# Results, 31st ARRL VHF Sweepstakes 

# VHF SS starts its fourth decade, but it's not just getting older, it's getting better. 

By Bill Jennings,* K1WJ

The 31st annual ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, January 21-22, 1978, was a blend of surprises and predictability. What with the new scoring system, which rewards contest operation above 148 MHz with a substantial increase in the points per QSO ratio, it seemed likely that increased uhf activity would be the stimulus for greatly increased scores and the downfall of alltime division records by the score. Not so. Variable propagation characteristics and the ravages of "mean old Mr. Murphy" do take their toll.
Eight new all-time division records now stand in the wake of the latest, and largest since 1972 with 838 entries (an increase of 96 entries over the 1977 totals), running of the VHF SS. Four of these new records are those of single operators and four are in the multiop category. Some real "oldies but goodies" in the record department have been bettered in 1978. The single operators were lead by N6NB, who more than doubled, in total points, his own *Communications Assistant, ARRL

Maryland-DC Section's W3MSN put his station on 50, 144 and 220 MHz for the 1978 VHF SS.


1970 record in the Southwestern Division. WA4LJQ added 6k points to the 1976 WA4GPM record and now leads all single operators in the Roanoke Division. W7YOZ now owns the score to beat in the Northwestern Division. And K5CM holds the record for gunning down the oldest division record, broken in 1978, by laying to rest the 18 -year-old "'granddaddy," set by K5KTR in the West Gulf Division.
The multioperator stations fared at least as well. The K9HMB group toppled the 10 -year-old mark in the Central Division. The gang at W4VO, in the Southeastern Division, went out and not only doubled their own one-year-old record, but added an extra 2.5 k points for good measure. The W3KKN and K8III operators came on to best their own previous efforts in the Atlantic and Great Lakes Divisions, respectively.

## Top Ten

The average operator in the singleoperator top-ten listings, aside from

2 meters and 70 cm were the sole stomping grounds of Dick, WB3EFM, who placed second among the single operators in the Maryland-DC Section.

posting an average score increase of 6000 points over his 1977 counterpart, is from the third U.S. call area, the Eastern Pennsylvania Section to be precise (seven of the 1978 top ten are); had made the singleoperator top-ten listing in the 1977 VHF SS (five stations, those holding 1978 positions one, two, three, four and six, held top-ten positions in 1977); and is a member of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (eight of the 1978 top ten are members, only those stations holding positions nos. five and nine are not members).

The "average" station in the top ten for multioperator stations is slightly harder to categorize. The average 1978 top-ten multiop station scored 4 k points more than the average 1977 top tenner. The second U.S. call area has four representatives to the top ten, three of those being from the Northern New Jersey Section. Four of those listed (those holding positions one, five, seven and nine) in this year's top ten are 'repeaters" from the 1977 listing. And there is no predominate club affilia-

