VHF CONTESTING

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NCCC

Contest Academy

Why VHF Contesting

- More Challenges than HF
- Only need a Tech license
- E skip propagation provides “Surprise openings”
- Smaller antennas
- Can go portable or rover
- Many categories of entry
- Challenge of operating skill & your station

When

ARRL:

- Third full weekend of January
- Second full weekend of June 8 - 9, 2013
- Second full weekend of September

CQ:

- Third full weekend of July 20 - 21, 2013
- Start at 11AM Saturday…

  …end at 8PM Sunday Pacific time.

Object

- Work as many stations and as many grid squares as possible on as many VHF/UHF bands as you can.
- Score is number of contacts times number of grids. You can rework stations on as many bands as you can get on.
- You can rework rover stations again on the same band if they change grid squares.

Categories

- Single-Op Low Power 200-100-10 Watts
- Single-OP High Power
- Single-Op Portable 10Watts Port Power
- Rover (2), Limited 4 Bands, 200-100-10 watts
- Rover, Unlimited
- Multi-Op Limited 4 Bands
- Multi-Op Unlimited

Scoring

- 1 point 6 & 2 Meters,
- 2 points 222 & 430 MHz
- 3 points 900 & 1200 MHz
- 4 points for 2300 MHz & above
- Total points X Total grids = Score

6 Meters

- Beacons 50.000 to 50.090
- CW window 50.090 to 50.100
- DX window 50.100 to 50.125
- Call Freq 50.125
- SSB in contest 50.125 to 50.190, 50.210 up
- EME JT65 50.190 to 50.210
- FM Call Freq 52.525
- Do not Transmit in DX window unless you are answering a CQ from a DX station.

Equipment

- If you are going mountain topping, you must have newer equipment that is well filtered.
- Check your equipment out ahead of time.
- Most newer HF radios have 6 meters in them.
- Equipment for 2 meters & up is available on both the new & used market.
- Most contesting is on SSB, not FM.
- FM is used mostly on Sunday.

Antennas

- Yagi antennas are used the most with Horizontal Polarization on SSB & CW, Vertical on FM.
- Biggest supplier of antennas for VHF contesters is M2 in Fresno.
- If you have more then one tower or mast put the 6 meter and 2 meter antennas on separate towers, mast & rotors.

2 Meters

- CW 144.000 to 144.100
- EME JT65 144.100 to 144.150
- SSB 144.150 to 144.400
- SSB calling Freq 144.200
- FM on 146.490, 146.550, 146.580, 147.540
- Not permitted on 146.520.

222 MHz

- CW 222.000 to 222.100 shared
- SSB 222.000 to 222.300
- SSB Calling Freq. 222.100
- FM Calling Freq 223.500

430-450 MHz

- CW 432.000 to 432.100 shared
- SSB 432.000 to 432.400
- SSB Calling Freq 432.100
- FM Calling Freq 446.000

900 MHz

- FM Calling Freq 927.500 PL 100 Hz

1290 MHz

- CW 1296.000 to 1296.100 shared
- SSB 1296.000 to 1296.400
- SSB Calling Freq 1296.100
- FM Calling Freq 1294.500

Microwave

- 2304.100
- 10368.100

Conditions 6 Meters June

- You must monitor 6 meters all the time.
- 6m will open on E skip in any direction, mostly to East and North.
- 80% of all QSOs made in contest are on 6m.
- High power stations will run on 10 kHz steps
- Do not try to run on 50.125, work and move.
- Many new DX stations, PJs.
- Look for Rovers changing Grids

