When GIANTS first walked the bands
The Early Days of Multi-Multi

Hamvention® Contest Forum 2008
Presented by
Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q
Presentation Scope

- Multi-Op, Multi-transmitter category
- USA only (48 contiguous states)
- CQWW contests
- Usually just the “top ten”
- Just “the early days” (through 1986)
I’m not sure if I was SOA or multi-op, but these guys helped

- K1AR
- K1DG
- K1LWI
- K1OTA
- W1UU
- N2AA
- K2UFT
- KU2M
- NT2X
- W3BP
- K3EST
- K3LR
- N3RS
- K3WW
- K3ZO
- W3ZZ
- N4AF
- K4BAI
- K4GKD
- WA4PXP
- W5OV
- N5KO
- K5TR
- N6AA
- W6OAT
- K6SSS
- N6TR
- KL7RA
- WA7LT
- W7WA
- PVRC
- Web site
The K1VR
aka “the excuse”

It was really hard to compile all this stuff. Copies were of poor quality, my eye sight is getting worse, I am very tired after work, and my typing is so-so.

Therefore, I acknowledge that there are probably errors and omissions contained in this presentation.
Just what is Multi-Multi?

- Most of us operate alone at our home station. Typically, we have one rig and one tower (if we’re lucky). That is Single-Op.
Multi-Multi is lots of operators, in one shack, using lots of rigs and lots of towers with lots of multiple antennas, all at the same time.
First – the stats
QUIZ 1:
The CQ WW began in 1948. When was M/M a formally sanctioned category of entry?

a) From the start
b) From 1950 to 1954
c) From 1955 to 1959
d) From 1960 to 1964
e) From 1965 to 1969
From 1955 to 1973, Frank worked to bring the CQ WW up to its present level. The 1959 rules indicated a change in the country multiplier list. As always the DXCC list was used and but now the WAE country list was added. This year also saw the temporary elimination of the novice category. This category was initiated in 1955 at first to give new hams a chance to compete among themselves but it was now realized that novice power limitation and frequency privileges were very different all over the world. There was no way to make the category a fair one. In an effort to encourage beginners, W1WY again listed novices in the 1972 and 1973 issues. Then no more. The rules of 1959 saw the multi operator category divided into two categories. Due mainly to K2GL's station and his enthusiasm there was now a multi-single and a multi-multi category.
1958 Pre-Multi/Multi

MULTI-OPERATOR

All Band

TOP TEN

K2GL — 2,009,280

W6YMD — 1,376,725  UB5KBB — 675,840
DJ3JZ — 1,003,101  CX3BH — 668,964
W3AOH — 946,854  UB5KAB — 542,828
OH1AA — 816,794  K6EVR — 501,767
W3WV — 474,048

K2GL had as many as four transmitters going at the same time and with the score on each band equal to the leading single band stations, it’s small wonder that they broke the 2 million mark. “Is it true, Buzz, next year you are installing an electronic computer to keep score?” That means that the Hazard Reeves, K2GL Trophy goes to ——— K2GL, I guess

This year the West Coast giant W6YMD also broke the million mark as did the gang at DJ3JZ.

It has been suggested that we re-classify the multi-operator Section. Perhaps divide it into two divisions, single-transmitter and multi-transmitter.
Quiz 2:
From 1959 to 1986 which call area never won a CQWW M/M?

Choices:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
During the first 28 years of CQWW multi-multi

The FIRST (1) call area *never* won a CQWW M/M
Quiz 3: Who won the first CQWW Multi-multi?

W8NGO

1959 phone winner
From 1959 - 1986 there were over 400 M/M entries from over 180 different USA stations representing well over 1000 individual operator efforts.
Quiz 4:
In the first 28 years, how many different stations have won CQWW m/m?
(over 180 entered)

A total of NINE (9)
Six (6) on CW
Seven (7) on Phone
Winners by Year and Mode

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Red squares = won both modes that year
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<td><strong>Consistent M/M Entrants</strong></td>
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<td><strong>K2GL N2AA</strong></td>
<td><strong>W3MSK W3AU</strong></td>
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<td><strong>W3GM</strong></td>
<td><strong>W4BVV</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W4KK</strong></td>
<td><strong>W3VLD</strong></td>
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...the setting
DOW-KEY COAXIAL ELECTRONIC
DKC-TRP TR SWITCH

WITH Built-in Power Supply

Designed to operate in 1.8 to 30 mc. range. NO EXTERNAL D. C. POWER NEEDED! Just plug into any regular 120 v. A. C. outlet. About 15 watts power required.

