

# 2008 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Results

A typical January VHF SS event: A 6 meter E-skip opening created some excitement; cold winter weather throughout most of North America; NFL playoff distractions.

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**A**s in previous editions of the January VHF SS competition, the combination of typically cold weather in the northern parts of North America along with the usual distractions caused by television coverage of NFL football playoff games interferes with contest participation. The 2008 running is no exception to this general observation. As Phil Miguez, WA3NUF, of Warminster, Pennsylvania noted, "Sunday football games really kept the bands quiet late afternoon into the evening."

With the exception of some southern and western states, typical winter weather conditions were the order of the day for the 2008 running of the January VHF Sweepstakes competition. Rovers, in particular, had to deal with the cold weather conditions. Roger Sanderson, VE3RKS/R of Waterloo, Ontario ran a Limited Rover operation, and he was so cold that the only comment he could write was "BRRRRRRRRRRR"! Joe Shupienis II, W3BC, from Moon, Pennsylvania said he made a very half-hearted effort due to the cold weather but that he still had a lot of fun. Not every participant faced cold weather, as was noted by Robin Whiting, W6DWI, of Davis, California who had nice weather near Pacific Ridge at 4500 feet elevation.

With the exception of the Single Operator Low Power category, scores were lower than those reported for the 2007 VHF SS competition. Every other entry category for 2008 had a lower top score than the previous year. I made a similar statement regarding score levels in the 2007 event in which reported scores were generally lower than those reported in



KE4WBO

The impressive VHF/UHF antennas of Graham Huls, KE4WBO, of Jupiter, Florida, helped him work 101 QSOs this year.

the 2006 January VHF SS competition. This is not a good trend!

Another measure of participation is the number of logs submitted for the competition. These are the figures for logs submitted in the January VHF SS for the past four years: 2008—701 logs, 2007—684 logs, 2006—793 logs, 2005—718 logs.

It is good to see an increase in log submissions in this year's competition, but it is also true that log submissions were substantially larger in 2006, and somewhat larger in 2005. I hope the upward trend continues. Since participation and score levels in VHF/UHF competitions are not as significantly influenced by the solar cycle as are the results of competitions on the HF amateur bands, we certainly can't blame low sunspot numbers for low participation levels in

VHF/UHF competitions!

## Propagation

Many participants indicated that conditions were generally poor. Ellen Rugowski, AF9J, of Greenfield, Wisconsin said "conditions were the worst I've ever seen in a VHF SS." Dave Petke, K1RZ, of Damascus, Maryland said "activity high, but the weather was too cold for good conditions, which showed in the results." Fred Spaulding, K1YQP, of Shingle Springs, California indicated that conditions were not good, and said "thank goodness for hardworking rovers!" The view from Florida was a bit different as Florida 6 meter stations enjoyed very good E-skip event on Saturday. Ray Czyzewski, K2DEL, of Interlachen, Florida (Knight Riders VHF Club station) indicated that on Saturday

the 6 meter band was wide open, but that on Sunday the bands were dead.

Participant comments on the two key negative issues of this year's event were virtually unanimous: winter propagation conditions are difficult and the NFL playoff games are intrusive! Nearly everyone who had a soapbox comment on the subject suggested that the January VHF SS event be moved back to the weekend prior to the Super Bowl football game. Joe Mancini, N2GCZ, of Hawthorne, New York commented, "Despite the distraction of the playoffs, we were able to post our best score yet. A big 'thank you' to all the stations who operated during the playoffs."

