

# 2007 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Results

*Generally poor conditions; an unexpected  $E_S$  opening; lots of cold weather.*

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**W**eather conditions for the 2007 running of the January VHF Sweepstakes competition were typical for the winter season. Temperatures in the northern states and Canada were generally very cold, although snowfall was less than normal with a few exceptions; most of the heavy snowfall was found in the central and western regions. Unrelated to weather events, but causing serious distraction to many contest participants, were the NFL football playoffs that invaded our contest weekend space!

Scores were generally lower than those reported in the 2006 January VHF Sweepstakes event. In every Top 10 category but one, the 2006 results surpassed this year's scores. For example, the 2007 top Single Operator, Low Power score was 151,900 points from Roger Rehr, W3SZ, while the 2006 top Single Operator, Low Power score was 174,894 points from Bob Striegl, K2DRH. The only exception was in the Single Operator, High Power category, where the K3EAR 2007 score of 541,918 points beat K1TEO's 2006 score of 429,840 points.

There were 684 logs submitted for this year's event, representing 86,910 contacts. This is down substantially from both 2006 with 793 logs, and 718 in 2005. Weather certainly played a role in the 2005 event, and while there was some significant snow in Ontario last year, weather conditions for the 2006 event were generally tame. Most regions of the US and Canada enjoyed decent weather conditions. How do we reverse this disturbing downward trend in January VHF SS participation? Your comments on this issue are welcome; e-mail them to me at the address at the top of the article.

## Propagation

Most of the Soapbox comments indicated that propagation was generally unenhanced, with normal tropo ranges out to about 300 miles being typical on both the VHF and UHF bands. Some stations noted a fairly brief 6 meter  $E_S$  opening in the mid-Southern states from the Midwest to the Southeast that occurred late Saturday evening.

Also, some operators in the southern states noted enhanced tropo conditions, as well.

Jon Jones, NØJK, in Kansas said, "There was a surprise 6 meter  $E_S$  opening starting around 2300 UTC to the southeastern states. Most of the signals were weak and skipping over my location. Finally, at 2345 UTC, a loud K5IX popped up on 50.125 MHz and we easily exchanged grids." Jon's map of the 6 meter opening shows that the event was centered near southeastern Missouri, and included stations in a region bounded by Texas, Nebraska, western Pennsylvania and northern Florida.

Apparently many of the EME operators had better success than those totally dependent on terrestrial propagation. Tim Marek, K7XC, from Fallon, Nevada had lots of WSJT contacts and worked Ohio and Europe on EME. He also said, "The last hour of the contest was spent trying to work JA on 50 MHz JT65A EME. While we did not complete, I was able to easily copy several complete sequences, something I would

COURTESY ANDY STEPHENS, W6AWS

## Top Ten

### Single Operator, Low Power

W3SZ	151,920
N1DPM	98,400
WA3GFZ	91,698
K8GUN	88,128
WA3NUF	84,660
K1TR	82,600
AF1T	80,370
W4ZRZ	63,196
WB2SIH	63,080
W0AH	58,359

### Single Operator, High Power

K3EAR	541,918
K1TEO	396,393
K1RZ	235,814
K3TUF	223,256
KA1ZE	160,716
W1RJA	115,218
WA3DRJ	110,979
K1JT	100,776
W2SJ	79,310
K2AXX	75,717

### QRP Portable

N6MU	15,807
KA1LMR	9,504
W6DWI	3,840
W9SZ	3,366
KG4LEV	1,404
WB2AMU	1,309
K6ME	1,281
KG6TGI	448
K0NR	310
N8XA	300

### Limited Multioperator

W3SO	247,190
WA2FGK	102,108
W2MMD	66,483
W3HZU	54,288
N8ZM	51,689
K4LTX	49,575
W1QK	45,225
KA2LIM	40,400
KB1DFB	32,804
WN8R	25,840

### Multioperator

N3NGE	554,268
K5QE	327,096
N2PA	277,720
W4RX	131,553
K3EOD	118,088
K8EB	74,620
KW1AM	64,855
KB0HH	34,810
W0EEA	32,300
W1XM	29,127

### Rover

N6NB/R	952,409
W6YLZ	906,769
W6TE/R	832,986
KG6TOA	792,792
N6TEB/R	364,507
N6DN/R	363,094
K2TER/R	183,480
K2QO/R	130,065
N5AC/R	63,990
VE3OIL/R	61,910



Andy Stephens, W6AWS; Glenn Gleason, KG6LRX, and Gary Hayes, KG6SMX, operate from CM98 (Northern California), representing the River City Amateur Radio Communications Society, N6NA, while they chase contacts under the watchful eye of Charles Freas, W6FT.

