

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party - Results

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Note – this is a temporary publication pending conversion to the updated ARRL Web site.

This year the September VHF QSO Party saw a return to normalcy after Hurricane Ike heavily impacted the 2008 affair. Participation returned to much healthier levels with over a hundred more submissions to bring the total to a very respectable 594. Scores were up in all categories and some impressive grid totals were worked. The middle of the country saw some extended tropo conditions to add to the fun and a group of rovers organized an impressive effort to create activity in an area of the country where VHF operators are usually a bit scarce.

Conditions for much of the country seemed to be about average this year. There was rain in the Northeast and in the South – conditions not conducive to any enhancement. No enhancement was reported from the West or Pacific Northwest this time around. However, in the Midwest good tropo conditions were available for much of Saturday evening into Sunday. The enhancement seemed to be best in Illinois, eastern Iowa, and Missouri toward eastern W8 and eventually into Western New York and Pennsylvania. Stan, KA1ZE in FN01 reported working as far west as K3JNZ in EN41 a path of about 700 miles. Bob, K2DRH in EN41 found excellent tropo conditions for many hours, allowing him to work east to KA2LIM in FN12 on 2 meters, and a number of microwave contacts up as high as 3.4 GHz out to 400 - 500 miles. Bob ended up with an outstanding 2 meter grid total of 72, especially impressive given his Low Power category. N8XA worked 36 grids on 6 meters and 34 on 2 meters to for high totals in the QRP Portable category on those bands.

While the enhanced band conditions led to some higher than normal results in the Midwest, even those in other areas of the country found ways to work sizable grid totals. K5QE in Texas managed an amazing 101 grids on 2 meters. How did they do it? Over half of their grids were worked on EME, demonstrating how using every mode available can add to the multiplier totals. Likewise, top Multioperator station W2SZ managed 87 grids on 2 meters also using EME and a number of WSJT scatter contacts to enhance their total. W3SO in Western Pennsylvania worked 432 hard, adding some grids to the west from the enhanced conditions to reach 54 on that band. K1TEO in Connecticut managed 43 grids on 222 and 28 grids on 903 without any enhancement by focusing on working rovers in grids otherwise unavailable.

Rustling Up A Midwest Mania

Having operated on VHF for close to forty years, one of the facts I have learned is that activity tends to breed activity. Many of the stations the serious operators work in a VHF contest – or any contest for that matter – are casual operators who get on and pass out a few points. If they tune around the band and do not hear much, they are likely to operate only for a short period of time. In other words, this is a classic “Catch 22” situation. However, if there is more activity, they will often stay longer to enjoy the activity and that creates more activity. So hearing more, others will stay on the bands longer.

One of the challenges on VHF is that when there are no enhanced band conditions, the level of activity in some parts of the country are low enough that the bands can be worked out fairly quickly. In the June VHF QSO Party, operators in these areas know that E-skip (sporadic E

or Es propagation) can crop up at any time, encouraging them to stay on in the hope of catching an opening. In September, chances for a similar opening are small so the bands are often relatively quiet after the first few hours.

To some, this might seem to be an unsolvable problem but past experience has shown that there are ways to overcome it. In the August UHF contest the Northern Lights Radio Society



(NLRS) has shown the way creating rover mania in the Upper Midwest with great success. Many of the top scores in that contest now come from that area because they have figured out how to keep operators on the air knowing that there will be a continuous opportunity for new contacts and grids.

W9FZ participated in the Midwest Mania by roving from several grids. Getting ready to start the contest, Bruce waited for the rain to stop and began in grid EM08. (Photo by Bruce Richardson, W9FZ)

This September, W9FZ, one of the NLRS members, decided to work toward creating activity in the Great Plains with a similar approach. With low population density, the region often suffers from low activity in September. Bruce organized a group of rovers to head out with known schedules so that there would be a steady succession of rovers to work for the fixed stations in the area. (Read more about it in W9FZ's sidebar "Midwest Mania" at the end of this article.) but the bottom line is that there was a great deal to work throughout the contest with all the rover activity. As Tom, NØWJY noted "It kept me at the radio looking for the next contact."



How does a rover hit ten grids in a single contest? Here is W9FZ's path from Kansas grid EM08 north to Nebraska's EN12. (Map by Bruce Richardson, W9FZ)

Stations to the east of the Great Plains usually do not find much to work in that direction and tend not to point their beams that way all that often. With the improved activity there was reason to aim west, another contributor to greater activity levels for the Plains area operators. One example of the impact is the well-equipped KBØHH multioperator team. They were right in the thick of Midwest Mania and their score increased more than 100k, allowing them to achieve a sixth-place national finish. Congratulations to Bruce for his efforts and to all the participants in Midwest Mania for showing how to create activity and fun for everyone involved.

Top Ten by Category

Single Operator, Low Power

K2DRH	286,426
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	139,731
K1TR	114,912
KC9BQA	87,945
W3PAW	81,220
K1KG	79,860
W3SZ	76,560
AF1T	66,708
N4QWZ	64,896
WB2SIH	64,200

Single Operator, High Power

K1TEO	533,115
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	341,550
K1RZ	333,917
K8TQK	161,210
K3TUF	151,478
K1GX	95,568
K8MD	95,142
K4QI	92,225
W9GA	86,870
K9EA	79,254

QRP Portable

KA1LMR	44,772
N8XA	25,410
W9SZ	23,562
N3YMS	19,440
WB2AMU	3,115
KB5YZG	2,574
N1QLM	1,100
N7XB	893
N8CUX	690
NØJK	480

Limited Multioperator

W3SO	277,508
W4IY	210,370
AA4ZZ	187,488
KA2LIM	163,785
W2LV	139,417
W4NH	119,700
N8ZM	75,843
W1QK	40,794
WO9S	38,592
W4APP	32,928

Multioperator

W2SZ	1,346,428
K1WHS	505,680
K3YTL	324,729
N3NGE	302,770
K5QE	301,052
KBØHH	133,936
N9UHF	85,404
N8KOL	79,016
W2EA	72,910
K3EOD	63,714

Rover

N6NB/R	331,331
N6VI/R	318,801
W6TAI/R	317,660
N6MU/R	316,686
AF6O/R	314,580
W6XD/R	310,665
KK6KK/R	283,520
W6YLZ/R	273,672
W1RT/R	237,510
VE3OIL/R	128,466

Limited Rover

KO4MA/R	53,392
K2QO/R	33,600
N2SLN/R	25,026
WAØVPJ/R	24,824
N9WU/R	14,250
NØLP/R	10,080
W7CE/R	9,953
K9GY/R	6,156
W6GLS/R	5,670
K8DOG/R	4,964

