



ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest 2017 Results

By John Kalenowsky, K9JK

Participants chose to go the distance in this new contest.

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

Among the major revisions were:

- Simplification of the category structure to just three categories— Single-operator, Multioperator, and Rover (with no power level or band distinction subcategories)
- Distance-based scoring with point 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 (Small Teams with two to five members and Large Teams with six to ten members)
- 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).



16-year-old Kaylie Boyer, N6KLO proved proved herself to be a diligent station builder as well as a great operator in N6NB's group. See Kaylie's story at the end of the article! [Photo from Kaylie Boyer, N6KLO]

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)			
	AA11/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)			

Was it a success?

199 logs were submitted including three accepted a few days after the 15-day deadline. By category, there were 34 Rover, 158 Single-operator, and 7 Multioperator. Top scores for the three categories in each Region are shown in Table 1. (The Top 3 Leaders in each Region are listed in the table at the end of the writeup.)

Of the 18 competition regions, logs were received from 15. Single-operator logs were received from all 15 and Rover logs from 13 of the 15, but only 4 of the regions generated Multioperator log submissions. This is not too surprising, as Multioperator entries were low for the predecessor August UHF Contest.

There was no “rush” of activity on the high point-multiplier bands — of the 6 bands with 20x point multipliers (24, 47, 75, 122, 141, and 241 GHz), activity was only reported on 24 GHz with a total of 16 QSOs from 9 logs.

What did participants say?

Comments were generally positive, such as:

“The 222 and Up Distance Contest was long awaited and worth the wait. I really enjoyed the score by distance process.” (K1RZ)

“Glad to be active for the initial 222 MHz and Up distance Challenge. Should be fun reading through the results!” (KO9A)

“Had much fun! Tnx to all for the QSOs” (KX4R)

“I love the new distance based scoring for the event.” (NØUK)

“Lots of fun, and distance scoring gives interesting results. Will be fun to see how the scores work out around the country.” (N8ZM)

“The ARRL UHF Contest has always been one of my favorite contests. The new 222 & Up Contest adds a whole new dimension. The distance scoring vs the traditional scoring along with incentive band factors made it difficult to compare if your results were better or worse than previous years.” (W2SJ)

“I LOVE this contest. It was always my favorite, but now with the distance scoring, I think it's the best.... I just think this concept is going to sink in and get better and better.” (K3TUF)

“I liked the new distance scoring format. Exchanging 6-gridsquares was a bit challenging at times, but the challenge was worth it. The team aspect was nice as well

and it will be nice to see how that works out.” (KK6MC/R)

KF2MR noted some possible downsides:

“I really like the format change to a distance contest, but I certainly see the downsides. I feel this contest is well suited to big stations, well equipped Rovers, and those who like to experiment or study propagation.”

There were also some less favorable comments:

K1KT felt that “The new rules are too complex.”

W2RMA wrote “ON4KST killed the CQ and the Rover. Nobody called CQ. If one does not have I-net access, like at Blue Knob FN00rg, a very popular Rover spot, ON4KST is useless.”

KF2MR also mentioned “I tried to get some people excited about the team competition, but was not successful.”

Another note by KO9A was that “Local activity was down...didn't seem to be much local buzz for this contest. Hopefully the abrupt cutover from the old UHF contest to this format didn't kill whatever mojo the old August contest had.”

AF1T opined “I like the old rules better. I think that the distance scoring format is too complicated to attract newcomers and casual operators. I certainly wish there still Low and High power categories.”

