

Results, 1990 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

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In the hype for the January 1990 VHF Sweepstakes, *QST* implored the gods to "keep the iceman away." Talk about negative prognostication! Such prophecy we can do without, as the Northeast was hit by a massive arctic blast of frozen stuff that only the Good Humor Man could appreciate. VHF/UHF antennas became the nuclei for the build-up of Popsicles as thick as six inches—devastating to VHF SS contestants.

WB2CWA laments: "The iced antennas and high SWR required running QRP Sunday." Multiop NV2D "set up in the snow, operated in sleet and was shut down seven hours into the contest when ice took down our antennas."

The ice line advanced northward throughout the January 20-22 weekend. On Saturday, when many 2- and 3-landers couldn't turn their antennas, the 1s were still free and clear. On Sunday, New England rotators were frozen solid and points south had melted. Some found iced antennas worked better backwards than forward. As Connecticut station KF6AJ summarizes, "Mother Nature was the supreme commander over the January Sweepstakes."

There were a few bright propagation spots, however. Ron, WA1VRH, was "glad to hear the West Coast on 6 meters Sunday." While San Francisco's WA8LLY notes "the F2 made 6 meters interesting," Steve "wished it had been more widespread." Down East, Bill, W3HQT, observed aurora late Sunday "that produced 10 new grids." This was duplicated by VE3OAT who exclaimed, "The sun deli-

vered! All my QSOs on Sunday night were by aurora, giving me 10 new multipliers."

Moving south, Batman continues to have nothing on WB5VZL auto-wise, as George's Super Beetle was in constant motion as noted by KSUR: "A special thanks goes to



The multiop crew at WB3JSU/2, busy at work on their way to an eighth-place multiop finish.

WB5VZL for his super mobile operation to many grids." And, "I think WB5VZL helped everybody's score." (KY5N) Are you telling us that a rover category is in order?

The overall scores suffered this year, but there was no lack of mean competition. As usual, the top single-op scores were all produced on the East Coast, but the top score came from the Rochester group. Wayne, N2WK, more noted for multi efforts, soloed home a winner at 111k. Close behind were K1RZ/3 and WA3NUF, both topping the 100k mark. It's hard to imagine QRP-portable in January, but congrats to Ev, WB2ELB, who survived the elements on "Blue Moon Hill" to submit the top QRP-portable score of 20k. Ev also suggests that the power limit for QRP be increased to a more realistic 25 watts. What do you say, QRPer?

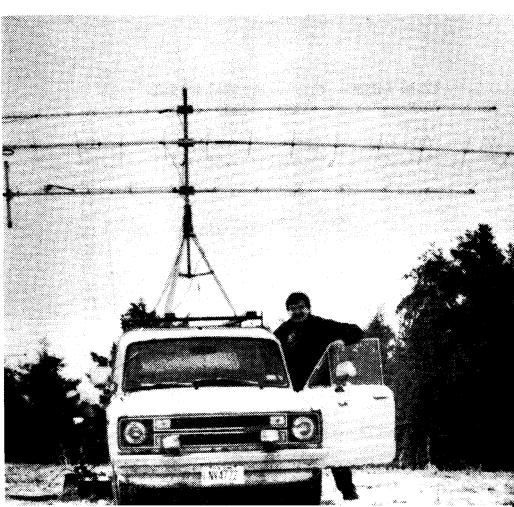
WC2K again outpointed all other multis with 416k points. Good going, Rick & Co. Other multis outside the eastern corridor breaking into the top ten were WD8ISK, W3KWH, WB3JSU/2, N4EQT and VE3LNX.

The club competition highlights the January



The K4LVV contest group, huddled for a picture. Front (l-r): WA4VCC, K4MQG, KU4V, AA4SC. Back (l-r): K4LVV, WB4TLX, N4GVF.

