

Results, 35th ARRL VHF Sweepstakes

By Mark J. Wilson,* AA2Z

Comments from the 942 entrants in this year's January VHF Sweepstakes contest talked about propagation and the weather, and propagation, and the weather. Seems like it was just plain *cold* all over. WA0NOK reports climbing his tower with the wind chill index at -30° F to wrap a heat tape around a balky rotator. N0CQO reports 58° F temperatures, but 140-mph winds. K0CQ's 432 antenna blew off the tower and didn't work too well buried in the snow. WA2DPU reports stuck rotors and -10° F temperatures. And to think that during the QSO party last June we were all complaining about the record *high* temperatures.

Conditions weren't all that grand this year, either. VE3BZE and VE3LNX report hearing many signals that were just too weak to copy. WD5IKD also reports that signals during the contest seemed even weaker than normal. In the South, WD4MBK reports little activity on 432. WA0LSH had some luck picking up multipliers on scatter, as did WA2YWP, while K2QR says that local oscillators in local police scanners were stronger than most signals. The lone good report comes from WA6PZL, who commented on a good tropo opening on Sun-

day afternoon. There was no good E_s opening during the afternoon like the one that made last year's contest more enjoyable. It was a contest that helped separate the real vhfers from the "Sunday drivers."

Conditions affected the scores this time around. The only new division records set were multiop records by WA1RWU and NSKW and a single-op record by C6ADV. Other than that, scores were down some.

While QSOs on 6 and 2 were down from last year in most parts of the country, 432- and 220-MHz activity was up as stations looked for ways to keep the scores high. Compare the single-op QSO totals listing with last year's. The totals on 432 and 220 are up in most call areas. WA2DPU's 100 QSO 70-cm score is 27 better than 1981. KA5FLE about doubled last year's high 5-land 432 score, while N0IS found 14 stations to work. Oh yes — the biggest 432 score came from who else but K2RIW. Operating 70 cm only, Dick ended up with 142 stations in 23 sections. Fantastic! On 220, if rising activity over the past few contests is any indication, this band should yield some record scores in June.

The lack of enhanced propagation also encouraged contest participants to take advantage of the 8-point premium placed on 1296-MHz QSOs. While uhf activity is usually



W5UKQ tends his 16 "RIW-19s" at 75 feet in the air.

low in the January contest because multipliers aren't counted by band, more and more stations are recognizing that the 1296 QSO points add up quickly. In 1981 only two of the single-op call area leaders took advantage of 1296; this year, five did. WA3AXV had 21 QSOs on that band and indicated a potential 30 if stations were on. K3ICH found some people to work in the DC area, while K6GSS worked 10 stations out West. Up in Ontario, VE3CRU increased last year's four 1296 QSOs to nine.

The top nationwide (Eastern PA/Southern NJ - wide?) single-op scores were closer this year than in recent memory. Less than 4000 points separated W3HQT, WA3AXV and WA2DPU. A look at their scores reveals some interesting operating strategy. 'HQT and 'DPU ended up within four QSOs and one multiplier of each other. 'AXV was down about 140 QSOs, but he had five more multipliers. In the end 'HQT won out, primarily because of his 220-MHz-and-above QSO totals. Nice job, Bill. Eight of the Top Ten Stations were Pack Rats, with WB1FVS in Connecticut and K2MLB in Northern NJ the exceptions.

In the multiop class, the Hampden Co. Radio Assn. team at WA1RWU smashed the old all-time multiop record set by K8III in 1979 by almost 10,000 points. Accompanying the logs was a 4-page description of the trials and tribulations this group encountered during its quest for the top. The 'RWU contest site is 2000-foot October Mountain in the northwestern corner of Massachusetts. There is no fixed operating site there, so all towers and antennas were put up in the months before the contest (remember — this is a winter contest) and most of the power came from a 5-kW generator. Sound like what your club does in June? Throughout the contest, the crew was hampered by 50-mph winds and temperatures of -30° F. Equipment failures and antenna problems, while normal for many stations, seemed worse because of the cold. The 1296 station bit the dust, followed by the 432 hardline, 432 mast-mounted preamp, 220 preamp, 6-meter scatter antenna and several rotors. Looks like they really earned that record. Other Top Ten multis were spread around the Northeast, with W1VD and