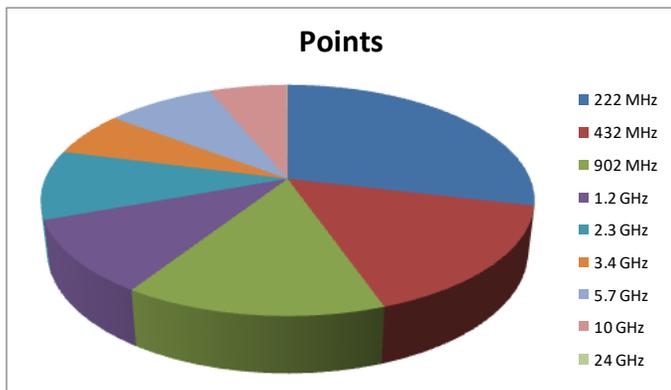
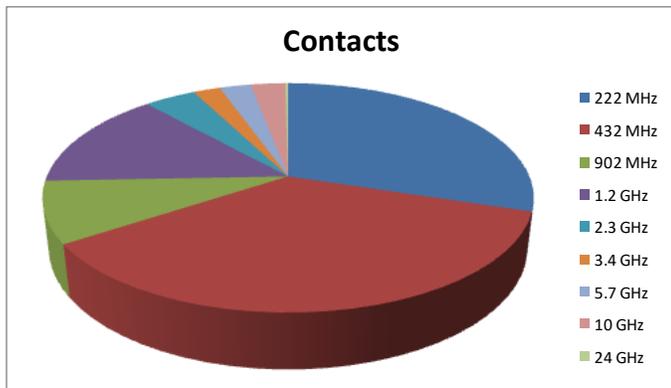
Strike up the Band(s)

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. Table 2 shows the activity level for all bands.

Table 2 – Activity by Band

<i>Band</i>	<i>Logs</i>	<i>QSOs</i>	<i>Points</i>
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

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. The following charts show a comparison of the QSOs by Band to the Points by Band.



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 travelled there). Region 15 also carried its weight with 11 of their 25 logs including QSOs on 5 or more bands.

Stretching the Rubber Band

The longest validated QSO path reported was 781 km on the 222 MHz band between two of the Multioperator teams, N2NT and N8ZM. On 432 the longest reported path was not too far behind – 769 km between KX4R and K9MRI (they also completed that path on 222). On 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz, N4QWZ spanned 613 km of the ether to complete QSOs with KU8Y (that path was also spanned by them on 222 and 432). K1RZ and K8TQK

paired up to be the top RF reachers on 2.3 and 3.4 GHz, traversing 519 km between their stations. With the 10x point multiplier for 3.4 GHz, that QSO was also the highest point earner at 5190 points. W5LUA pointed his 10 GHz antenna down toward W3XO/5 to accomplish the top DX for the band at 406 km. For 5.7 GHz, K1GX and N3RG were parties to that band’s longest QSO at 360 km. W5LUA was also part of the team that completed the longest reported QSO on 24 GHz, at 19 km with AA5C but K3TUF and W3SZ were close behind, completing a QSO over an 18-km path.



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)

Regionally speaking

A table of the Top Three entries in each Region for all three categories follows the text of the writeup.

Region 16, the six states of New England plus the province of Quebec, was the log submission leader with 26 logs, 23 Single-operator and three Rovers.

Jeff, K1TEO was the top Single-operator for the region with a point tally of 146,148 from 219 QSOs using all the bands between 222 MHz and 10 GHz. Among the region’s three Rovers, a point total of 11,947 from 38 QSOs across 7 bands, visiting FN32 and FN42, earned John, AA1I/R the top spot for the category.

N1JEZ claimed some of the region’s longest paths from his FN44ar perch, 743 km on 222 and 432 with K1RZ, and 588 km on 1.2 GHz with K3GNC. On 902 MHz, K1TEO reached out 544 km to WA3EOQ for the longest stretch on that band. K1GX achieved the region’s top DX on 2.3 GHz at 495 km with K1RZ and reached out 360 km with N3RG on 5.7 GHz. K1TEO’s 407-km path to K1RZ was the longest on 3.4 GHz. For 10 GHz, AF1T and K1TEO kept the 236 km that they spanned within the Region for the longest path on that band. The region was

also home to the “Really Weak Signal Group” team, with members AF1T, N1JEZ, K1TEO, and W1AIM.

