

2018 Eastern VHF/UHF Conference – ARRL “222 MHz and Up Distance Contest” Year 1 Review



Moderator: Bart Jahnke, W9JJ – ARRL Contest Branch Manager

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

ARRL's *NEW* "222 MHz and Up Distance Contest" debuted August 5-6, 2017

The objectives were:

- **Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands, seeking the greatest distance for each contact.**
- **A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode.**
- **Three participant categories.**
- **No power categories.**

So, how did we do?

2017 Results - with thanks to John Kalenowsky, K9JK, for his February 2018 QST Analysis...

- **199 logs were submitted, including three accepted a few days after the 15-day deadline.**
- **By category, there were:**
 - **34 Rover**
 - **158 Single-operator**
 - **7 Multioperator.**
- **Regions: Of the 18 competition regions, logs were received from 15.**
 - **Single-operator logs were received from all 15 regions;**
 - **Rover logs from 13 of the 15 regions;**
 - **only 4 of the regions submitted Multioperator logs (not a surprise as Multioperator entries were low for the predecessor August UHF Contest.)**
- **There was no boost of activity on the higher point-multiplier bands this year — of the 6 bands with 20x point multipliers (24, 47, 75, 122, 141 and 241 GHz), only 24 GHz reported 16 QSOs from 9 logs.**

- The numbers:

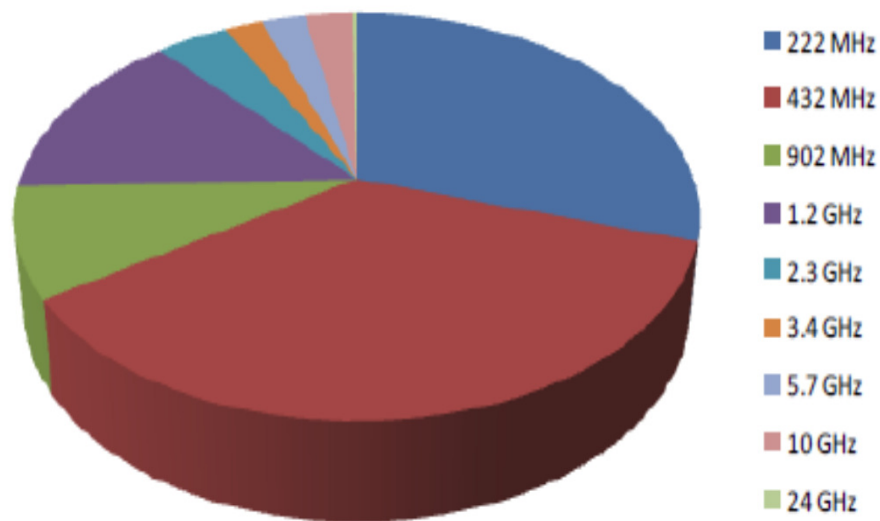
- The 70 cm band was the most popular band (as it typically was in past UHF Contests) with 189 logs reporting over 2,500 QSOs.**
- The 222 MHz band was not too far behind with just over 2,100 QSOs from 161 logs.**
- The third most popular band was 1.2 GHz; the QSO total came in just under one thousand, at 990, with 123 logs showing activity there.**

- Activity by Band :

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

- Graphically speaking:

