

2018 ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST
SOAPBOX COMMENTS

I WAS TRAVELING FOR WORK, SO WASN'T ABLE TO MOUNT THE EFFORT I USUALLY DO. FROM A SOTA PEAK OVERLOOKING LAS VEGAS, I MADE 11 CONTACTS IN THE 2 HOURS I WAS ON THE SUMMIT. I ONLY HAD MY TRI-BAND HT AND A WHIP ANTENNA...AA6XA

SOME PRETTY GOOD OPENEINGS TO THE SOUTHEAST U.S. LOTS OF QSB; SIGNALS WOULD BE STRONG THEN FADE TO BARELY AUDIBLE WITHIN A FEW SECONDS. KENWOOD TS-590SG, BAREFOOT HOMEMADE HALO, 15 FEET AGL...AA8TA

ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T BEEN ON AIR FOR QUITE A FEW MONTHS, MANAGED TO FIRE UP THE RIG WITH 3 SMALL YAGIS AT 18 FEET. HAD ENOUGH FUN WITH LOCAL Q'S TO CONSIDER TRYING ANOTHER CONTEST...AB2YI

OPERATED PORTABLE IN EM84AP ON 6/9/18...AB4VT

SATURDAY WAS VERY POOR -- 25 QSOS OVER ALL MODES. I GAVE UP AT 8:40 P.M. LOCAL. SUNDAY WAS BETTER BUT, AS USUAL, MOST OF THE ACTION WAS CENTERED ON THE EAST COAST. I WORKED ABOUT 140 QS TOTAL FOR THE WHOLE CONTEST I.E. NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THE JANUARY VHF CONTEST. FT8 WAS A MIXED BLESSING -- - A NUMBER OF UNENLIGHTENED OPS WERE IN REGULAR (NON-CONTEST) MODE. GETTING THE FT8 AND MS LOGS IN TO N1MM+ FROM WSJTX IS A PAINFUL PROCESS, EVEN AFTER THE CONTEST. I DIDN'T TRY TO GET REAL-TIME ENTRY GOING...AI5I

FIRST 6 METER OPENING EXPERIENCED DURING A CONTEST...AI9I-R

SOME NEW COUNTRYS IN THIS 1 BAD WX AT END STOPPED ALL THOUGH! ALWAYS FUN FROM...AJ4W

MY STACKED PAIR OF OA-50 OMNI LOOPS WERE VERY EFFECTIVE ON 6 METERS. NEXT TIME I WILL TRY FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF N1MM+ AND WSJT-X, BUT I ENJOYED THE MIX OF SSB, CW, FT8 AND MSK-144 CONTACTS...AJ6T

USED FT8 ON 6 METERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CONTEST...K0DAS

ONLY HAD A SHORT TIME TO PLAY ON SUNDAY BUT IT WAS A BLAST!...K0EMT

GOOD ACTIVITY LEVEL, BUT MY FORMERLY QUIET LOCATION IS NOW NOISIER...K1KT

ANOTHER MOST ENJOYABLE VHF CONTEST! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN ON 6 METERS IN QUITE A WHILE. THE BAND WAS OPEN TO MY SOUTH, WEST, AND NORTH - - ALL DAY! FOR THE NEXT VHF CONTEST, I WILL ALSO HAVE 2 METERS BACK ON THE AIR...K1MTD

SPENT MOST OF THE WEEKEND AT MY 15TH COLLEGE REUNION, BUT I HAD A LITTLE TIME LEFT OVER TO PLAY RADIO. NICE 6M OPENING SUNDAY...K1ZK
ROVERLOG AND 11 PM IS LATE...K2LDT-R

K3CCR IS THE CLUB STATION AT THE COLLINGTON CONTINUING-CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY AT FM 180W IN MD, JUST EAST OF DC. IN THE JUNE 2018 ARRL VHF, N3UM OPERATED SOLP. ON-AIR TIME WAS SHORT DUE TO LONG TWEAKS AND TESTS SAT. OF 903 AND 1296 MHZ GEAR. NEW MMIC DRIVER AMPS BOOSTED TX PA OUTPUT

TO 20W/30W FROM 7/11 W ON 903/1296 MHZ. BUT, MOST PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY SOLUTIONS; NEW POWER FRIED T-R RELAYS RATED AT 10 W! OK, GET ON 2 AND 0.7M, SAY HELLO TO OLD VHF BUDDIES, AND HAND OUT A FEW QSOS. FEW SIGS. SAT. PM, THEN 6M. E SKIP LOUD FOR HOURS TO W9/W0 SUN. SO I LOADED UP A 40M. DIPOLE ON 7TH HARMONIC AND MADE 8 SKIP QS TO EN AND EM. NEW 1 GHZ T-R RELAYS SPEC'ED AT 100+ W ARE ORDERED. I PLAN TO BE ON FOR 3 AUG. 222 MHZ+ DISTANCE CHALLENGE...K3CCR

