

# 2015 ARRL September VHF Contest Results

**Maps, openings, and mobile stations made a potent mix.**

**Jeff Klein, K1TE0, wa2teo@aol.com**

After the September VHF contest (September 12 – 14), many participants noted that they had a good time getting on the air, making QSOs, trying new bands, and meeting old friends again. Ken, W2UAD, probably reflected the overall sentiment best when he said that he still enjoys contesting even if conditions aren't the best.

The 2015 June and September VHF Contests marked the first year under the new rules allowing use of spotting capabilities by

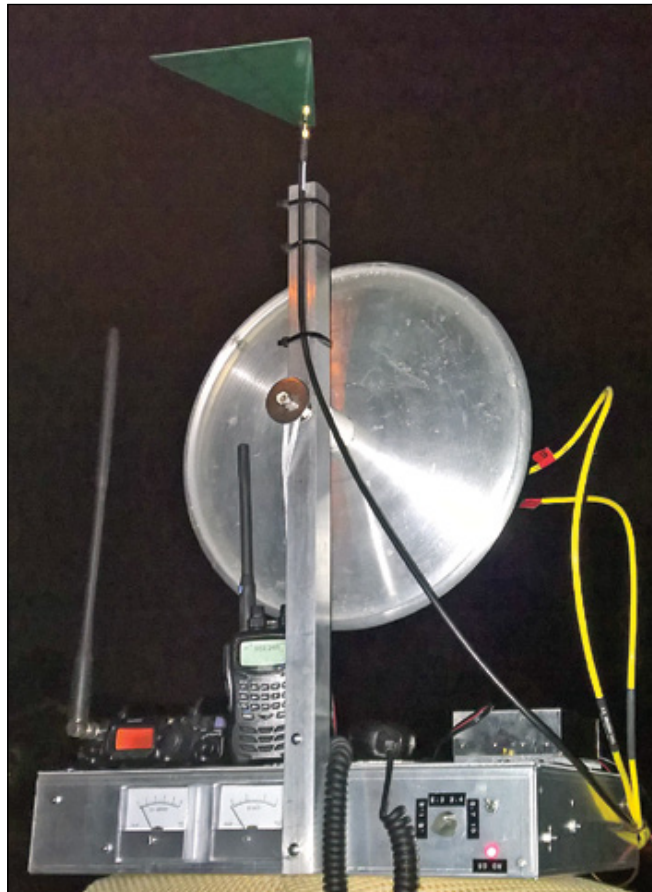
## Full Results Online

Be sure to browse to the ARRL's Contest Results web page at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) for the complete writeup, including more analysis, tables, and graphics!

all categories. The post-contest comments indicate there is still a learning curve under way in how to best utilize the available methods. Interest in using the new capabilities varied widely, as some specifically noted they chose not to use Internet access at all, while others tried to use it as much as possible. Still others — particularly some who entered as Single Operator Portable — lamented not having the same access as others, in some cases vowing to work harder



The microwave antennas you can see being installed on Dale's, AF1T, 100-foot tower enabled the team to make a lot of high-QSO-point contacts! [Ken Wilkens, K1MID, photo]



One of the 10-band N6NB rover stations. The W6 stations that finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Rover category used these setups during the contest.

## Top Ten

### Single Operator, Low Power

K1TR	133,722
K2DRH	125,832
AF1T	82,836
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	67,303
K1KG	65,405
WB2JAY	50,868
WA2VNV	37,730
N4QWZ	29,970
WA3EOQ	25,704
KX4R	21,978

### Single Operator, High Power

K1TEO	237,160
K1RZ	169,830
K3TUF	163,440
W0UC	71,208
K1GX	58,072
W3IP	49,839
WZ1V	46,759
VE3ZV	43,896
W0GHZ	43,316
W1AN	41,184

### Single Operator, Portable

W7LUD	19,170
KJ4ZYB	2,233
WB2AMU	2,025
KJ0NS	1,474
WD5AGO	720
N4RNR	512
KQ2RP	108
W3MEO	55
W2ODH	49
KC2JRQ	42
KK6PTS	42

### Single Operator, Three Band

KO9A	9,790
N1ZN	5,310
K6ERF	2,886
WB2EOD	2,604
W2BZY	2,349
WB4OMM	2,288
KC2THQ	2,175
KM4ID	2,175
N1JD	2,064
K3UHU	2,013

### Single Operator, FM only

W2EV	2,835
N9VM (N1VM, op)	306
KF2MR	189
KG5IPP	174
NA6AA	105
K9JK	72
W2DPT	40
K0BBC	16
KG5FHU	6

### Limited Multioperator

K8GP	190,486
W3SO	136,113
W2LV	87,125
K8EP	83,592
AA4ZZ	81,548
N2NT	53,560
K5QE	48,320
W4NH	42,265
W1QK	20,800
K7CW	8,722

