

Results of the 2011 CQ WW VHF Contest

BY JOHN LINDHOLM, * W1XX

"The important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics (TNX PJ2BVU)

Prof. Olaf Pikisilmä has outdone himself! The inventor of the web-based LingonBerry, which reports VHF contest results, has now gone one step further with his ground-breaking vPad (see fig. 1). The vPad reads all VHF contest signals in real time and instantaneously determines if CFM (Contact Forwarding Mode) is warranted. The heart of the system is VAC (VHF Activity in Contests), which literally sucks a sample of all contest RF out of the ether worldwide for processing. The results of the contest are known to the vPad owner as the contest progresses in real time with the final results available just 3830 nanoseconds after the completion of the contest at 2100Z. VAC is located on a floating ice island and was last seen near former DXCC country Wrangel Island in LOC AQ10zz. Thus far the system is both date and frequency sensitive—restricted to 50 and 144 MHz and the third weekend in July.

At the fall meeting the Contest Quahogs of Rhode Island (CQRI) were the first to see the prototype of this remarkable device operating in RE-PLAY mode. Here are the CHAT results as summarized by "The Old Timer."

Propagation Conditions

Chats about propagation conditions always predominate, with rover station *W3DHJ* coming up with the most graphic: "Saturday was a sack of rocks!" But Jonesy finished on a positive note with: "The best two hours of 6-meter E-skip thankfully occurred while I was in DM87." Multi-op *K2LIM* noted the same in the east with: "Band conditions were poor for the first part of the contest but 6 meters opened to the southeast USA, Caribbean, and South America about four hours before the end of the contest." Meanwhile, *T14KD* "chanced propagation and went to rare grid EK80 with fingers crossed and *finally* got some decent openings to the U.S." Europe was no exception, as *IT9VDQ* noted, "poor propagation until Sunday around 1300Z and then—after several good QSOs—I was called by two JAs. Great!"

Newbies

First timers to CQ VHF are always a boon to activity: "This was my first CQ WW VHF contest. I worked it from FN21 while on vacation using a 3-element 2-meter homebrew beam and 6-meter Par stressed Moxon on a painter's pole."—*K1PRO*. Likewise *KJ4WLH*: "First contest ever!" And rover *N8VUR*: "First time working a VHF contest. Will do it again." In Europe, *SV1DJG/P* "entered a VHF contest for the first

*48 Shannock Road, South Kingstown, RI 02879
e-mail: <w1xx@cq-amateur-radio.com>

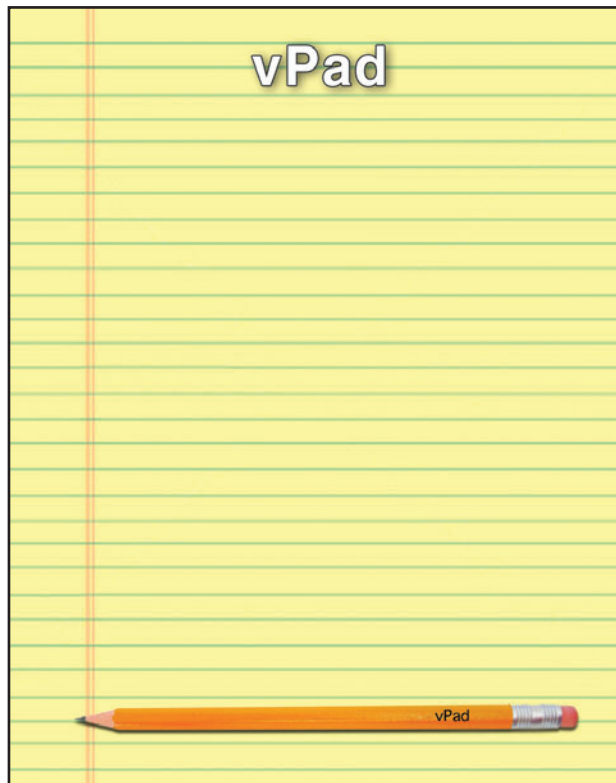


Fig. 1 – For security reasons, the vPad is cleverly disguised as an ordinary yellow notepad. The pencil is really the START button, which upon activation reveals the LED backlit pale-yellow touch screen. The options are SCORES, CHAT, or PROP available in real time or playback.

time to get the feeling and experience of the magic of 6 meters. Running 3 watts to a 2-element HB9CV antenna was tough but very exciting." Rookie operator *WA7KVC* "had great fun operating from a scenic hilltop in eastern Washington state on 2 meters." Next year he'll "add a 6-meter antenna to keep a lot busier."