A FEW BRIEF OPENINGS ON 50 MHZ. WERE VERY WELCOME...K3TW

BAD, STORMY WEATHER...K3URT

RIG: ICOM IC-756PROII TRY, MAINLY WORKED FT8 AS WAS ONLY THING THAT SEEMED TO WORK FOR ME. I WAS ABLE TO OPERATE A FEW HOURS SATURDAY AND A FEW HOURS SUNDAY. FIRST TIME ON 6M IN A LONG TIME. REALLY ENJOYED IT AND THE ADDITONS TO MY GRID COUNT...K4QD

GREAT 6 METER BAND OPENING ON SUNDAY EVENING...K4QR

FT8 HELPED ON 6M FOR THIS CONTEST...K4YRK

GOOD SIGNALS FROM EAST COAST AND MID WEST ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, BUT NOTHING FROM THE WEST COAST...K5XU

FT8 IS IMPACTING SSB ACTIVITY, BUT IT IS AN EASY WAY TO MAKE QSOS. SURPRISED BY HOW MANY CW CONTACTS I HAD...K5ZD

PART TIME EFFORT DUE TO OTHER OBLIGATIONS. USED A 160M SLOPER AS A 6M ANTENNA, AND A VERTICALLY-POLARIZED GROUND PLANE ON 2M. ONLY ONE OPENINGS ON 6, WHEN I WORKED INTO MEXICO...K6DAJ

NO RAIN! FREEZING THIS TIME !...K6YK

OPERATED FROM SOUTHFORK MOUNTAIN AT 4,800FT IN A RAIN-SNOW MIX FOR TWO DAYS. I HAD A FEW ELECTRICAL ISSUES AT THE START, WHICH LIMITED ME TO 2.5WATTS ON THE FIRST DAY UNTIL I FIGURED OUT A SOLUTION. OVERALL THE CONTEST WAS A SUCCESS REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER, OR THE FACT 6M DIDN'T OPEN UP FOR US FOR VERY LONG...K7ALO

THIS WAS AN EXPEDITION TO ACTIVATE RARE GRID SQUARE DN08 ON 6M. ROD WE7X AND I SET UP STATIONS AT GOLD MTN LOOKOUT, 4650' ASL, WITHIN THE COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION IN THE NE CORNER OF WASHINGTON STATE AT DN08SE33. I OPERATED FT8-ONLY WHICH HELPED THE TWO OF US SHARE THE TINY MOUNTAINTOP ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT INTERFERENCE REMAINED BETWEEN US. THE BAND WAS DEAD ON SATURDAY SO I WORKED ALL THE FT8 OPS WITHIN A FEW GRID SQUARES OF US. SUNDAY OFFERED RAPIDLY FLUCTUATING 6M OPENINGS. IN SPITE OF POOR CONDITIONS I WAS PLEASED TO WORK SEVERAL HAMS WHO'D CONTACTED ME IN ADVANCE, MOST NOTABLY JOE W0FY FOR WHOM I PROVIDED ONE OF HIS FINAL TWO GRIDS FOR HIS INSANELY DIFFICULT FFMA AWARD PURSUIT...K7BWH

QRP - 5W WITH THREE HT...K7IMA

FIRST VHF CONTEST...K8LBT

A LIMITED, LIMITED ROVER EFFORT, ONLY A FEW HOURS, STARTING SUNDAY AFTERNOON. WISH I'D GOTTEN ON EARLIER TO CATCH MORE OF THE ENHANCED 50 MHZ PROPAGATION BUT STILL MANAGED TO WORK 14 DIFFERENT STATES...K9JK-R

WE ARE DER FUNKWAGEN OPERATING LIMITED ROVER VISIT KA5D.COM...KA5D-R

GOOD SPORADIC E PROPAGATION FOR THIS CONTEST, MAKES IT POSSIBLE FROM FAR NORTH PART OF MICHIGAN...KB8W

LIGHTNING FORCED US OFF THE HILL AGAIN ON SATURDAY. WHEN YOU CAN SEE TWO PLUS MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION, WE CAN SEE STORMS COMING...KC0P-R

FIRST LOG SUBMISSION...KC3BVL

ONLY GOT MY LICENSE A WEEK AGO. I CQ'D LIKE CRAZY BUT ONLY 1 RESPONSE ALL WEEKEND...KC3LPC

EXCITING CONTEST WITH FT8 DIGITAL MODE DURING WEAK SIGNAL OPERATION ON 6 METERS. FLORIDA EXPERIENCED OPENINGS TO NORTH EAST TO RUN QSO RATE, THEN FOR MULTIPLIERS RUN FT8 TO WEST COAST AND EUROPE. I ONLY WISH THAT FT8 OPERATORS ALL USE CONTEST MODE. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE FT8 QSO'S USING AUTO SEQUENCE, I HAD TO SWITCH DURING CONTACTS FROM CONTEST MODE BACK TO NORMAL AND THEN BACK TO CONTEST MODE. A LOT OF TIME WAS WASTED IN THIS SWITCHING. MOST EXCITING CONTACT WAS VE6'S IN DO2 AND DO3 GRID SQUARES. I EXPECT HIGH MULTIPLIERS DUE TO FT8 DIGITAL MODE...KC4PX

