

2017 ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest Results

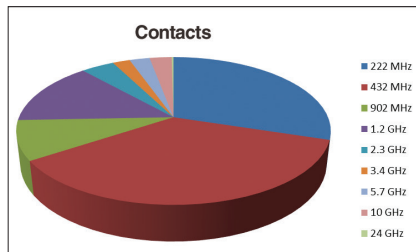
Participants chose to go the distance in this new contest.

John Kalenowsky, K9JK,
k9jk@arrl.net

The first weekend of August 2017 brought the inaugural running of ARRL's 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, replacing the August UHF Contest, which had a 38-year run from 1978 to 2015. This was one of the first major event revisions resulting from the efforts of the VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group.

Among the major revisions were:

- Simplification of the category structure to just three categories — Single Operator, Multioperator, and Rover (no power level or band distinctions).
- Distance-based scoring with multipliers for different bands to encourage activity on less active bands.
- Establishment of 18 Regions, replacing the legacy Section and Division structure for competition.
- Implementation of Team competition within the contest (Small Teams with two to five members, and Large Teams with six to ten members).



The number of contacts submitted on each band.

- Reduction of the log submission period to 15 days after the end of the contest. Also, logs were only accepted electronically (mailed paper logs were not accepted).

Logs and Activity

Even with the shortened log submission deadline, 199 logs were submitted and accepted. By category, there were 34 Rovers, 158 Single Operators, and 7 Multioperators. Of the 18 competition Regions, logs were received from 15 of them. Single Operator logs were received from all 15, Rover logs from 13, but only 4 of the Regions garnered Multioperator log submissions. This

Activity by Band

Band	Logs	QSOs	Points
222 MHz	161	2,114	760,266
432 MHz	189	2,539	422,672
902 MHz	92	614	382,544
1.2 GHz	123	990	271,574
2.3 GHz	48	289	256,572
3.4 GHz	37	151	166,280
5.7 GHz	31	176	224,780
10 GHz	40	192	162,132
24 GHz	9	16	1,360

Club Competition — Medium Category

Club	Points	Logs
Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club	303,557	13
Florida Weak Signal Society	297,351	7
North East Weak Signal Group	209,522	13
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	98,731	21
New Mexico VHF Society	81,592	12
Roadrunners Microwave Group	65,503	3
Northern Lights Radio Society	59,572	6
Society of Midwest Contesters	23,353	3
Michigan VHF-UHF Society	22,890	4
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,439	3

is not too surprising, as the August UHF Contest typically experienced low Multioperator submissions as well.

There was no “rush” of activity on the bands with the higher score multipliers. Of the six bands with 20 times score multipliers (24, 47, 75, 122,

Results Summary of Top Scores

Region	Rover	Single Operator	Multioperator
Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Northwest Territories (25 entries)	WW7D/R 23,131	K7YDL 8,557	
Idaho, Montana, Alberta (no entries)			
California, Nevada (12 entries)	N6JET/R 15,547	KC6ZWT 15,202	
Colorado, Utah, Wyoming (9 entries)	N6NB/R 116,639	N6EY 25,086	W6TE 21,611
Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas Section (17 entries)	K9PW/R 29,639	W7QQ 22,210	KC5MVZ 326
North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Saskatchewan (3 entries)		NT0V 11,797	
Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri (3 entries)		WD0BQM 4,045	
Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, North and South Texas Sections (14 entries)	W5VY/R 14,662	W5LUA 41,126	
Illinois, Indiana (4 entries)	W9SNR/R 26,403	W9SZ 11,525	
Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin (11 entries)	W0ZF/R 1,718	W0UC 39,866	
Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, Northern and Western New York Sections, Western Pennsylvania Section (21 entries)	KF2MR/R 62,560	VE3ZV 46,217	N8ZM 38,771
Kentucky, Tennessee (7 entries)	AG4V/R 21,445	N4QWZ 30,454	
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina (14 entries)	K4SME/R 73,542	K0XVM 90,542	
Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland-DC Section (8 entries)	N9ZL/R 1,964	K1RZ 150,294	
New Jersey, Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York City-Long Island Sections (25 entries)	NN3Q/R 48,182	N3RG 50,703	N2NT 37,478
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Quebec (26 entries)	AA1I/R 11,947	K1TEO 146,148	
Maritime (no entries)			
DX/Any other areas including Alaska, Hawaii, US possessions and maritime mobile (no entries)			