Unlimited Rover

K5RNT/R	13,019
KRØVER/R	12,997
W3HMS/R	12,000

Results

Single Operator

Single Operator, Low Power remains the most popular category with about half of the contest entries. Top score in this competitive category came from K2DRH in EN41 with 286k points, a new Central Division record. Bob was able to work the tropo opening Saturday evening into Sunday and with added help from Midwest Mania achieved impressive grid totals. Despite running low power, Bob had the top Single Operator grid totals on 6 meters with 62, on 2 meters with a whopping 72, and on 432 with a “VUCC in a weekend” total of 50! As in past years, his competition came from a couple of mountain-toppers from the Northeast, WB1GQR and K1TR. This time around ‘GQR took second place while ‘TR took third. Ed experienced one of the major challenges of portable operation as he was knocked off of most of his microwave bands by equipment failure. The rest of the Top Ten in this category were tightly packed. Todd, KC9BQA was fourth followed by W3PAW. K1KG and W3SZ were right behind.

AF1T, N4QWZ and WB2SIH rounded out the leader board.

Repeating in the High Power category was Jeff, K1TEO. His score was up over ten percent from 2008 although he noted conditions were about the same this year. The increase came from more rover contacts providing microwave points and grids otherwise unworkable. Right behind him were WA2FGK and the June contest winner, K1RZ. Herb added 5 and 10 GHz this time around and that proved to be the difference as Dave was only 8k behind. Bob, K8TQK used some of the tropo enhancement to build a fine score of 161k to finish in fourth, with K3TUF a close fifth. K1GX and K8MD were next, followed by K4QI, W9GA and K9EA. The average Top Ten score in the High Power category was up almost 25% this year, reflecting the overall increase in activity and in some cases more tropo DX worked.

The QRP Portable category saw some of the best competition in awhile. KA1LMR has dominated the category for several years. While Chris had another good score to repeat as the overall winner, he had some closer competition this time around. Midwesterners N8XA and W9SZ got in on some of the enhanced conditions to finish second and third. 'XA's score of 25k was a new Great Lakes Division record. N3YMS became the first station ever to submit a QRP Portable score from Delaware, taking fourth with 19k, with WB2AMU and KB5YZG following.

Multioperator

The Western Pennsylvania team at W3SO moved up a spot from 2008 to take first in the Limited Multioperator category. They achieved the top grid totals for any contest station on 222 and 432 helping them to the victory. For the third year in a row, W4IY and AA4ZZ followed 'SO in that order. The Western New York group at KA2LIM moved up to fourth this year with a large score increase. They enjoyed good conditions to the west this year at the eastern end of the tropo conditions. W2LV finished fifth, while W4NH and N8ZM both moved up a notch from last year to take the next two places.

W2SZ continued their top scoring in the Multioperator category in 2009. Their score was up about five percent though they had fewer QSOs this year than last. That drop was overcome by a significant increase in their grid totals. They used WSJT and EME helped their 2 meter totals increase by almost thirty percent. They also had some nice increases in their microwave grid totals to help overcome fewer QSOs this time around. Last year K1WHS and the 'SZ team had a close battle, but this year the 'WHS crew did not have a full blown effort. They still came away with a second place finish. Expect them to battle it out again for top spot this September. The next three finishers were very close, with K3YTL next followed by another Keystone state team at N3NGE.

The crew at the KBØHH's Multioperator station with some visiting rovers. Left to Right: Tad KC5DPT, Gary KBØHH, Dave KAØKCI/R, Tyler K5TDN, Jorge N5VYN, and Bruce W9FZ/R. (Not shown - R.L. KDØEZV, Photo by Bruce Richardson, W9FZ)



K5QE was less than 1% behind 'NGE despite poor conditions in Texas. Their terrific 2 meter grid total of 101 was a big help. KBØHH's well-equipped station was ready for all of the Midwest Mania action as they moved up from tenth in 2008 to take number six. Their score was

up over 300% as they enjoyed all of the extra rover activity in their part of the country. N9UHF and N8KOL were next from the Midwest, followed by easterners W2EA and K3EOD.

QSO Leaders by Band and Category

Single Operator, Low Power		Single Operator, High Power (cont)		Single Operator, Portable (cont)	
50 MHz		222 MHz		432 MHz	
	K1TR 204		K1TEO 113		KA1LMR 49
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 173		K1RZ 93		N3YMS 33
	K2DRH 152		WA2FGK (K2LNS, op) 87		W9SZ 30
	N3RG 133		K3TUF 75		N8XA 22
	W3PAW 115		K8TQK 61		KB5YZG 19
	K1ZZ 103		W9GA 56		N1QLM 11
	KC9BQA 101		VE3ZV 54		WB2AMU 8
	KO2OK 100		K1GX 51		NØJK 5
	N8RA 100		K4QI 48		N8CUX 5
	AF1T 94		W1RZF 45		KØNR 5
	N3ALN 91		K9EA 44		K4RSV 3
	K2PLF 90		K8MD 43		VE6STP 2
	NN1D 85		N2BJ 40		N7XB 2
	K1KG 83		W4RX 39		WØDJM 2
	N2MH 80		WB4SLM 37		W6DTW 1
144 MHz		432 MHz			
	K1TR 241		K1TEO 142		KC9MMM 1
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 222		K1RZ 125		K9PLS 1
					KF6CVA 1
	K2DRH 201		WA2FGK (K2LNS, op) 101	902 MHz	
	WB2SIH 155		W9GA 81		KA1LMR 15
	WB2CUT 149		K3TUF 79		W9SZ 12
	N8RA 147		K8TQK 77		N8XA 4
	KC9BQA 133		K4QI 72	1296 MHz	
	K1KG 125		K9EA 66		W9SZ 15
	K1ZZ 124		K8MD 61		KA1LMR 14
	AF1T 118		VE3ZV 60		N3YMS 6
	N3RG 113		WB4SLM 60		N8XA 5
	N4QWZ 104		W4RX 59		KC9MMM 1
	NN1D 102		K1GX 58	Multioperator (-L denotes Limited Multioperator)	
	W6ZI 98		W3IP 54	50 MHz	
	K3TC 98		W2RJO 50		
222 MHz		902 MHz			
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 80		K1TEO 60		W2SZ 501
	K2DRH 78		WA2FGK (K2LNS, op) 45		K1WHS 395
	K1TR 72		K1RZ 44		K3YTL 390
	WB2SIH 68		K3TUF 31		W4IY -L 325
	KC9BQA 68		K1GX 27		W3SO -L 312
	K1KG 55		W2SJ 21		W2LV -L 304
	AF1T 49		VE3ZV 19		KA2LIM -L 252
	W3PAW 40		K8TQK 19		N3NGE 239
	W3SZ 39		WQØP 19		W2EA 228
	N4QWZ 38		W9GA 17		AA4ZZ -L 223
	WØUC 35		K8MD 16		W4NH -L 219
	K4LY 33		K9EA 15		W1QK -L 206
	WA2VNV 31		KC6ZWT 13		K5QE 142
	K6VCR 31		K3CB 12		N8KOL 115
	WN8R 29		K2YAZ 11		N8ZM -L 115
			W3ZZ 11		