TERRIBLY WINDY ON SATURDAY, COOL ALSO...KC6ZWT

GOOD CONDITIONS FOR THE LITTLE TIME I SPENT WORKING THE CONTEST. HAD FUN...KD5JHE

OPERATED FROM MT WATSON...KD7WPJ

K3/10 AT 5 WATTS TO AN 88' DIPOLE UP 45' FED WITH LADDER LINE. 73, AND C U NEXT TIME...KE0TT

OPERATED FROM FM29JW 9 CONTACTS * 1 (POINT PER CONTACT) * 8 (UNIQUE GRID SQUARES) = 72 POINTS. THANK YOU FOR THE ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST...KF3G

GREETINGS ALL, I PLAYED VHF CONTEST ON 6 METERS ONLY, ONE DAY ONLY, SUNDAY. I USED THE YAESU FTDX 1200, SET AT 100 WATTS ON SSB AND 20 WATTS ON FT-8. THE ANTENNA IS A THREE ELEMENT YAGI AT 28'. BAND CONDITIONS FOR ME WERE NOT VERY GOOD. THANK YOU FOR THE REALLY TOUGH ONES THAT STAYED WITH ME TO MAKE THE CORRECT CALL SIGN AND EXCHANGE. THANK YOU. MIKE KF5YUB 73,...KF5YUB

A FEW QSOS REMOTE FROM MONTANA USING THE INDY STATION...KJ9C

ROVERING IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN - IT DOESN'T GET COOLER THAN THAT!...KL7BSC-R

GOT LOTS OF IDEAS ON HOW TO WORK BETTER NEXT YEAR!...KM4UXN-R

ANOTHER FUN CONTEST. SUNDAY SEEMED TO BE THE "MONEY" PRODUCING DAY FOR QS. I LIMITED MY OPERATING TIME TO SUPPORT A LOCAL HAMFEST, BUT SUNDAY EVENING WAS EXCITING. I CAME ACROSS A FRIEND, ROB AA9MY WHOM I HAVEN'T CHATTED WITH IN AT LEAST 10 YEARS. IT WAS GREAT REVISITING HIM AND RUNNING THE BANDS...K00Z

POOR TROPO ALL WEEKEND...KT1R

CAME DOWN WITH A COLD A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE CONTEST, SO WAS NOT IN PRIME SHAPE, (ESPECIALLY MY VOICE). THEN THE MIKE STARTED ACTING FLAKEY, THEN DIED COMPLETELY IN THE LAST COUPLE HOURS. AND I FOUND OUT THE 432 ANTENNA WAS KAPUT, SO ONLY ONE QSO ON THAT BAND. AFTER A WEEK OF ES ALMOST EVERY DAY, NOT MUCH UP HERE DURING THE CONTEST - THAT LASTED MORE THAN A COUPLE MINUTES ANYWAY. LOTS OF VERY STRANGE LITTLE OPENINGS - 10-15 SECS, LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE FT8 DECODE, AND THAT'S ALL. THEY SEEMED A BIT LONG AND TOO FREQUENT FOR MS BURNS (AND MOST OF THE STATIONS HEARD WERE A LITTLE TOO FAR AWAY). BUT AM I COMPLAINING? OF COURSE NOT! PROBABLY WORKED THE MOST NUMBER OF "LOCAL" GRIDS EVER, THANKS MOSTLY TO FT8, INCLUDING TWO NEW ONES: DO00 AND DN06. (THANKS VE7SCC AND KD1RX, RESPECTIVELY!)...KX7L

HAD NICE EURO OPENING LAST WEEK. NO LUCK THIS WEEKEND - NOT ONE HEARD...KZ2I

LIGHTNING FORCED US OFF THE HILL AGAIN ON SATURDAY. WHEN YOU CAN SEE TWO PLUS MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION, THE THUNDER IS VERY LOUD...N0HZO-R

BEING ABLE TO OPERATE ON LOOPS WHILE DRIVING AND BEAMS WHEN STOPPED MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE ON THIS JOURNEY WITH 6M OPENINGS! WE BLENDED VOICE AND DIGITAL 6M TO MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE. GRID CIRCLING WITH ANOTHER UNLIMITED ROVER CONTRIBUTED TO OUR SCORE SIGNIFICANTLY. WE MENTORED K5SRT/R FOR HIS FIRST VHF ROVER ENTRY! OUR BEST SCORE EVER AND WE HAVE A NEW FRIEND!...N0LD-R