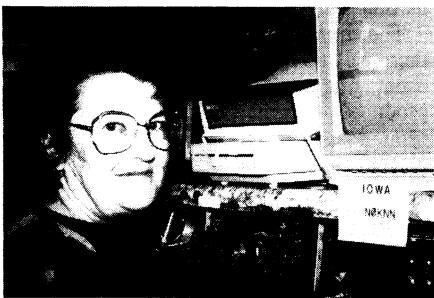
Top Ten Single Operator		Top Ten Multioperator		Top Ten Single Operator, QRP-Portable	
Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score
N2WK	111,592	WC2K	416,790	WB2ELB	20,496
K1RZ	104,960	WA3AXV	215,292	N6UII	7,334
WA3NUF	102,695	WB3CGZ	197,718	N2HXJ	7,152
K2SMN	94,683	KA1ZE	182,656	KM4MP	4,144
N2CEI	92,806	WD8ISK	169,812	N1DJB	4,088
NW5E/3	90,388	W2SZ	159,495	NM1K	2,408
N3CX	87,804	W3KWH	158,940	K3QQ	2,040
VE3ASO	86,832	WB3JSU/2	147,033	KB6MEG	1,692
W3IP	86,710	N4EQT	119,467	WB6LRV	1,248
W3ZZ	81,396	VE3LNX	93,024	WA3YYC	988



Division Leaders

Single Operator

Call	Score	Division	Call	Score
VE3ASO	86,832	Canada	VE3LNX	93,024
N2WK	111,592	Atlantic	WC2K	416,790
W0UC/9	43,750	Central	W9YB	4,536
WB0GGM	18,318	Dakota	N0HZO	44
K5UR	34,038	Delta	KA5ULI	9,891
WA8TJL	36,852	Great Lakes	WD8ISK	169,812
N2CEI	92,806	Hudson	W2SZ	159,495
N6LL	23,562	Midwest	N0KNN	26,956
K1TR (KM3T,op)	74,980	New England	KA1ZE	182,656
K7ND	2,352	Northwestern	—	—
W6RXQ	10,384	Pacific	WA6IKE	7,480
NK9P	4,619	Rocky Mountain	—	—
K2UOP/4	58,957	Roanoke	K4LVV	62,235
WD4MBK	3,720	Southeastern	N4VFG	5,760
W6CPL	24,900	Southwestern	K6JEY	5,736
WD5BKV	35,844	West Gulf	WB5N	11,275



Donna, NOKNN, had fun operating 2 meters.

contest and surprise of surprises: The unlimited category produced a new winner (first time since its inception), with the Rochester VHF Group of upstate New York putting together 103 entries for an aggregate 1-mil score. Great going guys and gals; a gavel is on the way. The Mt Airy Pack Rats still posted the top score at 1.5 mil, copping top Medium Club honors to keep their gavel record intact. The Murgas ARC of Pennsylvania continued its Local Club domination, averaging 73k points per entry—that's a lot of contacts. The whole idea of the club competition is to get your club listed, so congratulations to each of the 30 clubs listed—all winners. Keep the gear warm for the next VHF contest. April and May's sprints made a great warmup for the June VHF QSO Party, June 9-11. Ice shouldn't be a problem.—John Lindholm, WIXX

SOAPBOX

The contest was fine—for the first 3½ hours! (WA2TEO). The activity dropped after the first three hours (KA1SYG). The conditions were relatively poor, but at least activity was up (WA1LBK). I had to go out and plow the snow for nine hours during the contest Sunday (K1VZI). I had fun on 6 meters; I'll be back in June with bigger antennas (KQ1V). Operating QRP-portable from Massachusetts sure doesn't compare well with doing it in VHF Heaven in eastern Pennsylvania (K1CHY). Three minutes of E skip, 15 minutes of F skip and an hour of aurora made it an interesting weekend (NY1E). Snow static, no aurora and no 6-meter openings—it was just another January contest (WA1YHO). No A, no E, no F, but also thankfully no I(ce) (AF1T). Our thanks go out to those who went hilltopping in a blizzard (WB2WNX). My score is not directly proportional to the fun I had (N1DIQ). The conditions were fairly dead (WA1MBA). The only thing we didn't get hit with was a thunderstorm (NA1W). I couldn't believe the FM activity on 2 meters! (WA1EYF). This was our first contest together. We hope to get more power, equipment and on-air time in the next one

