

2010 ARRL UHF Contest Results

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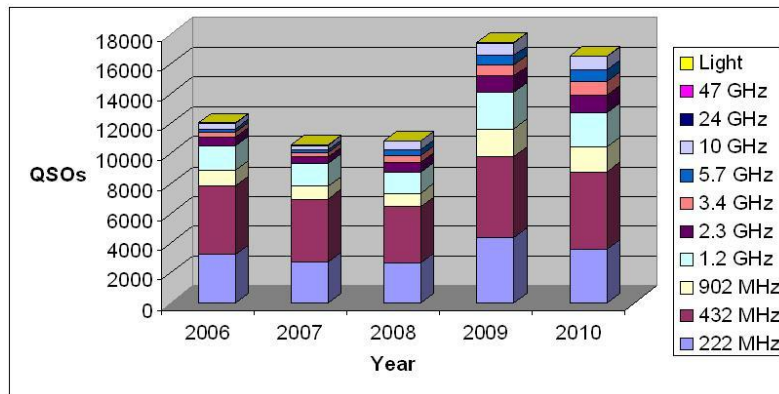
“Thirst for QSOs satisfied...”

After the widespread episode of roving across the country in the August 2009 contest, the ARRL Contest Branch was on high alert for a possible repeat of UHF+ rovers in this year's competition. After the dust had settled on the highways and byways, 2010 produced fewer rovers (41 total Rover logs versus 67 in 2009) but Southern California was still a hotbed of rover activity with 10 "slash-R" stations submitting logs.

A total of 222 logs were submitted with logs from fixed stations holding their numbers, increasing to 181 compared to 177 last year. Single-Operator, Low Power remains the most popular category with 112 logs submitted, growing from 103 in 2009. The extra “A” category logs made up for slight year-to-year drops in log counts for High Power (56 down from 58) and Multioperator (13 down from 16). Even with this 9% drop in log counts, the total of QSOs reported in this year's logs, a few over 16,500, only dropped by about 5% from the approximately 17,400 QSOs in 2009. The 41 Rover log submissions consisted of 33 classic Rovers, 7 Limited Rovers and 1 Unlimited Rover, representing a total of 206 grid activations, an average of 5 grids activated by each Rover.

Activity was noted from stations that did not submit a log – almost 600 additional fixed stations and 27 call signs logged with the “R” suffix (and showing activity FROM two or more grid squares) were among this year's reported QSOs.

Tables of “Activity by Band” (Table 1) and “Participation by Number of Bands” (Table 2) return for another year, now including and comparing five years of activity; 2006 to 2010. Figure 1 (at right) shows the data in Table 1 graphically.



Band	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations	QSOs	Stations
222 MHz	3229	152	2767	130	2700	156	4363	190	3597	165
432 MHz	4618	189	4204	165	3741	192	5422	240	5167	216
902 MHz	1037	90	850	77	906	88	1877	115	1658	102
1.2 GHz	1613	131	1520	108	1378	137	2418	154	2339	147
2.3 GHz	585	67	414	51	679	73	1072	80	1159	77
3.4 GHz	337	49	306	40	489	48	743	54	889	56
5.7 GHz	222	36	181	27	353	24	653	44	782	47
10 GHz	389	56	316	43	567	50	847	64	884	62
24 GHz	38	14	28	11	11	7	22	9	39	12
47 GHz	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0
Light	1	1	0	0	10	6	11	5	6	6

(More information, log checking reports, and a searchable database of scores are available on the ARRL Contest Branch Web site – www.arrl.org/contests.)

<i>Bands</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
1	26	26	27	40	40
2	32	36	32	52	43
3	40	21	35	35	31
4	25	24	29	34	34
5	8	15	20	22	10
6	18	16	15	15	16
7	12	4	16	9	9
8	19	18	15	33	28
9	10	2	3	1	8
10	0	4	2	3	3

Of the 222 logs that were submitted, 204 were submitted electronically through “the robot” and 18 were paper logs. All of 2010’s 18 paper logs were entered by hand so that all submitted logs went fully through the log checking process.

