

Results, 1991 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Television coverage of the war in the Persian Gulf and the NFL playoffs competed for attention, but more than 900 hams found time to get on the air.

By Billy Lunt, KR1R and Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J
Contest Manager Assistant Contest Manager

Given the situation in the Middle East, the phones were buzzing at HQ as members asked if the VHF Sweepstakes January 19-21 would be cancelled. But, despite the early dawn of Desert Storm, the AFC and NFC Conference playoff games and continuous CNN news reports, the 1991 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes kicked off on schedule. But, not without consequences: All areas reported poor band conditions and low activity levels. Jeff, K1BE, claims, "The bands were absolutely flat! Last month, I worked Europe on 6 meters, but during the contest, I could barely get out of New England." Robert, N4YZJ, asks, "Where was everyone? The contest started so slow I checked out *QST* to see if I had the right time! When the ballgame ended on Sunday, things started to pick up." Dennis, N0GPD, reports, "Band conditions were pretty bleak." Larry, K1LPS, says, "Given the situation in the Middle East, I spent more time watching CNN than operating in this one."

Even with the drearily painted picture, conditions were average (or maybe a little below) for the January VHF Sweepstakes. There was meteor scatter on 6 meters and tropospheric ducting that helped. Roger, WB4WTC, reported "good loud bursts," but wished they lasted longer. With the lack of major band enhancements, it took a veteran competitor to fare well this year, pulling out all the tricks. You have to look everywhere. Burt, N2HXJ, claims, "There was a lot of activity on 220 and 440 FM. The best yet!" Keith, KE2DI, says, "Low activity except on FM."

Activity on the microwave bands continues to increase in this contest. This year, seven stations made more than 10 contacts each on 3.4 GHz alone! Multiop station WA3AXV managed to work W2SZ to finish off VHF/UHF Century Club on that band. In all, 50 stations reported making contacts on 2304 MHz; 28 stations made contacts on 3456 MHz and six stations demonstrated their abilities on 5.7 GHz. More equipment is becoming available for these bands;

why not look into expanding your station's capabilities? Even a one- or two-QSO effort can pay off handsomely in your final score. As Rick, WC2K, noted, "activity on the UHF/SHF bands is on the rise!"

Walter, WA3AQÄ, reports that "the activity was skewed toward the higher frequencies more than ever before."

Saddam Hussein may have distracted a few people from the contest, but things

Division Leaders

Single Operator

Division	Call	Score
Canada	VE3ASO	76,738
Atlantic	WC2K	272,340
Central	WØUC/9	39,250
Dakota	NØHJJZ	5,544
Delta	KSUR	28,820
Great Lakes	WD8ISK	68,460
Hudson	N2CEI	162,047
Midwest	NØLL	19,968
New England	WA2TEO	159,433
Northwestern	WA7UOV	3,960
Pacific	W6RXQ	5,240
Rocky Mountain	W2CRS	7,696
Roanoke	N4HB	40,460
Southeastern	KA2DRH	3,321
Southwestern	WB2ODH/6	30,162
West Gulf	WD5BKV	86,553
DX	DL5MAE	9

Multioperator

Division	Call	Score
Canada	VE3BQN	17,136
Atlantic	WA3AXV	250,984
Central	WA9TMC	20,882
Delta	KC4YO	19,760
Great Lakes	N4EQT	27,976
Hudson	W2SZ	125,320
Midwest	WØRPK	12,382
New England	W1NY	214,866
Pacific	AA6PA	1,235
Rocky Mountain	NØKV	10,464
Roanoke	WA8DQR	8,757
Southeastern	W4CUE	1,518
Southwestern	WB9AJZ/6 (DM22)	2,295
West Gulf	WQ5S	23,712



Ron, WA3AXV (l), and Stephen, WB3KRW, turned in the first-place multioperator score.