Single Operator, Low Power (cont)	Single Operator, High Power (cont)	Multioperator (cont)
432 MHz		144 MHz
		W2SZ 435
K2DRH 117	1296 MHz	W3SO -L 383
K1TR 114	K1TEO 73	K1WHS 383
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 92	K1RZ 57	K3YTL 357
WB2SIH 84	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op) 48	W4IY -L 335
KC9BQA 83	K3TUF 35	W2LV -L 281
K1KG 63	K1GX 33	KA2LIM -L 281
N4QWZ 63	K8TQK 32	AA4ZZ -L 257
K1ZZ 54	K8MD 27	K5QE 243
W3SZ 53	W2SJ 25	N3NGE 213
N9OO 52	K4QI 25	N9UHF 207
K6VCR 51	W4RX 22	W2EA 192
AF1T 51	K9EA 19	KBØHH 175
K4LY 46	W9GA 17	W1QK -L 167
K1YQP 45	WB4SLM 16	W4NH -L 161
WB4WEN 45	K7ND 15	222 MHz
902 MHz		W2SZ 149
	KC6SEH 15	K1WHS 124
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 27	AF6JP 15	W3SO -L 117
K2DRH 24	VE3ZV 15	K3YTL 106
K6VCR 21	Single Operator, Portable	KA2LIM -L 103
K1KG 20	50 MHz	N3NGE 97
W3PAW 19	KA1LMR 65	W4IY -L 92
W3SZ 18	N8XA 63	W2LV -L 85
AF1T 18	N3YMS 41	AA4ZZ -L 78
WB3IGR 17	WB2AMU 31	K5QE 70
KC9BQA 17	N7XB 22	W4NH -L 62
WB2SIH 16	N1QLM 16	N9UHF 56
K2KIB 13	N8CUX 4	N8ZM -L 46
WA3EOQ 10	NØJK 3	K3EOD 45
W1PM 10	KØNR 3	WO9S -L 44
K6XN 9	WØDJM 2	N8KOL 44
WØUC 9	VE7IHL 2	
WA2VNV 9	KC9MMM 1	432 MHz
1296 MHz		W2SZ 196
	W6DTW 1	W3SO -L 190
K2DRH 33	KF6CVA 1	K1WHS 175
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 33	VE6STP 1	
	144 MHz	K3YTL 142
K6VCR 31		N3NGE 125
AF1T 24	KA1LMR 88	W2LV -L 124
K1KG 24	N3YMS 68	W4IY -L 123
W3PAW 23	N8XA 64	AA4ZZ -L 114
WB2SIH 22	W9SZ 53	KBØHH 103
W3SZ 22	KB5YZG 40	K5QE 98
K6TSK 22	WB2AMU 34	W4NH -L 90
K1YQP 17	N7XB 21	N9UHF 89
WØUC 15	N1QLM 17	KA2LIM -L 88
KA2OON 15	NØJK 17	VE7IY 64
K2KIB 15	N8CUX 16	WO9S -L 61
NØLL 14	KØNR 8	
WB3IGR 14	KM3G 6	902 MHz
WA2VNV 14	WØDJM 3	W2SZ 74
Single Operator, High Power	K4RSV 3	K5QE 49
50 MHz		K1WHS 46
	VE7IHL 2	N3NGE 41
K1RZ 208	VE6STP 2	
	222 MHz	K3YTL 24
K2AX 198		KBØHH 24
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op) 185	KA1LMR 41	

Single Operator, High Power (cont)		Single Operator, Portable (cont)		Multioperator (cont)		
	K1TEO	182	N3YMS	25	K3EOD	17
	K1VW	140	N8XA	22	W2EA	14
	K3TUF	126	W9SZ	18	W3KWH	11
	K3ZO	121	WB2AMU	4	WE1P	9
	W3EP	120	WØDJM	2	K6LRG	8
	K2HZN	119	K9PLS	1	WØEEA	8
	K4QI	90	W6DTW	1	WY3P	7
	W1XX	88	KF6CVA	1	W8RU	5
	W1RZF	87			W6YX	5
				1296		
				MHz		
	W3IP	86			W2SZ	92
	K7JX	81			K1WHS	54
	K8MD	81				
144					K3YTL	48
MHz					K5QE	45
	K1TEO	304			N3NGE	41
	KA1ZE	244			KBØHH	28
	K1RZ	220			K3EOD	23
	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	190			K6LRG	16
	W2KV	178			W6YX	14
	K8TQK	135			W2EA	14
	W1RZF	133			N8KOL	14
	W9GA	127			W8RU	13
	K9EA	125			W3KWH	13
	K1GX	125			N9UHF	12
	K4QI	122			WE1P	12
	W2RJO	121				
	W3EP	118				
	K3TUF	115				
	W3IP	114				