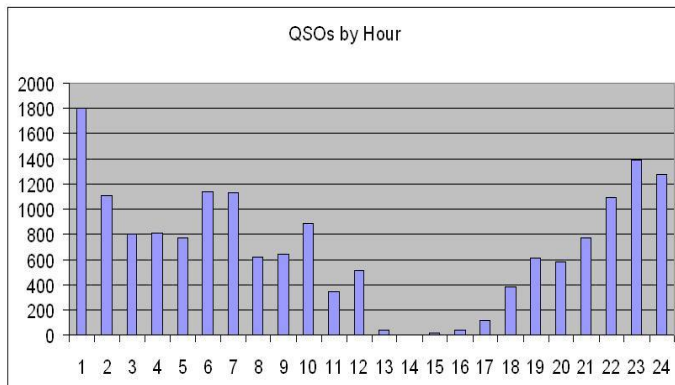
Where the action was

Before detailing the "where" for 2010, the contest data analysts apologize for an error in last years' article: grid squares in Southern California were identified with "EN" prefixes when they should have been "DM". A regrettable error, but one not to be repeated in future writeups.

Contacts were reported with 217 grid squares in 2010 which included three stations reporting contacts on 432 MHz with K2DY/MM out in wet FM39.

Among fixed stations submitting logs, a total of 95 grid locators were represented with 56 of them activated only by fixed stations. FN31 was most popular among the fixed stations with 9 logs received, followed in popularity by: FN42 (7 logs), EM86 (6 logs), EN82 (6 logs), and 5 logs were received from each of FM19, CN87 and FN20. The 206 grids activated by Rovers included 91 unique grid locators with 52 of those visited only by Rovers. As mentioned earlier, one regional hotbed of rover operation remained active this year in Southern California, with 10 Rovers visiting DM03 and DM04, 9 visiting each of DM05, DM13, DM14 and DM15, leaving CM95, CM96 and DM06 to be visited by “only” 8 of them.. Those 9 grids represent almost 40% of the total activations. The next most popular grids among Rovers that submitted logs were EN35 (6 rovers visited), EN34 (5 visits), EN52 (5 visits) and FN03 (4 visits).

When did contacts happen?



With the UHF Contest spanning only 24 hours, the following graph shows the count of 2010 QSOs for each hour. The first hour was the busiest with about 1800 QSOs logged, over 10 % of the total QSOs reported in the contest. The last two hours of the contest were also a peak of activity, with over 2600 QSOs logged, over 15% of the total. Combining those hours, more than one-quarter of the contest’s QSOs were logged in three hours, one-eighth of the contest time. The minimal activity during the overnight hours is quite visible as well.

Top Scorers by category

For what appears to be a UHF Contest first - Single-Op, Low Power has been won from Southern California as **Steve, WB2WIK** piloted the home station of N6NB to the top score in that category. Frequent top scorer **Bob, K2DRH** claims the second spot from Illinois followed by **Paul, W3PAW** from Western Pennsylvania.

The six year “chain” of Single-Op, High Power first, second, and third place finishers being Mike, KMØT, Don, WW8M, and Jeff, K1TEO has been broken with no log received from WW8M in 2010. **Mike, KMØT**, from his Iowa location, continues as “top dog” here, **Jeff, K1TEO** moved up to second spot from Connecticut and **Herb, K2LNS** piloted Eastern Pennsylvania’s **WA2FGK** station to third in the category.

In the Multioperator category, **Dave, K1WHS** with assistance from N1JFU, operated from Dave’s hilltop in Maine to claim the top spot. **Gary, KBØHH** assembled a team at his Oklahoma station to wrap up second place and **Ken, KA2LIM** and four others took “The Limo” to their favorite Western New York location and achieved a third-place finish.

Among the 33 classic Rover entrants, the top three scorers for 2010 are the same as for 2009, **Wayne, N6NB**, **Carrie, W6TAI** and **Art, W6XD**, all operating from Southern California. Wayne and Carrie added 24 GHz to have 9 bands and they single-op’d, activating 9 grids while Art was accompanied by **Kate, K6HTN** visiting “only” 6 grids and having a mere 8 bands.

