
N3RN 56,048	AL1VE/R 32,120
K1SYG 51,198	N6GP 29,625
KG6IYN 50,304	KD5EUO/R 27,972
K4UB 45,047	W9YOY/R 27,664
KO9A 40,810	K9PW/R 12,648
K9MU 33,880	N2ZBH/R 11,628
KM4ID 27,768	KE7IHG/R 10,350
Single Operator FM-Only	Unlimited Rover
W2EV 1,650	W3HMS 18,678
K1GJW 616	K6EUJ/R 15,768
N9VM (N1VM, op) 510	AF5Q 10,375
KB1YSK 423	N2QIP/R 2,046
W7AIT 418	K8DOG/R 1,813
W2EBB 216	WA5KBH/R 756
N2PEQ 203	
KA6AMB 200	
N1LF 176	

fort with 54 contacts and 22 grids on four bands for 1650 points, the first to crack the 1000-point mark in this new category.

## Multioperators

While some of these are fixed stations maintained by generous hosts who love the camaraderie and competition, others take an expeditionary outlook to find just the right mountaintop spot from which to operate. They lug huge amounts of stuff up bad roads to sit in trailers, trucks, and tents, often enduring the wind and cold in their remote locations. Having done this many years ago from Wayah Bald in North Carolina with the Fourlanders as W4AQL and operating inside the box of a rental truck during a driving rainstorm, the author can tell you first hand that it takes a lot of desire and determination.

