# Results, 32nd ARRL VHF Sweepstakes 

# Visiting the Higher Frequencies is Something Special. 

By Bill Jennings,* K1WJ

T
he results of the 32nd running of the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, January 13-14, 1979, seem to epitomize the doggedness and determination of the vhf contester's spirit. Despite a deluge of post-contest reports that told horror stories of doom and gloom, terrible conditions, waning participation (nobody to work) and some of the worst weather conditions ever to hamper fixed stations and mountaintoppers alike, when all the entries were in and the results tabulated, this the latest VHF SS looks like a pretty darned good outing.

The statistics go something like this: entries received - 861, up from 838 a year ago; new all-time division records set - 12, six multioperator, six single operator; top ten single-operator average score $-45,695$ points, up 11k points from the average top ten score in 1978; top ten multioperator score in 1979 46,011 points, up 7000 points from the 1978 average of 39,413 . Fact. The one-million-point total for a club aggregate score has been reached and surpassed for the first time in VHF SS history.
In this the second year of the VHF SS scoring structure that rewards operation above 148 MHz with an increased points-per-QSO ratio, a number of stations/operators, taking to the higher bands, have broken all-time division scoring records, all-time section scoring records, and have bettered their own personal multiplier, QSO, or scoring totals. These achievements are highlighted in the score listings and the various "boxes" included in this report.

To those who have met or surpassed their VHF SS goals, a hearty "well done." To those who have met their fate at the hands of Old Man Murphy, "wait til next year."

Who better to tell the story of the contest than the participants themselves? Excerpts of several narratives, which were received here with VHF SS entries, follow.

## Single Operators

"Conditions at this location were not good. No ' $E$ ' or tropo at all, just ground wave and very poor scatter. Not one opening on 6. Just like trying to pull hen's teeth to pick up another multiplier. Activity fair.
"Started out Saturday with a SWR of over 6 to 1 on 6 and 2 because of the ice cover. Couldn't hear a thing! Ice went away Saturday night after I beat the guy wires every 30 or so minutes. Almost cooked my amplifiers with the high SWR. Boy, do those 4CX250s make noise when they arc over!! Contest going slow, but
doing much better after ice; gonna get 'em now!
"Then there was Mr. Murphy's helper, WD4LGR. He gave me more competition than I care for. Boy is he tough.
"Conclusion: New call (KA4DCZ), ice on Saturday, S9 noise on Sunday and (Wild Dog 4 LGR) on my tail may have caused me to 'bite the bullet'." - KA4DCZ, NC
"Getting these logs out at the last minute but that goes along with the rest of the disaster this contest turned out to be. Mr. Murphy has been very kind to me for quite a few contests in a row. Think he decided to make up for lost time on this one. Getting set up in the bitter cold led to me getting sick and it has taken me three weeks to shake it. Early Sunday morning the freezing rain came and put the VSWR right out of sight. Considering my state of health, I packed it in early on Sunday. I was not able to get back up the mountain for three weeks and
about that time, I got a call from the people up there to come and rescue my antennas. The ice had continued to build up and eventually bent the 2 -inch water pipe mast right over like wet spaghetti. The 220 and 432 beams survived without a scratch, but the 16 -element one took a beating including a bent boom. It looks like I might be able to salvage it, though.
"So . . . all things considered, I think this will be the last attempt at winter mountaintop operation for a while. Last year I was fortunate, in that although there was a lot of snow up there, at least it was warm and dry during the contest. It's just too hard on the gear getting things set up in the winter. Well, we'll think about it next year." - KlLPS, $V T$

## Multioperator Stations

"The Cuyahoga Falls ARC decided to enter this contest a week prior to the event, although none of the members were equipped to operate


The king, WA3AXV.


K3MWV, number three single-operator score in the 1979 SS.

