

By Mark Hoffman, K2AXX,  
and Jeff Ach, W2FU

# 2002 January VHF Sweepstakes Results

When the winds whip, and snow buries the barbecue grill, it's fall in Rochester, NY. By now, the preparation for the January VHF SS is in full swing! Since the dawn of this contest, the Rochester VHF Group has been in the mix, hammering away. The competitive spirit really shines with this contest, as it's not just you playing—you help your friends compete for total glory! And, quite frankly, what else is there to do in the tundra of upstate NY in January? Over the years, there have been many participants who've outdone themselves time after time, with the final score being the only memory many of us have. But—we've all heard stories about contests past, and the yarns seem to take on mythical meaning—perhaps driving each of us to NOT do what's been done before. With the 50+ year history of the RVHFG, there's lots to talk about, many stories to share—and many more to come.

The tale of the "one that got away" is fresh in many of our minds this year. Hours prior to the starting gun, 50 MHz was wide open into Europe. Signals of incredible strength from England, France, The Netherlands... it was *fantastic* stuff. A couple people commented that they were running upwards of 100 per hour rate! As soon as the contest started, *click!* The band went out. Oh, there were some interesting openings on Sunday to the East Coast. A few folks caught up with some Europeans, but more caught the good transcontinental openings between W1/2 and W6/7, giving out some new multipliers. Conditions on the other bands were, well, okay. Had 6 m blessed us with some good F2 propagation, things might have been slightly more interesting! I mean, when was the last time anyone had worked over 1000 QSOs on 50 MHz alone? It's been a while, and it's well overdue. Who remembers the days when working a few dozen stations above 144 MHz was a *great* contest? Yes, friends. Things have changed.

With the introduction of Club Competition in the September VHF Contest, there may arise many new rivalries in the years to come. In my mind, the longest-running "Grudge match" has been the RVHFG and Mt Airy VHF Radio Club! For years, each

were battling for top-honors in the *Unlimited Category* to take the gavel. In this battle, the Packrats have won all but a handful—and this year proves no exception! With 50 logs and over 2.1 million points, they've proven their dominance of this class! In the *Medium Category*, the Rochester VHF Group, with a top score of 2.3 million points, defeats recently arrived rivals PVRC and NEWS for top honors. Finally, in the *Local Category*, Cedar Rapids Microwave Society outdistanced the Delaware Valley VHF Society for top honors! NICE going! Congratulations to all those participating in Affiliated Club Competition! No matter how you do, it's great to know that club participation is strong, with 326 club members using their points toward the cause. *Keep it going!*

Single operator has changed in the past couple years, with the addition of a Low-Power class. That doesn't change some of the challenges faced by the intrepid people insane enough to subject themselves to 34-hours of solo VHF+ adventure! Just imagine what would happen if, on a cold winter morning you notice your

antennas are askew. "Aw, just a few minutes to fix the rotator and I'm back in business" you say. So, you grab the ladder, climb onto the roof in your PJs and begin reorienting your antennas. Meanwhile, the blowing snow and biting wind take the ladder down to the ground, with you stuck on the rooftop. How would *that* hurt your score? Poor Chuck, apparently he was trapped for quite some time up there, as his wife was off at Church. For those of you who remember K2YCO, this was one of his legendary tales.

I'm sure there are some interesting tales of woe and victory in Single-Operator Low Power class. We have another repeat winner! Bob Striegl, K2DRH does it again! With a score that would have placed in the Top-10 high power class, he wins by just squeaking past Dale Clement, AF1T with 136 k. Not far behind, is Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, from his Princeton, New Jersey home, with almost 131 k. These intrepid single-ops do it with less than 200 W on 6/2—which is hard to believe having listened to AF1T rattle off backscatter QSOs on 50 MHz....