Multiplier Leaders by Band and Category

Single Operator, Low Power		Single-Operator, High Power (cont)		Multioperator (-L denotes Limited Multioperator)	
50 MHz		222 MHz		50 MHz	
K2DRH	62	K1TEO	44	K5QE	69
K4LY	37	K8TQK	43	K5QE	69
N4QWZ	34	K3TUF	33	K1WHS	68
K9MU	31	K4QI	33	W4IY -L	58
W3PAW	29	K1RZ	32	W4NH -L	55
K1TR	28	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	31	W3SO -L	51
KC9BQA	28	W9GA	29	W2SZ	51
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	28	VE3ZV	28	AA4ZZ -L	51
W0UC	27	K9EA	27	KA2LIM -L	50
N3RG	25	W4RX	23	N8ZM -L	47
VE3KZ	25	WB4SLM	22	N8KOL	46
N0LL	25	K8MD	21	K3YTL	43
WN8R	24	K2YAZ	20	W2LV -L	41
WA4GPM	24	K1GX	20	N3NGE	38
WB4WEN	23	W3ZZ	18	W4APP -L	35
		N2BJ	18	KB0HH	34
K2DRH	72	WA8RJF	18		10
N4QWZ	46	W1RZF	18	K5QE	1
		432 MHz			
K4LY	43	K1TEO	43	W2SZ	87
KC9BQA	36	K8TQK	41	AA4ZZ -L	81
W6ZI	36	K4QI	37	W3SO -L	61
K1TR	35	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	35	W4IY -L	56
W3PAW	34	K1RZ	34	KA2LIM -L	55
WB4WEN	33	K3TUF	31	KB0HH	54
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	33	K9EA	31	K3YTL	50
N9OO	33	VE3ZV	30	N8ZM -L	49
N0LL	32	W9GA	28	W4NH -L	48
WN8R	30	WB4SLM	28	K1WHS	46
W0UC	29	WQ0P	27	N8KOL	44
WA4GPM	28	K8MD	26	N9UHF	42
K2KIB	28	W2RJO	24	N3NGE	41
N0WJY	28	K0AWU	21	W2LV -L	41
N8RA	28				
				222 MHz	
		K3MF	21	W3SO -L	46
K2DRH	42	K2YAZ	21	AA4ZZ -L	41
		902 MHz			
KC9BQA	31	K1TEO	28	W2SZ	41
N4QWZ	28	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	22	W4IY -L	38
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	25	K8TQK	18	K3YTL	38
K4LY	25	K3TUF	18	KA2LIM -L	37
K1TR	23	WQ0P	17	W4NH -L	34
W0UC	22	K1RZ	17	N3NGE	34
K1KG	21	VE3ZV	14	K1WHS	32
WB2SIH	21	W9GA	14	K5QE	32
W6ZI	20	K9EA	13	N8KOL	31
N0LL	18	K8MD	12	N8ZM -L	31
WN8R	18	K1GX	12	W2LV -L	28
AF1T	18	K2YAZ	11	N9UHF	28
W3PAW	17	W2SJ	10	K3EOD	23
W3SZ	16	K3CB	8		
WA3EOQ	16	N0AKC	8		

Single Operator, Low Power (cont)		Single-Operator, High Power (cont)		Multioperator (cont)		
				432 MHz		
				W3SO -L	54	
432 MHz				AA4ZZ -L	44	
		1296 MHz				
	K2DRH	50		W2SZ	42	
	N4QWZ	37	K8TQK	27	K3YTL	41
	KC9BQA	28	K1TEO	26	W4IY -L	41
	K4LY	28	K1RZ	22	W4NH -L	38
	K1TR	27	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	21	KA2LIM -L	37
	NØLL	25	K4QI	21	K5QE	37
	WB4WEN	24	W9GA	16	N3NGE	36
	WØUC	24	K8MD	15	K1WHS	34
	N9OO	24	K3TUF	15	KBØHH	33
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	22	K9EA	14	N8KOL	32
	NØWJY	22	K4TO	12	N8ZM -L	32
	W6ZI	21	K1GX	12	W2LV -L	29
	WB2SIH	21	WB4SLM	12	W3KWH	27
	K1KG	19	W2SJ	11	902 MHz	
	K9MU	18	W9IIX	11	W2SZ	38
	KB8U	18	W4RX	10	K5QE	23
	WN8R	18	VE3ZV	10	K1WHS	19
	K1ZZ	18	K2YAZ	10	N3NGE	19
		Single Operator, Portable				
902 MHz		50 MHz		KBØHH	18	
	K2DRH	20		K3YTL	11	
	KC9BQA	14	N8XA	36	K3EOD	11
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	11	N3YMS	19	W3KWH	9
	K1KG	11	KA1LMR	18	W2EA	8
	WB3IGR	10	WB2AMU	14	WY3P	7
	W3PAW	9	N7XB	8	W8RU	5
	W3SZ	8	N1QLM	8	K6LRG	5
	K2KIB	8	N8CUX	4	WØEEA	5
	WB2SIH	8	KØNR	2	WE1P	5
	WA2VNV	7	WØDJM	2	N9UHF	4
				1296 MHz		
	WØUC	7	NØJK	2		
	WA3EOQ	7	KC9MMM	1	W2SZ	39
	W1PM	6	VE7IHL	1	K5QE	23
	WA3QPX	6	VE6STP	1	KBØHH	19
	AF1T	6	KF6CVA	1	K1WHS	19
1296 MHz			W6DTW	1	K3YTL	18
		144 MHz				
	K2DRH	21		N3NGE	17	
	K1KG	12	N8XA	34	N8KOL	13
	NØLL	12	N3YMS	22	W3KWH	13
	N4QWZ	11	KB5YZG	21	K3EOD	12
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	11	KA1LMR	21	N9UHF	11
	K4LY	10	W9SZ	17	W8RU	8
	WA2VNV	10	WB2AMU	15	K6LRG	7
	W3PAW	10	N8CUX	14	W6YX	7
	WB2SIH	9	NØJK	10	WØEEA	7
	K2KIB	9	N7XB	9	W2EA	7
	W3SZ	9	N1QLM	7		
	WA3EOQ	8	KM3G	4		
	WB3IGR	8	KØNR	3		
	WØUC	8	WØDJM	2		
	AF1T	8	VE6STP	1		
			W6DTW	1		

Single Operator, High Power		Single Operator, Portable (cont)		
50 MHz				
	K1TEO	48	K4RSV	1
	K1RZ	47	K9PLS	1
	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	43	KC9MMM	1
	K8TQK	40	KF6CVA	1
		222 MHz	VE7IHL	
	K4QI	39		
	K3ZO	33	N3YMS	16
	K2AX	31	N8XA	15
	K3TUF	29	KA1LMR	14
	K8MD	29	W9SZ	10
	K9EA	29	WØDJM	2
	WB4SLM	27	WB2AMU	2
	KØAWU	25	W6DTW	1
	K3ISH	25	K9PLS	1
	W3EP	24	KF6CVA	1
		432 MHz		
	K2HZN	23		
	K1VW	23	N3YMS	17
144 MHz				
			N8XA	15
	KA1ZE	61	KA1LMR	15
	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	54	W9SZ	14
	K8TQK	54	KB5YZG	12
	K1TEO	54	N1QLM	5
	K4QI	45	N8CUX	5
	K1RZ	41	WB2AMU	4
	W2KV	39	NØJK	4
	K9EA	39	KØNR	3
	W2RJO	37	WØDJM	2
	K3TUF	35	N7XB	2
	VE3ZV	35	K4RSV	1
	K8MD	35	K9PLS	1
	W9GA	35	KF6CVA	1
	W8TCZ	34	W6DTW	1
	W3EP	33	VE6STP	1
			KC9MMM	1
		902 MHz		
			W9SZ	8
			KA1LMR	7
			N8XA	2
		1296 MHz		
			W9SZ	11
			N3YMS	6
			KA1LMR	5
			N8XA	3
			KC9MMM	1

Rovers

This September marks the second running of the contest with three rover categories. A total of 83 rovers submitted entries across the categories. As was the case last year, the Unlimited category saw three entries. All three were separated by only 1000 points, as K5RNT/R was the winner. KRØVER/R missed winning by less than 0.2% with W3HMS/R right behind. The differentiator was 'RNT operating from 14 grids versus 6 for 'VER and 4 for 'HMS. Congratulations to all three on some great competition.

