

Contest Results Issue!

- 70 Years of Contest Memories
- Remote Radio Latency and Jitter
- How the RBN System Spots You
- *NCJ Profiles: Dave Tucker, KA6BIM*
- *Results: NAQP RTTY July 2022*
- *Results: NAQP CW, August 2022*
- *Results: NAQP SSB, August 2022*

Dave Tucker, KA6BIM, is a contest regular in Oregon who comes from a ham family going into its fourth generation. [Courtesy of Dave Tucker, KA6BIM]



VHF-UHF Contesting!

Larry Banks, W1DYJ, sent this story about his VHF contest activity.

I moved into a townhouse in 1993. Buying a used Kenwood TS-430S and stringing a 10-meter dipole corner-to-corner in my bedroom got me back on the air. Three years later I bought a house on a 200-foot hill that I could see from that townhouse. It was perfect for VHF! (See www.qsl.net/w1dyj/location_woburn.htm). First, I picked up a used Yaesu FT-736R and put up a roof tower with a homebrew seven-element 6-meter Yagi from plans in the *ARRL Handbook*. A second roof tower with a homebrew five-element Yagi for 10 followed, also from plans in the *Handbook*. I received my Amateur Extra in 2000, bought a Kenwood TS-2000 in 2001, and then a Kenwood TS-590SG 2 years ago. I have always run low power, and probably always will.

Having retired in 2012, I'm on all bands from 160 meters to 70 centimeters and spend my time DXing and "casual" contesting (about 25 contests/year), and am active in a number of New England clubs. I especially enjoy writing and giving technical talks, mostly about antennas (see www.qsl.net/w1dyj/#ANT).

Six remains a favorite, and I'm still using that now 24-year-old seven-element Yagi. It took me 5 years, mostly from VHF contests on phone, to finally achieve VUCC on 6 meters (in August 2003). And then 203 grids by September 2012, 302 grids by May 2019 (by now I was using SSB, CW, and FT8), and 400 grids by October 2020.

By the end of 2021 I had 438 grids worked and 426 confirmed, 55 DXCC entities worked and confirmed, and 48 states confirmed. I have been looking for HI and AK for quite a while.

2022 was special on 6 meters. With

the help of *JTAlert* and *DXMAPS*, I can now easily monitor the bands (both audio and visual) as I work in my combined office/shack. During the E-skip season, I typically monitor 6 meters. It's been fun to say the least.

Larry sent me a list of contacts he has made in 2022 on 6 meters with his modest station. He now has 73 DXCC entities on 50 MHz and is still looking for Alaska and Hawaii for his 6 Meter WAS.

What is a Valid Contact?

The question of what constitutes a "valid contact" has been discussed in my column and in the "Digital Contesting" column by *WØYK*. Here is the VHF perspective of what is a valid contact.

In the March 1957 *QST* in "The World Above 50 Mc," column, editor Edward P. Tilton, W1HDQ (SK), offered this definition:

"The minimum exchange for two-way work to be considered a contact has been fairly well standardized on a two-stage procedure: positive identification of calls at both ends, and the completed exchange of signal reports."

Later in the column, when discussing meteor scatter QSOs, he said: "If he gets the signal report, he then sends one to you. If you get it, you send "R." If he gets the single letter, he also sends "R," and the QSO is over, as far as the claim for a contact is concerned."

In the March 2006 *QST* in "The World Above 50 MHz," editor Eugene Zimmerman, W3ZZ (SK), cited Tilton's original remarks and added:

"To this day we still follow the same general outline but with a few changes. Exchange of 'sig-

nal reports' has come to mean exchange of at least one specific piece of information beyond the other station's call sign. This can be an actual signal report in one of several formats, an abbreviation for a signal report like OOO, which means full copy but at a very weak signal level, a grid locator or whatever. In addition, once the contact sequence has begun, there can be no communication between the participants by some other means like the telephone, the Internet or some other amateur frequency, HF or VHF+."

He goes on to say:

"As Ed [W1HDQ] stated, there is no need for the final "73" or "SK" because when the other station hears/sees the series of Rogers, that confirms that you have both his call and the report."

To add a more recent reference, here's the entry from the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 *VHF Handbook* for March 2021 (this is identical to the definition in their *HF Handbook*):

"2.1 Minimum Requirement for a valid QSO. A definition for a valid QSO on VHF and on higher bands is:

"A valid contact is one where both operators during the contact have mutually identified each other received a report and received a confirmation of the successful identification and the reception of the report.

"It is emphasized that the responsibility always lies with the operator for the integrity of the contact."