

Results of the 2019 SBMS 2 GHz & Up Contest

By Marty Woll N6VI

The emphasis in this year's 2 GHz & Up Contest was on the "Up" – not in the number of entries (with 17 logs submitted, the same as in 2018), but in frequency. Over half the entrants reported contacts on 24 GHz, two made contact on 47 GHz, and the top 24 GHz band score was nearly triple that of 2018! On the flip side, there were no reported contacts on 2 GHz this year and only three operators reporting activity on 3 and 5 GHz. Just a reminder, folks, a major reason this event was created was to encourage activity on the microwave bands below 10 GHz. Use 'em or lose 'em!

Mike K6ML took top individual honors for the third year in a row, besting his 2018 score by over 50% thanks mainly to a huge boost in his 24 GHz numbers. He was followed by W6QIW, whose score also topped that of the 2018 winner. Steve made use of 47 GHz in addition to 10 and 24 GHz, as did third-place finisher Gary K6MG.

Not surprisingly, K6ML had the top band scores on 10 and 24 GHz, while W6QIW topped 47 GHz. Marty N6VI had the top – and only reported – 5 GHz score and distance. Jim N9JIM had the top 3 GHz score and shared the top distance on that band with Steve N6KLD. Three stations shared the best DX on X-band, with Oliver KK6BA and Jim N9JIM on the northern end of that circuit and Brian AF6NA on the southern end. K6MG and K6ML completed over 240 kilometers on 24 GHz, and Steve also made an impressive 145-kilometer contact with K6MG on 47 GHz. It's looking as though more bands will be the new normal for this summer's 10 GHz & Up event.

Interestingly, N6VI, who spent most of the weekend on Frazier Peak, noted that he was unable to hear or be heard by numerous stations to the north being worked easily by W6QIW, who was less than 25 miles away from Marty but nearly 8,000 feet lower in elevation. Was the 10 GHz RF skipping off an inversion? We don't know for certain but, as Marty noted with some frustration after the effort of getting access to Frazier and making it up the yet-ungraded road, higher is not always better.

We were glad to see several entries from the Northern Lights Radio Society, which club had been absent for a few years. Top club honors went to the 50 MHz & Up Group, with their seven entries led by K6ML. Second, also with seven entries, was the event-sponsoring San Bernardino Microwave Society, led by W6QIW.

It's too bad that some of the regular participants could not join the action this year due to work and other scheduling conflicts, but we hope to see them back. Make a note in your calendars to save May 2 and 3, 2020 for the next running of this event.