

2010 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Results

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Another typical January VHF SS weekend: cold winter weather throughout most of North America coupled with the usual winter sporting event distractions covered heavily by TV stations. Activity levels improved from recent years, which is a good sign.

[Version 1D – corrects the call of Silent Key W3KKN on page 9.]

There is good news to report for the 2010 January VHF Sweepstakes competition (Jan 23-25, 2010): the second highest log submission total in six years (761) which followed the lowest reported total (650) for the 2009 January VHF SS. The highest number of log submissions during this period was 793 in 2006. These numbers include only the logs that were submitted electronically. Here are the electronic log submission totals for 2005 through 2010:

2005 - 718 logs

2006 - 793 logs

2007 - 684 logs

2008 - 701 logs

2009 - 650 logs

2010 - 761 logs

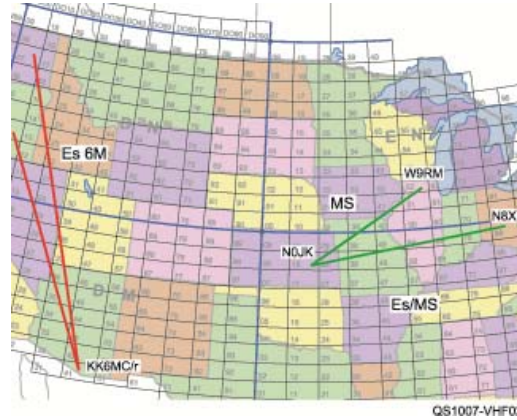
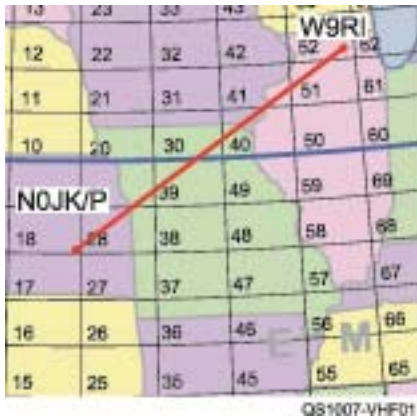
The total number of Soapbox comments submitted for 2010 include these totals in each category: Rover (13), Portable (3) and Fixed (16). Dave, WV9E of Onalaska, WI mentioned that contest activity was reasonably high considering that the weather was poor. Perennial VHF SS competitor, Wayne, N6NB from Tustin, CA was very pleased with his results for 2010, saying “We’re happy that West Coast clubs can now be competitive in VHF contests for the first time.” I hope that Wayne’s observation proves to be correct and that West Coast VHF/UHF (VHF+) activity levels continue to expand.

As is usually the case, winter weather conditions play a significant part in the January VHF SS competition, particularly in the colder regions of the USA and Canada. Rover enthusiasts are often subjected to difficult weather situations and I find it very encouraging that rover activity continues at a significant pace in spite of the winter obstacles. In cold winter weather, Gerald, K9PY of Midlothian, IL hiked to the top of Wasson Peak at 4,687 feet ASL near Tucson, Arizona carrying 25 pounds of equipment in his backpack. He enjoyed the hike and survived the event despite of carrying a heavy load. He ran a FT-817ND with a portable 4-element Yagi for the 2 meter band and a 3-element Yagi on 446 MHz. That takes dedication as well as a serious commitment to Amateur Radio!

The second highest number of logs submitted in the past six years indicates improving interest in the January VHF SS competition. Hopefully, this trend will continue well into the future. As noted previously, the number of log submissions is directly correlated with the number of participants in the event. Although the QSO totals are more related to radio conditions, participation will only grow if more logs are submitted.

Propagation

Jon, NØJK of Wichita, KS mentioned that there was no tropo at all on the 144 MHz band and no sporadic E skip on 50 MHz. He set up his portable station early Sunday morning at the “Cattle Pens” in the heart of the Flint Hills. He wondered, “Why am I doing all this?” as his fingers almost froze putting the antennas together just after dawn. Jon noted that his best DX with 10 watts transmitter output on 144 MHz was about 250 miles.



These two graphs show just how sparse sporadic E propagation turned out to be this year. Regular readers of VHF+ contest results will be struck by how few contacts are shown by these two charts from NØJK.