Regions 1 and 15 matched each other with 25 log submissions from each: The states of Oregon and Washington, plus British Columbia and Canada’s Northern Territories comprise Region 1. The club influence of the Pacific Northwest VHF Society was significant with 21 of the region’s 25 logs (20 Single-operator and 5 Rover) naming the society as their club.

WW7D/R’s efforts to complete 158 QSOs (from CN86, CN87, CN88, CN96, CN97 and CN98) netted the region’s top point total of 23,131. Darryl posted a travel log of his roving adventure on his Wordpress site, reachable via tinyurl.com/ARRL222WW7D2017. Sadly, having not tried them out before the contest, Darryl found that the transverters he had added to his Rover set up for 2.3 and 3.4 GHz did not work.

The top Single-operator score for Region 1 was 8,557 from 42 QSOs by Greg, K7YDL. Greg used 222 MHz, 432 MHz, 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz.

K7ND reported the longest path for the region on 222 MHz (to KB7W); KE7MSU/R to WW7D/R linked up Rover to Rover over a 298-km path on 432 MHz. K7YDL’s 274 km path on 1.2 GHz was the region’s longest (to WA7TZY and WB7BST). KD7TS/R and KD7UO paired up to span 173 km on 902 MHz.

Region 15 is the state of New Jersey and the ARRL sections of Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York City-Long Island. The region’s 25 logs consisted of 22 Single-operator, 2 Rover, and 1 Multioperator.

N3RG’s QSO count of 101 netted Ray the top score of 50,703 in a fairly competitive Single-operator category for the region with K3TUF and W2SJ achieving scores within 8% of N3RG. A route through FN10, FN20, and FN21 with 8-band capability yielded 134 Qs for NN3Q/R and a score of 48,182. The Multioperator team at N2NT accumulated 103 QSOs, despite being only on 222 and 432 MHz with lower band factors; their total score was 37,478.

As noted earlier, N2NT was one of the stations involved in the contest’s longest QSO path on 222 MHz, 781km. N3RG was party to the region’s longest paths on 432 MHz, 653 km to N1JEZ; 5.7 GHz, 360 km to K1GX; and 3.4 GHz, 273 km to K1TEO. K3GNC’s 588-km path to N1JEZ was the region’s longest on 1.2 GHz. For 902 MHz, N2GHR stretched his signal 498 km (to KO4YC). W2SJ was the longest signal spanner for the region on 2.3 GHz at 334 km to K1GX. NN3Q/R was able to reach

250 km to K1RZ on 10 GHz for the region’s longest path on that band.

Region 11 (the states of Michigan and Ohio, ARRL sections of Northern and Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, plus the province of Ontario) was the locus of Multioperator activity with 4 of the event’s 7 Multioperator entries being submitted from the region. Thirteen Single-operator and four Rover logs made up the remainder of the region’s 21 logs.

Jarred, KF2MR/R visited FN02, FN12, and FN13 with 8 bands to complete 94 QSOs and claim the Rover top score of 62,560 for the region. EN92vw was the region’s place to be for Single-operator with Steve, VE3ZV completing 68 QSOs across 6 bands for a score of 46,217.



The KF2MR/R roverbmobile. [Jarred Jackson, KF2MR, photo]



A view down the KF2MR/R 2304 MHz antenna revealed it was more crooked than thought. “Since it was working well, I didn’t bother messing with it. View is from FN02 in Western NY pointing toward EN94 in Canada.” [Jarred Jackson, KF2MR, photo]

The N8ZM team was only on 222, 432, 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz but they really spanned the distances with their 77 QSOs on these bands (with lower band factors) for a total score of 38,771. In addition to the longest path for the contest (781 km on 222 MHz with N2NT), the N8ZM team also claimed the region's longest span on 902 MHz, 559 km to K1RZ. VE3ZV stretched his signals on 432 MHz, 714 km (to KB9KCR), and 2.3 GHz, 476 km to K1RZ for the region's longest spans on those bands. On 1.2 GHz, VE3CRU/R reached out 527 km to K1RZ for top DX from Region 11. VE3CRU/R also paired up with KF2MR/R for the region's longest paths on 3.4 GHz, 219 km, and 5.7 GHz, 195 km. W2RMA/R completed a very respectable 10 GHz QSO over a path of 161 km to K1RZ.