### Multioperator

W2SZ	449,555
K2LIM	138,840
W2EA	126,312
WE1P	68,628
W6TV	65,272
KV1J	37,914
W1XM	37,410
K1MUJ	28,044
K2AMI	10,945
NY2NY	10,370

### Rover

N6NB/R	193,776
VE3OIL/R	62,220
W6TE/R	60,264
K6MI/R	56,166
N6MTS/R	54,450
WA3PTV/R	38,178
W6IT/R	34,980
W6TAR/R	34,920
VE3WJ/R	25,560
KF2MR/R	22,701

### Limited Rover

NF2RS/R	61,586
WW7D/R	35,574
VE3SMA/R	34,048
K2EZ/R	26,320
AE5P/R	20,200
WA5GVQ/R	19,800
WD5RAH/R	18,088
W5TV/R	8,650
K9JK/R	6,913
WB8BZK/R	3,256

### Unlimited Rover

K0DAS/R	32,016
W3HMS/R	13,394
KJ1K/R	6,960
VE7AFZ/R	3,267

next year to figure out a way of gaining the capability.

From my personal use of the ON4KST chat page ([www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php](http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php)) during the contest, as well as my use of Ping Jockey ([www.pingjockey.net](http://www.pingjockey.net)) in the hope of trying JT65 or FSK441 skeds, it seemed that there was more usage in September than during the June contest. I would expect that trend to increase over time as participants find it adds to the fun *and* the score.

For example, Bob, K2DRH, noted that, "It was great to set up digital meteor scatter skeds during the contest" using both sites. He also employed the mobile phone numbers of rovers to enhance the chance of finding them in the various grids. Likewise, Phil, K3TUF, enjoyed utilizing the chat pages to make more contacts during slow periods. Both Bob and Phil observed that it was nice not to have to rely on schedules set up before the contest to try some of the longer paths, rover QSOs, and meteor scatter attempts.

The new rules will apply to all three 2016 ARRL VHF contests. It will be interesting to see how the live interaction, online and through phone calls, affects operating approaches, as well as the ultimate effect on scores, participation, and overall fun. All of us will eventually figure out the best ways to make contacts with the spotting, chat, and other communication methods now allowed.

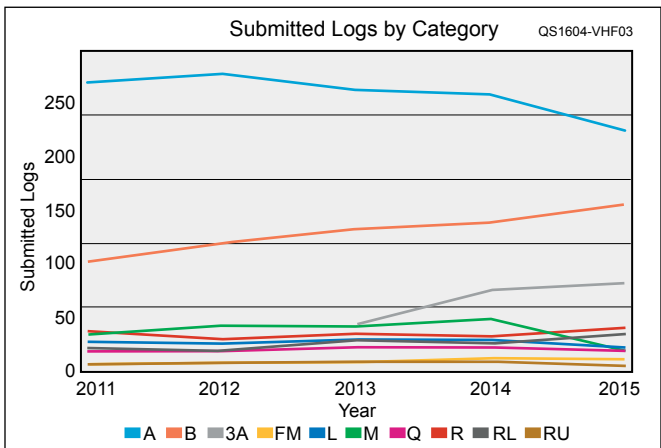
Overall activity was a bit lower this year after several years of steady increases. Log submissions totaled 516, down from 545 last year, but still the second highest in the last 5 years.