Ken, WB2AMU of Patchogue, NY noted that this was the first time in years in FN30 on Long Island that there was no snowfall or cold weather for his QRP portable operations. He was able to complete a good 144 MHz CW QSO with KN4SM in the FM16 grid square and also noted that he observed no sporadic E activity on 50 MHz this year. Bob, K2DRH in Albany, IL noted that “conditions were flat, flat, flat with no enhanced propagation to speak of.” He also mentioned that there was no sporadic E and “nothing like the unusual tropo inversion to the east that we’d had just a weekend before.”

Overall propagation observations indicate normal non-enhanced, winter conditions with no unusual openings. The few reported sporadic E and enhanced tropo contacts reported were few and far between. This was a typical winter event with tropo scatter as the primary propagation mechanism, generally reaching maximum QSO distances out to about the 300- to 400-mile range depending on terrain, transmitter power level, antenna gain/height, and propagation advantages.

The National Scene

Competition from major HF contest activities taking place on the same weekend as the January VHF SS event is now, fortunately, no longer a major issue. Participation levels were high this year and, hopefully, they will continue to grow as the VHF+ enthusiast community expands. A January weekend clear of all major North American HF competitive activities will tend to drive more VHF activity in the future. One comment, which I found rather amusing, was “dull conditions, good football.” I had hoped that the competition between the January VHF SS and weekend football games was over, but I guess it will always be an issue except, perhaps, during half-time!

Single Operator, Low Power – Band Leaders			
QSO Leaders		Multiplier Leaders	
50 MHz		50 MHz	
AF1T	152	K2DRH	48
K2DRH	150	K9MU	40
W1TR	150	WA4GPM	37
WA3NUF	142	N4QWZ	36
WA4GPM	134	K8ZES	28
N8RA	131	VE7DAY	27
W3PAW	122	N6RMJ	25
N3ALN	120	W3PAW	25
W3SZ	110	K8WFN	24
K2PLF	106	N8RA	22
K9MU	106	KC9BQA	22
N6RMJ	95	VE3KZ	21
WB2SIH	92	K8SIX	20
N1SV	92	AF1T	20
K1KG	92	VA3WLD	20
		W9THD	20
		K8MR	20
144 MHz		144 MHz	
WB2SIH	212	K2DRH	46
WB2CUT	192	N1DPM	37
K2SMN	183	N4QWZ	36
WA3NUF	180	K8ZES	32
AF1T	162	WA4GPM	32
K2DRH	159	K9MU	28
W3KM	139	K2SMN	28
N2VGA	138	N8RA	26
N8RA	136	W3KM	25
W3SZ	127	VE3DXP	24
W3ICC	124	W3PAW	24
N3ALN	119	AF1T	22
N1DPM	114	K1KG	22
K1KG	113	K8WFN	22
W3RJW	108	N9YK	22
W2BVH	108		
W1TR	108		

Another interesting observation is the number of HF contesters who have submitted entries in the January VHF SS competition for 2010. As I look through the 'Logs Received Report' of 761 logs for the 2010 event, I have found many entries from primarily HF-oriented clubs, such as the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC), Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), Western New York DX Association, etc. I hope that this growing trend produces more HF enthusiasts who also choose to compete in VHF+ competitive events. Most of the newer HF radios now include the 50 MHz (6 meter) band along with the usual complement of the 160 thru 28 MHz bands. This trend is a large contributor to the growing popularity of the 50 MHz band.