154 QSOs in seven sections on 50 and 144 MHz , netted Willard, WB9PXW, third place in the Indiana Section.


|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| Afiliated Club Scores |  |  |  |
| Club | Score | Entries | Winner |
| Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (Packrats) | 755,538 | 65 | W3HQT |
| Rochester (NY) VHF Group | 694,176 | 215 | W2CNS |
| South Jersey Radio Association | 164,080 | 36 | W2BV |
| Potomac Area VHF Society | 124,396 | 12 | WA4LJQ |
| West Jersey Radio Association | 69,650 | 20 | WA2DPU |
| III-Wind Contesters | 68,344 | 3 |  |
| Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club | 57,204 | 20 | N2CQ |
| Mobile Sixers Radio Club | 42,418 | 18 | W3ETB |
| Six Meter Club of Chicago | 33,898 | 14 | WA9FIH |
| Northern California Contest Club | 26,544 | 7 | K6KLY |
| Dutchess County VHF Society | 24,914 | 3 | W2AWX |
| M.II. Radio Society | 22,802 | 3 | WA4TTG/1 |
| Tri-State Amateur Radio Association | 19,518 | 5 | WA1LUJ |
| Mitre-Bedford Amateur Radio Club | 18,428 | 12 | W1JR |
| Hampden County Amateur Radio Association | 17,358 | 13 | W1KK |
| Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club | 16,388 | 8 | WA8ABN |
| Muskogee Amateur Radio Club | 16,020 | 3 | K5CM |
| RCA Amateur Radio Club | 15,914 | 5 | WB9CEP |
| Northern Virginia FM Association | 14,426 | 4 | WB4EYP |
| Montgomery Amateur Radio Club | 11,508 | 4 | WB3CHS |
| Pentagon Amateur Radio Club | 9,436 | 5 | WA4NTP |
| Lake Success Radio Club | 6,828 | 4 | WB2GVD |
| York Radio Club | 5,496 | 3 | WA9RIJ |
| Northrop Radio Club | 4,812 | 4 | W6CN |
| Rochester (MN) Amateur Radio Club | 4,756 | 10 | WすVB |
| Mt. Tom Repeater Association | 4,080 | 3 | W1JP |

tion (although the Ill-Wind Contesters and the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club both have two member stations in the top ten, the remaining six being from other clubs or nonaffiliated).

## Club Competition

Although according to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the horse; as far as the VHF SS is concerned, as it has been so many times in the past, this is the year of the rat - the Packrat, naturally. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, lead by W3HQT, the number one single operator, is again the number one club in the VHF SS club competition. The Packrats, fielding five fewer entries this year than in 1977, posted a 130k aggregate-point increase to lead the field of 26 participating affiliated clubs. The Packrats' clubhouse has got to look like "gavel city" by now.
Don't look now, Packrats, but that hot breath on your necks is coming from the 215 members of the Rochester (NY) VHF Group. Rochester, in second place by nearly 200 k points in 1977, rallied their forces for an additional 68 entries and pulled to within 60 k points of the first place Packrats. The 1979 VHF SS club
competition should be verrry interesting.
The South Jersey Radio Association and the Potomac Area VHF Society round out the list of the top four clubs, which by the way, are all holders of the same respective positions in the 1977 VHF SS, and are all the clubs with aggregate scores of 100 k or more points.

## Administrative Stuff

The uhf incentive scoring system met with general approval, as much so as the consecutive serial number (chronologically, not by band) met with general opposition. Be sure to carefully read the rules for the 1979 VHF SS as rule changes and refinements are anticipated.

If vhf contesting is for you, and you're especially taken with operating the bands at 220 MHz and above, then the new ARRL UHF Contest is just what the doctor ordered. Date? August 5-6. Details? Elsewhere in this issue. Good luck.

In the preparation of this report, we're happy to acknowledge a little help from our friends Tom, K1KI and Arlene.

## Soapbox

The additional points for the higher


K8BI, one of the eight operators at WA8PLZ.
vhf/uhf bands are long overdue and should be extended to the June and September contests. (W7TYR) Believe there should be a multiplier for climbing the tower in the blizzard to reorient the beams. (K2LZF) We would like to go on record as opposing the use of fm simplex above 146 MHz for contest purposes. The purpose of vhf contests is to broaden the horizons of vhf operation, not just work everybody and his brother within 30 miles. (N4SM, N4YN and WD4AQH) Scatter conditions were very poor - bursts were very short and few in number. (WA8OGS) What is the big deal about a single frequency? My opinion on .52 is all or none. (WB7DZD) Bet I was the only one to work a "snowmobile-mobile" station. (W1AIM) I heard some tantalizing bursts, but the band was pretty quiet and disappointing this January. (WB3DDA) I do not like the sequential exchange, period. (WA8ZCO) I vote to repeal the limited . 52 rere, and just say no contest operation on repeater frequencies. (K2OEQ) Big effort ended up big flop. (WA1RWU) I feel I would have enjoyed it even more if the contest were held during the minor sporadic-E season, either near