Top Ten

Single Operator	Multioperator	Single Operator, QRP-Portable
WC2K	WA3AXV	NS6X
N2CEI	W1NY	N6UII
WA2TEO	WC2F	NM1K
WA3NUF	W2SZ	WD5AGO
KA1ZE	W3KWH	NM1K (FN32)
K1RZ	WB3JSU/2	KA1VED
WB3JYQ	N2WM	KB6MEG
N3CX	W3KKN	WA3YYC
WB2YEH	N2GHR	K3UMV
WD5BKV	WB2ELB	WG3E

QSO Leaders By Band—Single Operator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
N3BBI	308	N3AHF	420	N2CEI	113	KA1ZE
WA1VRH	199	WB2OQ	359	WC2K	112	WC2K
W3EP/1	177	KA1ZE	330	N3CX	109	WA2TEO
N2CEI	153	WC2K	304	WB2YEH	103	WB2VPH
WC2K	134	KA2WKA	296	KA1ZE	94	WB2YEH
W8RQQ	133	N3FUJ	279	WA3YUE	86	N2WK
WB3JYO	124	K1RZ	269	WA3NUF	85	K1FO
K1RZ	117	K1TR	267	K1TR	84	K2AN
W9UC/9	115	K3ESJ	262	WB3JYO	82	W2XG
K3ESJ	113	WA3HMK	261	K2YY	79	N3CX
W3HHN	109	W3ZZ	254	WB2ODH/6	75	KA2WKA
WA2BPE	106	WA1VRH	253	WA3JUF	73	N2CEI
WA3NUF	105	NQ1C	229	K3DMA	72	WA3YUE
W2HRW	103	W3GAD	227	N2WK	71	N2SB
K1TR	97	N2CEI	214	N2SB	70	WB3ESS
W3ZZ	96	WB2VPH	213	W2EIF	68	KB3NQ
WB3SJ	95	N2WK	210	N3FUJ	67	WA2ONK
WB2DNE	94	WB2YEH	208	NS6X	66	KB3ZS

QSO Leaders By Band—Multioperator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
W1NY	260	W1NY	411	WA3AXV	130	W1NY
AC3I	161	WC2F	406	W1NY	114	WA3AXV
N2WM	157	N2WM	348	WB3JSU/2	86	WC2F
WA3AXV	154	WA3AXV	316	W3KKN	77	K2UYH
W2SZ	149	WF1B	276	K3HW	70	AA2BG
WF1B	137	W2SZ	275	N2HFO	68	WA2SHN
W3KWH	136	WB3JSU/2	268	N2WM	66	W2SZ
WB3LNZ	115	W1QK	261	A2ABG	57	N2KKB
WB3JSU/2	112	K3HW	247	N2KKB	56	N2GHR
W3KKN	107	N2GHR	228	WA2SHN	55	W3KWH
KW2T	105	N2KKB	216	N2GHR	53	WB2ELB
W1AQ	103	A2ABG	209	WC2F	49	WB3JSU/2
KS2T	102	N2HFO	205	W3KWH	46	WA9TMC
K3EOD	94	WB3LNZ	204	W2SZ	45	WB3LNZ
N2GHR	92	WA9TMC	202	KD3VI	41	W3KWH
WC2F	91	KM2P	198	WB3LNZ	40	N2WM
WB2ELB	75	N2HKD	192	W1QK	38	W1QK
KA3OIF	69	W3KKN	190	KE2LU	37	W2ZZ

weren't as gloomy as they appeared. Participation was down by only 59 entries from last year. HQ received 912 entries: 786 single op, 47 QRP-portable, 76 multiop and 3 checklogs. Steve, WB2OEE, felt that "there were many more stations on than in the September VHF QSO Party."

When the smoke cleared from this year's competition, Rick, WC2K, outpaced second-place finisher Steve, N2CEI, by 110k points for an easy win. Jeff, WA2TEO, finished close behind in third with 159k points. WA3AXV and crew bettered their last year's score by 45k to claim the top honors in the multioperator category. The crew at W1NY in Western Massachusetts finished second, with WC2F beating out W2SZ for the number-three spot by a mere 2100 points. Mountaintopper John, NS6X, climbed to the top of Mt Pinos in the Los Angeles Section this year and easily outdistanced the rest of the QRP-portable field, scoring 23k points for the win. Last year's second-place finisher Richard, N6UII, reclaimed the second-place spot again this year with 7k points. Rusty, NM1K, moved up two places in the standings, finishing third this year.