IC-7300 1ST CONTEST...N1JW

FIRST VHF CONTEST IN MANY YEARS. A LOT OF FUN WITH FT8 THIS TIME...N200 PAPER LOG TRANSCRIBED SIGNAL REPORTS LISTED FOR EXCHANGES ON SUBMITTED LOG PAGE, USING LOOKED UP GRID LOCATORS FOR SENT AND RECEIVED EXCHANGES EVEN THOUGH TRANSCRIBING AS CHECKLOG...N2VHZ

GREAT 6-METER OPENING SUNDAY EVENING...N3HBX

BATTERY POWER RUNNING 5 WATTS WITH FT817 ON 06-09-2018, EASILY WORKED 5 FL STATIONS ON USB WITH A MOXON BEAM. BATTERY POWER RUNNING 10 WATTS WITH IC-7000 AND MOXON BEAM ON 06-10,11-2018...N3KCM

FIRST TIME ON 222 MHZ SSB IN A CONTEST...N4DLA

WOW! WAS THE BAND OPEN FOR THIS YEAR CONTEST...N4HWH

THIS WAS MY FIRST CONTEST AND I HAD A LOT OF FUN ... IN SPITE OF MY VERY MODEST SCORE. EQUIPMENT USED: MFJ 9406 6 METERS SSB TRANSCEIVER, 10 WATTS OUTPUT HOMEMADE COPPER SQUALO ANTENNA FOR 6 METERS...N4NIV

THINGS A LITTLE SLOW ON SATURDAY...EVERYONE NUTZ OVER FT-8. REAL RADIO RETURNED ON SUNDAY. THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE IT BACK TO CW OR SSB...N4PN REBUILDING STATION, ADDED 8ELE LFA 50MHZ SEEMED TO WORK WELL...N4QWZ

JUMPED ON FROM TIME TO TIME, AND LIKELY MISSED THE BEST TIMES. ENDED UP ONLY WORKING 5 LOCALS (ALL OUTLAWS) THIS YEAR :-(... BUT AT LEAST I DID WORK 3 OF YOU RUNNING ONLY 1/2 WATT. SEEMS LIKE 6M WAS PRETTY GOOD HERE ALL WEEK, THEN ALMOST DEAD ON SATURDAY! BETTER SUNDAY MORNING, BUT I MISSED MOST OF THAT. THANKS, GUYS, FOR THE QSOS. GO ARIZONA OUTLAWS! 73 JOHN N6HI...N6HI

SATURDAY PROPAGATION COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...N6IC

HAD LOTS OF FUN, AND LEARNED A LOT ABOUT SETTING UP SW SETTINGS ON THE SDR TRANSCEIVER...N6KN

A FEW GUD ES+ WK`D MY OLD PAL KC6ZWT...N6SPP

THIS WAS ANOTHER THROWN-TOGETHER EFFORT FROM THE SHACK BEHIND MY HOUSE AND WAS ALL ANALOG, AS USUAL. THE SHORT YAGIS FOR THE HIGHER BANDS WERE ON POLES SIX TO EIGHT FEET UP. MY SCORE WAS ABOUT HALF OF LAST YEAR'S, ALL DUE TO LOWER 6-METER CONTACT AND GRID COUNTS. THAT'S LIFE WEST OF THE ROCKIES, IT SEEMS, BUT I WONDER HOW MANY CONTACTS WERE NOT MADE ON SSB/CW BECAUSE OPS WERE ON FT8 ALL WEEKEND. THE 1.2 GHZ RADIO FAILED MID-CONTEST, SO I HOOKED A 1.2 HANDHELD TO THE ANTENNA AND COMPLETED MOST OF THE ATTEMPTED CONTACTS ON THAT BAND. IT WAS GOOD TO HEAR SOME RELATIVELY NEW CALLS GETTING ON FOR THE CONTEST AS WELL AS SOME LONG-TIME / BIG-TIME HF CONTESTERS. THANKS FOR CONTACTS AND THE ATTEMPTS...N6VI

LACKLUSTER CONDX: NO ES ON SAT; SOUTHERN TIER ON SUNDAY. USED FT-8 FOR FIRST TIME & DISCOVERED THAT MANY USERS DID NOT REALLY KNOW THE NUANCES FOR VHF CONTESTING. DID 6 METERS OPERATIONS ONLY TO GAIN FT-8 EXPERIENCE!!...N6ZE

HEARD SOME SINGLE AND DOUBLE HOP ON 6, BUT NO CONTACTS. DX SEEMED TO BE ALL ON FT8 THIS TIME. THANKS TO THE ROVER STATIONS...N7DB