## The National Scene

Although the total number of logs submit-



Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator	
K2DRH	163,009	N3NGE	545,160
WA3NUF	158,464	K5QE	402,651
W3SZ	127,864	K8GP	351,260
N1DPM	88,375	N2PA	170,460
AF1T	63,800	K3EOD	96,138
WB2SIH	57,728	N8KOL	35,496
WB5ZDP	53,489	KB0HH	33,015
N2LIV	48,280	N2BJ	28,329
WA3GFZ	46,464	AG4V	23,760
WA3QPX	34,554	N2GCZ	23,360
Single Operator, High Power		Rover	
K1TEO	431,100	W6XD/R	185,790
WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	257,108	K1DS/R	136,224
K3TUF	247,828	N6MU/R	124,432
K1RZ	203,196	N5AC/R	120,120
K1JT	121,075	WB6DK/R	104,858
WZ1V	119,190	WD0ACD/R	99,144
WB2RVX	87,668	K2TER/R	91,476
K3DNE	82,296	K2QO/R	90,090
WA3DRC	77,440	N1XKT/R	44,720
W0RSJ	62,244	VE3OIL/R	36,792
QRP Portable		Limited Rover	
W6DWI	6,048	K6NC/R	31,257
NN4AA	3,068	KC6SEH/R	27,022
KQ6EE	1,664	NN3Q/R (K3WGR, op)	10,368
K3EGE	576	K4GUN/R	7,335
KA1LMR	350	VE3RKS/R	3,380
WA7MLD	168	N2SLN/R	2,139
KB2AYU	162	KC2QZF/R	1,558
N3EXA	156	N6ZE/R	1,554
N2NRD	132	K9JK/R	1,458
N0JK	56	W3STU/R	1,122
Limited Multioperator		Unlimited Rover	
W3SO	213,696	KB7DQH/R	17,064
K9NS	190,491		
KW1AM	48,555		
KB1DFB	46,123		
KA2LIM	37,345		
W1QK	36,600		
W3HZU	24,765		
N8ZM	24,564		
K14SNY	12,446		
N1JEZ	11,570		

## Affiliated Club Competition

Club Name	Score	Entries
<b>Unlimited</b>		
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	2,163,226	63
<b>Medium</b>		
North East Weak Signal Group	1,059,914	23
Potomac Valley Radio Club	985,655	29
North Texas Microwave Society	667,421	11
Rochester VHF Group	445,391	20
Murgas ARC	284,425	5
Society of Midwest Contesters	253,707	26
Northern Lights Radio Society	141,993	17
Roadrunners Microwave Group	127,673	5
Contest Club Ontario	69,967	13
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	56,954	11
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	51,197	12
Frankford Radio Club	24,663	4
Northern California Contest Club	24,299	7
Six Meter Club of Chicago	20,129	11
Mad River Radio Club	19,172	3
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	17,381	3
<b>Local</b>		
Mt Frank Contesters	214,306	4
Connecticut AM Society	97,036	3
Florida Weak Signal Society	83,066	7
Badger Contesters	77,970	9
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	51,222	3
Crawford County ARC	37,378	3
Nacogdoches ARC	20,371	4
Bergen ARA	19,999	7
Granite State ARC	17,669	6
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	16,750	7
Eastern Connecticut ARA	8,972	5
Dauberville DX Assn	8,299	4
Maui ARC	7,490	3
CTRI Contest Group	5,664	3
West Park Radiops	4,781	3
Eastern Panhandle ARC	3,442	3
10-70 Repeater Assn	2,455	3
Mobile Sixers Radio Club	1,767	4
Burlington County Radio Club	1,130	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	642	3

ted this year (701) compared to 2007 (684) was up slightly, the total number of reported contacts was down from that in 2007 by over 14,000, or about 16%. One possible reason for the downturn in contact totals may be that there were fewer sporadic E openings than occurred during the 2007 event. When the only mechanisms for propagation of VHF/UHF signals are by means of ground wave or troposcatter, the opportunities for contacts beyond about 400 miles are limited, unless you have EME capability. Also, those who live in low population density regions and those who live along the coastline where opportunities for contacts out in the ocean are extremely limited will experience fewer opportunities for achieving high scores. Your author fully understands that problem!