(WB2VVQ). All my antennas froze during the ice storm (N2BJ). I almost thought that we had an opening when I worked G8UGK—alas, he was /W2 (WB4WXE). We had fun on 902 MHz using the 1296-MHz antennas (WB2YZV). I was surprised at the excellent propagation (KE2PF). Phooey! (K2SMN). Thank God for FN20 in January! (KA2WKA). This was my 40th VHF SS entry, but it was not a vintage year (W2PAU). My antenna was a mag-mount stuck on a broom handle out the window (W2ORA). It was very important to be on FM to have a winning score (W2CNS). I made two lucky catches—KH6IAA and VE1BVL (WA2BPE). Thank God for Aurora! (W02R). Mr Murphy struck Sunday morning and that was it for this contest (W2WGL). Lots of local participation this year (KE2DI). My not being sick (like last year) really helped my score (K2JD). The hard rain and freezing temperatures kept the SWR up (KA3KHZ). Thankfully, the wind Sunday blew the ice off the antennas (K2LNS). There was lots of good fishing Sunday (N3EXA). With the lousy weather, there were no real openings at all (N3HBZ). I can't wait for the Sprints (N3EVV). I'm waiting for The Year With No Ice (WA3YYC). I am learning, but having

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	Number of Entries	Single Op Winner
Unlimited Club Category			
Rochester VHF Group (NY)	1,066,226	103	N2WK
Rochester (MN) ARC	13,398	55	W0VB
Medium Club Category			
Mt Airy VHF RC	1,596,555	49	WA3NUF
Delaware Valley VHF Society	552,783	18	K2SMN
Hampden Co Radio Assn	329,589	49	K1ISW
Warminster ARC	119,416	27	KT2B
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	114,907	5	K1TR (KM3T, op)
South Jersey Radio Assn	87,605	13	K2YY
Minnesota Wireless Assn	73,376	7	W0UC/9
Six-Meter Club of Chicago	32,563	28	WA9FIH
Michigan City ARC	23,187	9	K9DZE
Xerox ARC	17,022	32	N2EZS
Granite State ARA	16,469	4	AC1J
Rochester DX Association	15,827	14	WA2CBU
Rochester ARA	14,241	8	NU2U
Albany ARC	8,303	13	WA2BAH
Genesee Repeater Assn	5,694	5	WT2L
Mobile Sixers RC	3,783	10	K3RTU
York RC	3,362	11	KE9TP
Ventura Co ARC	2,510	20	N6QOA
Local Club Category			
Murgas ARC	291,868	4	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)
Crystal RC	36,381	3	N2BJ
Northern TX Microwave Soc	31,154	7	N5WS
Overshoot Mt ARC	11,803	8	W2XL
ZYGO ARC	8,943	3	N1MK
Hubert Heights ARC	5,518	6	N8CCC
Squaw Island ARC	3,432	10	KA2UDH
Kodak ARC	3,301	4	K2YA
Southern Peninsula ARK	1,272	3	WA4MMP
Farout ARC	881	3	WB8XT

QSO Leaders By Band—Single Operator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
N3BBI	254	WB2QQQ	403	N3CX	105	N3CX
WA1VRH	198	WA3HMK	374	N6UII	104	WB2YEH
WA3HMK	190	K2TXB	345	N2CEI	97	N3CX
WA2TEO	181	WB2JLR	316	K1TR (KM3T, op)	91	WA2ONK
K3ESJ	179	NW5E/3	308	WA3YUE	87	K2IB
NY1E	178	WA2TEO	301	WB2YEH	86	K1GD
N2CEI	173	K1TR (KM3T, op)	298	K3LOM	81	K1TR (KM3T, op)
W3EP/1	165	KA2WKA	297	WA3NUF	77	K2AN
WB3LNZ	149	K2SMN	292	WA3JUF	77	K2SMN
K3LOM	145	VE3ASO	291	KT2B	74	NW5E/3
K4LHB	144	N3KZ (N3HBZ, op)	288	K2YY	73	WB3DNI
KA1GD	142	N2WK	281	N2WK	73	WB3DNI
WA3YUE	137	N3FUJ	280	W6CPL	73	N3CUE
W0UC/9	135	W3ZZ	278	W2EIF	71	WA2ONK
W2HRW	132	AF2K	275	WB3JYO	66	N2GAZ
K1TR (KM3T, op)	125	W3GAD	269	K3UV	66	WA2OMY
K1RZ	123	W2CNS	258	K1RZ	66	WA2WKA
N2BJ	122	KA2WMQ	257	W8BK	66	WA2WKA
WA3NUF	122	K1RZ	255	W3CL	65	WA2WKA
KS2T	120	WB3EPU	250	N3FUJ	63	WB3DNI