Top Ten by Category			
Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator	
W3SZ	144,979	N3NGE	717,676
K2DRH	139,671	K5QE	156,060
WA3NUF	138,810	K3EOD	104,339
N1DPM	93,102	W0EEA	51,113
AF1T	84,084	W6TV	30,366
W3RJW	83,722	KB0HH	29,808
W3PAW	66,992	WB3IGR	24,640
WB2SIH	64,800	N2GCZ	22,984
K2SMN	60,750	N1JEZ	20,016
K1KG	50,165	KE1LI	16,641
Single Operator, High Power		Rover	
K1TEO	415,492	N6NB/R	591,300
K1RZ	222,772	N6TEB/R	557,925
K3TUF	194,183	W6XD/R	556,660
K0VXM	171,000	W6TAI/R	553,926
WB2RVX	149,578	K9JK/R	539,160
WJ9B	141,120	AF6O/R	532,854
K3DNE	138,567	KK6KK/R	477,829
WA2FGK	138,475	N6VI/R	472,125
K1JT	128,136	KJ6CNO/R	467,728
W2SJ	122,490	WB2WIK/R	164,619
QRP Portable		Limited Rover	
N3YMS	32,184	KC2QZF/R	28,842
N8XA	6,864	K4GUN/R	26,634
W9SZ	2,268	WB8BZK/R	12,410
WB2AMU	1,518	W5JMC/R	5,688
K9TMS	1,420	WR0I/R	1,911
K0NR	741	K2STO/R	1,794
W0UC	380	NL7HJ/R	1,764
N0HJZ	192	KB2BSL/R	1,725
KC8KSK	138	VA7AJK/R	1,577
N0JK	80	KC9MKL/R	1,545
Limited Multioperator		Unlimited Rover	
W3SO	174,564	W6TE/R	212,812
KA2LIM	90,297	KR0VER/R	24,327
KB1DFB	66,960		
W9RM	60,759		
W3HZU	44,560		
W1QK	33,733		
W09S	25,258		
W4NH	22,542		
N8ZM	19,783		
K2QO	12,768		

Division Winners by Category

Single Operator, Low Power

Atlantic	W3SZ	144,979
Central	K2DRH	139,671
Dakota	KØSIX	8,507
Delta	N4QWZ	40,748
Great Lakes	K8MR	17,000
Hudson	WB2SIH	64,800
Midwest	NØLL	8,631
New England	N1DPM	93,102
Northwestern	KD7UO	5,070
Pacific	K1YQP	9,415
Roanoke	K4FJW	9,114
Rocky Mountain	NØYE	6,144
Southeastern	W2BZY	16,591
Southwestern	N6RMJ	19,404
West Gulf	W6ZI	3,612
Canada	VE3SMA	18,104

Limited Multioperator

Atlantic	W3SO	174,564
Central	W9RM	60,759
Dakota	WØVB	5,842
Delta	W4OAR	2,158
Great Lakes	N8ZM	19,783
Hudson	K2OAK	10,197
Midwest	NØLD	1,508
New England	KB1DFB	66,960
Northwestern	KF7EEL	3
Pacific	KB5WIA	360
Roanoke	N4ARR	1,224
Rocky Mountain	No Entrant	
Southeastern	W4NH	22,542
Southwestern	W7PBJ	261
West Gulf	NR5M	2,400
Canada	No Entrant	

Rover

Atlantic	K1DS/R	152,334
Central	W9FZ/R (+KC9RDC)	19,890
Dakota	WØZQ/R	2,595
Delta	AG4V/R	6,201
Great Lakes	NE8I/R	4,482
Hudson	KJ1K/R	21,318
Midwest	No Entrant	
New England	No Entrant	
Northwestern	K7HPT/R	6,552
Pacific	WB2WIK/R	164,619
Roanoke	No Entrant	
Rocky Mountain	NØLP/R	15,463
Southeastern	N2CEI/R	101,244
Southwestern	N6NB/R	591,300
West Gulf	AE5BN/R	57,672
Canada	VE3OIL/R	37,962

Single Operator, High Power

Atlantic	K1RZ	222,772
Central	K9EA	32,571
Dakota	WØGHZ	26,962
Delta	K5WBX	1,537
Great Lakes	K8MD	46,816
Hudson	W2KV	9,477
Midwest	WQØP	2,774
New England	K1TEO	415,492
Northwestern	W7CE	36,182
Pacific	NU6S	4,288
Roanoke	K4QI	58,590
Rocky Mountain	WA7KYM	440
Southeastern	KØVXM	171,000
Southwestern	KC6SEH	5,828
West Gulf	K5LLL	26,208
Canada	VE3ZV	27,534

Multioperator

Atlantic	N3NGE	717,676
Central	KO9A	9,761
Dakota	No Entrant	
Delta	N4JQQ	5,217
Great Lakes	W8RU	12,648
Hudson	N2GCZ	22,984
Midwest	KØKU	48
New England	N1JEZ	20,016
Northwestern	No Entrant	
Pacific	W6TV	30,366
Roanoke	WY3P	13,920
Rocky Mountain	WØEEA	51,113
Southeastern	No Entrant	
Southwestern	No Entrant	
West Gulf	K5QE	156,060
Canada	VE6AO	476