## Single Operator

Bob Striegel, K2DRH of Albany, Illinois returned to the top spot in the Single Operator, Low Power category after a year's absence with 163,009 points. This score is up by 7% from the top SOLP score last year. Bob achieved the victory operating on the bottom eight bands with 476 contacts and 203 multipliers. Phil Miguelez, WA3NUF, moved up from the fifth spot last year to second place in the SOLP category with 158,464 points. Third place goes to Roger Rehr, W3SZ from Reading, Pennsylvania with 127,864 points, down from his first place finish last year. It is interesting to note that the top two SOLP scores this year are both higher than the top score last year. There were a total of 431 entries in the SOLP category for 2008.

The Single Operator High Power winner is Jeff Klein, K1TEO from Trumbull, Connecticut, who finished with 431,100 points, up from this second place finish in this category last year. Jeff's 10 band score is up by 35k points from last year, with a total of 994 QSOs. The second place position was taken by WA2FGK in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania operated by Herb Krumich Jr, K2LNS, with 257,108 points on 8 bands. Third place is claimed by Philip Theis Jr, K3TUF, Ephrata, Pennsylvania with 247,828 points on 10 bands. The total number of SOHP entries was 134.

## Multioperator

The Limited Multioperator category fielded a total of 32 entries for 2008. Entrants in this category can only operate on a maximum of four bands. The top scoring entry in the LM category is the W3SO club station, the Wopsononock Mountaintop Operators from Altoona, Pennsylvania with a score of 213,696 points on the bottom four VHF/UHF bands. They made a total of 850 QSOs in 192 grids. A close second in the LM category is the Mount Frank Contesters club station, K9NS, from Hampshire, Illinois with a score of 190,491 points. Third place

## Division Leaders

Single Operator Low Power		
Atlantic	WA3NUF	158,464
Canada	VE3SMA	8,888
Central	K2DRH	163,009
Dakota	N0JK	25,690
Delta	N4QWZ	31,500
Great Lakes	WZ8T	18,075
Hudson	WB2SIH	57,728
Midwest	WB0NQD	10,653
New England	N1DPM	88,375
Northwestern	W7DHC	3,125
Pacific	WE6T	15,288
Roanoke	W4SHG	25,125
Rocky Mountain	NJ7A	1,848
Southeastern	K2DEL (WA2SEI, op)	16,359
Southwestern	K6TSK	7,140
West Gulf	WB5ZDP	53,489
Single Operator High Power		
Atlantic	WA2FGK (K2LNS, op)	257,108
Canada	VE3ZV	27,753
Central	KB9TLV	41,310
Dakota	W0ZQ	42,432
Delta	W5MRB	9,834
Great Lakes	K8MD	45,360
Hudson	N2GHR	49,544
Midwest	KM0T	1
New England	K1TEO	431,100
Northwestern	N7EPD	16,027
Pacific	KC6ZWT	19,604
Roanoke	K4QI	50,304
Rocky Mountain	N0KE	230
Southeastern	K0VXM	45,720
Southwestern	N6KN	16,254
West Gulf	K9MK	42,930
Limited Multioperator		
Atlantic	W3SO	213,696
Central	K9NS	190,491
Dakota	W0MR	1,184
Delta	WD4OAR	11,183
Great Lakes	N8ZM	24,564
Hudson	WA2VUN	2,800
New England	KW1AM	48,555
Pacific	KR7O	10,478
Roanoke	K14SNY	12,446
Rocky Mountain	KE7DCJ	209
Southeastern	K4NGA	3,038
West Gulf	AB5GU	2,449
Multioperator		
Atlantic	N3NGE	545,160
Canada	VE3LCA	5,952
Central	N2BJ	28,329
Delta	AG4V	23,760
Great Lakes	N8KOL	35,496
Hudson	N2GCZ	23,360
New England	W1A1M	9,300
Pacific	K6LRG	15,708
Pacific	K16MPQ	2,700
Rocky Mountain	W0EEA	15,333
West Gulf	K5QE	402,651
Single Operator QRP Portable		
Atlantic	K3EGE	576
Canada	VE2PIJ	1
Delta	N3AWS	1
Hudson	KC2JRQ	48
Midwest	N0JK	56
New England	KA1LMR	350
Northwestern	WA7MLD	168
Pacific	W6DWI	6,048
Roanoke	WA4A	15
Southeastern	NN4AA	3,068
Southwestern	KQ6EE	1,664
Rover		
Atlantic	K1DS/R	136,224
Canada	VE3OIL/R	36,792
Central	W9FZ/R	25,324
Delta	W4RXR/R	1554
Great Lakes	NE8I/R	7416
Hudson	KJ1K/R	23,980
New England	WW1M/R	1600
Pacific	W6XD/R	185,790
Roanoke	KC3WD/R	16,008
Rocky Mountain	NK5W/R	120
Southeastern	WA2HD/R	15,648
Southwestern	N4TZH/R	253
West Gulf	N5AC/R	120,120
Limited Rover		
Atlantic	NN3Q/R	10,368
Canada	VE3RKS/R	3,380
Central	K9JK/R	1,458
Hudson	K2DSL/R	60
Northwestern	N6ZE/R	1,554
Pacific	K6NC/R	31,257
Roanoke	K4GUN/R	7,335
Rocky Mountain	K6MCR	392
Southeastern	WA4JA/R	798
Southwestern	W6KA/R	480
West Gulf	K6LMN/R	864
Unlimited Rover		
Northwestern	KB7DQH/R	17,064