QSOs per Band/Antenna Configuration for Top SIx Scores.

| Call | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Band } \rightarrow \\ & 50 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ | 144 MHz | 220 MHz | 432 MHz | 1296 MHz | 10 GHz |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Single Op |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| W3HQT | 213/11-el. Yagi | 227/14-el. Yagi | 58/15-el. Yagi | 32/52 el. | 6/4-ft dish |  |
| WA3AXV | 183/6-el. Yagi | 252/12-l. Yagi | 69/10-dB stick | 45/32-el Slott |  |  |
| K3MWV | 158/4-el. Yagi | 304/14-l. Yagi | 73/5-el. Yagi | 29/18-el. Quagi |  |  |
| Multiop |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K8III | 331/11-el. Yagi | 410/32-el. |  |  |  |  |
| WA2VUN | 291/11-el. Yagi | 331/16-el. Yagi | 99/Vertical | 24/27-el. Yagi | 4/S.I./LY | 8 |
| K2XR | 348/6-el. Yagi | 450/14-el. Yagi |  |  |  |  |

Top Ten

| Single Operator |  | Multioperator |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Call | Score | Call | Score |
| W3HQT | 50,232 | K8III | 68,172 |
| WA3AXV | 45,084 | WA2VUN | 56,880 |
| K3MWV | 42,624 | K2XR | 55,860 |
| W3ZD | 35,278 | K9HMB | 45,312 |
| K1FO | 32,576 | W3KKN | 43,860 |
| W3HMU | 30,380 | K3DUA | 30,360 |
| W2EIF | 30,000 | WA2SNA | 26,514 |
| K3IUV | 29,970 | K9HDE | 22,724 |
| N6NB | 25,200 | W2PAU | 22,330 |
| WA3JUF | 25,140 | WA3FOF | 22,126 |

Division Leaders

| Single Op | Division | Multiop |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| W3HQT | Atlantic | W3KKN |
| WB9CEP | Central | K9HMB |
| WB ${ }^{\text {HHM }}$ | Dakota | WBØBDI/ø |
| WB4JGG | Delta | WA4LDU |
| WB8IGY | Great Lakes | K8III |
| WB2BUR | Hudson | WA2VUN |
| WB2UFQ | Midwest | KøTLM |
| K1FO | New England | W1FMF |
| W7YOZ | Northwestern | K7ND |
| K6KLY | Pacific | W6YKM |
| WA4LJQ | Roanoke | W4BFB/4 |
| WB5AOX | Rocky Mountain | W@WYZ |
| N4QH | Southeastern | W4VO |
| N6NB | Southwestern | K6MEP |
| K5CM | West Gulf | N5EX/5 |
| VE3BQN | Canadian | VE3AEA/3 |

the end of December or early January. (WB1FAE) Increased activity on 432 was a big plus. (W3XO) I like the new scoring for 200 MHz and up. Heard the most activity on uhf this January SS than any other year I've been active. (K2CBA) Midwinter mountaintop operation is certainly no picnic. I would like to see the contest started at the same GMT throughout the country. (K1LPS) New point rules are great. They finally rewarded adequate points for the time and effort required per uhf QSO. (W1JR) Your new log sheets are bogus. (K1FO) Almost nobody bothered with the higher bands out here before. (N6NB) How about extra points for working SSTV? (WB2BUR) I sure wish sections could count more than once per contest; i.e., be able to count on different bands. (K1FJM/4) Forty minutes before the contest started 2 s and 3 s were coming in very good. Nothing heard once it started. (WB5JAR) High activity on 1296, over 15 stations on the air, due to efforts of N6TX. (K6KLY) Wish they (FCC) would give Techs the full 2 -meter band! (K2OVS) [They did! - Ed.] I found that conditions on the relatively long paths ( 400 miles or so) on 2 meters were quite good, with many signals heard consistently through the weekend. (VE3FN) A fair amount of QRM, but that's OK because it

