# Results, 29th ARRL VHF Sweepstakes 

Happy New Year!

By Jim Cain,* WA9AUM

Next January will mark the 30th anniversary of ARRL's VHF Sweepstakes contest; the 1976 version (held January 3 and 4) will be a tough one to top. 640 participants reported activity this year, up about ten percent from the past few.

When we printed the all-time VHF SS division record holder listing two years ago, we didn't figure it would be outdated so soon; two records were broken last year . . . WA6JUD/6 (Pacific Division single-op) and W4BFB/4 (Roanoke Division multi-op). This year, though, we're printing the entire box, because twelve records were broken, seven multi and five single operator.

First impression might be that most of the records, many holdovers from the sunspot days of '58 and '59, are now being broken by virtue of gobs of 2 -meter fm contacts. For the most part,
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Vhf contesting from Nebraska involves much time waiting for 6 meters to open; here half of the WA $\emptyset T R O / \emptyset$ group does just that. Visible in back is some of the Channel 3 TV gear onsite (they borrowed the site, not the gear!).
that just isn't true. Take WA1NGR, for example. Ron now holds all three New England Division records, in the SS and both June and September QSO Parties. His band breakdown of contacts is 6 meters (229), 2 meters (140), 220 MHz (9) and 432 MHz (7), for a contact total of 385. W1HDQ's 1958 record (which lasted fully 18 years) of 297 contacts was made up of a not dissimilar percentage of contacts on 6 and 2. Only difference was in 1958 the 144 MHHz contacts were on a-m instead of fm!

Performances like WA6JUD's (another new Pacific record) do, of course, have to depend more on 2-meter fm , since lack of propagation on 6 kept section multipliers down somewhat. Carl's farthest contact was with Nebraska, and there are a lot of multipliers east of that.

The 1976 VHF SS proved something else, too; the activity is pretty much self-sustaining. In our struggle to get the January $Q S T$ into print in its historic
new size, we inadvertently left out the vhf rules from the December issue. To compound matters, by the time the error was discovered it was too late to squeeze the full rules into January. Wouldn't have done much good, anyhow, since the contest was the first weekend of January and we all know the problems with QST and the postal "service." We are trying to save some space by boiling all contest rules down some, but not as much as we had to boil them down to fit a tiny space in the "World Above" column in January $Q S T$. That activity was $u p$ this year and log returns were healthy says something both for the contest and for the participants themselves. It was an "experiment" we don't intend to try again, though!

Although the VHF SS has always followed, to some extent, the format of the November Sweepstakes, feelings have been running high that a changeover to rules more befitting vhf is

| Affiliated Club Scores |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| CLUB-SCORE-ENTRIES-WINNER |  |  |  |
| Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Inc. (PACKRATS) (Pa) | 538,085 | 70 | W3HOT |
| Rochester VHF Group (N.Y.) | 369,973 | 139 | K2YCO |
| South Jersey Radio Association | 179,584 | 35 | W2BV |
| Potomac Area VHF Society (Va.) | 68,625 | 14 | WA3NZL |
| Mobile Sixers Radio Club (Pa.) | 65,281 | 25 | W3ELF |
| Northern California Contest Club | 44,384 | 3 | WA6JUD/6 |
| Suburban Amateur Radio Club Inc (Pa.) | 43,664 | 10 | WA3NVO |
| Hampden.County Amateur Radio Assn. (Mass.) | 42,771 | 10 | K1ZGB |
| West Jersey Radio Amateurs | 41,924 | 18 | W2FPY |
| Dutchess County VHF Society (N.Y.) | 26,988 | 8 | W2AWX |
| York Radio Club (III.) | 24,778 | 16 | WA9NRI |
| 6 Meter Club of Chicago | 20,746 | 10 | WA9FIH |
| Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club | 17,836 | 5 | WB8EIY |
| Dayton Amateur Radio Assn. (Ohio) | 16,085 | 7 | WA8BOB |
| Associated Mountain Toppers (Calif.) | 14,168 | 3 | K6YNB |
| Rancocas Valley Amateur Assn. (N.J.) | 7762 | 4 | WB2PZF |
| RCA Amateur Radio Club (Ind.) | 6900 | 4 | AB9CEP |
| Department of State Amateur Radio Club (D.C.) | 6558 | 5 | AA1FEO/3 |
| Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club (N.J.) | 5604 | 4 | WB2FJE |
| Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society Inc. (Pa.) | 5248 | 4 | AC3BWU |
| Southern California VHF Radio Club | 5180 | 4 | WB6IMV |



This is Tom, W1FMF himself, operating 6; his crew put together a new New England Division multi-operator record. The antennas on the left are stacked 6element Yagis on 6 and an 8-element Yagi and 20-
element collinear for 2. On the right are, top to bottom, 144, 220, 432 and 144 MHz Yagis.
overdue. Consequently, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, under the vhf leadership of K6YNB, is investigating several possible changes. Two of them involve the VHF SS in particular and one will affect the QSO Parties as well. We invite you to read the following discussion and then write to the CAC, via ARRL headquarters, expressing your opinions. If enough response is received quickly, the changes may take effect on a trial basis in January, 1977.