The Limited Rover category made a second appearance in September, attracting 33 entrants. The top scorers averaged nearly seven grids visited, led by winner KO4MA's

twenty! With nearly 400 QSOs, 'MA's rove made a lot of southeastern U.S. stations very happy for the QSOs from so many grids. The top scorers in this category came from throughout the country with K2QO and N2SLN in second and third from western NY, WAØVPJ and N9WU next from the upper Midwest, and NØLP from Colorado in sixth. W7CE made the list from Washington, followed by K9GY (Illinois), W6GLS (California) and K8DOG (Michigan).

The "traditional" Rover category continues to attract the largest number of entrants with 47 in this contest. The top eight rovers travelled together throughout Southern California operating on ten bands in each of eleven grids. N6NB led the group and achieved top score with 331k. Scores for the next seven ranged from 273k up to 318k, all working over 800 QSOs and roughly the same number of grids. Congratulations to N6VI, W6TAI, N6MU, AF6O, W6XD, KK6KK, and W6YLZ who finished in that order. In addition to the top places in this category they provided the bulk of the score to help the Southern California Contest Club win the Club Competition. W1RT and VE3OIL both travelled to nine grids and scored well to take the next two places. For RT it was a personal record score, almost doubling their winning 2008 results, despite some problems with their rover vehicle. Both of these stations used a different strategy than the California group, preferring to operate on their own making the bulk of their contacts with non-rover stations.

Regional Leaders

Category Designator: A – Single Operator, Low Power; B – Single Operator, High Power; Q – Single Operator, Portable; L – Limited Multioperator; M – Multioperator; R – Rover; RL – Limited Rover; RU – Unlimited Rover

Northeast Region			Southeast Region			Central Region			Midwest Region			West Coast Region		
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections			Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions			Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section			Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections			Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections		
Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	139731	A	N4QWZ	64896	A	K2DRH	286426	A	NØLL	33376	A	K6VCR	44640	A
K1TR	114912	A	K4LY	53582	A	KC9BQA	87945	A	W6ZI	23912	A	K6XN	12384	A
W3PAW	81220	A	WB4WEN	26220	A	WØUC	43758	A	KØSIX	16827	A	K1YQP	12177	A
K1KG	79860	A	N4HN	10710	A	WN8R	22860	A	NØWJY	12375	A	K6TSK	10868	A
W3SZ	76560	A	W8FR	8646	A	K9MU	21844	A	KAØPQW	11505	A	W6OMF	6240	A
K1TEO	533115	B	K4QI	92225	B	K8TQK	161210	B	WQØP	41697	B	KC6ZWT	17066	B
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	341550	B	W4RX	54463	B	K8MD	95142	B	WØGHZ	31061	B	KC6SEH	9460	B
K1RZ	333917	B	WB4SLM	52632	B	W9GA	86870	B	KØAWU	27354	B	K7JX	9243	B
K3TUF	151478	B	W3IP	29862	B	K9EA	79254	B	WØZQ	14980	B	K7ND	7437	B
K1GX	95568	B	WJ9B	22446	B	VE3ZV	77088	B	K5LLL	12480	B	K6SVG	5566	B
KA1LMR	44772	Q	KB5YZG	2574	Q	N8XA	25410	Q	NØJK	480	Q	N7XB	893	Q
N3YMS	19440	Q	K4RSV	84	Q	W9SZ	23562	Q	KØNR	168	Q	KF6CVA	24	Q
WB2AMU	3115	Q				N8CUX	690	Q	WØDJM	104	Q	W6DTW	24	Q
N1QLM	1100	Q	W4IY	210370	L	KC9MMM	20	Q				VE6STP	21	Q
KM3G	24	Q	AA4ZZ	187488	L	K9PLS	15	Q	NØLD	7353	L	VE7IHL	8	Q
			W4NH	119700	L				WD5IYF	2627	L			
W3SO	277508	L	W4APP	32928	L	N8ZM	75843	L	KØKU	1134	L	WA6ZTY	2921	L
KA2LIM	163785	L	KØXXX	2368	L	WØS9	38592	L	KCØDEB	338	L	K6EU	2550	L
W2LV	139417	L				W9RM	10640	L	N5KV	4	L	KE6GFF	1462	L
W1QK	40794	L	N4JQC	12240	M	N9TF	5400	L	K5QE	301052	M	W6GD	976	L
W3HZU	16008	L	W4YCC	4840	M	KC9ECI	240	L	KBØHH	133936	M	K7HPT	798	L
									WØEEA	34087	M			
W2SZ	1346428	M	AG4V/R	24357	R	N9UHF	85404	M	W9FZ/R	71136	R	W6TE	54054	M
K1WHS	505680	M				N8KOL	79016	M	AE5P/R	37260	R	VE7IY	20246	M
K3YTL	324729	M	KØ4MA/R	53392	RL	K8BØ	17400	M	N5AII/R	35190	R	K6LRG	16271	M
N3NGE	302770	M	AI4GR/R	3162	RL	W8PGW	14848	M	WRØI/R	16520	R	W6YX	12374	M
W2EA	72910	M	AD4IE/R	1170	RL	W8RU	12376	M	N6NB/R	12006	R	WA7NCL	429	M
			KB4JHU/R	300	RL				KBØH/R	12006	R			
W1RT/R	237510	R	N3KKM/R	80	RL	VE3OIL/R	128466	R	KK6MC/R	12006	R	N6N/R	331331	R
K3LFO/R	66125	R				VE3SMA/R	104400	R				N6VI/R	318801	R
NN3Q/R	52972	R				W9SNR/R	91264	R	WAØVPJ/R	24824	RL	W6TAI/R	317660	R
WA3PTV/R	47321	R				KF8QL/R	11118	R	NØLP/R	10080	RL	N6MU/R	316686	R
WA2IID/R	47090	R				NE8I/R	10166	R	W3DHJ/R	1380	RL	AF6O/R	314580	R
									ABØYM/R	1040	RL			
K2QO/R	33600	RL				N9WU/R	14250	RL	K5MRA/R	714	RL	W7CE/R	9953	RL
N2SLN/R	25026	RL				K9GY/R	6156	RL				W6GLS/R	5670	RL
W3BC/R	3315	RL				K8DOG/R	4964	RL	K5RNT/R	13019	RU	K6LMN/R	3753	RL
WA1T/R	3193	RL				K9JK/R	3660	RL	KRØVER/R	12997	RU	K6JRA/R	3752	RL
KB2BSL/R	3100	RL				VE3RKS/R	1560	RL				N6ORB/R	3172	RL
W3HMS/R	12000	RU												