Limited Rover

Atlantic	KC2QZF/R	28,842
Central	WB8BZK/R	12,410
Dakota	No Entrant	
Delta	WA4JA/R	1,500
Great Lakes	No Entrant	
Hudson	KB2BSL/R	1,725
Midwest	WRØI/R	1,911
New England	N1FJ/R	646
Northwestern	NL7HJ/R	1,764
Pacific	No Entrant	
Roanoke	K4GUN/R	26,634
Rocky Mountain	No Entrant	
Southeastern	K2STO/R	1,794
Southwestern	N6ZE/R	1,332
West Gulf	KD5IKG/R	481
Canada	VA7AJK/R	1,577

QRP Portable

Atlantic	N3YMS	32,184
Central	W9SZ	2,268
Dakota	WØUC	380
Delta	No Entrant	
Great Lakes	N8XA	6,864
Hudson	WB2AMU	1,518
Midwest	NØJK	80
New England	K1EXE	60
Northwestern	No Entrant	
Pacific	K9TMS	1,420
Roanoke	KC8KSK	138
Rocky Mountain	KØNR	741
Southeastern	K2ULR	1
Southwestern	K9PY	50
West Gulf	No Entrant	
Canada	VA3RKM	56

Unlimited Rover

Pacific	W6TE/R	212,812
Rocky Mountain	KRØVER/R	24,327

Single Operator Categories

Roger, W3SZ of Reading, PA took the top position in the Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP) category with a score of 144,979 points, more than two and a half times the fourth-place score he produced in 2009. This score was down slightly from last year's SOLP leader, Bob, K2DRH of Albany, IL who finished in second place with a 139,671-point score. The number three spot was captured by Phil, WA3NUF of Warminster, PA with 138,810 points, followed by Fred, N1DPM and Dale, AF1T in the number four and five spots. The top six through ten spots in SOLP were filled in order by W3RJW, W3PAW, WB2SIH, K2SMN and K1KG. Like most of last year's scores, this year's totals are down primarily because of low levels of sporadic E propagation. Scores tend to be lower in VHF+ competitions when there are few, if any, mechanisms to propagate VHF+ transmissions beyond normal ground wave and tropo scatter range.

The Single Operator, High Power (SOHP) category leader was last year's winner, Jeff, K1TEO of Trumbull, CT with a total of 415,492 points, slightly less than his 432k point 2009 effort. Jeff has been a consistent winner in the VHF+ arena, the result of an outstanding location coupled with well-organized and implemented electronics and tower/antenna/transmission line systems. The second-place position goes to Dave, K1RZ of Damascus, MD, up one notch from the third spot last year with a 222,772 point score. Phil, K3TUF, Ephrata, PA takes the number three position, down one place from last year at 194k points. Charles, KØVXM on Merritt Island, FL claims the fourth spot with 171k points, followed by WJ9B, K3DNE, WA2FGK, K1JT and W2SJ rounding out the top ten all with very close scores.

QRP Portable (QRP)

Nick, N3YMS of Felton, DE took the top position in the QRP Portable category again this year with 32,184 points following his first-place victory in 2009 with a 21,161 point finish. Nick improved his score by more than 12,000 points compared with his results last year. He clearly knows where the best operating sites are located for optimum low power performance. Second place in QRP goes to Phil, N8XA, Dayton, OH with 6,864 points, followed by Zach, W9SZ with 2,268, Ken, WB2AMU at 1,518, and Tom, K9TMS at 1,420 points rounding out the top five. The final top ten QRP entries include KØNR, WØUC, NØHJZ, KC8KSK and NØJK in order.

Limited Multioperator (LM)

The Limited Multioperator category permits entrants to operate on a maximum of four bands of their choice. There were a total of 33 LM entries covering the four bottom VHF bands (50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz), representing three fewer entries than last year and nine fewer than in 2008. This trend appears to be moving in the wrong direction!