## Club Competition

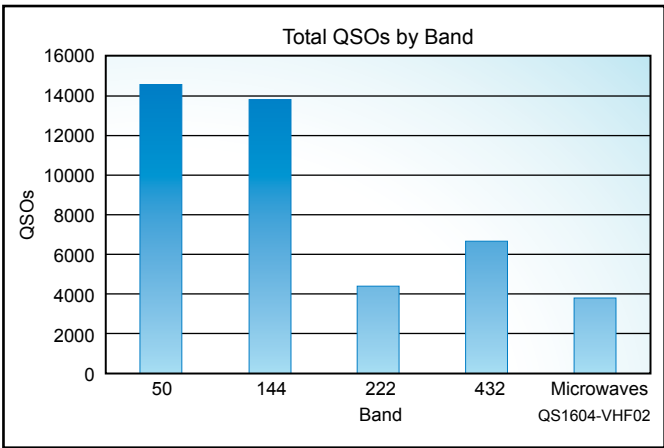
Logs	Club Name	Score
<b>Medium Category</b>		
23	Potomac Valley Radio Club	557,442
15	North East Weak Signal Group	548,541
7	Southern California Contest Club	434,689
12	Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	355,608
11	Contest Club Ontario	216,115
19	Northern Lights Radio Society	203,236
30	Pacific Northwest VHF Society	154,426
11	Society of Midwest Contesters	145,844
8	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	138,395
3	Carolina DX Association	89,611
4	Nacogdoches ARC	66,738
6	Frankford Radio Club	61,935
5	CTRI Contest Group	45,445
8	Rochester VHF Group	28,855
4	Northern California Contest Club	7,410
5	Florida Contest Group	7,694
4	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	5,572
3	South Jersey Radio Assn	4,939
6	Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	281
<b>Local Category</b>		
5	Michigan VHF-UHF Society	29,834
3	Lodi ARC	17,198
3	Bergen ARA	12,023
4	Granite State ARA	10,232
8	Bristol (TN) ARC	9,961
3	DFW Contest Group	7,893
5	West Valley ARA	6,886
3	Florida Weak Signal Society	3,905
3	Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	1,130

The category chart shows a shift in submitted logs from the bread and butter Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP) category to the Single Operator, High Power (SOHP) category. The 3-year-old Single Operator, Three Band category continues to grow, while in the Multioperator category there was a sizable decrease in participation.

A little over 40% of submitted logs contributed to the Affiliated Club competition. In the Medium category, the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) stayed on top in a very close competition with the Northeast Weak Signal Group (NEWS).



The total QSOs made on each band (50, 144, 222, 432 MHz) or the group of microwave bands at 902 MHz and above.



50 and 144 MHz were the bands with the widest coverage during the contest, but it is surprising how much propagation is available on 222 MHz and higher when stations are active!

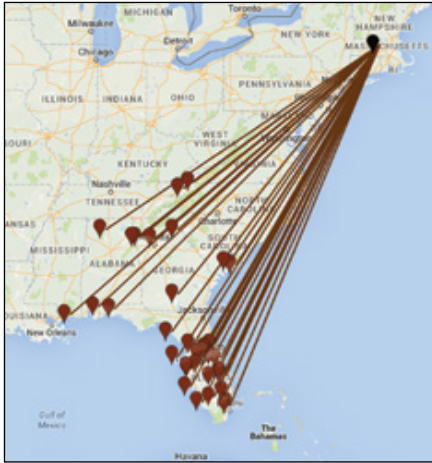
## Regional Leaders

Boxes list call sign, score, and category. (A/B/Q — Single Op, LP/HP/Portable; 3B/FM — Single Op, Three-Band/FM-Only; L — Limited Multioperator, M — Multioperator, R — Rover, RL — Limited Rover, RU — Unlimited Rover)