## Top Ten

Single Operator Low Power	Limited Multioperator
K2DRH 136,320	AA4ZZ 169,952
AF1T 135,261	N2BJ 153,000
K1JT 130,914	W2ODH 149,621
W3KJ 69,915	W3SO 128,856
WA8JUF 57,838	N8KQL 116,070
W2EV 50,512	K8CC 74,175
W1PM 45,305	W1GK 69,680
N3FUJ 44,800	W1VHF 57,474
K2HZN 41,520	K2AA 41,088
WA1MKE 39,550	W1XX 40,144

Single Operator High Power	Multioperator
K1TEO 386,973	K8GP 749,056
K2AXX 252,126	W2FU 660,656
KM0T 214,760	K3YTL 601,392
WA3NUF 205,002	N2PA 404,712
WW8M 198,360	N3NGE 320,892
K1UHF 186,636	W0RSJ 165,760
W21V 160,460	N3YMS 103,512
K3DNE 146,374	WA3ZKR 48,762
W4RX 121,044	K1ZE 44,872
W3RJW 119,600	W2GK 43,990

Single Operator Portable	Rover
K6M 40,810	N2JMH 258,666
W3SE 40,328	K2TER 217,019
N3FTI 11,524	W5DF 184,569
KA6AMD 10,857	N9YZK 181,388
KG4LEV 3,510	N03F 147,725
WB0LJC 3,240	N6TEB 147,504
N9MYK 2,568	W7GHZ 146,568
N8XA 2,520	N40IA 141,526
N7WLO 1,440	KA0YSQ 134,160
WB2AMU 1,406	N6DN 129,682

## Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
<b>Unlimited Category</b>		
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	2,118,011	50
<b>Medium Category</b>		
Rochester VHF Group	2,336,817	30
Potomac Valley Radio Club	1,696,124	24
North East Weak Signal Group	1,378,889	26
Murgas ARC	602,080	3
Society of Midwest Contesters	597,226	13
Northern Lights Radio Society	434,729	21
Western States Weak Signal	211,833	7
Six Meter Club of Chicago	206,249	18
Badger Contesters	194,083	20
Downey ARC	193,567	5
Crawford County ARC	174,624	21
South Jersey Radio Assn	128,124	7
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	118,564	5
Mad River Radio Club	102,651	5
Florida Contest Group	29,988	5
Lawton Fort Sill ARC	16,406	12
Tennessee Contest Group	16,367	3
Bergen ARA	10,635	3
Hampden County Radio Assn	4,009	4
Bears of Manchester	3,532	4
Mobile Sixers Radio Club	2,302	4
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	2,216	4
Burlington County Radio Club	1,928	4
<b>Local Category</b>		
Cedar Rapids Microwave Society	399,694	5
Delaware Valley VHF Society	154,907	7
Medina 2 Meter Group	10,480	4
Northern New York Contest Club	7,650	4
Meriden ARC	1,064	5
Central Ohio Operators Klub	993	3

Now, I can only *dream* that Jeff Klein, K1TEO, has a number of tales to tell. Retaining his crown as *Single-Operator High Power* champ this January, he soundly trounces Mark Hoffman, K2AXX for top Single-Op High Power honors by 134 k. Mark and Jeff need to watch their backs, though—coming up from another snowy tundra region is Mike King, KMOT.

The *Single-Operator Portable* category requires some serious planning, effort and talent to win. In the lead John Morrice, K6MI, narrowly escapes fellow Californian Wes Printz, W3SE by a *very* narrow margin (482 points!). Another 667 points separated Steve Kerns, N3FTI and Erich Muschinske, KA6AMD for 3rd and 4th places! This is one hot class. QRP power, a good location and good antennas are usually what it takes to top the box.

In the hall of giants, where anything goes—*Multipoperator* rules supreme. Using all amateur bands above 50 MHz, these stations sometimes go to extremes to improve performance—to the end of capturing the title of #1 US/Canada. Other stations depend on multipoperator stations for frequency reference, for beacons, for signs of life late at night. Yep—the multipoperator unlimited reigns supreme.