I HAD A FEW MINUTES AVAILABLE, SO I THOUGHT I'D SEE WHAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO ON 6 METERS WITH MY G5RV. TEXAS, FLORIDA, AND OKLAHOMA. THAT'S THE FIRST SIX 6M QSO'S FOR MY LOG!...N8FYL

FIRST TIME IN THIS CONTEST. HAD FUN...N8TCP

RAIN HELPED WITH LINE NOISE, BUT STILL CITY NOISE FLOOR PREVENTED GOOD RX OF WEAK SIGNALS. STILL FT8 NEWBIE, SORRY FOR RUNNING NON-CONTEST MODE. RTFM ALWAYS. WORKED MOSTLY SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST FROM HERE, BUT A FEW NE WITH STRONG SIGNALS AT THE END. K3 100W, 3 EL @25' AND 2 EL MOXON HANGING IN A TREE AT 45'...N8VW

AS USUAL, THE 6M OPENINGS EARLIER IN THE WEEK DISAPPEARED FOR THE CONTEST, BUT WE STILL MANAGED TO GRAB SOME GRIDS VIA BOTH FT8 AND SOME HARD WORK ON CW. 2M WAS A LITTLE LIGHT, BUT THE HIGHER BANDS PERFORMED NORMALLY. THANKS TO ALL WE WORKED!...N8ZM

VERY SURPRISED AT HOW WELL MY M2 HORIZONTAL LOOP DID ON SIX METERS. HAD A FUN TIME AND WORKED MANY NEW GRIDS. LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEARS EVENT WITH A BETTER SETUP...N9EAT

MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT CONTESTING IN FT8. I THINK I NEED TIME TO LEARN A BETTER WAY TO LOG FT8 IN A CONTEST...N9IO

A VERY PART-TIME EFFORT, IN BETWEEN TAKING DOWN MY TOWER TO REMOVE MY HF ANTENNA. STILL A LOT OF FUN, ESPECIALLY WITH ONLY USING FT8 MODE, WHICH HAS REALLY CAUGHT ON. CONDITIONS WERE SPOTTY, BUT THAT'S 6 METERS! BEING ON THE WEST COAST, IF AT LEAST ONE DAY OF THE CONTEST ISN'T COMPLETELY DEAD, WE GET DISAPPOINTED...NC6K

FIRST VHF CONTEST...NE5U

2 QS ON SATURDAY.....340 ON SUNDAY....WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES...NF4A

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE CONTEST...NG1R

HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COMPETE MUCH FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IN A WHILE. NICE OPENINGS ON 6 METERS. TRANSVERTER ON 2 METERS. WORKED ONE STATION, HEARD 4. AND T-11 LP AT 38 FT FOR 6 METERS. 10 ELEMENT ON 2 METERS. MY QTH FOR SO LONG!...NM9P

NOTE: FIRST TIME I'VE WORKED THIS CONTEST -- BY FAR THE FRIENDLIEST BUNCH OF OPS EVER!...NZ9M

ANTENNA SWR WENT HIGH RIGHT AT START OF CONTEST. WAS UNABLE TO USE M2 AMP DUE TO THIS, SO OPERATED THE CONTEST AT 60 WATTS. ALMOST ALL CONTACTS FROM BONAIRE WERE FT8, ONLY 4 SSB/CW DESPITE MANY CALLS. ALMOST LOGGED NOLL AND WQ0P IN KS, SAW MANY DECODES ON THEM. QTH PJ4G CONTEST STATION...PJ4V

ONLY A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME TO OPERATE ON SUNDAY DUE TO ENGINE ISSUES WITH THE ROVER AND WORK COMMITMENTS. ONLY MANAGED TO ACTIVATE 2 GRIDS THIS YEAR BUT DID GET A CHANCE TO MAKE A FEW CONTACTS AND HAVE A BIT OF FUN...VA3CDD-R

FT817, KX3, HANDHELD YAGIS AND 6M DIPOLE...VA3RKM

VISITING FAMILY IN ANOTHER GRID SO DECIDED TO ACTIVATE ROVER BEFORE MY MAIN ACTIVATION "PORTABLE" ON SUNDAY. VERY BEAUTIFUL WEEK-END OVERALL...VE2NCG-R

IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR THE ACTIVITY ON SIX. THE REGULAR STATIONS ON 2 MTRS. I NEVER HEARD THE ROVERS THAT WERE ALWAYS ON...VE3IQZ

I DID A LIMITED ATTEMPT THIS YEAR, ONLY SOME CONTACTS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING...VE3RKS-R

MY TRANSMITTED MODE IS SHOWN FOR CROSS-MODE CONTACTS LOG CONTAINS ONE KNOWN DUPLICATE QSOS (K1TO 50 MHZ FROM EN93), NOT COUNTED TOWARD CLAIMED SCORE EQUIPMENT - 50 MHZ K2+XVTR 10W/FT-857 100W/IC-7300 100W ,