Team Competition

Large Teams (6 – 10 members)	Score	Members
Californians and Friends Visiting Colorado	253,978	N6KYS, N6KLO, N6NB, W6TE, WB6ITM, N6EY, N6JMK, K6MI
Small Teams (2 to 5 members)		
Alpha Hotel	271,896	K4SME, K4RSV, N2CEI, K0VXM
Really Weak Signal Group	258,337	N1JEZ, K1TEO, W1AIM, AF1T
Roverunners	97,074	W7QQ, NK5W, KK6MC/R, K9PW/R, W0VOA/R
Going the Distance	34,280	K9JK/R, W9SNR/R, KO9A
UHF Da!	3,114	AE0EE/R, W0ZF/R



Jarred, KF2MR/R, shared that “A view down the 2304 MHz antenna revealed it was more crooked than I thought. Because it was working well, I didn’t bother messing with it. This view is from FN02 in western New York, pointing toward EN94 in Canada.” [Jarred Jackson, KF2MR, photo]

141, and 241 GHz), the only band with activity reported was 24 GHz, with a total of 16 contacts from 9 logs.

Strike up the Band(s)

The 70-centimeter band was the most popular (as it typically was in past UHF contests), with 189 logs reporting over 2,500 contacts. The 222 MHz band was not far behind with just over 2,100 contacts from 161 logs. The third most popular band was 1.2 GHz. The total number of contacts came in just under 1,000 at 990, with 123 logs showing activity there.

The impact of the multipliers on the distance points is interesting, with total points for the contacts on 222 MHz being almost 80% higher than the total points for 432 MHz.

About 75% of the logs received (149 out of 199) reported four (or fewer) bands used, with the bands frequently being from among the “bottom four” bands (222, 432, 902 MHz, and 1.2 GHz). This was true of all 25 logs from Region 1, all 12 from Region 3, and the 3 from Region 7 (though one of the logs from Region 3 skipped over the 1.2 GHz band to report a contact on 2.3 GHz).

The 50 logs reporting use of five or more bands were spread across the regions, with Region 4 being notable because eight of the nine logs from the region fit that criteria (thanks in large part to the “Californians and Friends Visiting Colorado” team that travelled there). Region 15 also carried its weight, with 11 of their 25 logs including contacts on five or more bands.

Teams and Clubs

Six team registrations were received — one Large Team and five Small Teams, each from a different region, so each team was the winner for their region. These teams only represented 25 of the logs submitted, leaving plenty of room for more team activity in 2018.

Over half the logs submitted (111 of 199) credited one of 30 clubs, but only 10 satisfied the criteria of a minimum of three logs to be eligible for the Club Competition. Thirteen logs from the Mt. Airy VHF Club Packrats netted an aggregate score of 303,557, to claim the Medium Club gavel for this inaugural event. The Florida Weak Signal Society gave the Packrats a run for their money, with an aggregate total of 297,351 from seven logs to finish 6,206 points (just over 2%) behind. The Pacific Northwest VHF Society deserves mention for overall participation, with 21 logs submitted.

Next Year

The first weekend of August 2018 will bring the second running of the 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, starting at 1800 UTC on August 4 and ending at 1800 UTC on the 5th. Here’s hoping that participation will increase, including more activity on the bands with higher point multipliers. Perhaps more teams will be formed as well. Start planning now for the 2018 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest.

Feedback

■ In the article “Testing the Eclipse’s Effect on 80 Meters with WSPR” by Barry Pfeil, K6RM, published in the January 2018 issue of *QST*, the arrow in the DXplorer graph on page 75 should be pointing to a sharp peak that occurred during the regular daytime lull between 1300 UTC on August 21 and 0100 UTC on August 22. In addition, it is important to emphasize that WSPR beacons on the HF bands must function with an operator in control, either on site or remotely, with the exception of beacons operating between 28.200 to 28.300 MHz.