If you've never had the opportunity to operate from a Multipoperator station before, it's really worth the effort to find one and try it. There have been *many* competitive teams in the past, and this year has proven no exception. The art of collecting enough equipment, operators and time is no small feat—let alone the cooking, cleaning and maintaining what other people break! Literally! I remember one year while operating at a multi-multi station during January—it was *cold* outside! The rotator on the tower froze, and we thought it wise to replace it. SO, a couple intrepid people went up to remove the rotator and replace it with another. No problem, until the disconnected rotator decided

to make a quick descent. Fortunately, it landed in about 3 feet of snow, no further damage to itself or anyone else. *However*, what we didn't know until a few months later, was what it *did* damage! The 10 GHz stuff stopped working well for the remainder of the weekend after that incident, but no one made the correlation. The rotator landed squarely atop the WR-90 waveguide, snapping it in two at the base of the tower. However, buried in snow—we had no way of knowing! *Whoops!*

Hoping that nothing like *this* happened to them, AA4ZZ in NC managed to beat up on the competition in the *Limited Multipoperator* class, defeating N2BJ and crew by only 16 k. Not far behind was W2ODH from Sunny California. Limited M/M is an excellent class, as you are only using four bands—but not limited to *running* only four! If you have 50 MHz-1296 MHz, run 'em *all*—just turn in the best four bands!

In the *Unlimited Multipoperator* class, another classic battle ensues. This time, the Grid Pirates of K8GP capture the flag. With a class-busting score of 749 k, they made W2FU walk the plank at 660 k, and K3YTL at 601 k. These scores are pretty tight, making for an exciting rematch next time around. One slip, like a stinkbug across the HV transformer (yes, there's a story about that, too!) blowing up the 2 m amp—and any of these well-oiled machines could go crashing. It's the ultimate battle of Murphy vs Man. Wonder why Murphy always plans Ice Storms?

Multipoperator is controlled chaos. Roving, on the other hand, is Chaos *on the road*. Imagine if you will, cramming all that gear you've got in your shack into a van. Then take your tower, lay it across the top and figure out a way to raise it. *Then* wire it all so you don't sit on the road somewhere minus dc to start the vehicle. *And finally*, get it so it's roadworthy and drive it around. This is

the ultimate form of VHF+ contesting. I mean, how many of us drive around in January, only to discover that the route you've plotted to your site includes a couple miles on a Snowmobile trail? Or that road you *think* gets you somewhere really doesn't? In addition, it can be downright *cold*. One rover pulls up to a site, only to find another already there. The new arrival starts pushing up the tower, starting the generator, trying *really* hard to get it done quickly, when one of the operators in the other rover comments "I'm *really* glad I'm in where it's warm..." Worse, if you are driving in a snowstorm, and find the driving lights to be more effective than the headlights! Yep. This is the "lunatic fringe."

And N2JMH/R took the lunatic prize this year. Visiting seven grids in his Blue Whale rover, he takes top honors a second year. Following right behind is K2TER/R, with a 217 k score to boot. The top gun for travel appears to be N0DQS/R—who visited 18 grids during the contest period! A number of rovers visited 14 grids, and on down the list—you can't imagine how far that really is unless you've done it yourself!

Make sure you visit the expanded contest results on *ARRLWeb* at [www.arrl.org/contests/results](http://www.arrl.org/contests/results). Included in the online results you will find an expanded write-up, participant submitted Soapbox, a searchable database, and more box scores and tables. January always offers a wide range of operating challenges and opportunities. Whether roving, playing competitively from a large multipoperator station, honing your skills from home or accepting the challenge of portable operation, the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes has something to offer for almost everyone. Start making plans now to be "radio-active" the weekend of January 18-20, 2003.

**Scores**

Each line score lists call sign, score, stations worked, multipliers, and band (A= 50 MHz, B = 144 MHz, C = 222 MHz, D = 432 MHz, 9 = 902 MHz, E = 1296 MHz, F = 2304 MHz, I = 10 GHz).