The leader in the LM category by a wide margin is W3SO, the Wopsononock Mountaintop Operators (club station) of Altoona, PA with a score of 174,564 points produced by 36 club members. This substantial effort surpassed the excellent 2009 score by the K1JT team (102,582 points). Second place goes to Ken, KA2LIM in Dayville, CT with 90,297 points, followed in third position by Kim, KB1DFB also of Dayville. Keith, W9RM of Hampshire, IL took the number four position followed by W3HZU, the Keystone VHF Club station in fifth place. The remaining top six through ten LM finalists are W1QK, WO9S, W4NH, N8ZM and K2QO in order.

Regional Leaders by Category

Boxes list call sign, score, and category (SL - Single Op, Low Power; SH - Single Op, High Power; QP - QRP Portable, LM - Limited MO; MO - Multioperator; R - Rover; RL - Limited Rover; RU - Unlimited Rover)

Northeast Region				Southeast Region				Central Region				Midwest Region				West Coast Region
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections				Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions				Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section				Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections				Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections
W3SZ	144,979	SL	N4QWZ	40,748	SL	K2DRH	139,671	SL	NØLL	8,631	SL	N6RMJ	19,404	A		
WA3NUF	138,810	SL	W2BZY	16,591	SL	K9MU	29,280	SL	KØSIX	8,507	SL	K1YQP	9,415	A		
N1DPM	93,102	SL	K4FJW	9,114	SL	KC9BQA	26,640	SL	NØYE	6,144	SL	KD7UO	5,070	A		
AF1T	84,084	SL	K4ZOO	8,326	SL	WA9FIH	19,965	SL	W6ZI	3,612	SL	K6XN	4,920	A		
W3RJW	83,722	SL	WA4QYK	7,315	SL	VE3SMA	18,104	SL	WØETT	2,596	SL	W6OMF	3,906	A		
K1TEO	415,492	SH	KØVXM	171,000	SH	K8MD	46,816	SH	WØGHZ	26,962	SH	W7CE	36,182	B		
K1RZ	222,772	SH	WJ9B	141,120	SH	K9EA	32,571	SH	K5LLL	26,208	SH	N7EPD	17,848	B		
K3TUF	194,183	SH	W4ZRZ	58,630	SH	VE3ZV	27,534	SH	W5LUA	17,875	SH	K7CW	9,476	B		
WB2RVX	149,578	SH	K4QI	58,590	SH	K8CC	17,009	SH	WØZQ	9,512	SH	W7GLF	7,392	B		
K3DNE	138,567	SH	KE2N	57,072	SH	K2YAZ	16,133	SH	KØAWU	5,720	SH	KE7SW	6,534	B		
N3YMS	32,184	QP	KC8KSK	138	QP	N8XA	6,864	QP	KØNR	741	QP	K9TMS	1,420	Q		
WB2AMU	1,518	QP	K7RLL	15	QP	W9SZ	2,268	QP	WØUC	380	QP	K9PY	50	Q		
K1EXE	60	QP	K2ULR	1	QP	VA3RKM	56	QP	NØHJZ	192	QP	W6MDH	12	Q		
KB2AYU	45	QP						NØJK	80	QP	W6CT	4	Q			
WA1LEI	39	QP						KD7WPJ	48	QP						
W3SO	174,564	LM	W4NH	22,542	LM	W9RM	60,759	LM	WØVB	5,842	LM	KB5WIA	360	L		
KA2LIM	90,297	LM	K1KC	2,639	LM	WO9S	25,258	LM	NR5M	2,400	LM	W7PBJ	261	L		
KB1DFB	66,960	LM	W4OAR	2,158	LM	N8ZM	19,783	LM	WD5IYF	2,065	LM	AI6O	154	L		
W3HZU	44,560	LM	N4ARR	1,224	LM	N9TF	10,122	LM	NØLD	1,508	LM	W6RKC	20	L		
W1QK	33,733	LM	WB8COX	720	LM	W9RVG	7,434	LM				K7MKL	14	L		
N3NGE	717,676	MO	WY3P	13,920	MO	W8RU	12,648	MO	K5QE	156,060	MO	W6TV	30,366	M		
K3EOD	104,339	MO	N4JQQ	5,217	MO	KO9A	9,761	MO	WØEEA	51,113	MO	W6YX	10,857	M		
WB3IGR	24,640	MO				N2BJ	2,050	MO	KBØHH	29,808	MO	VE6AO	476	M		
N2GCZ	22,984	MO						KC5MVZ	98	MO						
N1JEZ	20,016	MO						KØKU	48	MO						
K1DS/R	152,334	R	N2CEI/R	101,244	R	VE3OIL/R	37,962	R	AE5BN/R	57,672	R	N6NB/R	591,300	R		
NN3Q/R	44,982	R	K4SME/R	45,840	R	W9FZ/R	19,890	R	AE5P/R	52,712	R	N6TEB/R	557,925	R		
KJ1K/R	21,318	R	K4GUN/R	26,634	R	NE8I/R	4,482	R	K5GJ/R	22,981	R	W6XD/R	556,660	R		
K3IUV/R	9,637	R	WA2IID/R	15,155	R	K9TMS/R	2,664	R	NØLP/R	15,463	R	W6TAI/R	553,926	R		
KB3GJT/R	6,006	R	AG4V/R	6,201	R	N9YH/R	1,708	R	WK5F/R	13,908	R	K9JK/R	539,160	R		
KC2QZF/R	28,842	RL	K4GUN/R	26,634	RL	WB8BZK/R	12,410	RL	WRØI	1,911	RL	NL7HJ/R	1,764	RL		
KB2BSL/R	1,725	RL	W5JMC/R	5,688	RL	KC9MK/R	1,545	RL	KD5IKG/R	481	RL	VA7AJK/R	1,577	RL		
N1XKT/R	1,050	RL	K2STO/R	1,794	RL	VE3RKS/R	1,139	RL	K6LMN/R	91	RL	N6ZE/R	1,332	RL		
N1FJ/R	646	RL	WA4JA/R	1,500	RL	N9IFG/R	1,014	RL								
			N4TZH/R	350	RL	KC9NJZ/R	1,014	RL								
								KRØVER/R	24,327	RU	W6TE/R	212,812	RU			