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)		
WA3NUF	158,464	A	N4QWZ	31,500	A	K2DRH	163,009	A	WB5ZDP	53,489	A	WE6T	15,288	A
W3SZ	127,864	A	W4SHG	25,125	A	WZ8T	18,075	A	N0KP	25,690	A	W6OMF	14,640	A
N1DPM	88,375	A	K2DEL	16,359	A	N8BI	15,525	A	N0VZJ	16,461	A	K6TSK	7,140	A
AF1T	63,800	A	(WA2SEI, op)			WA9FIH	10,038	A	NG0R	12,508	A	KE6GLA	5,696	A
WB2SIH	57,728	A	WD4MGB	12,597	A	WO9S	9,945	A	WB0NQD	10,653	A	W7DHC	3,125	A
			K4FJW	8,536	A									
K1TEO	431,100	B	K4QI	50,304	B	K8MD	45,360	B	K9MK	42,930	B	KC6ZWT	19,604	B
WA2FGK	257,108	B	KE2N	47,328	B	KB9TLV	41,310	B	W0ZQ	42,432	B	N6KN	16,254	B
(K2LNS, op)			K0VXM	45,720	B	KB8U	28,310	B	KA5BOU	32,452	B	N7EPD	16,027	B
K3TUF	247,828	B	W4WA	40,595	B	K9EA	28,300	B	K5LLL	23,217	B	NU6S	9,810	B
K1RZ	203,196	B	W4ZRZ	38,223	B	VE3ZV	27,753	B	WA5TKU	8,424	B	K17JA	8,862	B
K1JT	121,075	B												
K3EGE	576	Q	NN4AA	3,068	Q				N0JK	56	Q	W6DWI	6,048	Q
KA1LMR	350	Q	WA4A	15	Q							KQ6EE	1,664	Q
KB2AYU	162	Q	WA1ZMS	8	Q							WA7MLD	168	Q
N3EXA	156	Q	N3AWS	1	Q							K6RM	1	Q
N2NRD	132	Q												
W3SO	213,696	L	KI4SNY	12,446	L	K9NS	190,491	L	AB5GU	2,449	L	KR7O	10,478	L
KW1AM	48,555	L	WD4OAR	11,183	L	N8ZM	24,564	L	W0MR	1,184	L	K6TWT	3,925	L
KB1DFB	46,123	L	K4NGA	3,038	L	AB8XG	544	L	KE7DCJ	209	L	K7XC	1,364	L
KA2LIM	37,345	L	W5SCR	595	L									
W1QK	36,600	L												
N3NGE	545,160	M	AG4V	23,760	M	N8KOL	35,496	M	K5QE	402,651	M	K6LRG	15,708	M
K8GP	351,260	M	N4JQQ	13,454	M	N2BJ	28,329	M	KB0HH	33,015	M	W6YX	9,594	M
N2PA	170,460	M				W9RM	22,327	M	W0EEA	15,333	M	K16MPQ	2,700	M
K3EOD	96,138	M				K8ZIZ	9,964	M	W5LCC	1,056	M	VE6AO	210	M
N2GCZ	23,360	M				VE3LCA	5,952	M						
K1DS/R	136,224	R	KC3WD/R	16,008	R	VE3OIL/R	36,792	R	N5AC/R	120,120	R	W6XD/R	185,790	R
K2TER/R	91,476	R	WA2IID/R	15,648	R	W9FZ/R	35,420	R	WD0ACD/R	99,144	R	N6MU/R	124,432	R
K2QQ/R	90,090	R	W4RXR/R	1,554	R	NE8I/R	7,416	R	KC0IYT/R	25,324	R	WB6IDK/R	104,858	R
N1XKT/R	44,720	R	KD4NOQ/R	352	R	K9TMS/R	2,603	R	AE5BN/R	15,686	R	K6JRA/R	4,020	R
KJ1K/R	23,980	R	N4TZH/R	253	R	WB2AIV/R	285	R	KE5EXX/R	5,840	R	W6GMT/R	2,304	R
NN3Q/R	10,368	RL	K4GUN/R	7,335	RL	VE3RKS/R	3,380	RL	K5MRA/R	522	RL	K6NC/R	31,257	RL
N2SLN/R	2,139	RL				K9JK/R	1,458	RL	KK6MC/R	392	RL	KC6SEH/R	27,022	RL
KC2QZF/R	1,558	RL				N9YH/R	32	RL	K5ZSJ/R	375	RL	K6MI/R	1,003	RL
W3STU/R	1,122	RL							KD5IKG/R	360	RL	W6KA/R	480	RL
K2DSSL/R	60	RL							KD5TDP/R	288	RL			
												KB7DQH/R	17,064	RU