## All-Time Division Leaders

## Single Operator

| Call | Score | Year | Division | Call | Score | Year |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| W3MFY | 52,910 | 68 | Atlantic | W3KKN | 43,860 | 78 |
| K9HMB | 20,746 | 73 | Central | K9HMB | 45,312 | 78 |
| WA@CSL | 8,190 | 76 | Dakota | WB@PIV | 3,640 | 76 |
| WB4JGG | 11,270 | 77 | Delta | WB4HEL/4 | 8,880 | 73 |
| K8LEE | 41,080 | 76 | Great Lakes | K8III | 68,172 | 78 |
| WB2WIK | 54,132 | 77 | Hudson | K2OWR | 65,562 | 76 |
| K9ECV/ | 12,690 | 68 | Midwest | KøVUY | 14,196 | 76 |
| WA1NGR | 33,110 | 76 | New England | W1FMF | 46,440 | 76 |
| W7YOZ | 8,126 | 78 | Northwestern | K7BBO/7 | 5,642 | 63 |
| WA6JUD/6 | 23,868 | 76 | Pacific | WA6BMV | 24,814 | 77 |
| WA4LJQ | 21,692 | 78 | Roanoke | W4BFB/4 | 21,880 | 76 |
| K7UFQ | 5,320 | 68 | Rocky Mountain | WAQPHZ/ | 8,062 | 68 |
| W4GDS | 26,400 | 73 | Southeastern | W4VO | 18,966 | 78 |
| N6NB | 25,200 | 78 | Southwestern | W6FNE/6 | 20,352 | 63 |
| K5CM | 14,100 | 78 | West Gulf | K5STI | 12,804 | 59 |
| VE3ZZZ | 12,896 | 72 | Canadian | VE3ASO | 7,800 | 74 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

was caused by lots of activity . . . very little frequency hogging on the popular contest frequencies. (WB2CUT) No special openings were noted and several sections, which are usually heard were absent. During the entire contest period, it was even very difficult to work many stations on scatter, as the bursts were very few and far apart. (WB8RNY/W8MRM) Neither snow nor sleet nor wind nor freezing cold could keep us from the VHF SS. (K4ROM) Sure could use some more stations on 432. (WA5WCP) It is much easier to find 432 contacts than 220 contacts around Detroit! (WA8EUU) I think that the new rules for the VHF SS are a step in the right direction. One additional change would go a long way in equalizing things for those who operate above 50 MHz , as the ability to gain additional section multipliers on 6 meters, due to sporadic-E band openings is certainly a factor. Allowing a multiplier of only X1 for all contacts on 50 MHz would help to even things out. (K8DIO) Nice to hear all the activity (QRM, splatter, crossmode, etc.) on 144 this year. Fm sure made a difference in the scores. (VE3DSS) Activity was far above that of last year, although 432 fell short of our expectations. We had $220-\mathrm{MHz}$ capabilities, but only had two takers . . . Looking forward to June when we hope to have a new 2-meter array.
(WB4AEG/W4VO) Glad to report five sections worked during the contest. I've worked them all previously, but was surprised that they actually came through for the contest . . . Have to report that both vertical and horizontal polarization are needed for contesting here in the less populated areas. Sideband activity has really mushroomed here in New Mexico lately. Last year only worked two or three stations on ssb, this year worked 20 ssb stations. I'm still not happy with your restrictions on .52 contesting . . . We have practically no tropo here in the dry, high mountainous west. We sit by the hour, night after night, tickled to death if we can work one or two stations out to around 300 miles. Although it's usually working locals and listening to the hiss. Then in a contest, we are restricted as to how long we can work .52. Why not impose restrictions on those in areas where problems occur, rather than on everyone?

## (WB5AOX)

## Feedback

The score of W1JP was omitted from the listings of the 1977 VHF SS on page 91 of August 1977 QST. The listing should read W1JP 3400-100-7-AB. This would put W1JP in third place among the single operators in the Western Massachusetts Section.