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 East, Ontario North, Ontario South, and Greater Toronto)			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)		
K1TR	133,722	A	N4QWZ	29,970	A	K2DRH	125,832	A	KK0Q	4,020	A	VE7JH	15,066	A
AF1T	82,836	A	KX4R	21,978	A	VE3DS	18,732	A	WB0HHM	2,403	A	KE0CO	12,056	A
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	67,303	A	K4FJW	6,885	A	W9GA	11,270	A	N0LL	1,980	A	K2GMY	9,072	A
K1TEO	237,160	B	W3IP	49,839	B	W0UC	71,208	B	W0GHZ	43,316	B	WA6OSX	16,701	B
K1RZ	169,830	B	N4HB	18,592	B	VE3ZV	43,896	B	K0SIX	10,000	B	W7FI	10,992	B
K3TUF	163,440	B	N3MK	15,300	B	K8TQK	40,365	B	K0AWU	8,855	B	KC6ZWT	10,620	B
WB2AMU	2,025	Q	KJ4ZYB	2,233	Q	KO9A	9,790	3B	WD5AGO	720	Q	W7LUD	19,170	Q
KQ2RP	108	Q	N4RNR	512	Q	WB9TFH	1,152	3B	K0NRJ	21	Q	KJ0NS	1,474	Q
W2ODH	49	Q	W3MEO	55	Q	KG9Z	675	3B	N0JK	16	Q	KK6PTS	42	Q
N1ZN	5,310	3B	W2BZY	2,349	3B	K9JK	72	FM	K5ND	954	3B	K6ERF	2,886	3B
WB2EOD	2,604	3B	N4JOMM	2,288	3B	N2BJ	5,670	M	K0JQA	672	3B	K5TRI	1,344	3B
KC2THQ	2,175	3B	KM4ID	2,175	3B	VA3NW	702	M	WD0BGZ	380	3B	K6KHB	1,120	3B
W2EV	2,835	FM	K8GP	190,486	L	VE3OIL/R	62,220	R	KG5IPP	174	FM	N9VM (N1VM, op)		
KF2MR	189	FM	K8EP	83,592	L	VE3WJ/R	25,560	R	K0BBC	16	FM	NA6AA	105	FM
W2DPT	40	FM	AA4ZZ	81,548	L	KF8QL/R	10,320	R	KG5FHU	6	FM	K7CW	8,722	L
W3SO	136,113	L	N4JQQ	2,520	M	VE3SMA/R	34,048	RU	K5QE	48,320	L	W6ZZZ	6,090	L
W2LV	87,125	L	AG4V/R	13,104	R	K9JK/R	6,913	RU	A10BP	867	L	W6TV	65,272	M
N2NT	53,560	L	N4TWX/R	3,360	R	WB8BZK/R	3,256	RU	WC0AAA	300	L	N6NB/R	193,776	R
W2SZ	449,555	M	W4WNT/R	77	R				KC5MVZ	1,206	M	N9VM (N1VM, op)	306	FM
K2LIM	138,840	M	K4EDI/R	464	RU				W7QQ/R	17,719	R	N6NB/R	193,776	R
W2EA	126,312	M	K6PFA/R	12	RU				KA9VVQ/R	17,664	R	W6TE/R	60,264	R
WA3PTV/R	38,178	R							W9FZ/R	17,616	R	K6MI/R	56,166	R
KF2MR/R	22,701	R							AE5P/R	20,200	RL	WW7D/R	35,574	RL
WB2SIH/R	5,418	R							WA5GVQ/R	19,800	RL	KA4VBF/R	640	RL
NF2RS/R	61,586	RL							WD5RAH/R	18,088	RL	W6PI/R	120	RL
K2EZ/R	26,320	RL							K0DAS/R	32,016	RU	VE7AFZ/R	3,267	RU
W1PL/R	1,400	RL												
W3HMS/R	13,394	RU												
KJ1K/R	6,960	RU												