### Affiliated Club Competition

Club Name	Score	Entries
<b>Unlimited</b>		
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	1,968,935	61
<b>Medium</b>		
Rochester VHF Group	894,620	22
North East Weak Signal Group	881,325	16
Potomac Valley Radio Club	804,323	37
South Mountain Contest Club	591,564	7
North Texas Microwave Society	496,764	13
Downey ARC	365,152	3
Northern Lights Radio Society	275,158	23
Contest Club Ontario	237,332	22
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	175,025	14
Society of Midwest Contesters	149,689	13
Badger Contesters	147,959	16
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	60,753	17
Six Meter Club of Chicago	28,147	11
Northern California Contest Club	21,874	7
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	19,953	15
<b>Local</b>		
Murgas ARC	129,595	5
Roadrunners Microwave Group	125,419	6
Eastern Panhandle ARC	101,917	7
Eastern Connecticut ARA	101,167	5
Carolina DX Assn	80,423	5
Florida Weak Signal Society	79,364	7
Chippewa Valley VHF	60,991	5
Florida Contest Group	39,940	5
Grand Mesa Contesters of Bergen ARA	39,810	4
Western States Weak Signal	29,562	5
10-70 Repeater Assn	14,906	4
Dauberville DX Assn	10,695	4
West Park Radiops	6,521	6
Bears of Manchester	5,846	3
Hudson Valley Contesters and Mobile Sixers Radio Club	3,289	3
Alexandria Radio Club	2,744	3
Tennessee Contest Group	1,246	4
	1,086	3
	1,086	3



Here is Matt Small, KB3NMQ, in his first contest as he activates FM19 (Maryland), FN10 and FN20 (Pennsylvania) with Rod Wolfe, N3XG, as KB3NMQ/R.

### Expanded Reports Available

For complete results, participant soapbox and the complete scores in a user-searchable database, please visit [www.arrrl.org/contests/results](http://www.arrrl.org/contests/results). ARRL members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.

not have thought possible just a few years ago.” Finally, Tim said, “Many thanks to Joe Taylor, K1JT, for putting so much fun back into VHF operating.”

Mark McMillan, W7MEM, indicated that if he had just worked only 2 meter EME, he would have worked more stations than he did, shifting between EME and terrestrial work. Brad Fuller, WQ5S, said that activity was great, conditions were poor and that both meteor scatter and EME added several multipliers.

### The National Scene

Overall, scores were slightly lower than last year in all categories, but there were some exceptions. Rover scores were generally higher than last year, except for the top spots.

#### Single Operator

Roger Rehr, W3SZ, Reading, Pennsylvania, took the top spot in the Single Operator, Low Power competition with 151,900 points; this score is down 13 percent from the winning SOLP score last year. Fred Stefanik, N1DPM, moved up from third spot last year to the second spot with 98,400 points. Paul Sokoloff, WA3GFZ, moved down from second spot last year to third this year with 91,700 points, while Dan LeFevre, K8GUN, moved from sixth place last year to fourth place. Phil Miguez, WA3NUF, moved down from the High Power category last year to the Low Power category this year to take the fifth place spot with 84,700 points.

The Single Operator, High Power category is the only class with a higher score than last year in the top spot. The South Mountain Contest Group, operating K3EAR, took top honors with a 541,918 point effort. Jeff Klein, K1TEO, claimed the second SOHP spot with 396,400 points operating from Connecticut. Dave Petke, K1RZ, from Maryland took the third spot with 235,800 points, while Phil Theis, K3TUF, was close behind at 223,400 points. Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE, took fifth place with 160,700 points.