Dave, K $\emptyset$ LCB, says his 1978 effort from the Missouri Section is just a warmup for bigger and better things to come.


K1LPS ascended Burke Mt. (elevation 3267 feet) and put Vermont in 93 logs during the SS.


The number three single operator from the Southern New Jersey Section, Bill, WA2DPU, divided his 360 QSOs between 6, 2 and 1-1/4 meters.



Gene, WøGL, the 144-MHz operator at KøTLM.


Tom, WB8NZM, of WA8PLZ, OH.


WD6CGF (left) and WD6DRI at WB6TAM.

Scoros
Scores are listed in order, single-operator stations first within each section. From left to right: Call, score, number of QSOs, number of multipliers, bands operated (A-50 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{B}-144 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}-220 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{D}-432 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{E}-1296 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{F}-2304 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{G}-3300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{l}-10 \mathrm{GHz}$ ).

| 1 Connecticut |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| K1FO | 32,576-450-22-ABCD |
| K1DH | 19,320-276-25-AB |
| WAILUJ(WA1HYN opr |  |
|  |  |
| K1EM | 6348-138-13-AB |
| KIVSC | 6240-130-14 |
| WA12NT | 4746-113-11-AB |
| K1ZKR | 4664-106-12-A |
| WIWHL | 4550-91-15-A |
| W1FAJ | 3432- 68-12-BC |
| W1AVV | 2688-64-11-B |
| WB9VAV/1 | 2600-63-10-BD |
| WA1CN | 2142. 51-11-AB |
| WIRM | 1548.43 .8 - ${ }^{1}$ |
| WA1GTP | $1512.36-11-A B$ |
| W 1 CH | $1480-37-10-8$ |
| W9KDR/1 | 840- 26- 5-ABD |
| K1RT | 840- $280-4$ - ${ }^{\text {ch }}$ |
| ${ }_{\text {N1CC }}$ |  |
| K1RO/M1 | $\text { 176- } 4-1-\mathrm{c}$ |

$\begin{array}{lc}\text { W1JR } & \text { 12,792-194-16-ABCDE } \\ \text { WA1PMB } & \text { 7488.144-16-AB } \\ \text { WA5IOD/1 } & 6636-136-11-A B C D\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { WA5IOD/1 } & 6636-136-11-A B C D \\ \text { K1GVM } & 5980-120-13-B D \\ \text { WB1FAE } & 58550-117-15-A B \\ \text { W1CRL } & 4520.103-10-A B D \\ \text { W1GXT } & 4326-78-11-B C D\end{array}$ W1GXY
WB1CUS G3BVVUSW1
WB1FKF WB1FKF
W1DU W1JOT
wiUl W1U1
WB1FOD
W1FM W1LMMU
WIKZR
WA1DEI WA1DE
K1 RG
K1T
WA4TT K1TT
WA4TG/1
W1XM(N1RC W1 WB2CWQ,WA4TTG,WA1RJX,
 WB2CWQ,oprs) $1870-50-$ -
W1MJ/1 + K1EA)
1372. 47- 4-BC

## Maine

K1TOL 7854-119-23-A
New Hampshire
$\begin{aligned} & \text { WA1OUB 22570-305-27-AB } \\ & \text { W1EJ }\end{aligned} l$


## Rhode Island

| WA1PBR | 5650-108-15-ABC |
| :--- | ---: |
| $K 11 C M$ | $2992-68-12-A$ |
| $K 1 C O W$ | $382-27-6-A B D$ | WA2JHR/1 $\mathbf{+ W B 4 R V A}^{4956-106-11-A B C D}$

## $\begin{array}{lr}\text { KILPS } & \\ \text { K1LAIM } & \text { 4700- } 93-15-A B D \\ \text { W1GYT } & 3692-68-16-A B D \\ \text { K1LJL } & 396-22.9-A B \\ & \\ & \end{array}$ 