Multioperator (MO)

The Multioperator category is a truly unlimited event – no holds barred!! A participant in this category may operate on any number of bands simultaneously for the full 48-hour contest period. There are a total of 37 entries in this category for the 2010 event, down from 53 entries in last year's competition, but significantly higher than the 27 entries in 2008. The top-scoring MO entry is N3NGE of Morgantown, PA with a score total of 717,676 points, up significantly from their 568k score in 2009. The second position is awarded to the team at the station of Marshall, K5QE in Hemphill, Texas with 156,060 points, down significantly from their 2009 showing. Position three goes to Allen, K3EOD of Vineland, NJ scoring 104,339 points, followed by Jim, WØEAA of Ramah, CO and W6TV, the Trowel Radio Club station in Fresno, CA. The final six through ten top MO finalists include KBØHH, WB3IGR, N2GCZ, N1JEZ and KE1LI in order.

Rover Categories

There are three distinct categories for rover stations, each of which had participation: Rover (R), Limited Rover (RL), and Unlimited Rover (RU). In the Rover (R) category operation on all bands is permitted but there can be no more than two operators. This category can produce some very large scores using a technique known as 'grid circling' that has been perfected by several well-known West Coast contesters. The scores produced by the top six R class entries are substantially higher than these same operators produced last year, and the 2009 scores were higher than those of 2008. There must be a limit as to how high these scores can reach, although it is likely that creative West Coast rover enthusiasts will find a way to reach even higher achievement levels! All but one of the top ten Rovers were located in California.

The leading score for the 2010 competition was produced by Wayne, N6NB/R of Tustin, CA with a score of 591,300 points, which exceeded his winning score in 2009 by more than 195,000 points! Second place was taken by Dave, N6TEB/R of Downey, CA with 557,925 points. Third place goes to Art, W6XD/R of Costa Mesa, CA with 556,660 points, followed closely by Carrie, W6TAI/R of Yucca Valley, CA with 553,926 points and John, K9JK/R of Palatine, IL at 539,160 points. K9JK/R is the only non-California entry in the top ten Rover listing. The bottom five of the top ten competitors in the Rover category are AF6O/R, KK6KK/R, N6VI/R, KJ6CNO/R, and WB2WIK/R in order.