was claimed by the Connecticut AM Society club station, KW1AM, from Danielson, Connecticut with 48,555 points. All top three LM category stations operated only on the bottom four bands.

The Multioperator category includes a total of 27 entries for 2008. Stations in this category are not limited to any specific number of bands. The top scoring station in the M category for 2008 is N3NGE, operated by Leonard Martin of Morgantown, PA with a score of 545,160 points and a total of 1324



Not everybody suffered in the cold rain and snow! James Duffey, KK6MC/R, wisely took a southern route. Here he is setting up in DM61 in southern New Mexico.

From July 2008 QST © ARRL

QSOs and 220 grid squares on 11 different bands. Second place in the M category is claimed by Marshall Williams, K5QE of Hemphill, Texas with 402,651 points, followed by the K8GP station, owned by the Delmarva VHF and Microwave Society of Washington, DC in third place with 351,260 points.

### QRP Portable

The QRP Portable category produced a total of 18 entrants this year. It's quite amazing what can be done with low power equipment, even on the VHF/UHF bands if you can find a good location from which to operate. The QRP portable participants keep pounding away every year and are to be commended for their dedication to the sport!

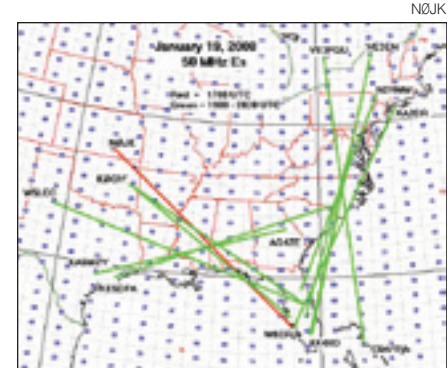
The leading score producer in the QRP Portable category for 2008 is Robin Whiting, W6DWI of Davis, California with a total of 6,048 points, which nearly doubled his score from last year. Second place in QRP Portable goes to NN4AA, James Hagan of Malabar, Florida with a total of 3068 points. Hon Chu, KQ6EE of Arcadia, California is awarded the third position with 1664 points.

