

## RESULTS OF THE NTMS/RMG 902 AND ABOVE QSO PARTY

On the morning of April 2, 2005, at 1300 UTC, the bands above 900 MHz were abuzz with activity. Microwave enthusiasts from both the NTMS and RMG participated in the first jointly sponsored microwave contest in what will become a bi-annual event. Activity was high enough in the first hours that QRM was reported on 1296.100, what a great problem to have on what is normally a silent band!

Summary sheets were received from 16 stations. There were 24 unique callsigns reported in the contest in grid-squares EM04, EM00, EM10, EL07, EL17, EM12, EM13, and EM31. Rover activity was great in North Texas with 8 operators (half of the total participants) operating from portable or mobile stations. (No RMG or South Texas rover scores were submitted).

Propagation was good in the opening hours of the contest on both 902 and 1296 MHz with contacts being completed at distances exceeding 550km. K5QE seemed to be in a "sweet spot" working both North and South Texas sections on both 902 and 1296 MHz. Unfortunately propagation did not support any contacts between the Austin/San Antonio and DFW areas after 1600 UTC (10 AM) Saturday morning.

### WHO SCORED WHAT?

Call	Category	Points	QSOS	Total Distance	Points	902	1296	2304	3456	5760	10G
WW2R	Fixed	412680	76	5430	16.0	32			13	1	13
N5AC	Rover	139734	63	2218	18	32			10		3
K9MK	Fixed	90520	38	2382	11	17					10
NM5M	Rover	40467	35	1156	8	18					9
K5LLL	Fixed	21557	10	2156	3	5	1		1		
WA5TKU	Fixed	19995	15	1333		10					5
K5VH	Fixed	19160	10	1916	2	5	2		1		
KE5CIF*	Rover	14418	17	848	5	8					4
KA5BOU	Fixed	13320	13	1025	4	9					
W5UWB	Fixed	9688	7	1384				4	2		1
K3TD*	Rover	9426	15	628	2	10					3
WA5YWC	Rover	6020	10	602		6					4
WD0ACD*	Rover	4760	16	298	6	8			1		1
K5DYY	Fixed	4665	5	933		3	1				1
K5ZSJ	Rover	495	4	124							4
KA5BOU	Rover	316	4	79						1	3
					75.0	163.0	8.0	28.0	2.0	61.0	

\* After callsign indicates that the station was a guest operator

Fixed Station Category	FIXED LOGS	Points	QSOS	Section
QSO totals were high in the fixed station category with Dave, WW2R, leading the pack. Dave managed 76 contacts. Mike, K9MK, finished second in the fixed category followed by a third place from South Texas RMG entrant Ron, K5LLL.	WW2R	412680	76	NTX
	K9MK	90520	38	NTX
	K5LLL	21557	10	STX
	WA5TKU	19995	15	NTX
	K5VH	19160	10	STX
	KA5BOU	13320	13	NTX
	K5DYY	4665	5	STX
	W5UWB	9688	7	STX

## Rover Category

Mega-rover Steve, N5AC, logged 63 stations from his well equipped setup (see the photo of his Humvee). Steve managed to operate on 902, 1296, 3456 and 10 GHz and submitted the second highest overall score in the contest. Eric, NM5M, finished in second place followed by a third place score from Bob, WA5YWC.

## ROVER LOGS

	Points	QSOS	Section	
N5AC	139734	63	NTX	
NM5M	40467	35	NTX	
KE5CIF	14418	17	NTX	*
K3TD	9426	15	NTX	*
WA5YWC	6020	10	NTX	
WD0ACD	4760	16	NTX	*
K5ZSJ	495	4	NTX	**
KA5BOU	316	4	NTX	

\* = Guest Operator, \*\* Indicates 10 GHz Only

## Guest Operator Category

Several "guest operators" participated in the contest with Blake, KE5CIF, (10 years old) tuning in the top score followed by Tad, K3TD, and Greg, WD0ACD. The guest operator category is a great way to show those interested in the VHF and higher bands what may be accomplished on microwave frequencies.

