

Results: 2018 SBMS 2 GHz & Up Contest by N6VI

When asked how he can make money selling at a price below his cost, the old joke goes, the shop owner replies, "I make it up in volume." Faced with conditions that could most charitably be described as mediocre, K6ML rallied the troops in Northern California, creating enough volume on 10 and 24 GHz to outdo his 2017 winning score by the narrowest of margins – an additional 51 points – to take top honors in the individual scoring competition and leading the 50 MHz & Up Group to a resounding win in the club competition.

Riding shotgun with Mike was Chris N6JET, who posted the second highest individual score using only 10 GHz, followed by Gary AD6FP, who snagged the top 24 GHz band score, and Brian WA6QDP, who had the best 24 GHz distance contact. Following them in the individual standings were Pat N6RMJ, using a tower-mounted dish at his home station, and Marty N6VI, who spent one long day atop Frazier Peak. Marty discovered that the band switching on his 2-to-10 GHz box had failed and, without time to dig into it, instead put in a single-band effort on 10 GHz. Although he was down in the standings, Marty managed to make the best distance in the contest, 597 km, with Andreas N6NU.



The fact that Andreas and his fellow mountaintopper Dave W6NUC (upper photo) even got into a position for such a contact was an exercise in perseverance. The two were headed to a great spot near Paradise in CM99 when they encountered snow deep enough to halt their progress (lower photo). After getting unstuck and turned around, they made to an alternate location in the same area and stayed for the rest of the day.



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With N6VI off the lower bands, reported activity on 2 through 5 GHz was limited to Greg W6IT and Wayne, N6NB. They shared top band scores and top DX on 13, 9 and 6 cm. We need more stations on these bands - - - that's a major objective of this operating event.

In the club competition, last year's participation numbers were essentially reversed. The 50 MHz & Up Group submitted nine logs this year, up from just three in 2017. On the other hand, last year's ten SBMS entries dropped to seven in 2018. As the shopkeeper said, you make it up on volume.

Congratulations to the winners, and applause for all the participants who got on and lit up the microwave bands. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of May 4 and 5, 2019, so you can get in on the fun next year.