QSOs by Band

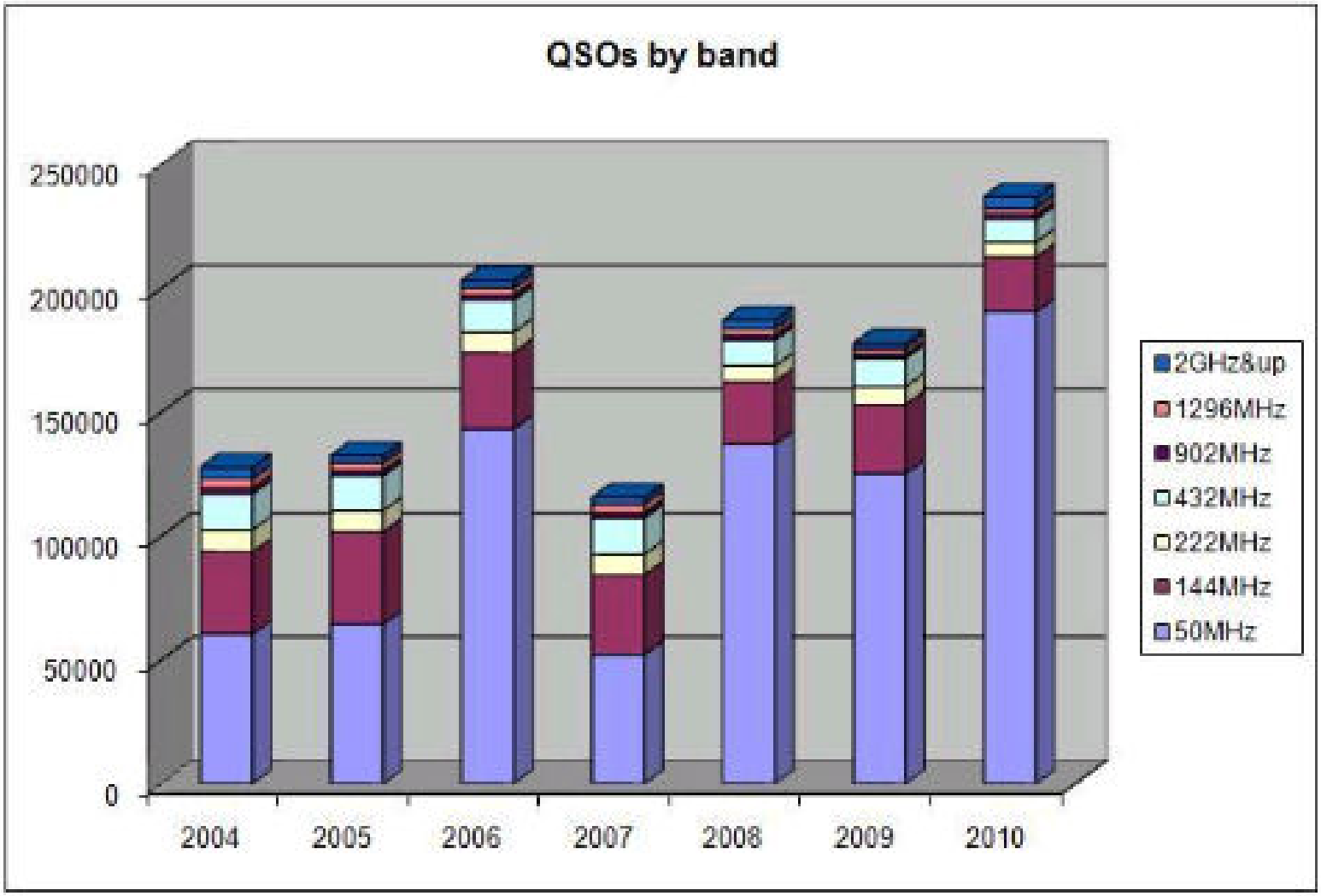

Figure 1 - QSOs by band for the years 2004 to 2010.

2 Meters & Above

- Work on 2 meters and move to upper bands.
- Biggest action is on SSB, not FM
- Above 2 meters some stations only have FM.
- Most QSOs are on or near the calling freq.
- Watch for rare Grids, example CM86
- If 6m does not open, 2m & up will have more action.

Questions?

Who are these guys?