Regional Results

Northeast

Though conditions were generally not great throughout the Northeast for the contest, the usual high activity levels created terrific competition. All top regional Single Operator, Low and High Power scores were also were in the national Top Ten. In the QRP

Portable category, in addition to KA1LMR, N3YMS and WB2AMU with top nationwide scores, the next two regional positions were taken by N1QLM and KM3G. In the Multioperator category, W3SO led the region's Limited entries followed by KA2LIM, W2LV, W1QK and W3HZU. W2SZ, K1WHS, K3YTL, N3NGE and W2EA all were in the overall Top Ten for Multioperator. In the Rover category, W1RT had the top score, followed by K3LFO, NN3Q, WA3PTV and WA2IID. PTV and IID were separated by only a handful of points. Limited Rovers W3BC, WA1T and KB2BSL were all neck and neck for regional top scores behind national leaders K2QO and N2SLN.

Southeast

N4QWZ led the region's Single Operator, Low Power entries, followed closely by Doug, K4LY. WB4WEN, N4HN and W8FR rounded out the leader board. In the High Power group, K4QI had the top score and a leading national score. Jim, W4RX was next with WB4SLM right behind, followed by W3IP and WJ9B.

The Limited Multioperator category was particularly competitive in the Southeast region with W4IY, AA4ZZ and W4NH among the top stations in the contest, and W4APP and KØXXX joining them in the regional Top Five. N4JQQ had the top Multioperator score in the region. The Southeast region's rover activity was lower than elsewhere in the country, though KO4MA's twenty-grid rover and first-place national finish provided lots of QSOs to other stations. AI4GR and AD4IE were next in line in the Limited category, while AG4V had the top traditional Rover score in the Southeast region.

Central

K2DRH and KC9BQA had top nationwide scores in the Single Operator, Low Power category. They were followed by Central region stations WØUC, WN8R and K9MU. Four of the top five High Power stations in the region achieved Top Ten status, as well. Just missing that list but taking fifth in the Central region was VE3ZV. The good conditions throughout much of the Central region also helped the QRP Portable results as N8XA and W9SZ fared well overall in the contest and were followed by N8CUX regionally. Limited Multiops N8ZM and WO9S were at the top of their category followed by W9RM and N9TF. In the Multioperator group N9UHF was tops followed by N8KOL, KB8O, W8PGW and W8RU.

There were some outstanding rover results in the Central region with VE3OIL, VE3SMA and W9SNR recording excellent scores in the traditional Rover category. All of them were able to enjoy some propagation enhancement at some points over the contest weekend. KF8QL and NE8I were next. In the Limited Rover category the top three made the national Top Ten scene; N9WU, K9GY and K8DOG. K9JK and VE3RKS rounded out the Central leaders.

Midwest

The Midwest did not have many national leaders, but there was some great competition and fun enhanced by the terrific rover activity. Larry, NØLL did his usual great job from Kansas, to lead the Single Operator, Low Power operators, followed by W6ZI, KØSIX, NØWJY and KAØPQW. Scores were fairly close among the top High Power stations with WQØP operating portable to lead the pack, with Minnesotans WØGHZ, KØAWU and WØZQ following. Kansas was apparently the place to be with NØJK taking the top QRP portable spot and NØLD taking the Limited Multioperator competition. K5QE's terrific effort in the multioperator category broke up the Kansas winning streak, though second went to KBØHH operating from western Kansas. The WØEEA team did well once again to take third in the region.

Midwest Mania meant some great efforts for the rovers with Bruce, W9FZ leading the traditional Rovers with a great 71k effort from ten. Other top scorers were AE5P, N5AIU, WRØI

and KK6MC who roved a different route than in the past to make sure he would be one of the roving “maniacs”. WAØVPJ and NØLP made the national top listings for the Limited Rover category with W3DHJ finishing third in the Midwest region.

Western

Out in the West, the Single Operator, Low Power category was dominated by California operators K6VCR, K6XN, K1YQP, K6TSK and W6OMF. In the High Power category Californians KC6ZWT and KC6SEH had the highest scores, but the W6 dominance was broken up by Washington stations K7JX and K7ND. N7XB had the leading score in the QRP Portable category. There was tight competition in the Limited Multioperator category with WA6ZTY, K6EU and KE6GFF reporting similar scores. Multioperator was led by a big score from W6TE, followed by a closely spaced group of VE7IY, K6LRG, and W6YX.

The pack rovers had the greatest national impact with N6NB, N6VI, W6TAI, N6MU and AF6O finishing in that order in the region and overall in the contest. Another tight competition occurred in the Limited Rover category with W7CE in first in the Western region, with W6GLS, K6LMN, K6JRA and N6ORB following.