### Rover

There are three Rover categories for the

2008 January VHF SS competition. The three categories are Rover (R) with 34 entries; Limited Rover (RL) with 24 entries and Unlimited Rover (RU) with only one entry.

In the Rover (R) category, no more than two operators are permitted, but operation on all bands is allowed. The top scoring operator in the (R) category is Art Goddard, W6XD/R of Costa Mesa, California with a score of 185,790 points. The second place spot goes to Richard Rosen, K1DS/R of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania with 136,224 points. John Desloge



For a lucky few, this 6 meter opening in the first 2 hours of the contest was the only decent propagation to be had all weekend.



Jr, N6MU/R of Cypress, California took the third position with 124,432 points.

Operators in the Limited Rover (RL) category may use no more than four bands of their choosing. The top entry in the RL category this year is Michael West, K6NC/R of Wilton, California with a score of 31,257 points. The second RL position goes to John Collins, KC6SEH/R of Broderick, California with 27,022 points. Russell Lamm, NN3Q/R with operator Al Zimmerman, K3WGR of Wernersville, Pennsylvania took third place with 10,368 points.

There was only one entry in the Unlimited Rover (RU) category, which allows more than two operators. Eric Smith, KB7DQH/R of Port Orchard, Washington and his team scored 17,064 points.

### Affiliated Club Competition

The largest radio club that focuses on the world above 50 MHz is the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club, a very old and extremely active organization based in southeastern Pennsylvania. This year, the Mt Airy organization fielded entries from 63 members with a combined total of 2,163,226 points, up slightly from last year's 1.97 million entry from 61 members. This is the only club reporting an Unlimited Club score.

Competition at the top two positions

## Expanded Reports Available

For complete results, participant soapbox and the complete scores in a user-searchable database, please visit [www.arrl.org/contests/results](http://www.arrl.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.

in the Medium Club group was close with the Northeast Weak Signal Group (NEWS Group) posting 1,059,914 points from 23 member entries. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) came in a close second with 985,655 points from 29 members. Third place was taken by the North Texas Microwave Society with 11 members reporting a total score of 667,421 points.

Except for the top spot, competition in the Local Club category was tight this year. The top spot was taken by the Mount Frank Contesters group with 214,306 points reported from a total of four participating

members. The Connecticut AM Society posted the second highest score at 97,036 points from three participating members. The number three spot was claimed by the Florida Weak Signal Society with 83,066 points from seven members.

The total number of clubs reporting combined member scores is 37. This total includes 20 entries in the Local (L) category, 16 entries in the Medium (M) category and one club in the Unlimited (U) category. Club totals reported for 2007 were 35, 40 in 2006 and 30 in 2005. We appear to be on an upward trend, and I am hopeful that the 2009 January VHF SS competition will bring the total number of Clubs reporting scores ever closer to the 50 figure!

### Going Forward

I hope that active HF contesters reading this report will discover an interest in contesting on the VHF and higher bands. Begin with the 6 meter band. Many of the late model HF radios include 6 meter coverage, and adding an effective 6 meter Yagi to your HF stack is usually an easy task. The bottom of the current solar cycle is a great opportunity to enjoy the world above 50 MHz, while you are waiting for the European and JA runs to return on the HF bands.

**QST**



# 2008 ARRL August UHF Contest

**1800 UTC Saturday, August 2 –  
1800 UTC Sunday, August 3**

- 220 MHz and up is the place to be! Catch some propagation and work stations hundreds of miles away!
- Take the show on the road — operate from your car as a “rover” or from your favorite hilltop!



K1TR



K3TUF



N1JFU

**Complete rules can be found at  
[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)**