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Club Competition

Club Name	Score	Entries	Single Op Winner
Unlimited Category			
Mt. Airy VHF RC (DE/NJ/PA)	1,105,610	63	W3HQT
Rochester VHF Group (NY)	755,616	168	N2JY
Rochester ARC (MN)	77,824	62	W6RGU
Medium Category			
Hampden Co. RA (MA)	282,094	45	WB1FVS
Ramapo Mountain ARC (NJ)	220,124	27	K2MLB
Potomac Area VHF Society (MD/VA)	151,814	18	K3DUA
Worminster ARC (PA)	144,282	27	AK3O
West Jersey Radio Amateurs	126,756	22	N2CLV
South Jersey RA	125,044	18	WA2KOK
Murphy's Marauders (CT)	108,754	5	K1EM
Six Meter Club of Chicago	46,510	19	WA9FIH
Mobile Sixers RC (PA)	29,062	12	W3ETB
Local Category			
Delaware Valley VHF Society (PA)	85,662	6	WA3NWL
Palos Verdes ARC (CA)	54,282	9	N6BXW
Barnstormers ARC (MA)	45,392	5	AF1T
Suburban ARC (NJ/PA)	42,174	5	WB2YEH
A.W.A.R.E. (DE)	41,666	7	WB3LGC
Wellesley ARS (MA)	34,330	7	K1UR
Gloucester County ARC (NJ)	33,008	9	A12B
Penn Wireless Assn. (PA)	30,364	7	WB3JHX
Dutchess Co. VHF Society (NY)	30,364	4	WA2TIF
MIT Radio Society (MA)	21,578	5	N1HR
Long Island Mobile ARC	21,218	3	WB2ALW
Montgomery ARC (PA)	18,730	3	WB3CHS
Rochester DX Assn. (NY)	15,312	4	KB2SG
Dayton ARA (OH)	12,460	7	N8AXA
Albuquerque DX Assn. (NM)	11,988	7	K5MAT
Keystone VHF Club (PA)	11,202	6	W3FLD
Mitre-Bedford ARC (MA)	10,664	4	W1FM
Michigan City ARC	6976	3	K9DZE
Wisconsin Valley RA	4520	4	KB9NM
Oneonta ARC (NY)	3370	7	W2SEU

Top Ten

Single Operator		Multioperator	
Call	Score	Call	Score
W3HQQT	63,168	WA1RWU	90,902
WA3AXV	61,568	W1VD	77,904
WA2DPU	59,398	W3KKN	45,840
WB2CDE	54,180	K2XR	40,362
K3MWV	43,580	WA1MAO	39,900
W2E1F	36,456	WA2OMY	38,772
WB1FVS	35,770	W2SZ/2	36,300
K2MLB	35,496	N2ASC	35,100
N3AHI	32,504	AC3T	31,564
W3HFY	31,408	N2BOW	30,834



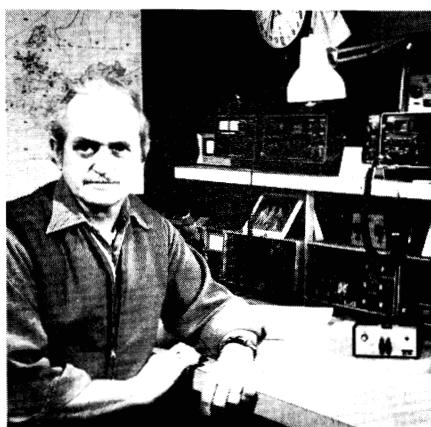
Division Leaders

Division	Single Op	Multiop
Canadian	VE3CRU	VE3LNX
Atlantic	W3HQQT	W3KKN
Central	K9MRI	WB9NTL
Dakota	W0RGU	—
Delta	W2GU	K4VPK
Great Lakes	WB8BGY	N4ELQ
Hudson	K2MLB	K2XR
Midwest	N0IS	WB0ZKG
New England	WB1FVS	WA1RWU*
Northwestern	W7YOZ	WB7DTI
Pacific	K6GSS	WB8WML
Roanoke	K3ICH/4	W4IY
Rocky Mountain	K5MAT	WA0LSH
Southeastern	WA4NJP	N4SJ
Southwestern	N6BXP	K6HXW
West Gulf	K4FLE	N5KW*
DX	C6ADV*	—