## Regional Leaders

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 East, Ontario North, Ontario South and Greater Toronto A)			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)		
WB1GQR			N3LL	135,975	LP	KL2DRH	241,450	LP	N0LL	80,698	LP	WJ0F	35,695	LP
(W1SJ, op)	138,171	LP	N4QWZ	115,322	LP	W9GA	81,738	LP	W5SXD	48,416	LP	NQ7R	24,644	LP
N3RG	119,314	LP	K2PS	67,734	LP	N9DG	65,836	LP	N0POH	33,276	LP	WA6OSX	23,700	LP
AF1T	81,900	LP	N4BP	66,944	LP	VA3ZV	38,896	LP	KK0Q	31,944	LP	K2GMY	21,692	LP
K1KG	71,020	LP	N4TWX	46,750	LP	WZ8T	31,297	LP	WA8ZBT	23,587	LP	N7AT		
K2KIB	42,672	LP	W4ZRZ	113,231	HP	W0UC	95,226	HP	K5TR	281,796	HP	(K8IA, op)	21,112	LP
K1TEO	415,336	HP	N4WWW	90,117	HP	K9EA	73,320	HP	W5PR	235,840	HP	N6MU	82,128	HP
K1RZ	258,272	HP	W3IP	84,480	HP	K9CT	61,304	HP	K5AND	143,200	HP	K6KLY	52,528	HP
W3PAW	115,404	HP	K4PI	64,640	HP	WA8RJF	50,020	HP	WD5K	122,574	HP	N6VI	34,686	HP
WZ1V	71,694	HP	W5MRB	56,772	HP	K8TQK	48,723	HP	W9RM	102,912	HP	N6KN	34,056	HP
K1TR	64,821	HP	N4OGW	14,673	QRP	W9SZ	5,763	QRP	WD0BGZ	66	QRP	N7EPD	27,448	HP
W1MR	23,310	QRP	W0PV	4,895	QRP	WF0T	6	QRP	KK6MC	42	QRP	KB5WIA	10,291	QRP
WB2AMU	2,730	QRP	NV4B/5	3,381	QRP	KX7L/8	3	QRP	N0JK	9	QRP	AF6RR	4,743	QRP
N2SPI	2,320	QRP	KG2A	2,160	QRP	KO9A	40,810	3B	AB5EB	138,891	3B	KE7UQL	1,938	QRP
N3KCM	1,600	QRP	WA5ZEK	1,333	QRP	K9MU	33,880	3B	AA5AM	94,080	3B	KD7WPJ	1,624	QRP
KF2MR	1,560	QRP	K1TO	105,376	3B	N9TF	17,500	3B	K15YG	51,198	3B	N6LB	728	QRP
N3RN	56,048	3B	K4UB	45,047	3B	K8BU	14,418	3B	K0NR	22,841	3B	KG6IYN	50,304	3B
N1IBM	16,728	3B	KM4ID	27,768	3B	AC8HU	11,730	3B	K5KBV	5,668	3B	N7IR	26,001	3B
K3UHU	8,000	3B	KD4AA	12,084	3B	WB8RFB	4	FM	K5QE	483,448	LM	N6KZ	7,772	3B
W1DYJ	5,796	3B	KD5CKP	10,660	3B	N8ZM	95,632	LM	N5RZ	49,842	LM	VE7DAY	7,208	3B
N1JD	4,324	3B	W2EBB	216	FM	W9RVG	24,633	LM	NR7T	23,108	LM	N7RK	6,930	3B
W2EV	1,650	FM	N1LF	176	FM	N8BI	23,594	LM	K5LRW	11,900	LM	KI6JJW	616	FM
KB1YSK	423	FM	W4IY	466,880	LM	AA4ZZ	4,233	LM	N0EO	11,880	LM	N9VM		
N2PEQ	203	FM	W5ZN	269,028	LM	W4NH	61,480	LM	KB0HH	136,960	UM	(N1VM, op)	510	FM
KD2DLL	156	FM	AA4ZZ	217,074	LM	N3MK	61,320	LM	N0SZ	109,392	UM	W7AIT	418	FM
W3SO	411,554	LM	W4NH	61,480	LM	N2BJ	30,212	UM	K5NZ	56,056	UM	KA6AMB	200	FM
K2LIM	294,756	LM	N3MK	61,320	LM	VE3WCC	27,636	UM	WQ0P	41,021	UM	KK6DCM	126	FM
W2LV	133,224	LM	AD4ES	80,808	UM	AJ9C	13,510	UM	KC5MVZ	12,789	UM	WA7JTM	35,154	UL
N2NT	113,687	LM	K4MM	55,080	UM	KF6A	9,782	UM	K5GJ/R	27,540	R	K7UI	26,910	UL
K2BAR	53,390	LM	N4OX	41,778	UM	K9ZM	6,076	UM	W0ETT	12,636	R	N5CR	17,514	UL
W2SZ	1,093,902	UM	W4COV	30,624	UM	VE3SMA/R	127,641	R	K0AXX/R	5,700	R	N1G6	15,624	UL
W3CCX	521,260	UM	W4UAL	28,122	UM	VE3OIL/R	125,704	R	W7QQ/R	5,499	R	AA7A	8,375	UL
K1WHS	257,570	UM	K8GP	295,317	R	VE3WJ/R	41,107	R	KC0P/R	4,564	R	W6TE	88,328	UM
WE1P	87,176	UM	K4SME/R	45,652	R	W9SNR/R	32,307	R	AL1VE/R	32,120	RL	W6TV	82,176	UM
KE1LI	23,025	UM	AG4V/R	43,888	R	K0PG/R	7,348	R	KD5EUO/R	27,972	RL	N7CW	58,656	UM
WA3PTV	50,676	R	K54YX	858	R	AC0RA/R	146,692	RL	K0BBC/R	8,976	RL	KB0ZO	55,198	UM
NN3Q/R	42,186	R	W3TMZ/R	60	R	W9YOY/R	27,664	RL	KC0SKM/R	8,924	RL	KE7SW	19,520	UM
K1DS/R	28,152	R	WB4OMG	1,904	RL	K9PW/R	12,648	RL	W3DHJ/R	7,134	RL	W6TTF	70,416	R
NJ1F	19,665	R	WB0POH	1,196	RL	K9LT/R	6,536	RL	AF5Q	10,375	RU	N6ORB/R	16,830	R
AA1I/R	10,950	R	N4TZH/R	910	RL	K8WTF/R	5,292	RL	K8DOG/R	1,813	RUU	N6TEB/R	13,130	R
K2QO/R	39,624	RL	K6PFA/R	589	RL							KE6QR	12,160	R
N2ZBH/R	11,628	RL	WA5KBH/R	756	RU							N6TR/R	2,835	R
WB2SIH/R	4,773	RL										WW7D/R	40,140	RL
W1PL	4,040	RL										N6GP	29,625	RL
AB2YI/R	3,813	RL										KE7IHG/R	10,350	RL
W3HMS	18,678	UL										K7ATN/R	5,340	RL
N2QIP/R	2,046	UL										AF6AV/R	3,825	RL
												K6EU/R	15,768	RU