DIPOLE/MOXON/MOBILE VERT. 144 MHZ FT290R II + B108G AMP 70W, 5 EL.
YAGI/MOBILE VERT 222 MHZ K2+XVTR 2W, 7 EL YAGI/MOBILE DIPOLE 432 MHZ
K2+XVTR 10W, 11 EL. YAGI/MOBILE DIPOLE 903 MHZ K2+RX CONV+TX 5W, 7 EL.
YAGI 1296 MHZ FT-290R+XVTR+AMP 6W/FT-817+XVTR 10W, 10 EL. YAGI 2304 MHZ
FT-290R+XVTR 1W, MOBILE HORN/55 EL. LOOP YAGI 3456 MHZ FT-290R+XVTR 1W,
15 DBI HORN 5760 MHZ FT-290R+XVTR 50 MW, 15 DBI HORN/MODIFIED CORDLESS
PHONE 10 GHZ FT-817+XVTR 2W, LPDA 24 GHZ FT-290R+XVTR 250 MW, 1 FT
DISH...VE3SMA-R

K3 / HF YAGI NO VHF ANTENNAS...VE3UTT

WITH ONLY 100W AND LOW DIPOLE FORTUNATELY SOME ES ON SUNDAY. OBJECTIVE
WAS PRIMARILY TO GET NEW GRIDS; WORKED 8 BUT SADLY IT NOW TURNS OUT THAT
ONLY 4 OF THEM USE LOTW. SUCH AN EASY WAY TO GET A NEW ONE, PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT ON VHF WHERE GRID REFERENCE MATTERS. WITH COSTS & DELAYS OF
BUREAU & SNAIL-MAILING WHY DON'T MORE USE LOTW? THE EXCITEMENT OF GETTING
A QSO ACROSS THE CONTINENT IS LOST WHEN I CAN'T GET THE EASY QSL...VE3VHB

YEASU FT 817 4 ELEMENTS...VE4TV

I HAD LIMITED TIME ON MY BIRTHDAY WEEKEND FOR THS CONTEST. 73
GERRY...VE7BGP

MISSED THE FIRST 3 1/2 HOURS AND THE LAST 3 1/2 HOURS BUT HAD
FUN...VE7DAY

AFTER A MOSTLY DEAD CONTEST PERIOD, THE BAND REALLY OPENED UP IN THE LAST
COUPLE OF HOURS...VY2HF

WE HAD A FEW GOOD OPENING WAS A FUN CONTEST MY FIRST DIGITAL MODE...W0YJT

SIX METER CONDITIONS WERE GREAT, BUT THE BIG STORY OF THIS CONTEST WAS
FT8. I BOTH HATED IT AND LOVED IT. THE FT8 BAND SEGMENT WAS A MELEE, AND
I SAW ALL THOSE BIG SIGNALS ON MY PANADAPTER AND THOUGHT HOW EASY AND
QUICK THEY WOULD BE TO WORK ON CW OR SSB. ON THE OTHER HAND, I WORKED
SOME SIGNALS THAT DIDN'T SHOW UP ON MY PANADAPTER, NOR WERE THEY AUDIBLE
BY EAR. SO I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS NEW MODE. I DID NOTICE ONE
THING: THE CW AND SSB QSOS WERE FUN. THE FT8 QSOS WERE NOT...W1JA

WOW! 6M WAS THE BAND TO BE ON. THANKS FOR SPONSORING THE CONTEST...W1QK

GOOD TURNOUT FOR A PRETTY GOOD SHOWING THIS YEAR. THERE WAS A BIG SIX
METER OPENING THAT WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AND SEVERAL NEW
MEMBERS AND OTHER STUDENTS CAME AND HAD A LOT OF FUN TOO, SO GENERALLY A
GOOD CONTEST ALL ROUND. PLUS, OUR STREAK OF THE STATION WORKING WITHOUT
ANY MAJOR EQUIPMENT FAILURES SEEMS TO BE HOLDING. 73, KC1EPN...W1XM

150 W. TO DIPOLE UP ~13M. WASTED ROUGHLY 2 HRS FIRST DAY WITH NO
DISCERNIBLE OPENINGS. SUNDAY AFTERNOON WAS MUCH BETTER, THOUGH NOT AS
GOOD AS LAST JUNE'S CONTEST. MANAGED 60 GRIDS THIS YEAR WITH THE BEST
BEING DM34 (AZ), A DOUBLE HOP (MY ONLY ONE), I'D GUESS. THANKS ALL FOR
THE Q'S -RICH, W2EG...W2EG