Arizona, New Mexico, and the League's West Texas section make up Region 5. As noted for Region 1, the influence of a club, the New Mexico VHF Society in this case, was significant in the region's activity with 12 of the region's 17 logs being from the society. The category breakdown was 12 Single-operator, 4 Rover, and 1 Multioperator.

Following the Central States VHF Conference, K9PW/R remained in the Albuquerque area to participate in the contest the following weekend. Pete visited DM64, DM65, DM74, DM75, and DM76 with 8 bands to complete 114 QSOs for a total score of 29,639. The region's Single-operator leader was W7QQ whose 87 QSOs across 8 bands netted Bill a score of 22,210. Region 5's lone multioperator entrant was KC5MVZ with 10 QSOs and a score of 326.

WB2FKO and KE7NR paired up for the region's longest 222 MHz path of 544 km on 432 MHz. WØVOA/R (piloted by W9RM and K2DRH) stretched their signal 470 km (to NØKE). From near the western edge of the region, KC6SEH reached farther west, into Region 3, for the longest path on 1.2 GHz, 373 km (to N6RPM). A 325-km path between KK6MC/R and WØVOA/R was the region's longest on 902 MHz. K9PW/R was one side of the region's longest paths on the remaining bands, 121 km on 10 GHz with KK6MC/R and 71 km on 2.3, 3.4 and 5.7 GHz with W7QQ (K9PW/R and W7QQ actually matched these path length from two Grid-6s visited by K9PW/R). The "Roverrunners" team, consisting of K9PW/R, KK6MC/R, NK5W, WØVOA/R, and W7QQ, made Region 5 their radio playground.

Regions 8 and 13 also matched each other in log count with 14 each. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and the ARRL Sections of North and South Texas constitute Region 8. Of 13 Single-operators, Al, W5LUA lead the pack with 53 QSOs on 9 bands for a score of 41,128.

W5VY/R hit the road to visit EM24, EM34, and EM35 with three bands. Pat's 28 QSOs netted a score of 14,662.

Pat was also one end of the region's longest QSOs on his three bands, 222 MHz, 432 MHz and 1.2 GHz, teaming up with K5VH for 607 km on 222 MHz and 1.2 GHz and K5AND for 596 km on 432 MHz. W5LUA stretched his signal to Region 12 for a 414-km path on 902 MHz with AG4V/R. K5AND and AA5C paired up for the region's best DX on 2.3 GHz at 353 km. On 3.4 and 5.7 GHz, W5LUA and K5LLL spanned 232 km. For 10 GHz, W5LUA caught W3XO/5 for a 406-km path and he reached out to AA5C for a 19-km path on 24 GHz.

Region 13 — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina — produced three Rover and eleven Single-operator logs. Chuck, KØVXM claimed the top Single-operator score for the region with 90,542 from 121 QSOs across 8 bands. The region's best Rover score was 73,542 by K4SME/R; Sandra visited EL79, EL89, EL99, EM80, and EM90 to complete 112 QSOs with her 8-band station.

Distance leaders from Region 13 started with KX4R who reached 769 km (to K9MRI) on 222 and 432 MHz. KØVXM paired up with K4SMR/R and N2CEI/R completing QSO paths of 398 km on 902 MHz, 1.2 GHz, and 2.3 GHz. K4SME/R logged a 361-km QSO on 10 GHz (with KF4YOX). For 5.7 GHz, KØVXM and K4RSV/R stretched their signals to each other over a 307- km path and, on 3.4 GHz Chuck was also one end of a 239-km QSO (with KF4YOX). Team "Alpha Hotel" was active in the region with team members KØVXM, K4RSV/R, K4SME/R, and N2CEI/R.