Categories: LP — Single Operator, Low Power; HP — Single Operator, High Power; QRP — Single Operator, Portable; 3B — Single Operator, Three Band; FM — Single Operator, FM Only; UM — Unlimited Multioperator; LM — Limited Multioperator; R — (Classic) Rover; RL — Limited Rover; RU — Unlimited Rover

When 6 meters opened to EU with a huge pileup, though, all the work suddenly became worth it. Multiop stations are on the air all the time, establishing the limits of what's possible for VHF+ contesting.

K5QE posted a score of 483K from the STX flatlands to win the Limited Multioperator category, but not without a fight to retain their crown. Being in a 6 meter sweet spot and having the best overall 6 meter numbers of any station boosted their bottom line. Despite a close encounter with a black bear, the W4IY team at their mountaintop FM08 location did better on the other three bands due to some of the few tropo enhancement opportunities reported in this contest.

It's almost a cliché to report that the crew at W2SZ, the Mt Greylock Expeditionary

Force, posted another win in the Unlimited Multioperator category. Solid performance on 6 and 2 meters as well as outstanding numbers on the higher bands really set this group apart from the others — their score was double that of the closest competitor at 1093K, the only score over the million mark. 2014 marks their 24th time winning the June VHF Contest.

### Rovers

Rovers really enhance everyone's ability to work grids that are under-represented, providing additional QSOs and needed mults for the fixed and portable stations on multiple bands, as well as with other rovers. When the author first came to Illinois and didn't yet have any towers planted, roving with some new friends around the local grids was found to be a difficult yet rewarding experience.

The increase in the Classic Rovers and the steady numbers of Limited Rovers are a hopeful sign that more will continue to join their ranks. Here in the Midwest they often offer the only opportunity to work grids in western Great Plains states that have few or no VHF+ operators. 2014 was really great for the rovers — they posted some amazing scores.

In the Limited Rover category, Wyatt, AC0RA/R, really burst onto the scene by winning his inaugural June VHF Contest. In only his second serious rover outing (he took 2nd in January) he's established himself as one of the top young guns. His 147K score from 10 different grids in IL, IA and WI blew away the 2013 Central Division record from W9YOY/R.

## Working Grids on 2 Meters

### Curt Roseman, K9AKS

The 86 grids worked on 2 meters by multiop station W4IY in Virginia is quite a good total. However, it is not among the very highest in the history of the contest (going back to 1985 when grids were introduced as multipliers). The accompanying table shows the top 16 totals over the years. In the 1980s some really good conditions, especially the tropo in 1985, led to several totals over 100. Other high 2 meter grid totals were common in that era, when everyday activity on the band was high in many areas of the country. Over the years, however, activity declined and 2 meters became relatively less important as a contributor to multi-band scores in the June contest. Indeed, none of the top 16 totals are from the 1990s.

Something of a resurgence, however, occurred in the new millennium. In recent years, some multiop stations (K5QE, K8GP, and K9NS) racked up large numbers of grids. Even though relatively low levels of everyday activity persists, their totals were probably increased by working grids using digital modes on meteor scatter, via moonbounce, and by taking advantage of rovers who cover numerous grids where activity is low or nonexistent. Back in the 1980s, a station could dredge up large number of grids when conditions were enhanced by working home stations and portables on SSB or CW. Digital modes were not available and rovers were rare, but activity levels were high.

### ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST

All-Time High Number of of Grids Worked on 2 Meters

Grids	Call	Category	Section	Year
121	W8VP	M	OH	1985
116	W9UD	M	IL	1985
110	AA9D	M	IL	1987
108	WD8ISK	M	OH	1985
105	N8FMD	M	WV	1989
102	K5QE	L	STX	2013
99	N4AR	S	KY	1985
98	K5QE	M	STX	2011
96	W8VP	M	OH	1987
96	K9NS	L	IL	2005
95	K5QE	M	STX	2009
94	K5QE	M	STX	2012
94	K5QE	M	STX	2010
92	K8GP	L	WV	2002
89	K8GP	M	WV	2001
89	AA9D	M	IL	1989