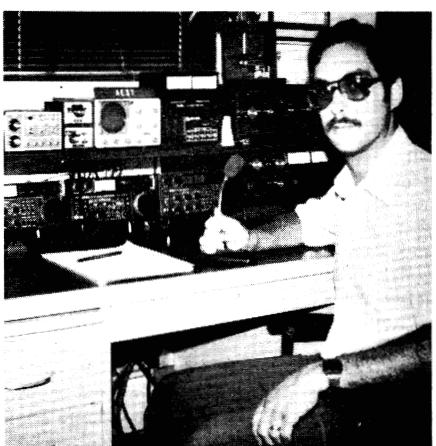
*Indicates new all-time division record

Single Operator Call Area Leaders — QSOs per Band

Call	50	144	220	432	1296	
WB1FVS	149	211	27	44	—	
WA2DPU	166	390	75	100	13	
W3HQQT	158	373	103	89	18	
K3ICH/4	106	212	22	31	3	
KA5FLE	37	125	36	32	—	
K6GSS	78	258	28	28	10	
W7YOZ	60	86	—	—	—	
WB8BGY	102	124	—	4	—	
K9MRI	29	174	11	17	—	
N0IS	27	119	—	14	—	
VE3CRU	61	81	14	20	9	
C6ADV	10	—	—	—	—	



Chick, WA1VCU, couples his Yaesu radios to stacked Jr. Boomers on 144 and 432 MHz from the Western Massachusetts Section.



AE3T worked 20 widely scattered sections from his Eastern PA QTH.



Two of the three ops at WA0LSH in Colorado pose for a photo of the Rocky Mountain Division leader.

Multioperator Call Area Leaders — QSOs per Band

Call	50	144	220	432	1296	10 GHz
WA1RWU	348	450	51	79	—	—
K2XR	—	651	—	—	—	—
W3KKN	200	274	80	48	10	—
W4IY	95	186	21	38	—	—
N5KW	87	96	3	15	—	—
K6HXW	79	129	27	20	11	1
WB7DTI	61	84	20	17	—	—
WB8WML	50	149	5	9	—	—
WB0ZKG	15	72	—	4	—	—
VE3LNX	72	124	13	21	7	—

WA1MAO representing Connecticut, W3KKN and WA2OMY representing Eastern PA, K2XR and N2BOW representing Northern NJ, N2ASC representing Southern NJ, W2SZ representing Eastern NY and AC3T representing Delaware.

Club Competition

The Mt. Airy VHF RC, more commonly

known as the Pack Rats, took the unlimited class again this year. This makes the 21st time that the 'Rats have come in number 1, thanks to an active, interested club with many members on four or more vhf/uhf bands and a strategic location in the Boston/New York/Philadelphia/Washington corridor.

In the medium class, the Hampden Co. RA recruited some more heavyweights and edged

out last year's winners, the Ramapo Mountain ARC. In the local class, the Delaware Valley VHF Society lead the pack with a healthy 85 kilopoints.

One closing note. There seems to be some confusion as to what counts as a valid contact in the vhf contests. In the January contest, the entire exchange — including call sign, serial number, signal report and section — must be *accurately* copied by both stations in order to count. If you can't get the entire exchange, don't count the QSO. Wait until later when conditions improve or ask for fills until you've got it all. You *can* be disqualified for having more than 2% mistakes.

Rules for the June VHF QSO Party, held later this month, were published in May *QST*. Remember to send for your forms early.

SOAPBOX

With the temperature at about -23° C, could it be that the signals are frozen in the ether and will come tumbling down during the January thaw? (K2QR). I had only one feed line and no relay, so I had to climb my tower to change bands — in the dark! (AA4Q). Stations here in the Midwest got little if any help from Mother Nature. Scores reflect the patience factor (WA9YLB). Low scores, but fun. I might add that the requirement to send serial numbers eliminated any chance to try meteor scatter on 2 meters. Might want to look at this requirement again (W5UWB). Condx on 6 and 2 meters were dismal; however, using meteor scatter on 6 really paid off . . . we picked up Arizona, S. Texas, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. Most