Division Leaders by Category

Single Operator, QRP			Single Operator, High Power			Rover		
Atlantic	N3YMS	19440	Atlantic	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	341550	Atlantic	K3LFO/R	66125
Central	W9SZ	23562	Central	W9GA	86870	Central	W9SNR/R	91264
Dakota	WØDJM	104	Dakota	WØGHZ	31061	Dakota	WBØLJC/R	2478
Great Lakes	N8XA	25410	Delta	W5KI	266	Delta	AG4V/R	24357
Hudson	WB2AMU	3115	Great Lakes	K8TQK	161210	Great Lakes	KF8QL/R	11118
Midwest	NØJK	480	Hudson	W2KV	15686	Hudson	WA2IID/R	47090
New England	KA1LMR	44772	Midwest	WQØP	41697	Midwest	W9FZ/R	71136
Northwestern	N7XB	893	New England	K1TEO	533115	New England	W1RT/R	237510
Pacific	W6DTW	24	Northwestern	K7JX	9243	Pacific	KG7P/R	1380
Pacific	KF6CVA	24	Pacific	KC6ZWT	17066	Southwestern	N6NB/R	331331
Roanoke	KB5YZG	2574	Roanoke	K4QI	92225	West Gulf	AE5P/R	37260
Rocky Mountain	KØNR	168	Rocky Mountain	K7ICW	1150	Canada	VE3OIL/R	128466
Southeastern	K4RSV	84	Southeastern	WB4SLM	52632	Limited Rover		
Canada	VE6STP	21	Southwestern	K6SVG	5566	Atlantic	K2QO/R	33600
Single Operator, Low Power			West Gulf	K5LLL	12480	Central	N9WU/R	14250
Atlantic	W3PAW	81220	Canada	VE3ZV	77088	Dakota	WAØVPJ/R	24824
Central	K2DRH	286426	Limited Multioperator			Delta	KB4JHU/R	300
Dakota	KØSIX	16827	Atlantic	W3SO	277508	Great Lakes	K8DOG/R	4964
Delta	N4QWZ	64896	Central	WØ9S	38592	Hudson	KB2BSL/R	3100
Great Lakes	WN8R	22860	Delta	KØXXX	2368	Midwest	WBØHBJ/R	154
Hudson	WB2SIH	64200	Great Lakes	N8ZM	75843	Northwestern	W7CE/R	9953
Midwest	NØLL	33376	Hudson	W2LV	139417	Pacific	K6JRA/R	3752
New England	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	139731	Midwest	NØLD	7353	Roanoke	AI4GR/R	3162
Northwestern	KD7UO	2697	New England	W1QK	40794	Rocky Mountain	NØLP/R	10080
Pacific	K6XN	12384	Northwestern	K7HPT	798	Southeastern	KØ4MA/R	53392
Roanoke	K4LY	53582	Pacific	WA6ZTY	2921	Southwestern	W6GLS/R	5670
Rocky Mountain	NØPOH	4147	Roanoke	W4IY	210370	West Gulf	K5MRA/R	714
Southeastern	N4TUT	6536	Southwestern	KE6GFF	1462	Canada	VE3RKS/R	1560
Southwestern	K6VCR	44640	West Gulf	WD5IYF	2627	Unlimited Rover		
West Gulf	W6ZI	23912	Multioperator			Atlantic	W3HMS/R	12000
Canada	VE3KZ	12224	Atlantic	K3YTL	324729	Rocky Mountain	KRØVER	12997
			Central	N9UHF	85404	West Gulf	K5RNT/R	13019
			Delta	N4JQQ	12240			
			Great Lakes	N8KOL	79016			
			Hudson	N2GCZ	22248			
			New England	W2SZ	1346428			
			Northwestern	WA7NCL	429			
			Pacific	K6LRG	16271			
			Roanoke	W4YCC	4840			
			Rocky Mountain	WØEEA	34087			
			Southwestern	W6TE	54054			
			West Gulf	K5QE	301052			
			Canada	VE7IY	20246			

Club Competition

A total of 23 Medium clubs and seven Local clubs took part in the Club competition. For the third year in a row, the Murgas ARC of Pennsylvania took top honors in the Local competition – this time with nearly 700,000 points. Second went to the Stoned Monkey VHF ARC with seven log submissions while the Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters took third among the Local clubs. Scores in the Local category were a good deal higher this year, as the number two club from 2008, the Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs, took fourth though they managed to more than double last year's score!

After several years of impacting the national rover results, the group led by N6NB not only dominated that category, but also won the Medium Club competition. With nine rovers accounting for about 98% of the Southern California Contest Group's score, they totaled over 2.5 million points to defeat last year's champs from the North East Weak Signal Group. The California rover group changed strategy from earlier efforts, staying within the 175-mile limits from their home base, allowing them to participate in the Club Competition. Likely this marks the first time a West Coast Club has achieved the high club score in a VHF Contest. Third place went to the Potomac Valley Radio club, whose 23 logs tied with the fifth-place Society of Midwest Contesters for the most club logs. Fourth went to the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club.

Club Competition

	Total Score	Logs
Medium Club		
Southern California Contest Club	2,582,754	14
North East Weak Signal Group	1,696,516	21
Potomac Valley Radio Club	898,541	23
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	795,307	20
Society of Midwest Contesters	455,160	23
Nacogdoches ARC	374,294	5
Badger Contesters	356,051	16
Contest Club Ontario	343,721	9
Carolina DX Assn	254,548	6
Rochester VHF Group	197,849	4
Northern Lights Radio Society	183,588	15
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	180,660	11
Tennessee Contest Group	65,564	5
Florida Weak Signal Society	52,781	8
Northern California Contest Club	45,895	12
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	39,864	12
Bergen ARA	12,832	4
North Texas Microwave Society	5,739	4
Florida Contest Group	4,763	3
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	4,747	3
Contest Group Du Quebec	4,303	6
Oklahoma DX Assn	450	3
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	262	3
Local Club		
Murgas ARC	687,927	6

Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	85,525	7
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	50,550	4
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	27,210	5
Schenectady Museum ARA	15,518	3
Dauberville DX Assn	6,304	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	1,242	3

Conclusion

It was good to see activity return to more normal levels after the downturn in the 2008 contest. Scores were up as the activity improved with some additional boost in from the enhanced conditions in the Midwest. A team of rovers in California showed how to dominate the rover category and win the Club competition by mainly working each other, while another group of rovers showed us the way to improve activity and fun for all in a part of the country where stations are usually few and far between. Stay tuned for 2010 to see who has the next great idea to make the September contest one to remember!

Midwest Mania

by Bruce Richardson W9FZ

Why “Midwest Mania!”? At Central States VHF Society conferences, I’d talk to other VHF’ers from the central or southern part of the Central States. They lamented that sometimes contest activity is low in their areas. In the northern part, roving and activity levels are generally quite healthy. Also, there are population centers like Minneapolis-St Paul, Milwaukee, and Chicago. In the Great Plains of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma population is sparser. The population centers of Kansas City, Wichita, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City help, with Kansas City actually a potential “hot bed” of activity.

I’ve been roving for over 20 years now and am working on awards through the Central States VHF Society’s “Reverse VUCC/r” program. On my drives to CSVHFS conferences in Wichita and Colorado Springs, I saw the beauty and great vistas of the Great Plains. I repeatedly thought “what great horizons for VHF/UHF! I’ll have to rove here sometime!” In prior conversations, Dave KAØKCI/R and Mel WRØI/R, whom have both roved in Kansas for many years, tried to warn me that activity levels are low and I should not expect much.

