

Contest meeting of the year of three radio clubs of the northwest Slovakia aka UHF IARU Region 1 contest 2014.

This meeting was not the best in counting of number of QSO done, nor total result, but in counting of number of operators, was one of the best. The contest team joined members of 3 radio clubs of north west part of Slovakia, namely OM6A(OM3KHE), OM3KfV and OM6W contest crew.

A week to contest we have received an invitation from OM6A, to join them for the upcoming IARU UHF Region 1 contest. Their contest QTH up in the hill of 1476 meters a.s.l. convinced us to say "Yes".

Actually we were decided to try a new QTH for our contest crew OM6W in JN99IJ. Anyway we changed this decision and decided to take part in this UHF contest among our friends from OM6A and help them.

The first group of operators have met under the hill on Friday morning, and started transfer of all components needed for contest, to the top of the hill in JN99JC. Afterwards they started with building up the masts with antennas and contests ham shacks including PC network. As usual on Friday evening took place a "consultative meeting" among degustation of local homebrew brandy. As I heard it was edifying and difficult evening.... ☺.

I and my father OM6TX have joined the contest group Saturday morning. After a welcome drink, we started finishing of contest site of OM6A. We had some problems with 70 cm. Array of 2 x 38 element M-square didn't want to listen and comparing to another array consisting of 8 x 7 element yagi (OM1ATT designed) was deaf. So the mast with these antennas went down. The problem was with LNA, which we decided to dismantle. And it was not the only problem. PA didn't want to work. So we had to bring another from the home resources. In this case it meant first 3 hours of contest with only one antenna array (8 x 7 el. Yagi OM1ATT) with 400 Watts. Ham shacks were in old army track Praga PV3S and old army trailer, 50 meters apart. First was the place for 23 cm and 13 cm and the trailer was occupied by 70 cm and 3 cm. Another technical problem we had on 13 cm with rain water in the connector. After two hours suddenly it worked, so there was no need to get down the mast.

I was nominated as operator on 70 cm with Peter OM6TX, with strong support of Miro OM6TU and Palo OM6AL. 3 cm were operated by Milan OM1ATT and another Milan OM6SZ. Jozef OM6AM and Jano OM6AW took care of 23 cm almost all of the time.

Propagations were fair all of the time. ODX was HB9AJ in JN37 approx. 857 km. We have done some QSO to JO30 and JO31. 21 QSO were over 700 km and 8 were over 800 km. We didn't do any QSO over 900 km. At the end of the contest called in PA4VHF with nice and readable signal, but due to QSB and QRM we didn't completed this contact.

I would like to mention everyone of the team, who were present to this occasion:

OM6A : Jožo OM6AM, Jano OM6AW, Milan OM6SZ, Milan OM1ATT, Rast'o OM6AA, Miro OM6TU, Dano OM6DJ, Michal OM6AZ, Miro OM3WMB, Ľubo OM6AAW, Paľo OM6AL, Miro OM6AWE a Jano OM3-0231,

OM3KfV: Viktor OM6CV, Šaňo OM3SV, Juraj OM6JO, Dušan OM6KD

OM6W: Rudo OM6BB, Peter OM6TX, Peter OM6TY,

And visitors: Miro (future new ham OM6A?? – already past ham exams) and Peter OM6ABC.

Last but not least, I would like to express thanks to all participants. Namely to Jozef OM6AM for invitation, all boys of OM6A and OM3KFV for preparing contest site, to Rudo OM6BB for preparing 13 cm setup, once more “Thank You”.

And now let me recapitulate: We spent pleasant weekend on a hill almost 1500 m. a.s.l., with different kind of weather and home made spirit, among friends of us, which are keen on the same hobby – “HAMRADIO”.

Thanks again to all of you, and hope that this was not the last activity of this kind....
Thanks to all who called us and hope to hear you in next contests.

For OM6A and OM6W contest crew wrote Peter OM6TY