Among seven Limited Rover entries, **Mike, W6YLZ** repeats as top scorer, activating nine grids in and around southern California. Your author, **John, K9JK** claims the second spot here, having visited six grids in Illinois and **Duffey, KK6MC** (despite a fiery finish to his rover vehicle – he’s fine, though) finished in third place, visiting eight grids in New Mexico. Be sure to check out the nice sidebar at the end of this writeup by **Pete, N6ZE** on his “TransCon” rove along the West Coast!

There was only one entry in Unlimited Rover in 2010, that being **Joe, WA3PTV** who piloted his eight-band station through three grids in Western Pennsylvania.

Top Ten by Category	
Call	Score
Single Operator, Low Power	
WB2WIK	177,531
K2DRH	101,136
W3PAW	49,464
W3SZ	49,248
AF1T	39,852
K2KIB	34,398
WØUC	31,671
W2BZY	29,640
W9SZ	25,920
WB1GQR	24,702
Single Operator, High Power	
KMØT	338,574
K1TEO	177,708
WA2FGK	169,344
KØVXM	99,330
K3CB	93,627
K1GX	61,977
K8TQK	59,058
W4ZRZ	57,057
WJ9B	55,176
W2SJ	44,520
Multioperator	
K1WHS	110,403
KBØHH	32,538
KA2LIM	22,134
K4EJQ	19,035
W9RM	11,178
AG4V	10,350
W3KWH	10,296
N1KAT	6,630
WA6ZTY	3,510
W6DQ	1,716
Rover	
N6NB/R	517,500
W6TAI/R	487,746
W6XD/R	393,708
N6VI/R	382,344
KJ6CNO/R	378,072
N6HC/R	377,910
N6UWW/R	352,086
K6B/R	349,845
W9FZ/R	74,496
N2CEI/R	63,804
Limited Rover	
W6YLZ/R	93,708
K9JK/R	20,424
KK6MC/R	1,887
N6ZE/R	864
KD5IKG/R	378
AB2YI/R	189
WBØKSL/R	126
Unlimited Rover	
WA3PTV/R	54,462

Division Records continue to be updated

A total of thirteen Division category records were bested in 2010 and the Southeastern Division was the ‘busiest’ with three hurdles being cleared; **Bob, W2BZY** bettered a best for Single-Op, Low Power that he’d just set in 2009. **Chuck, KØVXM** joined in with a new level for Single-Op, High Power. With his 2010 effort in Rover, **Steve, N2CEI** now has the top Division score for Rover to add to the top Limited Rover score that he claimed in 2009.

Steve, WB2WIK’s top score in Single-Operator, Low Power is a new record for that category in the Southwestern Division and **Todd, N4QWZ** raised the bar for “A” category in the Delta Division. In addition to what Chuck, KØVXM did in Southeastern, **Russ, K4QI** set a new standard for Single-Op, High Power in the Roanoke Division.

With a shift of activity to be more in the San Joaquin Valley Section, which is in the Pacific Division, **Wayne, N6NB**’s high scoring effort for 2010 (which is also a new top Rover score from all entries) now has him holding Rover category top scores for two Divisions; Pacific for 2010 and Southwestern for 2009.

Being newer categories, Limited and Unlimited Rover remain fertile for new records to be established or updated, with six entrants setting new standards here, including one in Unlimited Rover by **Joe, WA3PTV** for Atlantic and five in Limited Rover; **John, K9JK** for Central, **Duffey, KK6MC** for Rocky Mountain, **Pete, N6ZE** for Northwestern, **Tim, KD5IKG** for West Gulf and **John, WBØKSL** for Midwest.