QSO Leaders By Band—Multioperator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
KA1ZE	262	WC2K	552	WC2K	185	WA3AXV
WC2K	259	WC2F	474	WA3AXV	126	WC2K
W2SZ	257	W2SZ	386	KA1ZE	123	W3KKN
N2HZW	202	KA1ZE	365	W2SZ	94	WB3CZG
KB1EM	185	W1NY	346	W1NY	81	WB3JSU/2
W3KWH	181	WA3AXV	332	W3KKN	77	WD8ISK
WB3CZG	170	WB3JSU/2	329	WB3JSU/2	70	W5UC
WD8ISK	166	W2HZW	319	WB3CZG	56	W5UC
W1NY	162	W3KWH	298	N3GJT	52	W5UC
WA3AXV	155	N4EQT	297	W3GXB	52	W5UC
N4EQT	146	KB1EM	294	WD8ISK	47	W5UC
K4LV	133	WD8ISK	251	K6JEY	45	W5UC
W3KKN	130	NV2D	245	N2JU	43	W5UC
WB3JSU/2	128	VE3LNX	234	W3KWH	41	W5UC
NV2D	127	WB3CZG	229	K2UYH	39	W5UC
W1AQ	121	K2J	225	VE3LNX	38	W5UC
KW2T	119	W3KKN	221	K2J	37	W5UC
N0KNN	117	KW2T	203	WA2SHN (FN13)	36	W5UC

Multiplier Leaders By Band—Single Operator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
W6UC/9	66	VE3ASO	54	K1RZ	24	WD5BK
NY1E	56	WA3HMK	52	W3ZZ	21	W8K
KM5X	42	KD8AX	51	VE3ASO	21	K5UR
WA3HMK	39	N8DEJ	50	W3IP	20	WA8EUU
N3BBI	37	K6EFD	49	K1TR (KM3T,op)	19	K1RZ
W3EP/1	36	W2CNS	48	K2SMN	19	N0FW
WA1VRH	35	WD5BK	48	NW5E/3	19	VE3ASO
WA2BPE	35	K8DIO	48	WA8TJL	19	AASIB
W2HRW	32	W3ZZ	47	N2CEI	17	W5UGO
KA1GD	32	K2TXB	44	K5SW	17	K8DIO
K4LHB	32	K5UR	44	WA1YHO	16	WQ8P
VE3RM	32	KT8W	44	W2CNS	16	N2WK
K5UR	31	WO2R	43	N3CX	16	NW5E/3
NW5E/3	29	WG8Q	43	K2UOP/4	16	WA8TJL
N0LL	29	K1RZ	42	K4LBH	16	N8LL
WA2TEO	28	KA8TLJ	41	K5UR	16	W3ZZ
W2CNS	28	KA3RWP	40	K8DIO	16	K2UOP/4
K1RZ	28	N8FUJ	40	N2WK	15	W2CNS
WA8TJL	28			WA3NUF	15	W8CPL
				WB3JYO	15	WW8M
				W3IP	21	WB3ASO

Multiplier Leaders By Band—Multioperator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
WD8ISK	64	N4EOT	72	WC2K	32	WD8ISK
N4EQT	63	WD8ISK	61	W2SZ	26	WC2K
K4LV	56	WB3CZG	58	W3KWH	25	N4EOT
W3KWH	47	W3KWH	51	WB3CZG	24	W3KWH
WC2K	46	WB3JSU/2	50	WB3JSU/2	23	K2UYH
N0KNN	45	WC2K	48	N4EOT	22	WA3AXV
W2SZ	43	WC2F	44	WD8ISK	22	WB3JSU/2
N2HZW	39	VE3LNX	44	KA1ZE	21	W2SZ
WB3CZG	39	K4LV	42	WA3AXV	20	VE3LNX
KA1ZE	35	W2SZ	37	W1NY	17	KA1ZE
KB1EM	31	W8RPK	37	VE3LNX	17	WB3CZG
WB3JSU/2	31	WA3AXV	36	K4LV	13	W2SZ
WA8DCR	31	VE3BQN	34	W3KKN	11	N2HZW
VE3LNX	30	W1NY	33	K2B8G	10	WC2F
KW2T	27	K2SPO	33	KB3HE	9	K2SPO
W1NY	25	N2HZW	32	WC2F	7	N0KNN
WC2F	25	NV2D	32	KW2T	7	WB5N
WA3AXV	23	W9YB	32	K2SPO	7	W1NY
W1AQ	21	N0KNN	31	KA5ULI	7	VE3BQN
				K6JEY	7	W3KKN
					11	