## Top Ten

Single Operator
Call
WA3AXV
W3HQT
K3MWV
WA2DPU
W3HFY
N3AHI
WB2SZK
KK3UV
W3HMU
W2EIF

|  | Multioperator |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Score | Call | Score |
| 64,512 | K8III | 80,984 |
| 61,864 | K2DEG | 65,520 |
| 56,576 | K2XR | 54,464 |
| 49,490 | W3KKN | 45,198 |
| 41,220 | WA1RWU | 42,550 |
| 40,854 | WA2SNA | 41,602 |
| 37,488 | K2NE | 39,040 |
| 36,540 | W8CCI | 31,120 |
| 34,720 | WB2LCC | 31,958 |
| 33,694 | W4BFB | 25,680 |
|  |  |  |

## Club Competition

| Club Name | Score | No. of Entries | Club Winner |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Unlimited Class |  |  |  |
| Mt. Airy VHF RC (Del/NJ/PA) | 1,175,988 | 75 | WA3AXV |
| Rochester VHF Group (NY) | 904,428 | 230 | K2YCO |
| Medium Class |  |  |  |
| South Jersey Radio Assn. | 167,980 | 19 | WA2KOK |
| Potomac Area VHF Society (MD/VA) | 142,920 | 18 | K3DUA |
| West Jersey Radio Amateurs | 118,542 | 24 | WB2GEX |
| 550 ARC ( NJ ) | 94,084 | 25 | WB2QOQ |
| Hampden County RA (MA) | 93,570 | 28 | K1GXU |
| Gloucester County ARC (NJ) | 66,274 | 13 | AA2Z |
| Northern California CC | 53,928 | 7 | K6KLY |
| Mobile Sixers RC Inc. (Del/NJ/PA) | 42,306 | 19 | W3ETB |
| Murphy's Marauders (CT) | 34,638 | 8 | K1ZZ |
| Rochester ARC (MN) | 12,170 | 14 | WØVB |
| Local Class |  |  |  |
| MIT Radio Society (MA) | 33,460 | 5 | N1HR |
| III Wind Contesters (IL) | 31,460 | 4 | K9MBX |
| Mitre-Bedford ARC (MA) | 20,948 | 5 | W1JR |
| Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. (MA) | 14,554 | 5 | W1JP |
| Six Meter Club of Chicago | 11,662 | 7 | WA9FIH |
| Lake Success RC (NY) | 9,176 | 3 | WB2GVD |
| Central Michigan ARC | 8,936 | 4 | WA8SQL |
| Northrop RC (CA) | 7,548 | 3 | W6CN |
| Warminster ARC (PA) | 6,856 | 3 | K3EBZ |
| Quad County ARC (PA) | 5,906 | 5 | WB3DVR |
| Skylands ARC (NJ) | 5,906 | 3 | WB2NCF |
| Indiana University ARC | 1,528 | 3 | W3EP/9 |

## Single Operator Multiplier/QSO Leaders

Multiplier Leaders QSO Leaders

|  | Call | No. Multipliers | Call |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | No. QSOs



WA4QYP, number three single-operator score from Virginia.


K3HZO made his call known on 2 and 432 from the Maryland-DC Section.


W2AV, half of the W2AV-WB2KAO team from Western New York.
the vhf bands. It was decided to operate from the home of WD8CVH and WB8VNO, but we had to put up the antennas and borrow equipment for 2 -meter sideband. We erected a pair of stacked 5 -element 6 -meter beams at 60 feet, an 11 -element 2 -meter beam, a 7 -element 220 beam, and a second tower to hold the 440 beam. All of this done in sub-zero weather. The operators were powered by $2-1 / 2$ dozen sloppy joes, 2 cases of pop, and assorted munchies." - WB8UNO/W8VPV, OH
"It seemed like it was going to be a difficult project - working our first VHF SS, but WB7VQQ, WB7TIV and I (N7ACJ) were undaunted after having frozen (it was only 20 degrees) last weekend, getting the tower up just for this event. We weren't going to let a little thing like inexperience stop us. By the end of Saturday when we quit, we had amassed 34 QSOs (all on 2-meter fm), using all forms of subterfuge - like the mobiles who would come to the contest frequency from a repeater. We worked two unsuspecting fellows 70 miles away in Salem, Oregon - rolling up interstate 5. All in all, a successful weekend." - N7ACJ/ WB7VQQ, OR

## Clubs

When the club competition for the VHF SS is mentioned, it just seems natural to follow it up with the word Packrats. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club is number one in the unlimited class of club competition and the first and only club to break the one-million-point club aggregate barrier in the VHF SS. Enough said.
The other club in the unlimited class of club competition, the Rochester (NY) VHF Group can well be proud of a fine effort also. They added 200 k points to their 1978 club aggregate and are on the threshold of breaking that magic one-megapoint barrier also.