Some Score Highlights by K9AKS

While some of the more technologically savvy Contest Quahogs continued to play with the vPad, the club was treated to a score analysis focusing on contest records by contest historian Curt Roseman, K9AKS. The Old Timer took notes, shared here with CQ:

In 2011, 6-meter only operators were treated to very good conditions in many areas of the world. E70T broke the all-time record for Europe with 73K points, while TA7OM broke the Asian record with 87K. Their grid multiplier totals of 196 and 185, respectively, easily surpassed the previous Europe/Asian of 154. Big news on the Magic Band was also made in Central America and the Caribbean with six of the top seven all-time high scores attained

this year, led by VP5CW (W5CW) and XE2N, each making over 400 QSOs.

The all-band (A) category this year saw some very good scores on both sides of the Atlantic. UT8IO attained the 4th highest score ever in Europe at 37K, and four of the ten all-time high scores in Europe were posted this year. K2DRH from Illinois again trounced all U.S. scorers with 167K points. Bob once again led the U.S. in 2-meter QSOs with 169. Elsewhere, NR5M broke the record for the 5th call area and KG6IYN did the same in 6-land. All-band activity was significant in Canada, where 5 of the 15 all-time high scores were posted in 2011; and they came from disparate locations: BC, SK, ON, NB, and NS.

The highest European multi-op (M) scores also came out of Ukraine, with UT11's 185K total the third highest ever in Europe. T48K in Cuba marked the highest multi-op score ever in the Caribbean with 32K points. K5QE & Co. was again the overall winner, although the Texans did not quite reach the 200K mark as they did in the four previous years.

QRP activity was substantial, with some very nice scores posted by the masochists who practice the art. Three of the five highest all-time EU QRP records were set. E77RW led the pack with over 20K points from Bosnia and Herzegovina. C4M scored over 29K from Cyprus, which is classified as Asia. The first significant score from south of the U.S. came from TG9ANF in Guatemala who made 101 QSOs. In the United States, the usual suspects led the way, with Chris (formerly KA1LMR) sporting a new callsign—W1MR—at 39K, again besting K9AKS and WB2SIH, both with better than a 10K score.

As usual, the 2-meter-only participation

was scant in North America, but substantial elsewhere, especially Thailand, Russia, and Ukraine; ON5GS was top with a score of 8K. Three cheers for Stan, KA1ZE/3, who forsook the glamour of 6 meters to hand out 134 two-meter Qs from his Pennsylvania hilltop for the third highest USA score ever in that category.

QRP portable stations working only 6 hours—called hilltoppers—are unique to this contest. This often affords operations from difficult to reach rare grids. In the U.S., WB8BZK gave up roving (top rover score in 2010) to operate 3 one-thousandths of a degree inside EN62 near Lake Michigan to another winning score with 2.7K points, edging out W9SZ by just 9 Qs. In Europe, HA2VR/P again combined CQ VHF with "Summits On The Air" to a world high score of 4.3K points in the hilltopper (H) category. (For more on hilltopping see this month's "Mobilizing" column.—ed.)

In the rover (R) category, W9FZ drove ahead of the US pack with 37K points with K9JK placing second. Although rare elsewhere in the world, rover US3ITU broke the all-time European record with 246 QSOs and 26K points.

Thunderous applause in appreciation by club members eased Curt's way back to his seat.

Reflection on the Rules Change

With The Old Timer again taking notes for CQ, the contest director proceeded to lull the CQRI membership to la-land with a lengthy dissertation regarding the rules change in effect for the 2011 contest:

The CQ WW VHF Contest for 2011 incorporated a somewhat bold change in

its rules. It attempted to recognize the changing landscape in VHF contesting—especially as it pertains to newer technologies—but also that there is a significant difference between HF and VHF contesting.