Division Leaders		
Division Leaders	Call	Score
Single Operator, Low Power		
Atlantic	W3PAW	49,464
Central	K2DRH	101,136
Dakota	KØSIX	900
Delta	N4QWZ	14,040
Great Lakes	K8JA	3,300
Hudson	K2KIB	34,398
Midwest	NØTTW	3,612
New England	AF1T	39,852
Northwestern	KE7SW	1,755
Pacific	K6XN	4,020
Roanoke	K4FJW	7,650
Rocky Mountain	NØYE	4,446
Southeastern	W2BZY	29,640
Southwestern	WB2WIK	177,531
West Gulf	W5AAC	420
Canada	VE3OIL	3,402
Single Operator, High Power		
Atlantic	WA2FGK	169,344
Central	W9GA	15,408
Dakota	WØZQ	35,442
Delta	AA4H	7,344
Great Lakes	K8TQK	59,058
Midwest	KMØT	338,574
New England	K1TEO	177,708
Northwestern	N7EPD	6,420
Pacific	KC6ZWT	6,825
Roanoke	K4QI	38,868
Southeastern	KØVXM	99,330
Southwestern	N6EQ	5,400
West Gulf	W5VHF	2,652
Canada	VE3ZV	42,210
Multipoperator		
Atlantic	KA2LIM	22,134
Central	W9RM	11,178
Delta	AG4V	10,350
New England	K1WHS	110,403
Pacific	WA6ZTY	3,510
Roanoke	K4EJQ	19,035
Rocky Mountain	KØYB	360
Southwestern	W6DQ	1,716
West Gulf	KBØHH	32,538
Rover		
Atlantic	K2QO/R	13,899
Central	W9FZ/R	74,496
Dakota	KCØP/R	8,712
Delta	N4OFA/R	5,874
Midwest	KAØKCI/R	16,632
New England	W1AUV/R	24,231
Northwestern	K7HPT/R	2,520
Pacific	N6NB/R	517,500
Southeastern	N2CEI/R	63,804
Southwestern	W6XD/R	393,708
Canada	VE3SMA/R	36,288
Limited Rover		
Atlantic	AB2YI/R	189
Central	K9JK/R	20,424
Midwest	WBØKSL/R	126
Northwestern	N6ZE/R	864
Pacific	W6YLZ/R	93,708
Rocky Mountain	KK6MC/R	1,887
West Gulf	KD5IKG/R	378
Unlimited Rover		
Atlantic	WA3PTV/R	54,462

Regional Highlights

The Northeast Region is the log count leader again with 29 logs from the New England Division, 28 from the Atlantic Division and 7 from the Hudson Division for a total of 64. Among 37 Low Power logs from the region, **W3PAW** led the category with **W3SZ** barely 200 points behind. The second- and third-place national scores of **K1TEO** and **WA2FGK** for the “B” category topped the region’s 15 High Power entries. National first- and third-place Multi-Op finishers **K1WHS** and **KA2LIM** were the best among four entries. Of six “classic” Rover entrants, **W1AUV/R** was the top scorer along with lone entries in Limited and Unlimited Rover from **AB2YI/R** and **WA3PTV/R**, respectively.

Log submissions from the West Coast Region grew again with 42 logs from the region, 19 from the Pacific Division, 13 from Northwestern Division and 10 from Southwestern Division. Among the Single-Operator entries, 16 were Low Power with **WB2WIK**’s national top score leading the way. **KC6ZWT** claimed the first spot in High Power among 10. **WA6ZTY** topped three Multi-Op entries from the region. The top national Rover and Limited Rover scores of **N6NB/R** and **W6YLZ/R** topped ten Rover and two Limited Rover logs from the region.

Though down from last year’s total of 54 logs, the Midwest Region matched the log count of the West Coast with 13 logs each from the Dakota and Midwest Divisions, another 9 from the West Gulf Division and 7 more from the Rocky Mountain Division. **KMØT**’s top national score for the High Power category led 9 from the region. Twenty logs were received from Low Power competitors with **NØYE** achieving the top score among them. Second-place national Multi-op leader **KBØHH** was the best of two in that category for the region. Midwest’s 11 Rovers were just over half of last year’s 20 with **KAØKCI/R** leading 8 classic Rovers and **KK6MC/R** leading 3 Limited Rovers.

Thirty-nine logs from Southeast Region matched the submission count for 2009; 20 from Southeastern Division, 12 from Delta Division and 7 from Roanoke Division. In the “A”, “B” and Rover categories, the Division Records that **W2BZY**, **KØVXM** and **N2CEI/R** established this year were the best scores for those categories, leading 24 Low Power, 9 High Power and 4 Rover entries from the region. **K4EJQ** topped the two Multi-Op entries from the region.