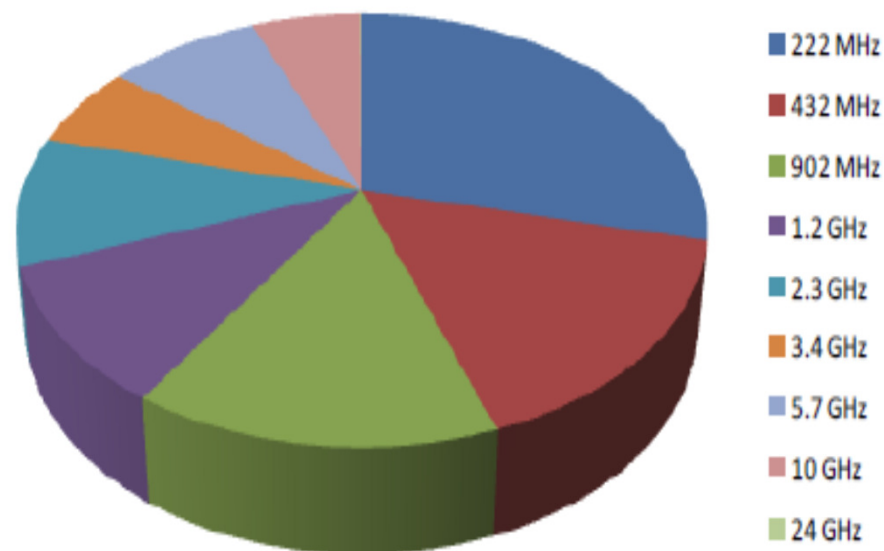
Contacts



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 and 1.2). 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 QSO on 2.3 GHz).

The 50 logs reporting use of 5 or more bands were spread across the regions with Region 4 notable in submitting 8 of 9 such logs (thanks in large part to the “Californians and Friends Visiting Colorado” team that traveled there). Region 15 also carried its weight with 11 of their 25 logs including QSOs on 5 or more bands.

Points



Regional View:

The 222 MHz and Up Contest is organized into 18 Regions, recognizing the geographic disparities of a continent-wide VHF+ contest. Each Region has its own leader tables and is covered separately in the writeup. (Map by K9JK, based on EI8IC's mapability.com North American Overlay Map)