The separation of the club competition into the three-tier system proved lucky for the South Jersey Radio Association and the MIT Radio Society, two clubs with excellent records of performance that deserve to win in their respective classifications.

Complacency has no place in the VHF SS club competition. Now that the competition is defined within each tier, we expect that real tooth and nail battles will develop for those three club gavels.
"As a historical note, back in 1963, the club came up with a slogan to help spur the group on - it was 'Time for a Million.' We never did make that goal and really didn't think that we
could until we started getting ready last fall. The amount of effort getting new antennas up and new rigs on the air was quite considerable. Guys were on the air checking signals and providing test signals on all bands into the wee hours of every night right up til the start of the contest (and even a few during the contest).
"All the logs have been checked by the submitting member and by a minimum of two other members. The overall score represents a greater than 50 percent increase over last year and breaks our old record from back in the 60s. The major reason for this is the 'scare' that we had from the Rochester Group last year. We haven't heard how they did this year, but the scare was good for us - it turned us (the club) into a unified group of very hard workers. We even surprised ourselves with the results. We wish the Rochester group a lot of luck and hope that the fierce competition was good for them also. Even though population and geographical differences make it difficult to compare scores across the country, the local competition really makes you hustle just to keep even. See you later; we're getting ready for 1980!’ -- W3IIT, contest chairman, Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club
"We all had a good time this year despite the antenna icing problems that seemed to settle over the Northeast early in the contest. Scores this year were down for the 'big guns' in this area because conditions were fairly poor. Our average score was up since a few more of the fm gang are now on ssb and cw and are able to work more than one section.
"We sincerely hope that this score is enough to give the Packrats a real go, but if not, I predict that next year's score will be well over one megapoint as we are all continuing to work on our 'low end' capabilities. I hope that the three-tier club competition structure will encourage more and more competition since the general increase in activity that seems to result is a real benefit to everyone's enjoyment of the vhf/uhf bands.
As this is written, I have no idea whether or not we beat the Packrats in 1979. If we did FB! If not - wait til next year." - W2AV, contest chairman, Rochester (NY) VHF Group.


WBØYQS used 2 meters and 432 MHz to work seven sections and lead the South Dakota Section for single ops.


WA4MMP/1 doin' it on 2 from Rhode Island.


Bob, N2SB, who went portable 3 in MDC with friends WB2NPE and WB2RVX, concentrates on pulling out another 2 -meter multiplier.


Aletha, WB3FUR, handled 6 meters while OM Mick, W3ILG, looked after the 2-meter chores at W3ILG, EPA.

## SOAPBOX

Had a hard time working my own section (WPa) (WA3TIH). Again everybody thinks that 6 meters is only 25 kHz wide! Heard W1s calling CQ under W3s all day but couldn't get back to them. The QRM here with the beam pointed northeast is unreal (N4CD). After a night of sleet and freezing rain, my $144-\mathrm{MHz}$ beams looked like "an icicle built for two" (WB2RRH). Surprisingly enough, the number of stations participating in the January SS lately seems to exceed the number in the September contest. Consistently work over 200 stations here from Eastern Long Island. Band conditions were poor to fair. Six meters never opened and trying to exchange reports on scatter is near impossible due to the length of the exchange (K2OVS). The WX and band condx were so bad that I saw two carthworms racing my ground wave for the nearest cover (WB4NBK). Activity seemed down this year. Shoveling 24 inches of snow and repairing the amplifier screen supply didn't help my score (K9MBX). Splatter made contacts very difficult. The increase in activity during a contest is amazing