Western Massachusetts

| GN | 9150- |
| :---: | :---: |
| GXU | 3066-73 |
| WB1CBH | 2562-58-11 |
| WA1UOL | 2546-67- |
| WlkK | $2176-62-7-A B D$ |
| WB1CAD | 1824- 57-6.AB |
| K1sYl | 1596-38-11-A |
| WA1J | 1496- 44- 7-AB |
| WA1UWX | 1444- 38- 9-A |
| W1JP | 1428-51-4-AB |
| WB1ABF | 1428-51-4-AB |
| WINLE | 1352-52-3-B |
| WicJx | 1224- 36. 7-B |
| WAIYJN | 1102- 29- 9-AB |
| WB1APD | 980- 35- ${ }^{\text {- }}$ - -B |
| WA1PGT | 568-18- ${ }^{\text {2-B }}$ |
| K1JG | 432-12-8-B |
| WB2ARW | 360-15-2-B |
| WBIEHS | 312. 13. 16.8 |
| wiuwx | $154-7.1-\mathrm{B}$ |
| K1PUG | 48- 2- 2-B |
| W1WO | 22 |
| W1MBT | ,w |
| R,WB. | pr |
| AlRW | UWx, |
| A1WRM | A1WR |
| K1BE + N 1 | WA1PUXI |
|  | 40-68- |




In case the warm summer sun has helped us to forget, that white stuff on the trees and on the ground is snow; lots of snow, as seen through the camera of K1LPS, VT.


This year's SS found the K6MEP crew atop Pine Mountain (elevation 6700) in southern California, from which they turned in the number one multiop score in the Southwestern Division.

WA3YBL(+WA3JSR) $\begin{array}{r}\text { 840-35-2-AB }\end{array}$ Maryland-D.c.


W3PGA K3S CWZ FRXPHF PHH RHV HZJ LAW OTZ QKB,WB3s
BGS BIT,oprs ${ }^{2} 3,680-261-14-A B C D$ K3IVO(N3FL,W3S DPU FG IP,
WA
WTIOWB3'S BYG FBW ICL'
JVK,WBECXB,oprs)
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { W3ZR } & 6480-121-17-A B \\ \text { WB3DDA } & 6350-127-15-A B\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lr}\text { WA3ANO } & \text { 1344. 42. } 6-A B \\ \text { K3ATL } & 768.24 .6-B \\ \text { W3DJM } & 624.24 .3-A B\end{array}$

4
Alabama
$\begin{array}{lc}\text { WA4NPL } & \text { 2680- 65-10-ABC } \\ \text { W4XP } & 1110-37-5-A B \\ \text { WA8KLH/4 } & 840-30-4-A B\end{array}$

## Georgia

N4QH
W41SS
WA46-137-19-AB
$280-110.4-\mathrm{A}$
W4VO + K4s AEK CKS.WA4
IBI KPU,WB4S AEG YWK
WBI KPU,WB4s AEG YWK) $18966-317-19-A B C D$
WB4NMA(+WA4NJP) 12,240-202-20-ABD WB4YAB
WATMX
W280-120-12-AB
W82-47-3-B

## North Carolina


Northern Florida
W4EQR
WB5MAC/4
W4CSS
394- 24-
6-ABD
13-AB
South Carolina
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { K4GMJ } & \text { 3564- 81-12-AB } \\ \text { WD4CHS } & 1960-70-4-\mathrm{AB} \\ \text { WD4ACT } & 832.26-6-A\end{array}$
W4BFB/4 K4S GHR MQG SLC,
WA4S NPB VCC, WB45 BQC PCS
TLX,WD4ABZ,AA4s SC ZZ,oprs)
20,176-382-16-ABC
Southern Florida
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { W4PCS } & 352-14-1-A B C D \\ \text { WA1PVV/4 } & 132-1-A B C D\end{array}$