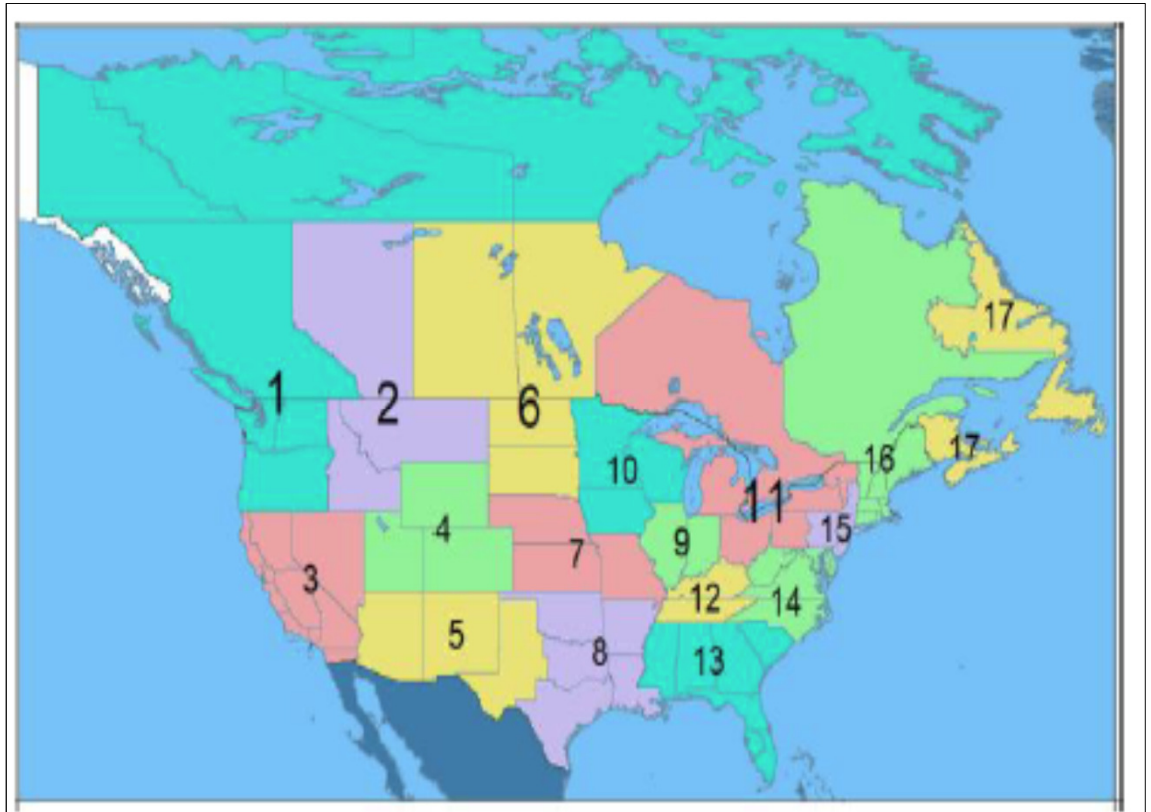


Table 1 – Results Summary of Top Scores

	<i>Rover</i>	<i>Single-op</i>	<i>Multi-op</i>
1. Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Northwest Territories (25 entries)			
	WW7D/R 23,131	K7YDL 8,557	
2. Idaho, Montana, Alberta (no entries)			
3. California, Nevada (12 entries)			
	N6JET/R 15,547	KC6ZWT 15,202	
4. Colorado, Utah, Wyoming (9 entries)			
	N6NB/R 116,639	N6EY 25,086	W6TE 21,611
5. Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas section (17 entries)			
	K9PW/R 29,639	W7QQ 22,210	KC5MVZ 326
6. North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Saskatchewan (3 entries)			
		NTØV 11,797	
7. Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri (3 entries)			
		WDØBQM 4,045	
8. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, North and South Texas Sections (14 entries)			
	W5VY/R 14,662	W5LUA 41,126	
9. Illinois, Indiana (4 entries)			
	W9SNR/R 26,403	W9SZ 11,525	

10. Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin (11 entries)			
	WØZF/R 1,718	WØUC 39,866	
11. Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, Northern and Western New York Sections, Western Pennsylvania Section (21 entries)			
	KF2MR/R 62,560	VE3ZV 46,217	N8ZM 38,771
12. Kentucky, Tennessee (7 entries)			
	AG4V/R 21,445	N4QWZ 30,454	
13. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina (14 entries)			
	K4SME/R 73,542	KØVXM 90,542	
14. Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland-DC Section (8 entries)			
	N9ZL/R 1,964	K1RZ 150,294	
15. 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
16. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Quebec (26 entries)			
	AA1I/R 11,947	K1TEO 146,148	
17. Maritime (no entries)			
18. DX/Any other areas including Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Possessions and Maritime Mobile (no entries)			

Group Activity

Club Competition – Medium Category

<i>Club</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Logs</i>
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

Large Teams (6 to 10 members)

	Region	Score	Members
Californians and friends visiting Colorado	4	253,978	N6KYS, N6KLO, N6NB, W6TE, WB6ITM, N6EY, N6JMK, K6MI

Small Teams (2 to 5 members)

Alpha Hotel	13	271,896	K4SME, K4RSV, N2CEI, KØVXM
Really Weak Signal Group	16	258,337	N1JEZ, K1TEO, W1AIM, AF1T
Roverunners	5	97,074	W7QQ, NK5W, KK6MC/R, K9PW/R, WØVOA/R
Going The Distance	9	34,280	K9JK/R, W9SNR/R, KO9A
UHF Da!	10	3,114	AEØEE/R, WØZF/R

- **So what did we learn?**

- Logs submitted activity was on par, to a pinch higher, with previous UHF Contests;
- Bands interest was mixed depending on region;
- Distance scoring showed diversity in results (no longer just a Northeast focus);

- **What can we do individually to make the event more fun in 2018?**

- Get on, or help or mentor a friend to get on and have fun;
- Add a band, if your station configuration allows;
- Coordinate/schedule contacts using email, text, chat or spotting, etc.
- If you are not using Digital modes yet, consider adding same for use in off/slow hours;
- Other ideas?

- **Questions? Discussion?**

The 2018 “222 MHz and Up Distance Contest” will be held August 4-5. Talk it up and join in the fun!

For more information, see the ARRL web:

<http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

Thanks for participating!