After a spike in log submissions to lead the regions in 2009, the 35 logs from the Central Region; 18 from Central Division, 11 from Great Lakes Division and 6 from Ontario; ended up as this year’s smallest log count among the five regions. Of Central’s 14 Single-Op Low-Power entries, the second place national score of **K2DRH** was tops. Among thirteen “B” category logs, **K8TQK** led the region. Two Multi-Op logs were received with **W9RM** achieving the best score. The Central Region Rover log count totaled six, five classic Rover and a single Limited-Rover. **W9FZ/R** repeated as top scorer for classic Rover and your author, **K9JK/R**, was the sole Limited Rover.

Regional Leaders

A - Single-Op Low Power, B - Single-Op High Power, Q - Single-Op QRP Portable, M - Multioperator, R - Rover, RL - Limited Rover, RU - Unlimited Rover

Northeast Region			Southeast Region			Central Region			Midwest Region			West Coast Region		
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections			Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions			Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section			Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections			Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections		
Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat
W3PAW	49,464	A	W2BZY	29,640	A	K2DRH	101,136	A	NØYE	4,446	A	WB2WIK	177,531	A
W3SZ	49,248	A	N4QWZ	14,040	A	WØUC	31,671	A	NØTTW	3,612	A	K6TSK	14,280	A
AF1T	39,852	A	K4FJW	7,650	A	W9SZ	25,920	A	W6OAL	2,016	A	K6XN	4,020	A
K2KIB	34,398	A	WA4QYK	4,686	A	WO9S	9,720	A	KØPFX	1,620	A	AF6RR	3,024	A
WB1GQR	24,702	A	K4QXX	4,125	A	N9LB	4,524	A	WØRT	1,173	A	KE6GFF	2,556	A
K1TEO	177,708	B	KØVXM	99,330	B	K8TQK	59,058	B	KMØT	338,574	B	KC6ZWT	6,825	B
WA2FGK	169,344	B	W4ZRZ	57,057	B	VE3ZV	42,210	B	WØLGQ	41,769	B	N7EPD	6,420	B
K3CB	93,627	B	WJ9B	55,176	B	K2YAZ	36,330	B	WØZQ	35,442	B	N6EQ	5,400	B
K1GX	61,977	B	K4QI	38,868	B	K8MD	26,412	B	WØGHZ	23,349	B	K7ND	3,234	B
W2SJ	44,520	B	WB4SLM	27,264	B	W9GA	15,408	B	KØAWU	5,655	B	KI7JA	2,040	B
K1WHS	110,403	M	K4EJQ	19,035	M	W9RM	11,178	M	KBØHH	32,538	M	WA6ZTY	3,510	M
KA2LIM	22,134	M	AG4V	10,350	M	N2BJ	936	M	KØYB	360	M	W6DQ	1,716	M
W3KWH	10,296	M										K5EJL	36	M
N1KAT	6,630	M												
W1AUV/R	24,231	R	N2CEI/R	63,804	R	W9FZ/R	74,496	R	KAØKCI/R	16,632	R	N6NB/R	517,500	R
W1JHR/R	15,873	R	K4SME/R	53,214	R	W9SNR/R	62,424	R	KCØP/R	8,712	R	W6TAI/R	487,746	R
K2QO/R	13,899	R	AF4OD/R	21,816	R	VE3SMA/R	36,288	R	WØZQ/R	5,763	R	W6XD/R	393,708	R
W3HMS/R	6,630	R	N4OFA/R	5,874	R	WB8BZK/R	18,480	R	WBØLJC/R	4,386	R	N6VI/R	382,344	R
KA3KSP/R	60	R				VE3CRU/R	8,160	R	NØHZO/R	1,380	R	KJ6CNO/R	378,072	R
AB2YI/R	189	RL				K9JK/R	20,424	RL	KK6MC/R	1,887	RL	W6YLZ/R	93,708	RL
									KD5IKG/R	378	RL	N6ZE/R	864	RL
WA3PTV/R	54,462	RU							WBØKSL/R	126	RL			

Clubs continue to be a factor

With this being the second year for Affiliated Club Competition in the UHF Contest, it was again a positive factor for activity. While the count of logs submitted dropped a bit, the percentage of logs listing a club name, 137 of the 222 or just over 60%, is about the same as last year. Thirty-five different club “names” were submitted (after some massaging of spelling variations, still including the “NONE” Club) with only two names not matching the ARRL’s official Contest Club List at www.arrl.org/contest-club-list. This left 33 possible clubs, but with the Club Competition rules requiring a minimum of 3 logs to be submitted by a club to be eligible to race for the gavels, the number of competing clubs was reduced to 15 with 13 in the Medium category and 2 in the Local category.