Region 3, California and Nevada, was next in log submission count with 12; 8 Single-operator and 4 Rover. N6JET/R, Chris, claimed the region's top score, 15,547, traversing CM87, CM88, CM97, and CM98 with his 4-band roverbmobile to complete 95 QSOs. The Single-operator category was bested by Norm, KC6ZWT for a score of 15,202 from 65 QSOs on 4 bands (222, 432, 902 MHz, and 2.3 GHz). Norm's score might have been higher were it not for a visit by Murphy that struck his 1.2 GHz transverter. QSO paths of 415 km were reported by W6IT on 222 MHz, 432 MHz, and 1.2 GHz (all to K6MYC). The region's category leaders, KC6ZWT and N6JET/R completed the region's longest QSO on 902 MHz at 186 km. The region's only QSO on 2.3 GHz was by KC6ZWT, a quite decent 151-km path (to W6PQL).

With 11 logs from Minnesota and Wisconsin, Region 10 (which also includes Iowa) was next in count of logs submitted. Paul, WØUC led the region's 9 Single-

operator entrants with 74 QSOs from his 4-band station for a total score of 39,866. Dave, WØZF/R, edged out his team “UHF Da!” partner (Bill, AEØEE/R) to claim the top Rover score for the region. Both used 222 MHz, 432 MHz, and 1.2 GHz and visited EN24, EN25, EN34, and EN35.

Dave’s QSO total of 49 was 5 less than Bill’s but Dave was able to complete some longer path QSOs on 222 MHz and 1.2 GHz (with their 2x band factors) to prevail with a final score of 1,718. WØUC was the region’s long signal path leader on his 4 bands: 708 km on 222 MHz (to KØTPP), 683 km on 432 MHz to NTØV, and 517 km on both 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz (to KU8Y). KØAWU logged a 10 GHz QSO over a 246-km path (to WØGHZ). ND9Z reported the region’s only QSO on 2.3 GHz over a very respectable 199-km path to K2YAZ.

A visit to Colorado by the “Californians and Friends visiting Colorado” team contributed to the log count from Region 4 (which also includes Utah and Wyoming). Seven Single-operator logs were joined by single Rover and Multioperator logs for a total of 9 from the region.



Wayne, pulled his rover trailer from his southern California home along with several multi-band sets of equipment for a few friends who would be joining him. [Photo from Wayne Overbeck, N6NB]

Wayne, N6NB/R, visited DM78, DM79, DM88, and DM89 with his eight-band station but, unfortunately, the 3.4 GHz transverter in his setup was not working, leaving him with just seven bands working. Still, Wayne was

able to complete a total of 164 QSOs for a final score of 116,639. The non-roving members of the “Friends” team stayed at Mt. Evans and were all very close in score, each over 20,000, but Jason, N6EY, prevailed as the top Single-operator score with 25,086 from 69 QSOs across nine bands. Dave, W6TE partnered with Jim, N6JMK for a multioperator effort from Mt. Evans; their 63 QSOs on 8 bands netted them a final score of 21,611.

The region’s longest QSO path for 432 MHz was 386 km, completed by both N6EY and N6KLO (to NØKQY). On 222 MHz, the longest stretch was 317 km, duplicated three times between N6EY, N6KLO, and N6KYS, all reaching N6NB/R. For 902 MHz, 1.2 GHz, 2.3 GHz, 5.7 GHz, and 10 GHz, the longest paths were from the entire group at Mt. Evans (K6MI, N6ET, N6KLO, N6KYS, W6TE, and WB6ITM) to N6NB/R at his DM88ax stop – all 163 km. Colorado resident W6OAL contacted the same group at Mt. Evans for the region’s longest path on 3.4 GHz, - 89 km. On 24 GHz, multiple “1 km” contacts were made AT the Mt. Evans site, among the stations who had 24 GHz capability (K6MI, N6EY, N6KLO, N6KYS and WB6ITM).

