

VE₃WCC in the
2014 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Tactics for VHF Contests

2014 ARRL June VHF Contest – VE3WCC

1. Set some objectives

2. Stay in the chair!
3. Propagation modes
4. Alternate between calling CQ and S&P-ing
5. Tune the band and turn your rotator
6. Use CW
7. Pass multipliers
8. Work dupes
9. Log carefully!
10. If you're not operating, shut up!

VE3WCC previous scores

Year	QSOs	Mults	Score
2008	422	139	80,620
2009	496	176	134,816
2010	330	130	65,520
2011	351	155	86,335
2012	757	288	278,496
2013	649	181	194,575

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MHz	2008		2012		2013		2014 objective?	
	QSOs	Grids	QSOs	Grids	QSOs	Grids	QSOs	Grids
50	207	58	493	180	258	66	250 or 500	70 or 200
144	119	31	146	44	184	40	200	50
222	43	17	44	24	59	26	75	30
432	42	17	53	24	62	23	75	30
902	10	7	13	10	16	8	20	15
1296	19	9	10	7	14	6	20	10
2304			25	3	39	4	10	3
3456								
5760			19	2	23	2	10	2
10G	7	2	18	3	8	3	5	2
24G			2	2	4	3	5	2
Laser					10	2	5	2
Total	422	139	834	299	649	181	575 800	216 336
Claim	86,620		354,614		194,575		226,800 or 436,800	

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- Only one proven way to make a lot of contacts:
 - Stay in the chair and operate
 - Call CQ
 - Call other stations
 - Accurately log them

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- Sporadic-E (50, 144)
- Aurora (50,144)
- Auroral-Es (50)
- Tropo (144 to 1296+)
- Scatter
 - Ionospheric (50)
 - Rain (10GHz)
 - Aircraft (144-1296)

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- CQs:
 - Short and simple
 - *"CQ Contest, Victor Echo Three Whiskey Charlie Charlie, Contest"*
 - *"CQ TEST VE3WCC VE3WCC TEST"*
- S&Ping
 - Give your call **once**
 - Use **standard** ICAO phonetics

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- Which parts of which bands?
 - 6m CW: 50,080-50,110
 - 6m SSB: 50,125-50,200+
 - 6m DX window: 50,100-50,124
 - 2m: 144,150-144,275
 - Higher bands: +/-25kHz of:
 - 222,100
 - 432,100
 - 902,100 + 903,100
 - 1296,100

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- If they don't answer your call in SSB, try CW
 - Attracts attention
 - Better than SSB in marginal condx

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- Seize opportunities to move stations to other bands
 - “Any other bands?”
 - “PSE QSY 222R092”
- Communicate with the other ops
 - Know what freq they are on
 - Be aware that they may send stations to your frequency

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- Use N1MM's networking features:
 - Info window shows all network
 - Enter your frequency
 - Type "222110" in callsign field
 - Establish a "pass" frequency
 - (Alt+Z)
 - "Gab" messages (Ctrl+E)

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- When dupes call:
 - 1. log them (2nd chance)
 - 2. ask them to QSY
- When should you call dupes?
 - to move them to another band
- No penalties for logging dupes!

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- Two scores:
 - 834 QSOs, 299 Grids, 354,614pts
 - 757 QSOs, 288 Grids, 278,496pts
- VE3WCC in 2012 ARRL June VHF
- 2012: - 77 QSOs, -11 Grids, -76,118pts
- 9% of QSOs, 21% of score
- 2008: -6% of QSOs
- 2013: -5% of QSOs
- Good contest ops lose 0.5% or less
- Study the UBN report

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■ Maintain focus:

- Seek more QSOs
- Eliminate Distractions
- Anything that does not increase your score is a waste of:

- Your time
- Your colleagues' time

NO beer, TV, loud conversations, or friendly visits by the uninvolved

2014 ARRL June VHF Contest – VE₃WCC

Efficient Operating: Be predictable

CQ TEST VE₃WCC VE₃WCC TEST

AC8QU

AC8QU FN25

EN71

TU VE₃WCC

CQ Contest Victor Echo Three Whiskey Charlie Charlie

Alpha Charlie Eight Quebec Uniform

Alpha Charlie Eight Quebec Uniform, Fox November Two Five

Thanks, Echo November Seven One

Thank you, Victor Echo Three Whiskey Charlie Charlie

DO:

- Use standard phonetics
- Keep things clear and concise
- Repeat only when required
- Be very careful logging calls and exchanges
- Solicit band changes
- Work dupes when they call

DON'T:

Say *please copy my grid FN25*

Ragchew

Forget that you are part of a team

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*Good
Luck!*