Congratulations to the Bristol (TN) ARC for claiming this year’s gavel in the Local Club Category, with an aggregate score of 31,377 from their 4 entries. Eleven logs from the Southern California Contest Club resulted in an aggregate score of 3,566,940, repeating last year’s capture of the Medium Club Category gavel for SCCC.

Club Name	Category	Logs	Total Score
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	Medium	11	3,566,940
NORTHERN LIGHTS RADIO SOCIETY	Medium	15	469,380
NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	Medium	14	372,624
FLORIDA WEAK SIGNAL SOCIETY	Medium	11	308,535
BADGER CONTESTERS	Medium	11	246,918
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	Medium	4	177,093
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	Medium	6	138,669
MT AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB	Medium	6	135,513
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	Medium	5	101,022
ROCHESTER VHF GROUP	Medium	5	36,576
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	Medium	3	35,286
PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCIETY	Medium	12	18,969
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	Medium	3	7,626
BRISTOL (TN) ARC	Local	4	31,377
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	Local	3	7,491

OK, maybe not 300, but how about 250?

Thanks to all participated in 2010. While this year’s log submission count was down from 2009, it remained above 200. A significant number of stations that do not submit logs continue to participate and complete contacts with those who do submit logs. It wouldn’t take that many of the non-submitters to bump the total past the “249s” of 1994 and 1999. Could another widespread breakout of the R-ZERO-V-E-R virus happen? While I didn’t start that mantra to try and break 250 Logs last year, I **will** start one to urge that the 250 threshold for UHF Log Submissions is exceeded in 2011. (*Subliminal message: >250 in 2011! >250 in 2011! >250 in 2011! >250 in 2011!*)

1800 UTC on August 6, 2011 will be here only too soon to begin another 24 hours of radiosport on the bands at 222 MHz & Up. I’m already planning to be out roving, hopefully with some additional bands (so no longer a Limited Rover)...how about **you**?

Adding to Bill Seabreeze’s famous directive to “*listen for the weak ones!*”, I recently discovered Lloyd, NE8I’s statement that “Activity happens because we make it happen.” So, whether weak or strong, why don’t “we” make a LOT of activity happen in 2011!

N6ZE/R - "TransCoast Rover" During the ARRL August 2010 UHF Contest

As luck would have it, travel plans from my DM04 home QTH in SoCal to Seattle, WA (CN87) coincided perfectly with the August 2010 ARRL UHF Contest. Because I frequently enter VHF & UHF contests in the Limited Rover category, I decided to enter as a the UHF Contest as a Rover, but instead of driving from DM04 to CN87 during the contest period, I would activate DM04 & DM03 while driving to LAX International Airport, CA, fly via commercial airline to SeaTac Airport, WA, and then operate while driving around CN87 & CN88.



This marked my first effort as a "TransCoast Rover". In this way, I was able to activate four grids in three Sections and two ARRL Divisions!

A nice view of the Western Washington horizon from Whidbey Island (CN87tw), one of N6ZE/R's two stops at the north end of his 'TransCoast Rove' " Photo by Pete Heins, N6ZE

I utilized a Yaesu multimode mobile rig for 70 cm SSB/CW/FM and an old Kenwood TM331A for 223.5 MHz FM simplex. The radios and mag mount antennas were small enough to pack in

my suitcase for the airborne travel portion.

I was able to communicate both with my friends in SoCal and with my Seattle area UHF acquaintances during the contest period. I made 13 QSOs from both DM03/04 and from CN87/88.

When I used to pilot airliners professionally, I did a number of "TransCon Roves" with an FT817 to participate as a Rover from as many as six grids and several Divisions during the course of a contest weekend so as to hand out points and to proclaim that I was conducting a "TransCon Rove".