There were basically two aspects of this change. First was adopting what is now

TOP SCORES WORLD

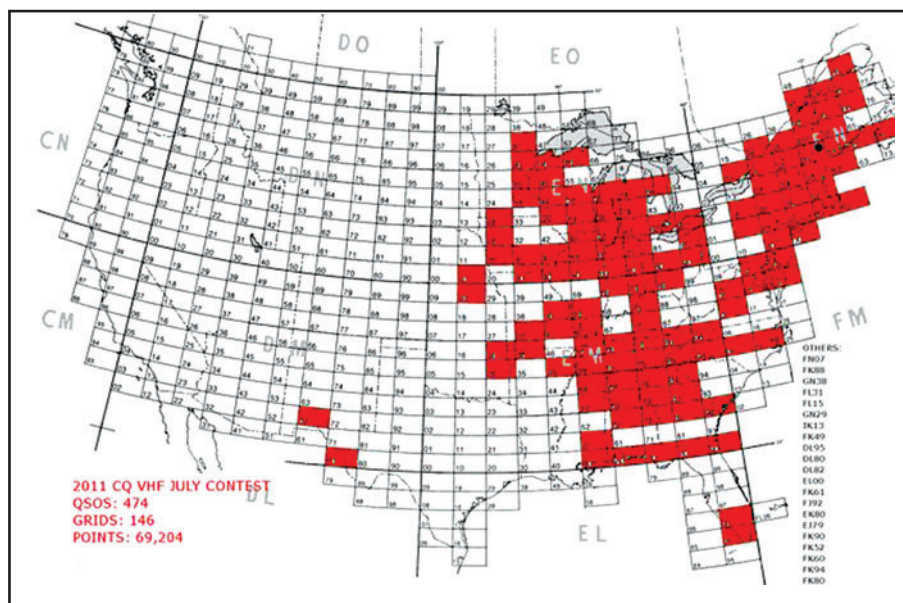
All Band	Hilltopper
UT8IO37,788	HA2VR/P4,389
DL2OM33,109	HG4UK/P1,701
OK1DC30,590	
UXØFF29,480	
	QRP
	C4M29,412
	E77RW20,470
	HA1ZH13,650
	UT7EL9,163
	Rover
	US3ITU26,298
	HS6FUJ14,220
	Multi Op
	UT11185,310
	UU9A109,482
	HG1W42,007
	UW3E39,650

USA

All Band	QRP
K2DRH167,400	W1MR39,585
NR5M105,165	K9AKS23,808
W1XX87,910	WB2SIH14,204
N4QV86,670	N8XA9,216
WA2FGK85,813	K3TW4,455
	Rover
	W9FZ37,506
	K9JK20,100
	N2SLN13,920
	WA2IID10,950
	WW7D7,518
	Multi Op
	K5QE187,392
	W3SO121,242
	W4MW82,399
	K2LIM81,620
	W4WA54,626
	Hilltopper
	WB8BZK2,697
	W9SZ2,418

QSO LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz	Multi-Op 50 MHz
TA7OM474	UU9A440
XE3N385	UT11356
E7ØT373	
	144 MHz
	HS1EFA613
	HS8JNF428
	E29ICZ230
	HS4DWI407
	USA
Single-Op 50 MHz	Multi-Op 50 MHz
K2DRH499	K5QE534
K1TOL469	W3SO322
	W4NH282
	144 MHz
	W4MW206
	W3SO202
	K5QE117



K1TOL again posted the top U.S. single-op score on 6 meters. This is how Lefty's worked grid square map looked at the conclusion of the contest.

Alinco introduces the World's FIRST 222/902MHz Dual-band HT!

Quality. Style. Performance!



NEW

222.000~224.995 MHz
902.000~927.995 MHz
Dual Band FM
Handheld Transceiver

DJ-G29T

Start working two of the "fastest growing" bands with these great features:

- 5 Watts - 222 MHz / 2.5 Watts - 902 MHz dual-band handheld transceiver
- Selectable full duplex system allows operation of main band and sub band simultaneously
- Independent dials for main and sub band
- Rugged polycarbonate body resists dirt and dust
- High-grade water-resistant materials compatible to IPX7
- Alinco's unique user-selectable PTT delay option eliminates the annoying squelch tail noise that some repeaters retransmit at the end of receiving non-reverse burst tone-encoded CTCSS signals
- Easy-to-read backlit alphanumeric display
- Large screen full-matrix LCD with easy-to-read icons and battery charge level
- Patented ChannelScope function allows visual monitoring of nearby signals
- "Wild key" lets you quickly change to frequently used setting
- 39 CTCSS tone squelch (encode + decode) and 104 DCS
- Keypad selectable wide / narrow bandwidth and mic gain
- Cloning capability between DJ-G29T units or through PC (optional cable needed)
- Quick-write memory channels
- Direct frequency input through illuminated keypad
- 500 Memories with memory banks
- Automatic repeater-setting function
- Multiple scan functions: VFO, Memory, Program, Tone, DCS & Sweep
- Crossband repeater feature

...Add Our DJ-G7T Tri-band 2M/70cm/23cm HT to Operate Five V/UHF Bands with Only Two Radios!