## Division Leaders

| Single Op | Division | Multiop |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WA3AXV* | Atlantic | W3KKN* |
| K9RO | Central | K9HDE |
| WøVB | Dakota | KøVXM* |
| WB4JGG* | Delta | WB4LHD/5 |
| WB8IGY | Great Lakes | K81II* |
| WB2QOQ | Hudson | K2DEG |
| WBøZXU | Midwest | WøRT |
| K1FO | New England | WA1RWU |
| WA7KYZ* | Northwestern | K7ND* |
| K6KLY | Pacific | N6AMG |
| WD4MUO* | Roanoke | W4BFB* |
| WØPMY | Rocky Mountain | NøKV |
| WB4NMA | Southeastern | W4VO |
| N6NB* | Southwestern | K6MEP |
| K5CM | West Gulf | K5LZO |
| VE1ASJ* | Canadian | VE1DXA* |
| N4UM/C6A | DX | - |

*Denotes new all-time division record.


The crew at K6MEP doing what they do best, mountaintopping and turning in the top divisional score for multioperator stations in the Southwestern Division.
(WB2CHE). How about 6-m scatter ops using 15- or 30 -second sequencing? Sure would make things a lot casier (K1FO). Quite a bit of competition in the Orange Section. A remarkable increase in the last couple of contests. I like the idea of sending the serial numbers as part of the exchange. It lets one know where he stands. How about including serial numbers as part of the exchange for the June and September contests? (WB6MFW). I hold the Section Certificate for the first VHF SS, held in 1948 and a few thereafter. Things sure have changed. This was my first uhf contest entry in about 25 years. Expect to enter the June and September contests this coming year (W4JAZ). I kept waiting for "good weather" to put up the 2 -meter beam. The weather never improved, so my son (WB@UIP) and 1 erected it the morning of the contest - in a blizzard! The fm simplex rule is a good one. We have many new people interested in contests as a result ( $W \emptyset R G U$ ). I have mixed emotions about the scoring for the bands above 144 MHz . The present system almost forces an individual to gear up on 220, 432 and even 1296 in order to become even modestly competitive. I can appreciate
the fact that this is in essence a "reward" for populating these higher vhf/uhf bands, but it tends to tip the edge to large groups who have geared up for these bands. Years ago the "sections plus 10 " feature was incorporated to try to smooth out some of the geographical disparities; why not do something like this for the frequency situation? Perhaps an option, such as either taking the "sections plus 10'" factor or something of a point bonus for operation on the higher bands ( 220,432 , etc.). This might tend to restore a fairer system to the "little guns" (N2FY). "Dirty" signals on the vhf bands are an increasing problem. Suggest that OOs be alerted to monitor the bands during the VHF SS, noting in particular ssb splatter and key clicks (W2PAU). Will see you in the June contest from 8000 feet up (WA7JTM). More contest participants than in any of the past five vhf contests. I think that the club participation brought out many more ops, new to contesting. Also amazed at the number of YLs in this contest (WB2NCF). Please excuse the low.score, but our 2-meter logs were lost during high winds and a snowstorm on top of the mountain. Snow covered up the logs before we could find them (WA4WZQ). Worst ever on 432 (WA2SNA/N2AAZ). We expected great things from our 432 antennas. Four 15 -element quagis up about 30 feet sure looked impressive, but we only heard one local station (VE3AEA/3 /VE3IQZ). We were on a fire-tower-like structure 110 feet above the prairies of Illinois. Would have been great if it weren't for an ice storm on Saturday and $50-\mathrm{mph}$ winds and below-zero temperatures on Sunday. Even the scatter on 6 meters on Sunday morning couldn't warm us up! (K9AKS). Seems the 2-meter fm operator courtesy is improving.