This year's club competition was as fierce as ever. The Pack Rats have returned! Mustering 57 entries, they once again earned the gavel for the Unlimited Club competition. It's interesting to point out that last year was the only year in the contest's history that the Pack Rats had not won in the Unlimited Category, only to win

the Medium class instead. Last year's runner-up in the Medium class, the Delaware Valley VHF Group, easily took the gavel by a wide margin. In the local club competition, a complete newcomer to the field, the Quaboag Valley ARC, won a gavel in its first try. In all, more than 500 hams listed their club affiliation, with 24 clubs enlisting enough entries to qualify for the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition.

The ARRL Contest Branch extends the highest commendation for a job well done to the Rochester VHF Group and the Hampden County Radio Association for promoting VHF activity and contesting. Both have made tremendous strides in promoting activity within their clubs and local areas. These groups send special mailings to their members, they have special "activity" periods for various bands and modes and they foster their own competition by sponsoring in-club and area awards. The Rochester Group even has a plaque program and sponsors a cup competition among the other clubs in the area. Try putting together a similar program in your area—it can only promote more activity and fun!

This year's June VHF QSO Party is scheduled for June 8-11. With the warmer weather and the introduction of the new rover and limited multioperator categories (see May *QST*, pp 13 and 94) and the addition of the new Technician licensees, we could be at the dawn of a new area in VHF contesting. See you then!

SOAPBOX

Power supply problems forced me to run 10 watts on 432 and 220. I guess I needed a "QRP Home" category! (WA2TEO). I went on the air to give my son a contact and I got deluged (KA1VEC). This was the first VHF contest my nephew Peter, KA1SYG, and I multioperated together. He operated 6 and 432, while I did 2 and 220 (W1QK). This is *not* the season for hilltopping in New England! (KINCD). I wish I had more time (W1PSG). Activity in the Northeast seemed to be lower than usual this year (AC1J). This was my first VHF contest. I had a great time (K1PTF). Those new antennas sure made a difference! Each contact brings me new lessons on what to do and not to do for the next contest (NQ1C). Conditions and activity levels were both below normal (W1RIL). The nice day Sunday distracted me—I'll hope for rain and not ice next year! (WA1EFY). This wasn't a major-league score, but I enjoy this contest, nonetheless (N2GGB). We need more activity (WA2SLY). There were too many distractions this year. I hope the war is but a distant memory by the time this appears (WV2C). Conditions were poor on 6 and the best distance I could obtain was two grid squares away (WB2AMU). This was my 41st attempt in the VHF SS (W2PAU). Participation was low and I think the NFL did us in this year, especially in WNY. (N2WK). The little tropo opening Sunday evening on 6, 2 and 432 helped. (WA2BPE). With no band conditions, QRP power and an indoor antenna, I guess I can't expect too high a score. But it's still a lot of fun! (N2DKP). I enjoyed the contest, but I wish my garage station was heated (N2JQP). Generally, the January contest was a learning experience for me and, hopefully, everyone else! (N2JDQ). It was fun! (WA2NFY). Except for a few brief upsurges, the bands were flat all weekend. The highlight of our little two-man multiop was moving from 2304-3456 with W2SZ and finding what we thought was a strong birdie turn out to be 'SZ with a 5-7 signal (WA3AXV). The worst conditions I've ever heard in a VHF contest, even for January. I guess most of the participants were busy watching the war in YI or the gridiron wars on the tube (W3ZZ). Where does everybody go once the contest is over? (NQ3Y). I took a day of vacation to go up early Friday and set everything up for the Saturday