FEATURES INCLUDE: Rated maximum legal amateur power. Low VSWR. Cast aluminum construction makes DKC-TRP TVI proof. Switch allows break-in operation with single antenna system. Type N connectors available at slight additional cost.

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- Aluminum boom with hardwood insert, for strength.
- Reflector coils—no tuning required.
- Bamboo spreaders.
- Calcutta bamboo at extra cost.
- High gain and high F/B ratio.
- HIGH AREA FACTOR.
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1959

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GOLD-PLATED BASE TOP

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$15.95 up. At your dealer or
THE VIBROPLEX CO., INC. 833 Broadway, N. Y. 3, N. Y.
So what does it take?
This is the ONLY photo I have from the W3AOH station, a player in M/M starting in the 1959 cw weekend.

“Only 26 more minutes to go”. K3DKD, one of the operators at W3AOH.
Requirements:
• Great QTH
• Mono-banders
Required: Dedicated, great Ops (the crew).
K6ERT, W6BXL, K6PJY, W6RW, W6JZH
Then: Separate RX and TX = zero-beating!

Required: Controls within easy reach

K2GL: W2SKE ~1959
A neat layout with plenty of desk top room

W3MSK circa 1960’s
Required: Amplifiers, often home-brew, at least one per band.
Logging requires getting the time right!

Ad from 1967
W3MSK: Op is K3EST 1969 CQWW CW
NO COMPUTERS

Logging and maintaining a dupe sheet were manual processes.

K2GL/N2AA
K2TW on 20
Circa 1984
An important asset at K2GL was a copy machine. We never knew when we might run out of logs (a fate worse than death for a M/M). JE1JKL (9M6NA) left and KR2Q on right.
CQWW paper log form

It was use this, or make your own!

Later, the form changed to fit 80 Qs per page (this is 40)

Writing all this stuff took lots of time!
Correcting a call was dangerous: it wasted time and you could mess up another call (KH6BZF is now partially erased) and the RATE died. Handwriting counted too; this is not a good example.
W2PV: K1EA (soon to be author of CT) on 40m. Pencil in Hand for paper logging. Paddles: No keyboards!
A lost skill: WA2SPL sending CW using a paddle while holding a pencil at the same time (W2PV).
N5AU:
The Great Leap Forward
Using a Mechanical Pencil!
And eventually Transceivers were the norm
The BEST equipment and LOTS of it (two stations per band). K2GL
BIG towers are good
W3MSK
Lots of BIG antennas
W2PV Big Bertha
With World Class Rotors
Base of Big Bertha @ K2GL
A 5 element full sized 40m yagi helps

W6VSS
3 over 3 on 40m on a 160’ of Rohn 80 isn’t bad
(K2GL – looking down from the “big” tower)
A rotating 2 L wire beam is real nice

W7RM
But a 3L 80m yagi is better

K2GL
Which also needs a big rotator: K2GL
NO FEAR! 200’ up and 40mph winds. K2NG rides the 80 at K2GL

The mast is to the left, out of the frame of the picture!
Most of all, HAVE FUN!

N5AU: K5ZD having a good time!
Tools for the serious contester

The DX EDGE is an operating aid you will use every day. It is a slide rule type device that gives you instant visual answers to many operating problems.

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And now...the PICTURES

In no particular order
W3AU

ALSO W3MSK (used before 1970)

CONFIRMING OUR QSO WITH:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME (gmt)</th>
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<th>BAND</th>
<th>REPORT</th>
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<td>28</td>
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2X CW
SSB

OPERATORS:
N4RV N3IO
K3EST WA3AMH
N4IN K3RV
CXIEK WA3UTA
K1AR WA3TAI
K3TW WA1FEO
W3AZD DK5AD

STATION: SEPARATE OPR. POSITION ON EACH BAND SSB & CW
RX: COLLINS 75A3, 75S3, 51J4, KWM-2
TX: 1 KW AMPLIFIERS PER BAND
ANT: ROTARY BEAMS; 7.0-3el.
14, 21, 28-7el. ALL ON SEPARATE TOWERS
3.5 DIPOLES