The first proposal is to change the SS exchange to (1) number, (2) signal report, and (3) ARRL section. This would eliminate the power designator (precedence) and would replace the year first licensed (check) with a signal report. The power indicator is anachronistic when applied to vhf these days, and the check would be replaced by a much

Top Ten

| SINGLE |  | MULTI |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| W3HQT | 41,400 | K2OWR | 65,562 |
| K8LEE | 41,080 | WB8IGY | 60,320 |
| WA1NGR | 33,100 | W1FMF | 46,440 |
| WA3AXV | 31,450 | W8CCI | 41,440 |
| K3MWV | 31,239 | WA2SNA/2 | 39,235 |
| W3ZD | 27,000 | W3KKN | 38,304 |
| WA6JUD/6 | 23,868 | K3DUA | 26,208 |
| WB2OTK | 23,460 | W2FCL/2 | 21,980 |
| W2BV | 22,540 | W4BFB/4 | 21,880 |
| K3EOD | 22,100 | W2PAU | 21,545 |

more meaningful signal report.
The other VHF SS proposed change is to allow multipliers per band, not just once. This is to encourage activity on
more bands. (see W1RU's editorial in June QST) among other things. Yes, such a change would make comparisons with past VHF Sweepstakes meaningless, and yes, such a change would make comparisons between populous and nonpopulous parts of the country also meaningless. But . . . it would add spice to the activity, and comparisons between widely separated parts of the U.S. have always meant little, if anything, regardless of the contest format and even regardless of whether the contest is hf or vhf. The competition is sectional and divisional, not national.

The third trial change is already in effect ...t the new rule regarding channelized fm contacts. It has been tried in the June QSO Party and will be tried again in the September event. The CAC will welcome your comments on


Number-two man in Michigan, WA8EUU, emphasizes this shot was taken before the VHF SS.

| All-Time Division Leaders |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SINGLE OPERATOR |  |  |  | MULTIOPERATOR |  |  |
| CALL | SCORE | YEAR | DIVISION | CALL | SCORE | YEAR |
| W3MFY | 52,910 | 68 | Atlantic | W3KKN | 38,304 | 76 |
| K9HMB | 20,746 | 73 | Central | K9DZK | 26,520 | 68 |
| WAØ CSL/ $\varnothing$ | 8190 | 76 | Dakota | WBØ PIV | 3640 | 76 |
| K5HUW | 9680 | 60 | Delta | WB4HEL/4 | 8880 | 73 |
| K8LEE | 41,080 | 76 | Great Lakes | WB8IGY | 60,320 | 76 |
| K20WR | 32,830 | 72 | Hudson | K20WR | 65,562 | 76 |
| K9ECV/0 | 12,690 | 68 | Midwest | KøVUY | 14,196 | 76 |
| WA1NGR | 33,110 | 76 | New England | W1FMF | 46,440 | 76 |
| K7AAD | 7650 | 58 | Northwestern | K7BBO/7 | 5642 | 63 |
| WA6JUD/6 | 23,868 | 76 | Pacific | K6TJL/6 | 13,248 | 61 |
| WA4GPM | 15,456 | 76 | Roanoke | W4BFB/4 | 21,880 | 76 |
| K7UFQ | 5320 | 68 | Rocky Mountain | WAØPHZ/ø | 8062 | 68 |
| W4GDS | 26,400 | 73 | Southeastern | W4TOE | 6042 | 61 |
| K6YNB | 12,300 | 70 | Southwestern | W6FNE/6 | 20,352 | 63 |
| K5TKR | 13,640 | 60 | West Gulf | K5STI | 12,804 | 59 |
| VE3ZZZ | 12,896 | 72 | Canadian | VE3ASO | 7800 | 74 |

Scores are grouped by call area, section and in order from highest to score indicates: Call, score, number of contacts, muitiplier and band operated; $A=50 \mathrm{MHz}, B=144 \mathrm{MHz}, C=220 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{D}=420 \mathrm{MHz}$,
$E=1215 \mathrm{MHz}$ and above. Asterisks denote Headquarters employees who are not eligible for award