Multplier Leaders by Band—Single Operator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
N3BBI	66	KDBBC	60	WD5BKV	28	WD5BKV
WBUC/9	63	WA3HMK	49	WC2K	25	WC2K
WA1VRH	45	K9MRI	48	K1HZ	24	K8FD
WD5BKV	43	K1RZ	46	WA2TEO	22	WB8K
W3EP/1	42	WD5BKV	45	VE3ASO	21	WD8ISK
WA8NJR	40	WC2K	44	WD8ISK	20	K2OS
K5UR	39	N3AHF	43	KE8FD	19	KB0HH
WD8ISK	36	W3ZZ	41	N3CX	18	N2CEI
N8LL	34	WA8NJR	40	KU8Y	17	W5UGO
VE3ASO	32	KB8ZW	39	K9MRI	16	WA8R/9
WB4WTC	31	AA8Q	38	VE3KDH	15	WB2ONA
K9VGE	30	KB8HH	37	NN9K	14	WB3ESS
WA2BPE	27	VE3KDH	36	KU2A	13	W3CX
WB8YFE	25	KU8U	35	WA2YTM	12	K9MRI
KA2DRH	24	WB8K	34	W&RP	11	W8HBG
WA3YON	23	W5UGO	33	W8VO	10	KU8U
K3ZO	22	WB2QOQ	32	VE2FUT	9	N8JEQ
W2CRS	21	WB5YWI	31	N4YZJ	8	WD6AGO

Multplier Leaders By Band—Multioperator

50 MHz	144 MHz	220 MHz	432 MHz	902 MHz	1296 MHz	2304 MHz
W3KWH	41	N4EOT	51	WB3JSU/2	29	W3KWH
W1NY	40	WB3JSU/2	40	WA3AXV	23	WA3AXV
N4EOT	31	W3KWH	39	W3KWH	22	W3KWH
WB8PK	29	WC2F	38	N2WM	21	WC2F
W2SZ	28	WA9TMC	37	WC2F	18	WB3JSU/2
WF1B	27	KC4YO	36	WB2Z	17	W3KWH
WB3JSU/2	26	WA8DQR	32	N2GHR	16	N2GHR
WA3AXV	25	KB8JI	31	WB2ELB	15	KC4YO
W1AQ	24	WB8PK	30	KC4YO	14	WQ5S
KW2T	23	N8MKH	29	WB8PK	11	N2GHR
N2GHR	20	N2HFO	27	KB8JI	10	WB3JSU/2
WB3LNZ	19	VE3BQN	26	WB3BQN	8	WB2ELB
N8KV	18	W9YB	25	WA9TMC	12	WB3JSU/2
KA5ULI	16	KA3OIF	23	KA5ULI	6	WB3JSU/2
VE3BQN	15	WB2ELB	22	KA5ULI	5	WB3JSU/2
VE3SAU	14	N2GHR	21	KA1QAR	4	WB3JSU/2
KE2LU	13	VE3UOW	20	KD3VI	3	WB3JSU/2
W1QK	12	KD3VI	19	KM2P	1	WB3JSU/2

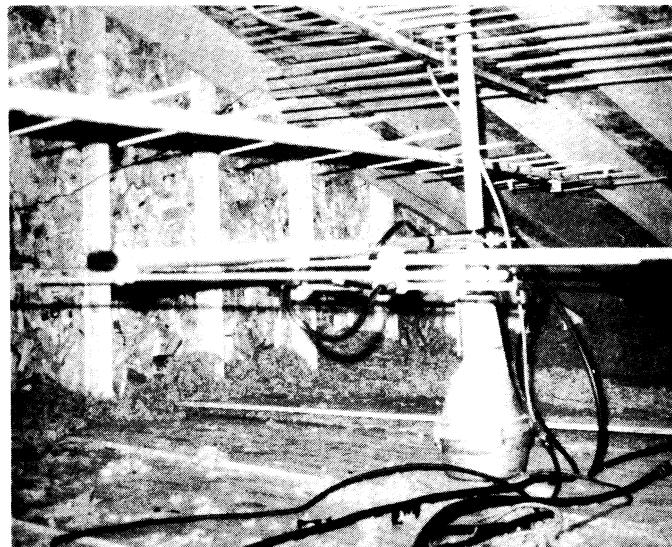
1900 UTC startup time; however, Murphy's Law struck—the wind was high, and cold, blowing rain kept the tent in a frigid, almost unbearable state. (KB4FAI). I enjoyed the contest, but I wish we had better conditions. (WB4JEM). Our first time! We'll do better next time, we hope! (KJ4YF). Conditions varied widely throughout the contest; pretty standard for January, but always fun! (N4HB). My January scores are getting worse, but my big thrill was finally making 2304-MHz QSOs after trying for a year (K2UOP/4). The level of activity was down this year (KM4ZS). This was a nice, relaxed contest. You get to meet and know your contacts. (WA1ZXX). January seemed like a good time for a grid expedition until a snowstorm hit. We had a great time, anyway (KB0CY). My best DX on 144 and 432 MHz was about 320 miles. Conditions weren't good Sunday morning and got worse when a cold front came through. I'll have more power on 2 meters in