the flu didn't help (KD3AO). I worked more stations than I thought I would. I would like to see more CW operation on VHF (WA3GYW). With activity in the South so spread out, it's hard to get going on the microwave bands (WD4MBK). This VHF stuff is tougher than HF ever was (WA4ZZU). This was my first time on 1296, but I still have a long way to go (W4DO). I operated QRP-portable at 3400 feet. At this height, if it's there, you can hear it! (KM4MP). Since 50 MHz never opened up, I enjoyed the extra time chatting with the locals (WB4U). I only worked four grids to the east of me (W5FYZ). I had nice 59-plus signals from the power line! (KN5S). I had to tell 47 out of 50 people on FM that it was a contest (N5OAD). This year was my best ever for multipliers on 220 MHz—I worked 17 grids (K5SW). The flu bug zapped me right in the middle of the contest Saturday (K6LMN). We had a great time operating at "Dead Possum Point" (K6JEY). The local QRM was S9 plus the entire contest (K6VMN). I wasn't able to operate much of the contest due to relatives visiting from England. Oh well, at least it was better than XYL QRM (WA2YWP/6). There was no over-the-water propagation into the LA area (W6OYJ). What

a bust—I climbed a 1600-foot mountain in San Diego and no one was on the air! (N6UW). The activity was low during the weekend, which gave me plenty of time to work on other projects between contacts (W6SQN). I worked what I could hear (KJ6DL). The activity seemed quite good, with normal to slightly above normal conditions on 432 MHz (WA8EUU). There was a good VE turnout, but I couldn't hear anything west of Chicago (N8FEH). Many of my contacts were a result of persistence and "bionic lips" (KD8AX). These were some of the strangest conditions I have ever seen—there were almost no signals from the East Coast, and conditions gave a whole new meaning to atmospheric noise (WB8K). There's nothing like a little aurora at the end of a contest to help those of us who work weekends (WB8TCZ). Activity was light, but there were some signs of meteor scatter on 6 meters (N8CCC). This was the lowest activity I've ever seen in a contest (WD8DCX). It seems that the operator courtesy gets better every year (N9DUW). As compared to September, I had more QSOs, but fewer grids, resulting in virtually the same score (WF9M). If only our 6-meter radio

worked right! (W9YB). KK7B's signal on 432 peaked due east of me, yet he is north of me by three grid squares. It must have been a jet (WD9EGE). Even the 6-meter scatter yielded slim pickings (NK0P). The weather sure put a damper on things, but I still enjoyed the contest (KA0EIV). The highlight of the contest was assembling the 1296 system in the back of the truck while it was snowing (KA0DAS). VHF contests seem to be a real learning experience (K0SRL). I operated as long as I could until the cold got to me (NO0Y). My apologies go out to those who I could not copy due to line noise (WA0PEV). I was rather disappointed in the lack of activity on 432 and 1296. VE4 was conspicuously missing (W0PHD). Too bad the aurora didn't get better (N0FWQ). Thirty mi/h winds caused power line noise here Saturday (W0JRP). My most surprising contact was with WB9UWA while driving north on I-35 at 65 mi/h! (AJ0E). I woke up to find that a severe ice storm had coated my antennas while I slept (VE3KDH). Many of my QSOs were cross-mode (VE3SMA). Where was all the 6-meter stuff? (VE3SST). Our thanks go out to the numerous local hams who drove around the four grid squares which meet in the city of Calgary (VE6NOV).

Scores

Scores are listed by ARRL/CRRRL Sections. Within each section, single-operator scores are listed first and then multioperator scores. From left to right, each line lists: call, score, QSOs, multipliers and bands worked (A = 50 MHz, B = 144 MHz, C = 220 MHz, D = 432 MHz, 9 = 902 MHz, E = 1296 MHz, F = 2.3 GHz, G = 3.4 GHz, H = 5.7 GHz, I = 10 GHz, J = 24 GHz, K = 48 GHz, L = Light). An asterisk before the call sign denotes a QRP-Portable station. Among the single-operator stations, the single band winners are noted with band letter(s) being in boldface print indicating the band won.