The scores in the QRP portable category were substantially lower in the top two positions than those produced last year. John Desloge, N6MU, claimed the top spot with 15,800 points, followed by Chris Merchant, KA1LMR, at 9500; Robin Whiting, W6DWI, with 3800; Zack Widup, W9SZ, at 3400, and John Coley, KG4LEV, with 1400.

#### Multioperator

The multioperator scores were generally lower this year than during 2006. The top

### Division Leaders

Single Operator Low Power		
Atlantic	W3SZ	151,920
Central	K2DRH	50,038
Dakota	N0KP	40,194
Delta	N4QWZ	32,076
Great Lakes	K2YAZ	18,785
Hudson	WB2SIH	63,080
Midwest	N0LL	16,647
New England	N1DPM	98,400
Northwestern	K17JA	7,917
Pacific	W6GMT	1,716
Roanoke	K8GUN	88,128
Rocky Mountain	N0POH	7,068
Southeastern	W4ZRZ	63,196
Southwestern	K6TSK	5,724
West Gulf	K5LLL	25,340
Canada	VA3KA	31,278

Single Operator High Power		
Atlantic	K3EAR	541,918
Central	N2BJ	56,100
Dakota	W0GZH	60,352
Delta	W5MRB	10,656
Great Lakes	K8ROX	40,553
Hudson	N2GHR	72,716
Midwest	KM0T	26,488
New England	K1TEO	396,393
Northwestern	N7EPD	18,900
Pacific	KC6ZWT	22,444
Roanoke	KE2N	61,380
Rocky Mountain	KC0MEA	1,840
Southeastern	W4WA	75,175
Southwestern	AF6O	49,220
West Gulf	K9MK	47,960
Canada	VE3OJN	2,360

Limited Multioperator		
Atlantic	W3SO	247,190
Dakota	W0VB	19,076
Delta	N5KDA	7,434
Great Lakes	N8ZM	51,689
Hudson	K2BAR	20,142
Midwest	N0UNL	1,040
New England	W1QK	45,225
Pacific	K7XC	5,635
Roanoke	K4LTX	49,575
Rocky Mountain	K0GIE	1,350
Southeastern	N4DXV	1,265
Southwestern	KE6GFF	60
West Gulf	WA5TKU	8,050

Multi-multi		
Atlantic	N3NGE	554,268
Central	W9XA	16,060
Delta	AG4V	20,252
Great Lakes	K8EB	74,620
New England	KW1AM	64,855
Pacific	W6YX	10,434
Roanoke	W4RX	131,553
Rocky Mountain	W0EEA	32,300
Southeastern	K4NGA	8,874
West Gulf	K5QE	327,096
Canada	VE3LCA	3,990

Single Operator Portable		
Atlantic	KB3LNM	60
Central	W9SZ	3,366
Great Lakes	N8XA	300
Hudson	WB2AMU	1,309
New England	KA1LMR	9,504
Pacific	W6DWI	3,840
Roanoke	KG4LEV	1,404
Rocky Mountain	K0NR	310
Southeastern	K14OQH	4
Southwestern	N6MU	15,807
West Gulf	N5TEN	24

Rover		
Atlantic	K2TER/R	183,480
Central	WB8BZK/R	18,676
Dakota	KC0IYT/R	20,724
Delta	N4FLM/R	17,280
Great Lakes	KC8QAE/R	11,520
Hudson	KJ1K/R	12,348
New England	KB1EKZ/R	11,221
Pacific	N6NB/R	952,409
Roanoke	KC3WD	29,749
Rocky Mountain	WJ7L/R	270
Southeastern	AH8M/R	15,162
Southwestern	N6TEB/R	364,507
West Gulf	N5AC/R	63,990
Canada	VE3OIL/R	61,910

spot goes to Packrats station N3NGE, led by Len Martin, with 554,200 points. Len's group had difficulty with wind-induced power-line noise on the 6 and 2 meter bands during the first half of the contest. He indi-