June, as I got tired of being weaker than the mobile stations (KY5N). I had 24 QSOs on 432; last year I had 24 multipliers on 432. (AASIB). It was too quiet! It was hard to compete with the NFL and a play-by-play war on CNN. The funniest thing I heard was a station asking WB5LUA on 2 meters if he had any other bands! (KF5PE). Conditions were down from last January's contest, except for 6 meters (WD5BKV). Interest in the Gulf war and poor band conditions made for a slow contest (KA5TJJ). My best January contest ever. WS5R and K5IS greatly enlivened the West Texas VHF scene with their grid-hopping! (W5AL). Band conditions were poor! Roving does add some excitement to the contest (KSIS). My first VHF contest! It was fun, but there were terrible conditions (N6PDX). My thanks go to N6DX for allowing QRP-portable operation from his "private" hilltop location. It was a great location for January Sweepstakes, as the prime hilltops

are closed because of snowpack. Look for more atop Mt Pinos in June (NS6X). Activity seems to be up from past January contests, although there were no good openings. To those multiband gridhoppers I give many thanks (WB2ODH/6). 220 was slow this time around. With the advent of the new codeless Technician license, we may see new amateurs and higher scores on all bands! (N6UUI). I operated from Saddleback Peak in the Santa Monica mountains. It was neat to work VHFs whom I'd previously worked from Florida and the Caribbean. I haven't worked more than 100 2-meter stations during a contest for years. I had fun (K1FJM/4). There was a curious phenomenon—band openings at every football game break! Mountaintopping keeps getting more fun (KF6CU). Excellent weather in northern California made mountaintopping a pleasure. For my first real effort in a VHF SS in years, I had a great time. Where are all these guys the rest of the

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	Entries	Single Op	Winner
Unlimited Club Category				
Mt Airy VHF RC	1,768,287	57	WC2K	
Rochester (New York) VHF Group	821,176	107	VE3ASO	
Hampden County Radio Assn	542,228	84	KA1ZE	
Medium Club Category				
Delaware Valley VHF Society	495,300	17	KA2WKA	
South Jersey Radio Assn	120,067	17	K2YY	
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	99,455	3	K1TR	
Northern Texas Microwave Society	65,109	11	K9MK5	
Ventura County ARC	57,089	5	WB2ODH/6	
Albany ARC	31,319	40	WA2BAH	
Warmminster ARC	30,609	13	KY3T	
6-Meter Club of Chicago	30,236	26	WA9FIH	
Minnesota Wireless Assn	29,081	3	WBUC/9	
Xerox ARC	25,318	34	N2EZS	
Rochester DX Association	15,501	15	WA2CBU	
Michigan City ARC	9,652	4	K9DZE	
Schenectady ARA	9,043	40	WB2WHD	
Genesee Repeater Assn	4,101	6	WB2RJB	
Mobile Sixers RC	831	5	WA3JMM	
Local Club Category				
Quaboag Valley ARC	14,707	7	K1ISW	
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs	13,956	4	N2BJ	
Overlook Mtn ARC	9,096	8	W2XL	
Sterling Park ARC	4,453	3	KC4ATU	
Hubert Heights ARC	2,016	3	N8CCG	
Mt Tom ARA	1,134	3	N1EXG	



There's more than one way to mount an antenna farm. Faced with restrictive ordinances, Barry, N2BJ, installed this system in his attic.