## Special Mention

Of particular interest is that the South Texas stations had a much higher distance points per QSO ratio than those stations in North Texas. Both K5LLL and K5VH logged 10 contacts however Ron, K5LLL's average QSO was 17 km longer than K5VH.

## DISTANCE POINTS PER QSO

	Score	QSO	Section	km/QSO
K5LLL	21557	10	STX	215.6
W5UWB	9688	7	STX	197.7
K5VH	19160	10	STX	191.6
K5DYY	4665	5	STX	186.6
WA5TKU	19995	15	NTX	88.9

## Observations

Analysis of the logs provides interesting insight that can be valuable to both the RMG and NTMS organizations. For instance the majority of the members from both clubs have 1296 MHz capability, followed by 10 GHz and 902 MHz. There was very little activity on both 2304 and 5760 MHz. Perhaps some club building activities are in order to promote future operation on these bands?

I appreciate the tremendous support from the RMG and NTMS participants! Thanks for submitting scores and getting on the air! Any suggestions for future events may be sent to my email address; nm5m@aol.com

## Soapbox

Many thanks again for the opportunity to operate with you and use your station. It was exciting to work my first DX on the microwave bands! I couldn't believe what was possible with modest antennas and power -- 160+ miles on 1296 and 35+ miles at 10 GHz! I think the microwave bug has bitten me!, Tad (K3TD)

Attached is my summary sheet, log available on request. If we would have had some propagation it could have been a high scoring contest. The atmosphere had a cutoff frequency about 1500 MHz, couldn't work 100 miles on 2304, much less the Dallas area, if we would have heard any of them (other than WW2R and K9MK). My average distance per contact 215 km. Best DX was K5QE at 344+ km, his 1296 was full scale on my S-meter. I like the idea of distance scoring, it helps those of us in the boonies achieve a reasonable score. Recommendations for future contests - extend to at least 10pm local like the other contests and maybe consider having a spring and fall event. Regards, Ron, (K5LLL)

I'm submitting two entries, one for my fixed station activities and one for my roving (wonder if we should have a combined category next time, or am I the only one who does both?). Thanks again for coordinating this activity. It was a blast, and every time I participate I learn more. Having the new guys like N5AC out participating is certainly a motivator! Craig (KA5BOU)

Another title could be...roving ain't very good in EM10 when the band ain't open. I woke up Saturday morning and headed out to EM10qs. At this point, I had only 10GHz operational due to a blown switching transistor on the 902 setup. I weakly heard the NT5NT beacon on 10368.379 for a minute or so, but then it was gone...this was a little after 8AM CST. Attempts with WW2R were unsuccessful. Waited around a bit for conditions to improve, tried with Wes, no dice. Decided to look for another spot, but conditions made no sign of improving...and headed back to the house to work on the 902 transverter. Mid afternoon, got 902 working with about 20W, but attempts to WW2R, and W5LUA in EM20 were unsuccessful both in the afternoon and evening. I heard several reports of QSB on 902 and 1296 with the paths from DFW to K5QE....this would likely have been compounded on 10G. I did notice some inversion indicated by flat-topping smoke to my north, but with the frontal passage, there was not sufficient boundary layer decoupling at the inversion altitude...in essence, a rough inversion causes fading on the lower bands and unusable propagation up higher. Nevertheless, while the radio work was less than optimal, the wx was beautiful, the bluebonnets were out in force, and a few trains went by. My daughter Kathleen was very happy to receive a nickel flattened by a locomotive. 73 Joe (N5PYK)

I loved it! Please plan more. Greg (WD0ACD)

Please find attached my summary sheet for last weekends sprint. It was great fun, even though the contacts were scattered. It sure points out weak areas in my rover setup. Now I have time to correct them before the summer contests start. Great to hear Blake KE5CIF on the air. Bob -- (WA5YWC)

Eric, I really enjoyed it! I hope the spring UHF mini-contest concept spreads to a national event.73's Mike (K9MK)

Eric, N5QGH and W5LUA participated but made no QSOs on 902 MHz. AI (W5LUA)