The Limited Rover (RL) category requires that participants use their choice of only four bands. Most RL activity will be found on the bottom four VHF+ bands (50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz). The top position goes to Steve, KC2QZF/R of Clarence Center, NY with 28,842 points which is a significant improvement over his 2009 fifth-place, 7805-point score. Second place was taken by Steve, K4GUN/R of Spotsylvania, VA with 26,634 points, followed in third place by Mike, WB8BZK/R of Algonquin, IL with 12,410 points. W5JMC/R of Alexandria, VA claims fourth place with 5,688 points, while fifth place goes to Mel, WRØI/R of Sedgwick, KS. The sixth through tenth RL places are awarded to K2STO/R, NL7HJ/R, KB2BSL/R, VA7AJK/R and KC9MKL/R in order.

The final category is Unlimited Rover (RU), which allows more than two operators in a single vehicle. There were only two competitors this year compared with five in the 2009 event, although there was only one competitor in the 2008 competition. The top position is awarded to David, W6TE/R of Fresno, CA with 212,812 points, followed by Eric, KRØVER/R of Littleton, Colorado with 24,327 points.

Club Competition

VHF clubs are a great source of knowledge, inspiration and camaraderie in and out of contests. If you're a VHF+ weak-signal operator and not a member of a club, join one today - you won't be disappointed! 2010 saw activity from 41 clubs that submitted the minimum-required three logs to be eligible for the Club competition.

In the Unlimited Club category, the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club (a.k.a. the Packrats) submitted a whopping 70 logs worth a combined 2.6 million points to be the only club that qualified for the Unlimited Category. This year's effort was dedicated to long-time club member W3KKN who became a Silent Key in 2009. The Packrats continue to set a very high mark of both technical ability and in "rallying the troops."

In the Medium Club category 26 clubs met the criteria. The winner was the Southern California Contest Club with 12 logs and 5.06 million points. SCCC's pack rovers accounted for all but 261 points of their score. The North East Weak Signal Group took second place with 35 logs and 993,000 points and only one Rover in the bunch. Third place went to the Potomac Valley Radio Club with 22 logs and just under 840,000 points.

The Local Club category saw 14 clubs submit scores. This year, the gavel goes to Eastern Connecticut ARA, pulling off a repeat of their 2009 Local Club victory, submitting 5 logs for 87,423 points. Second place is awarded to the Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters, up from third place in 2009. From the Midwest, the Fort Wayne Radio Club took third. Congratulations to all clubs for submitting scores and enjoying the event.

Next Year

Will 2011 bring more activity? Could we get some aurora, winter tropo or other enhancement? Let's find out together! The 2011 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes will be held January 22-24, so mark your calendar now!

Affiliated Club Competition		
	Score	Entries
Unlimited Club		
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	2,601,284	70
Medium Club		
Southern California Contest Club	5,067,159	12
North East Weak Signal Group	993,483	35
Potomac Valley Radio Club	839,891	22
Florida Weak Signal Society	516,890	16
Nacogdoches ARC	280,352	4
Society of Midwest Contesters	214,793	17
Murgas ARC	156,660	5
Rochester VHF Group	141,578	15
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	130,455	9
Badger Contesters	119,287	20
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	118,375	19
Contest Club Ontario	112,208	13
Northern Lights Radio Society	64,647	16
Roadrunners Microwave Group	50,649	4
Mad River Radio Club	48,493	5
Tennessee Contest Group	42,856	6
Six Meter Club of Chicago	32,458	10
Frankford Radio Club	29,921	5
North Texas Microwave Society	20,758	5
Northern California Contest Club	18,767	15
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	10,248	11
CTRI Contest Group	9,317	5
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	5,562	12
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	3,412	3
Carolina DX Assn	2,774	4
Contest Group Du Quebec	2,441	4
Local Club		
Eastern Connecticut ARA	87,423	5
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	40,683	3
Fort Wayne Radio Club	33,818	3
Granite State ARA	23,125	7
Bristol (TN) ARC	17,034	3
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	11,252	7
Metro DX Club	8,009	3
Burlington County Radio Club	7,655	5
Bergen ARA	5,096	4
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	5,029	9
Warminster ARC	2,711	5
Mobile Sixers Radio Club	2,568	7
Spokane DX Association	2,264	3
Hampden County Radio Assn	1,818	3