## Sponsored Plaque Winners

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
Overall Single Operator Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	K2DRH
Overall Single Operator, 3-Band	Northern Lights Radio Society	AB5EB
Overall Single Op, Low Power, Rookie	W3ZZ First Log Award — Memorial by Tim, K3LR, and Dave, W9PA, Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ Memorial —	KJ4ZYB
Overall Limited Multioperator	ARRL Contest Branch	K5QE
Overall Rover	73 Tim KE3HT/SK, Microwave DX Addict	K8GP
Atlantic Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	WA3PTV
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	Northern Lights Radio Society	WB0HHM
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	NY2NY — In Memory of W2GFF & W2HBA	K2KIB
Northwestern Division Multioperator	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR	KE7SW
Roanoke Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	K8GP
Southwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	Bud Semon, N7CW	WJ0F
Canada Single Operator Low Power	Northern Lights Radio Society	VA3ZV
Northwestern Single Operator, 3-Band	Pacific Northwest VHF Society	WB7FJG

In the Classic Rover category, Andy, K1RA, and Terry, W8ZN, raised the Grid Pirate flag and did a 10-band, five-grid rove through the high spots of the Roanoke Division in the tradition of the W3IY/R Intergalactic Roving Battle Jitney. Their web page at [www.k1ra.us/roving/k1ra-k8gp-rover-arrl-june-vhf-2014](http://www.k1ra.us/roving/k1ra-k8gp-rover-arrl-june-vhf-2014) is beautifully done and well worth visiting.

Steve, VE3SMA/R, and Russ, VE3OIL/R, locked horns in an unusual battle for second in another close rover finish. In the claimed scores it initially looked as if Russ had beaten Steve, but in a rare reversal of fortune, Steve lost fewer points to log checking deductions, edging out Russ with an 11-band, seven-grid effort of 128K that included seven laser contacts. In 4<sup>th</sup> place, Carole, W6TTF/R, took her 10-band rover through nine grids in the Pacific Division areas of southern California and logged a score of 70K.

In the Unlimited Rover Category, John, W3HMS, mounted a 10-band, three-grid rove in PA to garner 19K for the win. Tom, K6EU/R, visited 3 grids in Southern California while operating the bottom four bands for a 16K, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Ron, AF5Q/R, hit six grids in the West Gulf Division around Oklahoma with the bottom four bands to take 3<sup>rd</sup> with 10K.

### Logging Accuracy

We all make a few logging errors from time to time. While call and grid logging errors are all my own, in my contest Log Checking Reports (LCR), I have noticed losing a fair chunk of my score to Not In Log (NIL) reports. Almost invariably these are QSOs that I'm 100 percent sure that I worked when moving a station from band-to-band. Apparently, in the rush to get back to 6 meters during an opening or to find the next station, the other station forgot to log the Q or accidentally logged me on a different band. This really hurts because the "bad" QSO is often on a band worth higher points and on

which I have few QSOs and mults. The deduction results in the loss of both that QSO (including any multiplier credit) plus an equivalent number QSO points, so the result is the loss of a lot of score. From talking to other operators and comparing claimed scores to adjusted scores it's evident this has affected others, too. This is especially noticeable when the score on a microwave band is a negative number because of a single QSO made and lost on that band. This can't be fixed in log checking — please make sure you log accurately to avoid inadvertently penalizing someone else. It could make all the difference in a close finish.

### Epilogue

To sum up the 2014 June contest; here in the Midwest and in many parts of the country, it was a slogfest with E<sub>s</sub> and tropo opportunities few and far between for most stations. When the band was not open (which was most of the time) you had to keep your butt glued to the seat or you would miss a contact — pretty true of VHF+ contesting in general. To wring out every possible contact you have to sit there though the slow hours, track the local rovers, and be ready to pounce on and run the bands with anyone and everyone who turns on a radio just to see if anyone's around or has a few minutes to spare to "check out the contest." This is true even when you're sorely tempted to pull your headphones off your aching ears and take a nap. We'll see you on June 20 – 22 of 2014 to wring out a few QSOs!

## Full Results Online

The complete results of the June VHF Contest are available at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles). You'll find more tables and tales including band-by-band QSOs and multiplier leaders, details of the competition, and notes about propagation.