Distributed in North America by GRE America, Inc., 425 Harbor Blvd, Belmont, CA, 94002 USA.

Ph : (650) 591-1400 Fax : (650) 591-2001 email : alinco-sales@greamerica.com Website : http://www.greamerica.com

Products intended for properly licensed operators. Required products are FCC part 15/IC certified. Permits required for MARS use. CAP use subject to equipment approval. Specification subject to change without notice or obligation. Performance and specifications only apply to amateur bands. Cellular blocked in USA. ALL warranty claims and requests for repair/technical assistance for Alinco products should be sent to GRE America regardless of contact information found on the warranty certificate packed with the product.

CLUB COMPETITION

(Minimum of 3 entries required for listing)

UNITED STATES

Club Name	# Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	26	461,947
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	10	365,947
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	17	236,888
NACOGDOCHES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	195,540
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	117,198
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	11	102,967
BADGER CONTESTERS	8	101,736
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	6	93,393
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	3	82,247
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	16	48,707
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	5	45,010
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	7	36,391
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	7	33,767
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	7	27,500
LONE STAR DX ASSOCIATION	3	19,021
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	4	16,987
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	5	15,998
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	6	15,146

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	4	11,844
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	4	11,002
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	8	7,774
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	4	4,361
WEST PARK RADIOPS	3	3,985
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	3	288

WORLD

UKRAINIAN VHF INTERNATIONAL CONTEST CLUB	18	264,558
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	10	111,011
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CONTEST CLUB	4	101,842
GRUPO DXXE	5	70,823
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	7	59,952
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	7	19,175
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	3	14,818
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	3	12,621
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	5	3,260
BERGEN ARA	3	1,128
UA2 CONTEST CLUB	3	416

common practice in day-to-day operating and now permitted in a growing number of contests—namely, to allow single ops to utilize packet cluster “passive assistance,” but not self-spotting. This was not expected to be a game changer, and in fact seems to have caused hardly a ripple. Many casual ops probably thought it was already permitted. This is what some contesters had to say about it:

“On passive assistance, the rules were clear and welcome. Recognizing that VHF contesting can benefit was a revelation and great leap forward. Rules that help increase success for single ops without detracting from, lessening, or cheapening the competition should be furthered and welcomed.”—*VE1SKY*. “I enjoyed the new rules allowing internet assistance. It did seem to result in more contacts and certainly helped to track shifting

propagation. It's a simple formula: more contacts = more fun. VHF is not like HF, and any aid to making more contacts is most welcome; kudos to *CQ* for its common sense.”—*N1LF*. “I like the allowance of spotting use, or in my case, *DX-Sherlock*. It helps to know if I am wasting my time even listening, especially with QRP on my end. If there's no red on the map, I would just as well go work outside.”—*ND0C*.

The second aspect, permitting limited “active assistance” for digital EME/MS (Earth-Moon-Earth/Meteor Scatter) modes, required a bit more discipline to stay in bounds of the rules. Again, some comments from users:

“I simply love the new rules. We made more contacts on 6-meter meteor scatter this time than usual. We did not have the



Bill, VE3CRU, created quite a bit of excitement for grid chasers as he roved through four rare northern Maine grid squares.

usual 12–15 stations sitting on 50.260 MHz calling CQ. Once someone called me on my frequency, I almost always was able to work them. This was a major improvement. On 2-meter EME, because I could post my run frequency, there was little confusion in completing the contact. I do not recall losing any contacts once I got a good decode to my CQ. The whole digital part of the contest was much cleaner, more efficient and productive.”—K5QE. “Some confusion occurred as some Ping Jockey users tried to set up contacts with CQ VHF contestants. Casual digital meteor-scatter enthusiasts were at a loss to explain the ‘zombie-like’ response if they approached a contester for a ‘try’ on a band. Instead of the usual welcome from the contest operator to attempt an MS QSO, only a truncated reply of callsign, sequence, and frequency was posted by the contester following contest protocol. Regardless, the contest went very well overall. This is my favorite contest of the year. Thanks for the continuing improvements.”—VE1SKY. “I thought the rules were quite clear, as you could spot your CQ frequency, call, and

calling sequence, which is what I did. From the comments on PJ, some didn’t fully understand the rules and added the direction they were CQing—which was stretching things a bit. Overall, I thought it went quite well, although maybe there needs to be some minor tweaking. But I think CQ VHF is on the right track recognizing what is going on in the real world on a daily basis.”—NØKE.