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

TKS QSL

We are looking forward to future QSOs during ARRL & CQ DX contests
W3MSK DURING THE 1969 CQWW CW

WA3IAQ and WA3GUI operating

W3IN working 160
W3MSK DURING 1969 CW CQWW

W3AZD on 15 meters
W3MSK DURING 1969 CW CQWW

10 Meter operating position

K3EST working 20 meter CW
W3MSK: N3IN (later N4IN)
In 1969 it was still W3MSK
W3MSK: N4KG, W3MSK (W3AU) W8CQN
W3MSK 10L 10m
W3MSK - W3AU from across the Potomac River
Actual call K1OTA

K1JGD Bob Blake
Interestingly enough, if this IS that 1967 contest, it is my FIRST ever at a multi-multi. John, K4BAI had visited the W4KXV station a year earlier, and when he could not return in 1967, he suggested to Dick, W4KXV that perhaps I could sit in. Dick was kind enough to extend an invitation, I drove to Virginia from Boston, got totally hooked on contesting, and have been doing it ever since! Rusty, W6OAT
W6VSS – Dale Hoppe
W6VSS – 5 by 5 on 10m (?)
The 10 meter position of the West Coast Multi-Multi "Big Gun" W6VSS. That's Cam, W6QY and Dick, W6ICJ doing their share in putting Dale Hoppee's station at the top of the list in zone 3.
Only 15 mins. after the Contest was over, the gang at W6VSS got the bad news that Rush Drake and his crew at W7RM claimed a higher score. Well, there’s always next year Dale, its back to the drawing board. Part of the dejected crew. L. to R.—WB6VFJ, W6UED, K6QPH, K6-SEN, K2RBT and the boss man himself, W6VSS.
W7RM
K7SS + K7JCA
(W7RM)
W7WA (22 years old) 15m run, W7EXM (K7RA) and VE7BD on 10m
W7RM 6 over 6
20 meters
W7RM shot to JA
W3WJD (N3RS)
“Sig” Sigismonti
(L – R) W3WJD (N3RS), W3IFG (W3XU), WA3LRO, K3YUA (N3RD)
W3WJD
5L 20m
W3WJD
2L 40 and 6L 10
Jim Lawson
2532 Troy Road, Schenectady, New York 12309 U.S.A.

W2PV
(Schenectady County)

A Member Of
Murphy's Marauders
A Club of Contest and DX-Minded Amateurs in the Northeastern USA

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<th>QSO With</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Tnx</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SSB
W2PV: K1DG and XA on 15

Wonder what this is for?
W2PV : WA2SPL
4 stack of Signal/One CX7s
N5AU

Gordon Fogg
N5AU: WN4KKN (N5KO), K5ZD, W5FO
N5AU: K5ZD having a good time!
N5AU: (L – R) 40, 15, 10
N5AU: it says CALL CQ
N5AU: N5RZ, KN6M, KM5X, N5CR
N5AU: WOW!
NEW YORK

K2GL

Hazard “Buz” Reeves

H. E. Reeves  Tuxedo, N. Y.
K2GL 1966
W2IWC+xyl,
K1ZVU, K2UYG
K2GL: WB2MFX (W9LT, WA7LT) tuning around
K2GL: K2UYG (K2TT – left), unknown op, W2VCZ (on right). Note the HX50 (lower left) used on 160m with 50 watts (really).
K2GL: K6SSS (L) 1965 & the “small” 40m yagi that fell

Remember this tower for later!
K2GL late 1960’s: 15m W2DNG (W2HH), W2GLM (K2GM), and K2KUR (N2AA)
After the 1969 CQWW season, a storm came through and destroyed the K2GL station. K2GL was QRT until 1975.

But then the silence ended.
K2GL Here’s the tower that I said to remember. It broke. W2GLM (K2GM) on top, K2UYG (K2TT) below with Bobbie Walsh (N2AA’s 13 year old kid) hanging on.
K2GL 200’ Rohn 80 goes up. The gin pole is Rohn 55G
B. Walsh turns the 20L 15m array from EUR to JA
Putting up the 1st rotating tower in the USA – 4 way guying
1st of 2: 10L 10m Telrex
K2GL: 10 over 10 on 10m
Summer of 1977
AKA “Doug’s Folly”
K2GL

4 stack of 5L on 15
fixed on Africa
K2GL
6 over 6 on 20m
Bertha
K2GL

Rohn 80 final configuration:

3L 80m @ 200’

4 stack of 6L Telrex 20’s below

It made the Bertha feel like a dipole

On the right is another Rohn 80 with 3 over 3 on 40
K2GL ~1977: 10m

[L] WB2VYA (KR2Q), K2XR [R]
K2GL 20m

[L-R] N2AA, WB6KIL (K1KI)
K2GL 20m

[L] N2AA, K2TW [R], K5NA in background
K2GL  [L-R] KR2Q 40m, K2NG + K2UR 75m
K2GL 40m K2UYG (K2TT). Rigs through the ages: KWM2, 75A4, HA1 TO Keyer, Curtis memory keyer, Drake R4B, TR7, Racal RX, Alpha 76PA, 77D, Henry 2K
K2GL WA2OVE (KR2J, N5NJ, W5OV) using a TS830 + K2SS (on right) on 15m
K2GL: (L-R) K2GM on 40, K3EST chatting, K2TW on 20, N2AA chatting back
K2GL Pileup: K2TT, ?, K5NA
The end of an era. K2GL SK 1987

Suppose you could experience the DX Contesters' dream. What would it be? Possibly you would like to win the contest from some far-off place, or perhaps field the ultimate super-station in the USA, one where you could work everything on the first call. Many have had one of these dreams. Buzz Reeves, K2GL, not only had the second dream, but he lived it. Buzz put together a super-station whose N2AA operating team utilized it to the fullest in becoming the perennial Multi-Multi winner for the USA. A look at this year's results is a case in point—67 countries on 160; 95 on 80; well over 100 on 40, 20, and 15; and almost 50 on a quiet 10 meters. Not bad for one weekend. Close to 6 band DXCC in 2 days!

But it's the experience on the air with N2AA that convinces one of the real mysticism of K2GL's station. For example, as you tune across the band you're likely to hear a zone 23 station give N2AA an answer to a QRZ, helpless to get in on a piece of that action yourself. Or, how about the long string of answers they would get on a dead or dying band? Then there's the stuff you can't even hear that they are working. In the end we all shake our heads in amazement at the final score as well.

There's a video tape that tells the story of K2GL's station. It's a real eye-opener, too. An arsenal of big antenna arrays are being built and erected right before your eyes, not to mention the battery of gear and the intensity of the operation that follows. Of course, the commitment it takes to field such a station is incredible—the work, the pain, the time, the space, the expense of it all. Not many could afford to do it, but Buzz could and did. Yet if money were the answer, that would be one thing. But money is not the answer. There's something intangible in what it takes to put a super-station together and keep it together for any length of time. Those who have tried it know what we mean. Just think about the problems in keeping your own station in top condition—the wind, rain, snow, cold, heat, normal wear and tear, the unexpected. Just one rotor can be an incredible thing to keep running, with some subtle problem areas to solve. Multiply your maintenance by 10 or more, and it's clear what kind of a challenge it is to keep a super-station running. Not to mention the challenge of keeping a top-notch operating team motivated year after year.

It is with regret that we report that K2GL died this year, and his super-station passes on along with him. For most of us K2GL served as an example of how some things could be done.

It was actually possible to put that kind of a super-station together; the band was really open at that time; all that DX really was available. In recent years several super-stations have met the same fate—K2GL, W2PV, and W6AM to mention a few. We might all do well to reflect on what those guys really meant to us as DX contesters. "Nothing," you might say. Well, "nothing" is not an honest answer. If you were active at all in the past 10 years, you know that even if you never met any of those three guys, they affected you. And not just the "Yeah, I remember all the times I had to wait for those bruisers in the pile-up" type of effect either. Those super-stations and the operators who manned them provided us all with some real inspiration and drive. They gave us some good, old-fashioned determination, a goal to strive for; they built confidence that it could be done because someone else had done it. To many their example also provided training for all of us in technique. Lastly, their big signals were like magnets that attracted DX, DX that we would otherwise not have worked because they wouldn't even have known the band was open. Yes, Buzz Reeves, K2GL, will be missed.

The All Band Results

Despite generally poor conditions and low sunspots, the 1986 CW Contest produced some truly amazing scores around the world.

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* 12041 Walker Pond Rd., Winter Garden, FL 32787
** 3039 Campbell Place, Davis, CA 95616