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)		
W3SZ	151,920	A	K8GUN	88,128	A	K2DRH	50,038	A	N0KP	40,194	A	K17JA	7,917	A
N1DPM	98,400	A	W4ZRZ	63,196	A	VA3KA	31,278	A	N0VZJ	29,172	A	K6TSK	5,724	A
WA3GFZ	91,698	A	W0AH	58,359	A	N9DG	25,947	A	K5LLL	25,340	A	KN6VR	3,948	A
WA3NUF	84,660	A	W4SHG	57,459	A	KB9TLV	25,908	A	WB5ZDP	18,605	A	N6KW	3,700	A
K1TR	82,600	A	N4QWZ	32,076	A	VO1NO/VE3	25,840	A	N0LL	16,647	A	W6GMT	1,716	A
K3EAR	541,918	B	W4WA	75,175	B	N2BJ	56,100	B	W0GHZ	60,352	B	AF6O	49,220	B
K1TEO	396,393	B	KE2N	61,380	B	K8ROX	40,553	B	W0ZQ	56,212	B	KC6ZWT	22,444	B
K1RZ	235,814	B	K4QI	53,439	B	W9GA	40,400	B	K9MK	47,960	B	N7EPD	18,900	B
K3TUF	223,256	B	K4XR	37,875	B	K8TQK	38,481	B	W3XO/5	27,888	B	NU6S	12,096	B
KA1ZE	160,716	B	KC4PX	25,256	B	WA8RJF	30,900	B	KM0T	26,488	B	KD6VNG	10,094	B
KA1LMR	9,504	Q	KG4LEV	1,404	Q	W9SZ	3,366	Q	K0NR	310	Q	N6MU	15,807	Q
WB2AMU	1,309	Q	KI4OQH	4	Q	N8XA	300	Q	N5TEN	24	Q	W6DWI	3,840	Q
W3EP/1	221	Q				K0JJW	6	Q	K0JTG	448	Q			
KC2JRQ	75	Q												
KB3LNM	60	Q												
W3SO	247,190	L	K4LTX	49,575	L	N8ZM	51,689	L	W0VB	19,076	L	K7XC	5,635	L
WA2FGK	102,108	L	WC4J	14,796	L	WN8R	25,840	L	WA5TKU	8,050	L	K6CHA	3,850	L
W2MMD	66,483	L	N4ARR	12,452	L	WC8VOA	1,386	L	KE5BAV	3,630	L	W6HF	646	L
W3HZU	54,288	L	KI4SNY	9,588	L				W0MR	1,444	L	N6NA	80	L
W1QK	45,225	L	N5KDA	7,434	L				K0GIE	1,350	L	KE6GFF	60	L
N3NGE	554,268	M	W4RX	131,553	M	K8EB	74,620	M	K5QE	327,096	M	W6YX	10,434	M
N2PA	277,720	M	AG4V	20,252	M	W9XA	16,060	M	KB0HH	34,810	M	KI6BEW	7,410	M
K3EOD	118,088	M	K4NGA	8,874	M	W9CDL	6,762	M	W0EEA	32,300	M			
KW1AM	64,855	M			N9UHF	6,288	M	W5LCC	3,330	M				
W1XM	29,127	M			VE3LCA	3,990	M	K5CCC	1,140	M				
K2TER/R	183,480	R	KC3WD	29,749	R	VE3OIL/R	61,910	R	N5AC/R	63,990	R	N6NB/R	952,409	R
K2QO/R	130,065	R	N4FLM/R	17,280	R	WB8BZK/R	18,676	R	WD0ACD	55,616	R	W6YLZ	906,769	R
N3EMF/R	25,530	R	AH8M/R	15,162	R	VA3CDD	16,770	R	KC0IYT/R	20,724	R	W6TE/R	832,986	R
K1DS/R	24,434	R	N4T	3,220	R	VE3RKS/R	16,506	R	AE5P/R	3,190	R	KG6TOA	792,792	R
WA1HNN/R	16,887	R	N2MH	2,639	R	KI9R/R	15,974	R	WA0VPJ/R	1,818	R	N6TEB/R	364,507	R

cated that there were improved propagation conditions on Sunday, and not as much static. The K5QE group, led by Marshall Williams, claimed the second spot with 327,000 points. He indicated that the bands were terrible on Saturday but improved to well above average on Sunday. The Mountain Group in upstate New York operated N2PA to the third spot with 277,700 points, with W4RX in fourth position at 131,500 points and K3EOD with 118,000 points in fifth place.