1	W1QK (+W1JMA, K1PHG, N1ABY)	40,144	320	104	L	ABCD	W1XX (+K1JX)	10,148	174	43	B	ABCD9
	KB1DFB (@KB1H) (+KB1H)	26,235	412	55	L	ABD	W1XM (KB1CGZ, KT1D, KB1CTH, KA2ZLZ, KD1KY, W1GSL, KB1GRS, KB1HRJ, KB1HDK, KB1HQM, KF2VV, N2JLZ, ops)	8,360	156	38	B	BD
	W1NRG (KB1CIW, K1TDO, KB1HPY, ops)	30	19	6	L	AB	W1MRQ	5,049	109	33	B	ABCD9F
	K1ZE (+N1DGF)	44,872	425	71	M	ABCD9E	W1OA	1,188	62	18	B	ABC
							KB1BQV	546	37	13	B	ABD
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>Eastern Massachusetts</b>											
K1IM	W1FM	45,305	372	95	A	ABCD9E	<b>Rhode Island</b>					
WB1GCM	K1UR	7,455	179	36	A	ABCD	W1BAT	586	49	14	A	AB
K1WXX	N1LDY	6,270	185	33	A	ABD	W1OPC	372	29	12	A	ABD
N1OPO	K1FKR	6,014	119	31	A	BCDF	W1VHF (K1RWK, W1LJM, K1KT, ops)	57,474	534	103	L	ABD
KB1DHW	KV1J	3,498	125	22	A	ABCD	KB1HAR (+N1YKH)	1,936	86	22	L	ABD
WB1GIC	W1DYJ	2,460	123	20	A	AB						
KA1KOJ	K1VU	1,387	62	19	A	ABD	<b>Vermont</b>					
W1DMM	K1EP	1,032	84	12	A	ABD	KA1BSZ	24	8	3	A	AB
WY1U	KA1OJ	864	21	16	A	ABDEI	W1AIM	36,088	264	104	B	ABCD9E
N1SPI	N1BC	832	51	13	A	ABD	K1LPS	11,428	135	59	B	ABCD9E
N1TUP	N1VOR	473	35	11	A	ABD	W1FN (AC1H, KA1UAG, N5IEP, AA1KL, WB1BRE, WA1ZCN, N1YMQ, KB1FDA, KB1EGH, ops)	18,358	247	67	L	ABCD
KB1FFV	N1HTS	120	20	6	A	B	NE1C (KX1X, KB1GJR, KB1FWN, KB1FSU, KB1FVL, AA1YW, KB1FTX, ops)	525	35	15	L	AB
K1MKF	W1XH	56	14	4	A	AB						
KB1CIW	W1GHZ	25,172	246	62	B	ABCD9E	<b>Western Massachusetts</b>					
K1TEO	WB1FKF	24,732	198	54	B	ABCD9EFGHI	N1DPM	23,912	201	61	A	ABCD9EFGI
K1UHF	N1GJ	7,956	135	39	B	ABCD9EF	K1ISW	6,580	166	39	A	ABCD
WZ1V	N1EKV	1,880	62	20	B	ABCDI						
K1GX												
K1FO												
W5EP												
K1QJL												
K1QNF												
WA1GTP												

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for various stations in the Northeast region.

2 Eastern New York

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Eastern New York.

NYC-Long Island

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in NYC and Long Island.

Northern New Jersey

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Northern New Jersey.

Northern New York

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Northern New York.

Southern New Jersey

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Southern New Jersey.

Western New York

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Western New York.

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in the Midwest region.

Delaware

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Delaware.

Eastern Pennsylvania

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Northern Florida

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Northern Florida.

Tennessee

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Tennessee.

Maryland-DC

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Maryland and DC.

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Western Pennsylvania.

Alabama

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Alabama.

Georgia

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Georgia.

Kentucky

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Kentucky.

North Carolina

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Puerto Rico

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South Carolina

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Southern Florida

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Virginia

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Virginia.

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in West Central Florida.

Louisiana

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Louisiana.

Mississippi

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Mississippi.

New Mexico

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North Texas

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in North Texas.

Oklahoma

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South Texas

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West Texas

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in West Texas.

East Bay

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Los Angeles

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Los Angeles.

Orange

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in Orange.

Santa Barbara

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Santa Clara Valley

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San Diego

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San Francisco

Table listing call signs, frequencies, and status for stations in San Francisco.

San Joaquin Valley

Table listing stations and frequencies in the San Joaquin Valley region, including call signs like N6MU and frequencies like 36,190.