FIRST VHF CONTEST. FM28 ON A SUPER SIGNAL STRANGLER ATTENUATING ANTENNA
(HF G5RV)...W3FA

ONLY HAD 5 HOURS THIS YEAR TO WORK CONTEST...W4GA
WE EXPERIENCED THE GREAT 6M OPENING ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. FT8 WAS A LOT
OF FUN, BUT MANY STATIONS DIDN'T KNOW TO SELECT THE CONTEST MODE. FT8 WAS
VERY USEFUL AS THE BAND OPENED AND CLOSED. WE HAD HARD, STEADY RAIN ON
MONDAY FOR TEAR DOWN AND HAD TO USE OUR CHAIN SAWS TO ESCAPE FLAGPOLE
KNOB!...W4IY

HAD FUN, MONDAY WAS TOUGH!...W4OWL-R

ATTEMPTED ROVER OPS ON SUNDAY WITH ZERO CONTACTS OVER 5 HOURS THIS WAS A
SINGLE SATURDAY CONTACT WHILE AT HOME...W4POT

THIS WAS MY FIRST CONTEST...W6SAE

SLOW CONTEST, SEEMED A LOT OF THE ACTIVITY WAS ON FT-8...W7GLF

GREAT TO HEAR 6 CW LOADED WITH ACTIVITY! RIG: FT991A - 60W, FT817ND - 5
W. ANT: DIAMOND V2000A 1/2 WAVE VERT UP 20'...W8IM

I USED, YAESU FTDX-5000 200 WATTS STEPPIR VERTICAL & BEAM MY FIRST VHF
CONTEST...W8MET

ONLY ABLE TO GET ON AIR A LITTLE BIT, BUT WAS ABLE TO WORK ALL I HEARD.
PICKED UP A COUPLE NEW GRID SQUARES AS WELL!...W9KVR

FINALLY A BIG OPENING!...W9OO

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ROVERS WHO SUPPORTED MY EFFORTS...WA2TMC

AS ALWAYS, ANTENNA ISSUES HAD ME HAULING STUFF UP AND DOWN THE
TOWER...WA4UF

ALWAYS ENJOY WORKING THE ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BANDS
OPEN UP. 73...WA5WUX

OPERATED REMOTE FROM TOKYO, JAPAN...WA6URY

THE USE OF FT8 BY MANY STATIONS HURT ACTIVITY IN A BIG WAY HERE IN
ARIZONA. SIX METERS WAS OPEN BUT THERE WERE FEWER SSB AND CW STATIONS TO
WORK. FT8 NEEDS ITS OWN VHF CONTEST IN MAY OR JULY...WA7JTM

FIRST TIME ON 23CM, IT WAS GREAT FUN...WA9ONY

GLAD TO HAVE FT8 FOR USE. MADE MANY CONTACTS THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE
HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. BUT VERY SAD THAT SOME OPERATORS WERE NOT RUNNING FT8
IN NA VHF CONTEST MODE, AND INSTEAD WERE ATTEMPTING TO RUN THE NORMAL
SEQUENCE OF TRANSMISSIONS. THIS GREATLY SLOWED DOWN THE PROCESS, RESULTED
IN MANY LOST QSOS, AND WAS QUITE FRUSTRATING. YOU WOULD THINK THAT THEY
WOULD LOOK AROUND, SEE WHAT OTHERS WERE DOING, AND ADOPT THE CONTEST
PROTOCOL, BUT THIS TYPICALLY DID NOT HAPPEN. AND THEN AFTER THE CONTEST I
RECEIVED SOME ELECTRONIC QSLs FOR CONTACTS WHICH CLEARLY DID NOT

COMPLETE. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL BE A BETTER EXPERIENCE WITH FT8 IN THE NEXT VHF CONTEST. BUT SOME EDUCATION IS NEEDED...WB0IWG