The top Limited Multioperator spot goes to the Wopsononock Mountain Operators, W3SO, in western Pennsylvania with 247,200 points. This score is down almost 30,000 points from their winning effort last year. WA2FGK took the second place spot with a 102,100 point effort, followed by W2MMD (66,400), W3HZU (54,300), and N8ZM (51,700).

### Rover

The top rover category scores were slightly lower this year than last. Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, took the top spot this year as a Single Operator effort with 952,400 points, down somewhat from his joint rover effort last year with Art Goddard, W6XD. Second place went to Mike Ramirez, W6YLZ, with 906,800 points, followed by Dave Smith, W6TE, at 833,000; Rob Hughes, KG6TOA at 792,700, and Dave Glenn, N6TEB, at 364,500.

It appears that the highly successful grid-circling techniques developed in California and elsewhere in the Southwest to produce



Paul Schwabel, W2TAU, tweaks a few extra dB out of 10 GHz.

record high scores are now standard operating procedure. These techniques and the impressive results produced were a very big deal two years ago!

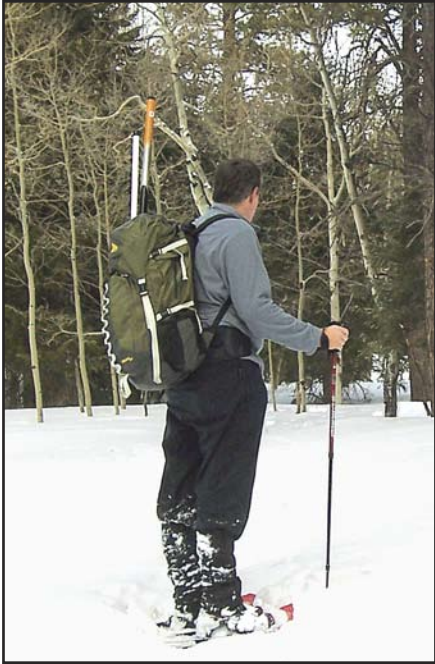
### Affiliated Club Competition

The Mt Airy VHF Radio Club is the largest group of VHF/UHF/Microwave enthusiasts in North America, regularly fielding more than 50 entries in the January

VHF Sweeps event; they placed 61 entries in this year's competition. The total club score comes to 1,968,935 points, down from 2.5 million in 2006 and 2.8 million in 2004, with only 56 members reporting scores. This large Philadelphia area club is clearly in a class of its own!

In the Medium Club category, the Rochester VHF Group regained the top position with a total of 894,620 points from 22 mem-

COURTESY BOB WITTE, K0NR



With his backpack portable station in tow, Bob Witte, K0NR, is on his way to operate at the top of Mt Herman DM79 (Colorado).

bers. The North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS Group) came in a very close second with 881,325 points from 16 members. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) made third place with 804,323 points from 37 members, down from their first place finish in this category last year. Fourth place in the Medium category went to the South Mountain Contest Club with 592,564 points. The North Texas Microwave Society, with 13 entries and 496,764 points, placed fifth.

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club, with 129,595 points from five members, placed first in the Local Club category. Second place goes to the Roadrunners Microwave Group with 125,419 points from six members. The Eastern Panhandle and Eastern Connecticut clubs enjoyed a close battle for third and fourth place.

### Clubs are Critical to Growth

A total of 35 clubs reported scores this year, compared to 40 in 2006 and 30 in 2005. In looking through the names of these 35 clubs, I have discovered that a surprising number are not specifically devoted to VHF/

UHF/Microwave — only 13 clubs were listed that specifically focus on VHF/UHF/Microwave activities. Many of the leading HF contest clubs are on the list, such as the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), Contest Club Ontario, Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC), Society of Midwest Contesters, Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) and the Florida Contest Group (FCG) to name a few. PVRC alone fielded 37 member entries, second only to the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club's 61 entries.

The point to be made here is that there is a great interest in VHF/UHF contesting by many amateurs who are not specifically focused on the VHF/UHF/Microwave world. I believe this is a very good trend, and those of us whose interests lie in both areas should hit the campaign trail to our local radio clubs and make presentations on the great enjoyment to be gained from participation in Amateur Radio contesting, regardless of the frequency range and operating mode.

The next ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is January 19-21, 2008. For more information, please see [www.arrl.org/contests/](http://www.arrl.org/contests/). 