The 8 logs from Region 14 — Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina Virginia and West Virginia — consisted of 6 Single-operator and 2 Rover entries. Dave, K1RZ was very busy with 220 QSOs on the bands from 222 MHz through 10 GHz for a final score of 150,294. John, N9ZL/R started the contest near the famous (infamous?) rover spot along Skyline Drive, FM08us, and made 9 of his 11 QSOs from there. Fortunately, he moved “beyond the limits of a fixed location during the course of the contest” to FM09vc for two more contacts and a top Rover score for the region of 1,964.

K1RZ was the region’s band-distance leader for all bands: 743 km to N1JEZ on 222 and 432 MHz, 559 km on 902 MHz to N8ZM, 527 km on 1.2 GHz to VE3CRU/R, 519 km for 2.3 and 3.4 GHz (to K8TQK), 250 km to NN3Q/R on 10 GHz and a 181 km path to N3RG for 5.7 GHz.

Kentucky and Tennessee form Region 12 and was the source of 7 logs, 6 Single-operator and 1 Rover. Todd, N4QWZ recorded 55 QSOs across his four bands for the region’s top Single-operator score of 30,454. Steve, AG4V/R piloted his Rover station through EM35, EM44, EM45, EM54, and EM55 and logged 54 QSOs across five bands for a final score of 21,445. Todd and Steve also claimed the longest band-paths for the region: 732 km on 222 by AG4V/R to KX4R in Region 13, 613 km was spanned by N4QWZ (to KU8Y) on 432 MHz, 902

MHz, and 1.2 GHz. On 2.3 GHz, AG4V/R and N4JQQ completed a 25-km path.

Region 9 — Illinois and Indiana — could only muster 4 logs, two Single-operator and two Rover. The region’s top Rover score was achieved by Jim, W9SNR/R who visited EN51, EN52, and EN62 with his 8-band station to complete 84 QSOs, netting a final score of 26,403. Zack, W9SZ claimed the top Single-operator score for the region 11,525 with his 8-band-capable portable station that he set up in his favorite farm field in EN50rl. Zack only logged 14 QSOs but the distances he spanned and band factors really added up for his score.

W9SNR/R was one side of all the region’s longest QSO paths, spanning 430 km to WØUC on 222 MHz, 432 MHz, and 1.2 GHz, 347 km to K2YAZ on 902 MHz and reaching 186 km to fellow Region 9-er, W9SZ on 2.3 GHz, 3.4 GHz, 5.7 GHz, and 10 GHz. The “Going The Distance” team of K9JK/R, KO9A, and W9SNR/R was active in Region 9.

Participation was light (but appreciated nonetheless!) from Regions 6 and 7 with 3 logs each, all Single-operator for both regions.

North and South Dakota plus the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan form Region 6. A score of 11,797 from 13 QSOs across 7 bands by Dennis, NTØV was just enough to edge ahead of the 11,228 scored by Barry, VE4MA with 16 QSOs on the same 7 bands. NTØV’s completion of the region’s longest QSO paths on 222 and 432 MHz, 683 km, to WØUC certainly helped his score. VE4MA reached his 902 MHz signal to KØAWU for the region’s longest on that band, 394 km. A span of 234 km, conquered by NTØV and VE4MA, was the maximum for the region on 1.2 GHz, 2.3 GHz, 3.4 GHz, and 10 GHz.

Region 7 is the states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri and each state was represented in the logs received, one Single-operator log from each. Jim, WDØBQM completed 9 QSOs on 222 and 432 MHz for the region’s top score of 4,045 from his DN81cw QTH in Nebraska. The QSOs included the region’s longest paths on those bands, 299 km to several of the “Californians” team at Mt. Evans in Colorado. AF4JF stretched his 1.2 GHz signal 259 km to W9SZ for the region’s longest (and only) path on the band. NØJK made a single QSO on 902 MHz to reach 45 km (to NØHKT).