Well, if activity levels are that low, I planned on just counting on working the few stations that exist from 10 grids instead of the normal 8 that I like on a contest weekend. I hoped to work KBØHH (EM06), WQØP (EM19), NØLL (EM09), and KMØT (EN13) repeatedly.

Unfortunately, KMØT was not on for the contest at all. Further, since I was going all that way (out of my normal stomping grounds), I also figured a little promotion couldn’t hurt. I felt that if I beat the bushes and encouraged any and all VHF stations in the Great Plains to get on for this one, I might make a few more Q’s.



Just one of the many lonely, narrow roads I went down in my search for the best operating locations. Actually it was pretty easy – rain made them muddy. (Photo by Bruce Richardson, W9FZ)

Additionally, it occurred to me that states to the east and west of the Great Plains don’t spend much time pointing to that area because of perceived low activity. So my goals became two-fold. One, encourage indigenous activity in the Great Plains (OK, KS, NE, SD) and then give operators in the surrounding states a reason to point out into the Great Plains and find more activity than normal. Ideally, operators from Iowa and Missouri might actually work across the Great Plains to Colorado.

I looked through contest results over the past few years from the Great Plains and some of the surrounding states. I developed a list of call signs to contact via email. I whipped up a website called Midwest Mania to promote this particular contest. I called it “Midwest Mania” because I would be roving in the ARRL Midwest Division. The idea caught on! Fixed stations said they’d be sure to be on the air. And rovers! Duffy, KK6MC/R from New Mexico pledged to depart from his normal stomping grounds and join the fun. WD5AGO/R, AF5Q/R, KAØKCI/R, WRØI/R, KBØQGT/R, KDØS/R, W3DHJ/R, KR5J/R, and KRØVER/R stepped forward with

rover plans as well. I was pleasantly pleased with the response before the event even happened.

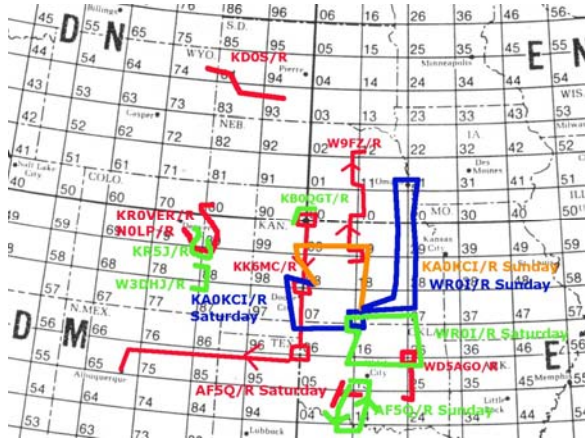


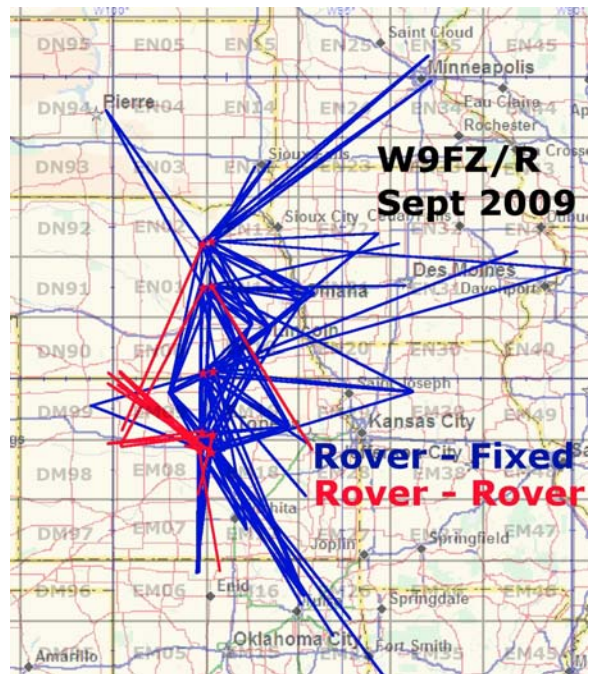
Figure 1 - The tracks of the planned roves before the contest. Not every rover was active due to weather, but the increase in activity was fun for all.

I spent the night before the contest at the KBØHH “Bunkhouse” - great hospitality, food, and fun to see the shack and antennas. I also had good talks with Dave KAØKCI/R and Mel WRØI/R who were all set to hit the road on their roves.

So how’d it go? Better than I could have ever hoped. Rain moved through OK and KS right up to contest time making many of the roads quite muddy. Some of the rovers had to cancel their plans. I was BUSY! I ran eight bands. Only NØOY ran 10 GHz with me. I worked lots of stations from all over OK, KS, NE, and IA. I was so busy that I never really banged away CQ’ing in directions like Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, or Denver. I activated ten grids (EM08, EM18, EM19, EM09, EN00, EN10, EN11, EN01, EN02 and EN12). If I had to do it again, I might stick to eight grids.

I was quite pleased with the contact distances. I had a fair number of rover-to-rover contacts and none of them were orchestrated or over trivial distances. Duffy KK6MC/R was worked multiple times on 120- and 180-mile paths. I swept KBØHH from all ten grids on six bands (ok, minus one 2.3 GHz QSO). I swept NØLL on all five of his bands. Thanks, Larry, for being there! Many other stations were in the log MANY times (WØLGQ, WQØP and others come to mind) and I appreciate their looking for me on multiple stops. I think activity levels were downright good. Conditions were decent within the region but I wouldn’t say there were any openings. One highlight was working down to K5SW (EM25) and NØIRS/p (EM24) from EN00.

Figure 2 - W9FZ was able to contact stations from Pierre, ND in DN94 down to EM25 and EM24 during his roving adventures.



From what I hear, basically the event’s success was from much-increased indigenous activity in the Great Plains. In fact, fixed and rover stations remained so busy working each other in the Great Plains that not that many stations outside of the area worked into the Great Plains. Nor am I aware of much success by stations working completely across the Great Plains. I could hear the fun in the fixed stations voices as I worked them from multiple stops. We ALL were having fun! I highly recommend the Great

Plains for roving! It's easy with great horizons and not too many trees!

I haven't made any plans yet for Midwest Mania '10, but it could happen. This trip was along the 98th parallel (I'd recommend it to anyone—I'll gladly share the spots I found). My next trip will be on a new and different parallel.



Beautiful vistas in Nebraska--they are everywhere! (Photo by Bruce Richardson, W9FZ)