JUNE 2018 RECAP FIRST, MY DRAKE LINE FINALLY DIED. I'M USING A YAESU FT897-D AND A MIRAGE B 5018 G AMP / PREAMP SET TO THE LINEARITY POINT - 110 W KEY DOWN, SO BETWEEN 80 AND 90 W ON VOICE PEAKS, ACCORDING TO MY ALSO NEW DIGITAL WATTMETER/SWR BRIDGE. I GOT MANY COMPLIMENTS ON THE VOICE QUALITY, WHICH SURPRISED ME AS I THOUGHT THE OLD D-104 MIKE WOULD BE SUPERIOR TO THE HAND-HELD YAESU MIKE. THE PREAMP IS QUITE EFFECTIVE IF THE BAND IS QUIET, WHICH IT WAS MOST OF THE CONTEST. MOST UNEXPECTEDLY HAPPY WITH THE NEW SET-UP. THE CONTEST WAS SURPRISINGLY BUSY, RELATIVE TO WHAT IT HAS BEEN RECENTLY, AND THAT'S WITH BOTH A FREQUENTLY RAINY SUNDAY AND 6 BEING OPEN A LITTLE SATURDAY AND MUCH OF SUNDAY. I GOT 80 CONTACTS SATURDAY AND ANOTHER 47 SUNDAY, BREAKING THE 125 Q MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE. (THE SEPTEMBER CONTEST I CAME IN 4TH IN THE NATION WITH 87 QSOS SOLP 2 METERS! UGH!) THOUGH I COULDN'T FIND A HINT OF FN11 OR FM08, I DID MANAGE 20 GRIDS. AN ENJOYABLE CONTEST. AND A CURIOUS ONE. ON SATURDAY IN THE FIRST HOUR I GOT FN33, CALLED BY TWO FN44S 2 MINUTES APART, FN12 AND FN00. SOME SLOWNESS WAS MADE UP FOR BETWEEN 0103 AND 0157 SUNDAY, GETTING 17 STATIONS. SUNDAY I GOT CALLED NOT ONLY BY KO4YC FM17, BUT LATER TWO MORE FM17S WITHIN A 4 MINUTE SPAN. IN THIS WEATHER, THAT'S AMAZING. NO ROTTEN KILOWATTS AND ALMOST NO QRM, EITHER. AS FOR WA2GFN'S 6 METER ACTIVITY, HE WORKED 42 SKIP STATIONS, 10 NEW. THESE INCLUDED THE K9MU/VE3 OPERATION FROM EN39 AND K5TR IN EM00, BOTH NEW GRIDS AND BOTH QSL, AS WELL AS A POSSIBLE NEW COUNTY FROM N0EO AND NEW ONE FROM W0WTF. HE HAD A GOOD CONTEST, TOO! AND THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF SSB OPERATION ON 6; IT WOULD HAVE BEEN INSANE IF THERE WERE NO DIGITAL...WB2CUT

LOTS OF FUN,...WB3JKQ

HAD FUN - I CONSIDER MY POINT SCORE TO BE RATHER SUCCESSFUL - (756). UNFORTUNATELY, THE SIGNAL CONDITIONS WERE POOR ON BOTH THE 144 AND 432 MHZ BANDS ; BUT THANKFULLY, THE SIX METER BAND DEVELOPED A VERY NICE OPENING ON SUNDAY EVENING AND RECOVERED MY VHF CONTEST WEEKEND SUCCESS QUITE NICELY. THANKS, GREG...WB8WUA

BROKE LAST YEARS SCORE OF 10K! WAS PRETTY MUCH ON FULL TIME WHEN I COULD. NICE TO SEE 6 OPEN. WAS ON FT8 WHEN BANDS WERE MARGINAL THEN WHEN THEY OPENED UP WENT TO PHONE FOR FASTER Q'S. TIME WENT BY FAST WHEN YOUR BUSY AT THE RADIO MAKING Q'S. MOSTLY DID RUNNING. CAUGHT SOME ROVERS OUT WEST. NO Q'S OUT OF NA. NOT MANY 432 Q'S THIS TIME AROUND...WB9TFH

WE (WESTERN US) WAS ROBBED!...WJ0F

ANOTHER GREAT JUNE CONTEST! 6M REALLY OPENED UP FOR US ON SUNDAY AND WE WORKED UP AND DOWN THE EAST COAST FOR OVER 6 HOURS. OTHER THEN 6M THE OTHER BANDS WERE BELOW NORMAL CONDITIONS AND OTHER THEN THE ROVERS NOT ALOT OF ACTION. WE BEAT OUR SCORE FROM LAST YEAR TO SURPRISE US ALL! ADDED 902 TO THE STATION THIS YEAR. HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE 2304 BY NEXT YEAR...WQ0P

SCORE 8X OVER LAST YEAR!...WQ5S

OPERATED PORTABLE FROM THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT UMUNHUM AT 3480FT. POWER SOURCE WAS 100% SOLAR CHARGED LIFEPO4 BATTERY. RIG WAS AN ICOM 706MKIIG, RUNNING UNDER 100W PEP ON 6M, 50W ON 2M AND ABOUT 15W ON 70CM. OPERATED FOR 5.5HOURS ON 3 BANDS, 6M, 2M AND 70CM, MIXED MODES SSB AND FM. HIKING THE EQUIPMENT UP TO THE SUMMIT AND BACK BY MYSELF WAS TOUGH, BUT I HAD A LOT OF FUN! BEEN A HAM FOR OVER 41YRS, THIS IS MY FIRST CONTEST SUBMISSION. 73, DAVE - WR6Z...WR6Z

GREAT FUN. ESPECIALLY ENJOYED LEARNING TO USE FT8 AND MSK144...WS5N

GOOD TIME EVEN WITHOUT EVEN A HINT OF ES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. FULL WRITE-UP IS HERE: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/WW7DJUNVHF2018...WW7D-R](http://tinyurl.com/ww7djunvhf2018...ww7d-r)

THIS CONTEST WILL BE DIFFERENT AND GREAT FUNNY TIME WITH FAMILY AND HAMMERS...XE2N