In preparing these final scores, the adjudication process involved a careful review of transcripts of the usual chat and cluster sites. Most postings consisted of harmless prattle. Although there was evidence of some stretching of the rules, none were so egregious or numerous that any significant scoring advantage was obtained. To the contrary, although there was some discussion as to what was and was not permitted, it was clear that in this first year of rules modification, compliance was remarkably good. Thus, no punitive action was warranted this time around. This required a careful look at who was in the contest, as non-contesters obviously felt no compunction to follow the restrictive contest protocol. In conclusion, the digital aspects of the rule will be carefully reviewed prior to the 2012 contest, as suggested by Phil, NØKE.

Polite applause ensued from the CQRI brethren as the contest director concluded his remarks and several who had nodded off again regained consciousness.

Finis

The CQRI meeting ended informally with refreshments of cider and donuts, during which the contest director added a few final comments:

The 744 log entries established another new record, an increase of 6.3% over last year. Thanks to these amateurs who have volunteered their time and skill to assist in various ways to make this a fun contest: 7L1FPU, DL8EBW, E21EIC, EA3ALV, HA2VR, K1JX, K9AKS, KW2G, LU2UF, NØUK, PY2ZX, SM3CER,



The plaque is back! Starting in 2012, sponsored plaques will again be offered to top category winners. Here’s the prototype, a “brassy”-finish acrylic laminate. To sponsor a plaque go to <<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/plaques.htm>>.

UT1IC, W1PN, WA7BNM. Special mention goes out to W3KM, whose log checking program we used for the first time; K9JK, who did the 2010 certificates; LZ2FQ, who provided the Cabrillo log check for formatting logs; and most certainly N8BJQ, who masterminded all the log-checking procedures. What a team!

Reminders were made for the 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest, July 21–22, still the third complete weekend in July but a bit later than normal. The full announcement will appear in the June issue of CQ, and on the CQ website <cq-amateur-radio.com>, and on the CQ WW VHF Contest website <www.cqww-vhf.com>. A summary of the rules will also appear in various languages on many international websites.

After all the festivities had concluded, The Old Timer took charge of the vPad and made a beeline for the parking lot. While opening the door to his 1948 Hudson Hornet, he placed the vPad on the car’s roof and then absentmindedly sped off as the device smashed to smithereens all over US Route 1.

73, John, W1XX

GRID MULTIPLIER LEADERS BY BAND WORLD

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
E7ØT.....	196	UU9A.....	189
TA7ØM.....	185	UT1I.....	171
HA3DX.....	131		
UR5QU.....	130		
		144 MHz	
		UT1I.....	42
		HG1W.....	34
144 MHz		UU9A.....	24
ON5GS.....	42		
URØEQ.....	42		
DL2ØM.....	41		

USA

Single-Op 50 MHz		Multi-Op 50 MHz	
N4WW.....	155	K5QE.....	174
K1TØL.....	145	W4WA.....	116
N4QV.....	148	W3SO.....	110
		144 MHz	
K2DRH.....	60	K5QE.....	70
KA1ZE/3.....	49	W3SO.....	57
WA2FGK.....	35	W4MW.....	51

Expanded 2011 CQ WW VHF Contest Results

For a listing of the ops and grids activated by rover stations in the 2011 contest, “Scatter” comments, plus the operators of the multi stations go to <<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/results.htm>>. You can also go to the CQ website at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and look in the “Contests” section.

Number/letter groups after call letters denote the following: Class (A = all band, 6 = 6 meters, 2 = 2 meters, Q = QRP, H = hilltopper, R = rover, M = multi-operator), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Number of grid locators, State/Province (USA/Canada only), Grid Locator or Number of grids activated (rover only). Rover scores for USA are listed separately. Certificate winners are listed in boldface.

2011 VHF RESULTS

NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES

Table listing VHF contest results for North America United States, including call letters, scores, and other details for various stations.

Table listing VHF contest results for North America United States, continuing from the previous table with call letters, scores, and other details.

Table listing VHF contest results for North America United States, continuing from the previous table with call letters, scores, and other details.

Table listing VHF contest results for various international regions including Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and others.