About time! (WA3AXV). Saturday night, K2OWR put up our $220-\mathrm{MHz}$ Ringo, a five-minute job normal ly, but it took about half an hour in the 15 -degree sleeting WX and 40-mph winds! Brrr (K2XR). Very nice contest. Conditions poor to average most of the time, but this is preferable to the true contester. Anybody can work openings (W2EIF). You might consider a separate fm only contest, preferably at different times than the vihf contest. It would hurt my score, but would make the contest much more en joyable (W3IIT). We have begun preparations for another XE2BC assault for June. The gang in XE is quite enthusiastic about it, and it looks like it will be a much better prepared operation. The 144 array which did net us our own echoes and some sigs from K1WHS, W7FN and W6PO has been very thoroughly tested at my QTH, and we may put it up down there as well. We will be working to have gear on 2.3 and 10 GHz this year, which may be a first for these bands from XE, certainly VE2 (WB6NMT). A VO1 or VO2 quite literally doesn't stand a chance of winning or even placing in the Maritime Section. There would be little incentive for me as a VO1 or VO2 to enter a contest where the cards (propagation wise) are stacked against me. To benefit all, VO1/VO2 should be made a separate multiplier, distinct from the Maritime Section (VE1BNN). On multiops working people that are part of their operation. I think that any call sign shown as part of a multiop roster should not be counted as a QSO for that multiop effort even if that operator has left the site and returned home (K1LPS). Conditions on 6 - and 2 -meter ssb were very poor. Not even the locals were on (WD5HYU). Loved the carlier operating time, but hated the exchange (WB2CUT).

The club participation rules, I believe, are overly complicated. As club chairman for this activity, I felt the need for the services of a lawyer for interpretation, an accountant to track membership activity and a surveyor/geographer to determine station distance for club classification (K1CHY). [Thanks, Irwin, for taking the time to do the job correctly. You should see what we have to go through when we receive club entries that aren't documented quite as nicely as yours. - Ed.]

## FEEDBACK

Please note the following corrections to the report of the 1978 VHF SS, which appeared on page 69 of July 1978 QST.

The score for WB $\emptyset H H M$ was incorrectly listed as 3840. It should have been 1024 points. This moves K $\emptyset V X M$ with a score of 1656 up to first place in the South Dakota Section and makes him the Dakota Division leader for single ops.
WIFMF should have been listed in the number 10 position in the top ten multioperator listings. Through an oversight, WB1ABF was not listed as the co-winner of the club award for the Mt. Tom Repeater Association.

Murphy also reared his ugly head in the results of the September VHF QSO Party. In the Ohio Section, the score of WA8TTS should be 18,304 , not the 3432 listed. This moves Tom to the top spot for single operators in Ohio as well as number one single op in the Great Lakes Division.

Scores
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 MHz, B-144 MHz, C-220 MHz, D-432 MHz, E-1296 MHz, F-2304 MHz, G-3300 MHz, H-5 GHz, I-10 GHz).