Teams and Clubs

Six team registrations were received – one Large team and five Small teams. All entries were from different Regions, so each 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.

Team Competition

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
Roverrunners	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

Over half the logs submitted (111 of 199) credited a club but only 10 of the 30 clubs referenced garnered the 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 7 logs to finish 6,206 points (just over 2%) behind. The Pacific Northwest VHF Society deserves mention for overall participation with 21 logs submitted.

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

Another note regarding Club Competition is that two of the ten clubs who satisfied the three-log minimum have not submitted an eligibility list to declare their eligible members and territory basis (ARRL Section or 175 mile radius circle for Medium and Unlimited Club categories and 35 mile radius for the Local Club category). Of the 20 clubs with fewer than three logs submitted, 9 have not submitted their eligibility lists. Next year, clubs without an eligibility list won’t be included in the results. See the

contest rules and www.arrl.org/contest-club-tools to create and enter your list!

What about 2018?

The first weekend of August in 2018 will bring the second running of the 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, starting at 1800 UTC on the 4th 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.

Kaylie's Story

My name is Kaylie, N6KLO (see Kaylie's photo on page 1) and I am a high school student in Florida. I spend my summers in California with my dad, Jason, N6EY, where I often participate with ham radio. This past August, I had an amazing opportunity of getting to participate in the ARRL 222 MHz and Up Contest in Colorado at the generous invitation of Wayne Overbeck, N6NB. As someone who is relatively new and inexperienced to the Amateur Radio world, I definitely learned a lot about how to set up different antennas and how each one worked.

We had three vehicles in our group, each with around 50 pounds of equipment mounted on top. As you can imagine, seeing three cars topped with several antennas and driving through Denver might look quite weird to a passerby. We had dozens of people come up to us, trying to find out what in the world it was that we were doing. Many were surprised to find out that we were not, in fact, storm chasers or ghost busters. However, they all were fascinated to hear about what we were actually doing, and it felt great to be able to teach others about how it all worked and the contest itself.

The morning of the competition, we started our trek up Mount Evans and got set up at our first location. At first, it was hard trying to remember everything I needed to say when making a contact, but I got the hang of it pretty quickly. It was all very systematic, and it was fun to see how everything was run.

The weather started out great that day but as we moved from location to location throughout the day, a nasty storm rolled in. However, 30-degree weather, rain, and wind weren't going to stop us from continuing with the contest. It passed quickly, and we spent the rest of the day (and a big part of the night) trying to see how many more contacts we could make. I learned so much on this trip, and it really helped me understand more of how all of it worked and I realized why so many people found it so exciting. I owe it all to my dad for all I know about

Amateur Radio and for introducing this to me, and I'm so glad he did. Trips like this one are experiences that will last a lifetime, and I'm thankful that I get to make these memories and to learn about such a great community.