Sacramento Valley

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Sacramento Valley region, including call signs like KC6ZWT and frequencies like 16,762.

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Arizona

Table listing stations and frequencies in Arizona, including call signs like N7IR and frequencies like 1,044.

Eastern Washington

Table listing stations and frequencies in Eastern Washington, including call signs like K7AWB and frequencies like 56.

Idaho

Table listing stations and frequencies in Idaho, including call signs like K7VYZ and frequencies like 2,457.

Montana

Table listing stations and frequencies in Montana, including call signs like N7CZ and frequencies like 1,407.

Nevada

Table listing stations and frequencies in Nevada, including call signs like KC6UCN and frequencies like 656.

Oregon

Table listing stations and frequencies in Oregon, including call signs like KB7WW and frequencies like 27,639.

Utah

Table listing stations and frequencies in Utah, including call signs like N7JA and frequencies like 10,332.

Western Washington

Table listing stations and frequencies in Western Washington, including call signs like N7MWW and frequencies like 6,516.

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Michigan

Table listing stations and frequencies in Michigan, including call signs like KF6QL and frequencies like 14,697.

Ohio

Table listing stations and frequencies in Ohio, including call signs like WA8RF and frequencies like 57,838.

Table listing stations and frequencies in the West region, including call signs like WD8AML and frequencies like 7,640.

West Virginia

Table listing stations and frequencies in West Virginia, including call signs like N8II and frequencies like 6,235.

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Illinois

Table listing stations and frequencies in Illinois, including call signs like K2DRH and frequencies like 136,300.

Indiana

Table listing stations and frequencies in Indiana, including call signs like WA1MKE and frequencies like 39,550.

Wisconsin

Table listing stations and frequencies in Wisconsin, including call signs like K9VHF and frequencies like 23,622.

Table listing stations and frequencies in the West region, including call signs like W9GA and frequencies like 24,402.

Colorado

Table listing stations and frequencies in Colorado, including call signs like N0UGY and frequencies like 1,862.

Iowa

Table listing stations and frequencies in Iowa, including call signs like KOVSV and frequencies like 3,225.

Minnesota

Table listing stations and frequencies in Minnesota, including call signs like K0SHF and frequencies like 21,012.

Dakota

Table listing stations and frequencies in Dakota, including call signs like KFOQ and frequencies like 20,412.

Delta

Table listing stations and frequencies in Delta, including call signs like N4OFA and frequencies like 13,566.

Great Lakes

Table listing stations and frequencies in Great Lakes, including call signs like NE8I and frequencies like 18,126.

Hudson

Table listing stations and frequencies in Hudson, including call signs like N2OML and frequencies like 4,482.

Midwest

Table listing stations and frequencies in Midwest, including call signs like NA0IA and frequencies like 141,526.

Missouri

Table listing stations and frequencies in Missouri, including call signs like N0PE and frequencies like 17,575.

North Dakota

Table listing stations and frequencies in North Dakota, including call signs like N7OV and frequencies like 735.

South Dakota

Table listing stations and frequencies in South Dakota, including call signs like W8JULX and frequencies like 819.

Canada / DX

Table listing stations and frequencies in Canada/DX, including call signs like VE2ZP and frequencies like 6,834.

Ontario

Table listing stations and frequencies in Ontario, including call signs like VE3TNG and frequencies like 19,520.

Quebec

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Alberta

Table listing stations and frequencies in Alberta, including call signs like VE8TN and frequencies like 1,905.

British Columbia

Table listing stations and frequencies in British Columbia, including call signs like VE7XF and frequencies like 7,400.

Barbados

Table listing stations and frequencies in Barbados, including call signs like 8P9AY and frequencies like 7,688.

Rovers

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Rovers region, including call signs like N2JMH and frequencies like 258,666.

Atlantic

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Atlantic region, including call signs like K2JTER and frequencies like 217,019.

Northeast

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Northeast region, including call signs like ND3F and frequencies like 147,725.

Central

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Central region, including call signs like N9YZK and frequencies like 181,388.

Southwest

Table listing stations and frequencies in the Southwest region, including call signs like N8Y2K and frequencies like 92,583.

Northwest

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