## 3

## Delaware


Eastern Ponnsyivania
WA3AXV $_{64,512-741-26-A B C D}$


##  <br>   <br> 

North Carolina

WA4WZQ/4 ${ }^{+}+\mathrm{WA} 4 W Z P^{-W B 4 U D S}$
Northern Fiorida

South Carolina

Southern Florida



## 



|  | GW3NJY/W9 <br> WA9FIH 3648.101. . 6 -ABCD |
| :---: | :---: |
| Los Angeles | W99V1, 3360.80 .11 AB |
| N6NB 25,880-529-10-ABCDE | WA9QBu |
|  | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { K9JK } & \text { 1728. } \\ \text { K9ENZ } \\ \text { 1608. } 67 .\end{array}$ |
| W6PFE ${ }^{\text {2100. }}$ W1. $4 . \mathrm{BC}$ | W9SN 1518.69 .1 |
|  | WB9YPR ${ }^{\text {WAPRI }}$ 1278 |
| Orange | W9KGGY 11470 |
| S 4312-115. 4-ABCD |  |
| PACZN/W6 2156 - 60-4-AB |  |
| WB6MFW 1005. 67-5-AB | W9AMY ${ }_{\text {WB9OTE }}{ }^{396}$ |
| Santa Barbara | K9HDE (+K9s KD MR,N9RX,WB9s EWFIWN) |
| K6MEP(AC6I,K6VMN,WA6S DJS IJZ,WB6GNS,oprs) 18,176 -413. 6-ABCD | K9AKS ( + K9 GL. W9S W9Z $\times\left(+\right.$ WB9 ${ }^{15,424-241-22-A B}$ |
| Santa Clara Valley | 4048. 88-13-AB |
| K6KLY 15,040-328-10-ABCD $\begin{array}{cc}\text { WA6HCl } \\ \text { W6xN } & 10,720-268-10-A B D D \\ 5920-122-6-B C D E\end{array}$ | Indiana |
|  | K9SLQ 10560.212 .14. ABD <br>  |
| San | WD9EME 608. 19. 6-B |
| WB6FTW/6 |  |
| WB6NMT ${ }^{10,548-215.18-A B C}$ |  |
| San Francisco | 99NTL (+WD8DJR,K9XA |
| W6AMT (WB6VZY.opr) 4768-159. 6-AB | W9CGI( + WA9BHF) <br> 2546. 67. 9-AB |
| San Joaquin Valley |  |
| W6YKM 8004-148-13-ABCD | Wisconsin |
| Sacramento Valley |  |
|  |  |
|  | $\emptyset$ |
| 7 | Colorado |
| Arizona | wapmy |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Idaho | lowa |
| K7MM 844-28-2-ABC | WBgZXU WDOFOY $9664-111-20 . A B D$ $91-5-B$ |
| Montana | Kansas |
| N7ALX 858.39-1.B | NOLL ${ }^{11166}$ - 31 -18-AB |
| Oregon |  |
| W7TYR ${ }^{456}$ N7. 18. 2-ABD WB7VQQ(+N7ACJ,WB7TIU) | Minnesota ${ }^{\text {3040-70-10.ABD }}$ |
| 748-34-1-B | W9VB 2176. 64. 7-B |
| Washington |  |
| WATKYZ 10,296-199-12-A |  |
| W7YOz 5372 -135. 7-ABCD | W9xG ${ }_{\text {896. }}$ |
|  |  |
|  | WB0YEE 638. |
| K7ND(+wB7DTI) |  |
| 9690-217-9-ABCD |  |
| 8 | WMgats ${ }_{\text {Woin }}$ |
|  | WAPQWY(+KA9CRO)312-AB <br> 13 |
| Michigan | Missouri |
| WA8SQL 4048-92-12-AB | WB9PKN 5124-100-11-ABC |
| W8IDU $1806-37-11-A B C D$ |  |
|  | WAgWPJ 1344-43-2-ABC |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\text { WB8DSG } \\ \text { KABECL } & \text { 616. } \\ \text { 216. } \\ \text { 22. }\end{array}$ | Nebraska |
| NBAJF 192. 6-6-B | W9EKB 1368-38.8-B |
| Ohio | South Dakota |
| WB8IGY 16,502 | WBgYGS 1904. 54. |
| WA ${ }_{\text {K }}$ |  |
|  | 7830-135-17-ABD |
|  |  |
| WB8YGW 2772. ${ }^{\text {63.12-AB }}$ | VE |
| WB9HRQ/8 ${ }^{1848}$. 66. 4 -B |  |
|  | Maritime - Newfoundland |
|  | VE1ASJ ${ }^{21,156-258-31-A B}$ |
|  | WB2RLK/VE1 ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
|  | VE1SIX 110. 58. 1.A |
| WB8APJ 726. ${ }^{\text {750. }}$ (15. $1 . \mathrm{B}$ | WB2RLK, Multiop) |
|  |  |
|  | Quebec |
| WXT ZKE,WB8's EEX NFS, WD9KVR,oprs |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| WBVPV/8KKABBON,KB8GM. | VE2FRW 240.10-2-B |
| WA8USY, WB8UNO, ${ }^{\text {oprs }}$ ( ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Ontario |
| W8GOH( + W8HEG) ${ }_{4600-100-13-\mathrm{B}}$ | VE3BQN(VE3CRU,opr) ${ }_{6888 \text {-151-11-ABDE }}$ |
| W8VND(AE8LNBAFT,WABDFD, WB8YWM,WD8BZD,oprs) | VE3FN VE3CKU 270.- 3920.-16 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { D8BED,OPrs } \\ & 4420-130-7-A B \end{aligned}$ | VE3AEA/3VVE3SFDP HCI IQM |
| West Virginia | RWioprs) ${ }_{\text {178-5- }}$ |
| WB2DIN/8 7488-156-14-B | Check Logs |
|  |  |
| 9 |  |
|  | Disqualifications: |
| lllinols K9RO | KB2AH,W2OSD + +N2ASU,WA2HPF WASBP WA3QPX. |

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