Top Three in each Region by Category

Region	Call	Score	QSOs	Bands	
1	Single-operator	K7YDL	8,557	42 CD9E	
		VE7AFZ	7,407	29 CD9E	
		K7ND	6,919	47 CDE	
	Rover	WW7D/R	23,131	158 CD9E	
		KE7MSU/R	9,590	46 CD9E	
		K7ATN/R	7,693	45 CD9E	
3	Single-operator	KC6ZWT	15,202	65 CD9F	
		W6IT	7,094	31 CD9E	
		K6WIS	4,517	28 CDE	
	Rover	N6JET/R	15,547	95 CD9E	
		N6ZE/R	3,391	33 CD9E	
		KJ6VZC/R	1,123	7 CD9	
4	Single-operator	N6EY	25,086	69 CD9EFGHIJ	
		N6KLO	24,754	64 CD9EFGHIJ	
		N6KYS	22,676	61 CD9EFGHIJ	
	Rover	N6NB/R	116,639	164 CD9EFHI	
		Multioperator	W6TE	21,611	63 CD9EFGHI
	5	Single-operator	W7QQ	22,210	87 CD9EFGHI
WB2FKO			6,184	44 CD	
KC6SEH			5,609	12 CDE	
Rover		K9PW/R	29,639	114 CD9EFGHI	
		WØVOA/R	21,934	88 CD9E	
		KK6MC/R	21,917	62 CD9EI	
Multioperator	KC5MVZ	326	10 CDE		
6	Single-operator	NTØV	11,797	13 CD9EFGI	
		VE4MA	11,228	16 CD9EFGI	
		WBØHHM	1,818	6 CD	
		7	Single-operator	WDØBQM	4,045
AF4JF	518			1 E	
NØJK	180			1 9	
8	Single-operator	W5LUA	41,126	53 CD9EFGHIJ	
		K5LLL	29,664	45 CD9EFGHI	
		K5AND	28,437	45 CD9EFI	
		Rover	W5VY/R	14,662	28 CDE
9	Single-operator	W9SZ	11,525	14 CD9EFGHI	
		KO9A	7,685	52 CD9E	
		Rover	W9SNR/R	26,403	84 CD9EFGHI
		K9JK/R	192	12 D	
10	Single-operator	WØUC	39,866	74 CD9E	
		KØAWU	14,586	20 CD9EI	
		W9EWZ	4,143	22 D	
	Rover	WØZF/R	1,718	49 CDE	
		AEØEE/R	1,396	54 CDE	

Region	Call	Score	QSOs	Bands	
11	Single-operator	VE3ZV	46,217	68 CD9EFG	
		VA3ST	15,279	31 CDEF	
		K2YAZ	12,430	20 CD9EF	
	Rover	KF2MR/R	62,560	94 CD9EFGHI	
		VE3CRU/R	49,036	78 CD9EFGH	
		W2RMA/R	13,429	38 CD9EFI	
Multioperator	N8ZM	38,771	77 CD9E		
	N2PA	19,103	50 CD		
	WD8USA	12,375	38 CD		
12	Single-operator	N4QWZ	30,454	55 CD9E	
		N4JQQ	5,175	24 CD9EF	
		K4YRK	2,070	11 D	
	Rover	AG4V/R	21,445	54 CD9EF	
	13	Single-operator	KØVXM	90,542	121 CD9EFGHI
			KX4R	28,906	54 CD9E
KC4PX			13,596	51 CDE	
Rover		K4SME/R	73,542	112 CD9EFGHI	
		N2CEI/R	72,039	118 CD9EFGHI	
		K4RSV/R	35,773	62 CD9EHI	
14	Single-operator	K1RZ	150,294	220 CD9EFGHI	
		WA3EOQ	22,458	39 CD9E	
		K4FJW	1,254	5 CD	
	Rover	N9ZL/R	1,964	10 CDEI	
		K2JB/R	862	3 CD	
		15	Single-operator	N3RG	50,703
K3TUF	47,912			106 CD9EFGHJ	
W2SJ	46,794			116 CD9EFG	
Rover	NN3Q/R		48,182	134 CD9EFGHI	
	WB2SIH/R		17,245	49 CD9E	
Multioperator	N2NT		37,478	103 CD	
16	Single-operator	K1TEO	146,148	219 CD9EFGHI	
		K1GX	56,526	116 CD9EFGHI	
		N1JEZ	55,404	88 CD9EF	
	Rover	AA1I/R	11,947	38 CD9EGHI	
		W1RGA/R	9,465	52 CD	
		KJ1K/R	3,494	17 CD9I	

Band Designators (MHz or GHz) – C-222, D-432, 9-902, E-1.2, F-2.3, G-3.4, H-5.7, I-10, J,-24, K-47, L-75, M-119, N-142, O-241