## Division Winners

Category	Call Sign	Score	Category	Call Sign	Score	Category	Call Sign	Score
<b>Atlantic</b>			<b>Great Lakes</b>			<b>Pacific</b>		
Single Operator, Low Power	WA3EOQ	25,704	Single Operator, Low Power	WZ8T	9,882	Single Operator, Low Power	K2GMY	9,072
Single Operator, High Power	K1RZ	169,830	Single Operator, High Power	K8TQK	40,365	Single Operator, High Power	WAGOSX	16,701
Single Operator, Portable	W2ODH	49	Single Operator, 3 Band	KG9Z	675	Single Operator, Portable	KJ0NS	1,474
Single Operator, 3 Band	WB2EOD	2,604	Rover	KF8QL/R	10,320	Single Operator, 3 Band	K6ERF	2,886
Single Operator, FM only	W2EV	2,835	Limited Rover	K8DOG/R	2,331	Single Operator, FM only	N9VM (N1VM, op)	306
Limited Multioperator	W3SO	136,113				Limited Multioperator	W6ZZZ	6,090
Multioperator	K2LIM	138,840				Multioperator	W6TV	65,272
Rover	WA3PTV/R	38,178				Rover	N6NB/R	193,776
Limited Rover	NF2RS/R	61,586				Limited Rover	KA4VBF/R	640
Unlimited Rover	W3HMS/R	13,394						
<b>Canada</b>			<b>Hudson</b>			<b>Roanoke</b>		
Single Operator, Low Power	VE3DS	18,732	Single Operator, Low Power	WB2JAY	50,868	Single Operator, Low Power	K4FJW	6,885
Single Operator, High Power	VE3ZV	43,896	Single Operator, High Power	N2SLO	14,495	Single Operator, High Power	W3IP	49,839
Single Operator, 3 Band	VE7IHL	416	Single Operator, Portable	WB2AMU	2,025	Single Operator, Portable	KJ4ZYB	2,233
Multioperator	VA3NW	702	Single Operator, 3 Band	K2UNK	915	Single Operator, 3 Band	KM4ID	2,175
Rover	VE3OIL/R	62,220	Single Operator, FM only	W2DPT	40	Limited Multioperator	K8GP	190,486
Limited Rover	VE3SMA/R	34,048	Limited Multioperator	W2LV	87,125	Multioperator	N4TWX/R	3,360
Unlimited Rover	VE7AFZ/R	3,267	Multioperator	WE1P	68,628	Rover	K6PFA/R	12
<b>Central</b>			<b>Midwest</b>			<b>Rocky Mountain</b>		
Single Operator, Low Power	K2DRH	125,832	Single Operator, Low Power	N0LL	1,980	Single Operator, Low Power	KK0Q	4,020
Single Operator, High Power	W0UC	71,208	Single Operator, High Power	K0TPP	1,435	Single Operator, High Power	W9RM	3,774
Single Operator, 3 Band	KO9A	9,790	Single Operator, Portable	N0JK	16	Single Operator, 3 Band	K0CS	12
Single Operator, FM only	K9JK	72	Single Operator, 3 Band	K0JQA	672	Single Operator, FM only	KG5FHU	6
Multioperator	N2BJ	5,670	Limited Rover	WK7G/R	855	Rover	W7QQ/R	17,719
Limited Rover	K9JK/R	6,913	Unlimited Rover	K0DAS/R	32,016	Limited Rover	AB0YM/R	1,092
<b>Dakota</b>			<b>New England</b>			<b>Southeastern</b>		
Single Operator, Low Power	WB0HHM	2,403	Single Operator, Low Power	K1TR	133,722	Single Operator, Low Power	KX4R	21,978
Single Operator, High Power	W0GHZ	43,316	Single Operator, High Power	K1TEO	237,160	Single Operator, High Power	W4ZRZ	7,440
Single Operator, 3 Band	N0AT	243	Single Operator, Portable	N1PRW	24	Single Operator, Portable	N4RNR	512
Single Operator, FM only	K0BBC	16	Single Operator, 3 Band	N1ZN	5,310	Single Operator, 3 Band	W2BZY	2,349
Limited Multioperator	A10BP	867	Limited Multioperator	W1QK	20,800			
Rover	KA9VVQ/R	17,664	Multioperator	W2SZ	449,555			
Limited Rover	N0SPN/R	296	Limited Rover	K2EZ/R	26,320			
<b>Delta</b>			<b>Northwestern</b>			<b>Southwestern</b>		
Single Operator, Low Power	N4QWZ	29,970	Single Operator, Low Power	KE0CO	12,056	Single Operator, Low Power	K6TSK	4,332
Single Operator, High Power	W5MRB	10,710	Single Operator, High Power	W7FI	10,992	Single Operator, High Power	K7HP	12
Limited Multioperator	NE5BO	3,458	Single Operator, Portable	W7LUD	19,170	Single Operator, Portable	KK6PTS	42
Multioperator	N4JQQ	2,520	Single Operator, 3 Band	K5TRI	1,344	Single Operator, 3 Band	WB6HYH	429
Rover	AG4V/R	13,104	Limited Multioperator	K7CW	8,722	Single Operator, FM only	NA6AA	105
Limited Rover	K4EDI/R	464	Rover	K7BWH/R	5,880	Rover	W6IT/R	34,980
			<b>West Gulf</b>			<b>West Coast</b>		
			Single Operator, Limited Rover			Single Operator, Low Power		
						Single Operator, High Power		
						Single Operator, Portable		
						Single Operator, 3 Band		
						Single Operator, FM only		
						Limited Multioperator		
						Multioperator		
						Rover		
						Limited Rover		
						Single Operator, Low Power		
						Single Operator, High Power		
						Single Operator, Portable		
						Single Operator, 3 Band		
						Single Operator, FM only		
						Limited Multioperator		
						Multioperator		
						Rover		
						Limited Rover		
						Single Operator, Low Power		
						Single Operator, High Power		
						Single Operator, Portable		
						Single Operator, 3 Band		
						Single Operator, FM only		
						Limited Multioperator		
						Multioperator		
						Rover		
						Limited Rover		



While not at the level of summer sporadic E, Ed, K1TR, found that 6 meters was open to the southwest, making these QSOs in the 4th district.

Twenty-three PVRC members submitted scores, and 15 submitted from NEWS. In the Local Category, we have a new cham-



John, K9JK, took his rover out for the contest, shown here operating from the grid corner of EN50/51/60/61. [John Kalenowsky, K9JK, photo]

pion club, as the Michigan VHF-UHF Society scored nearly 30,000 points!

It is clear that the full effects of the rule changes have yet to be felt and it will be interesting to see how operating under the new rules evolves over time. 2015 also saw

## Roving — Is It Any Surprise?

Mark, K2QO, summed up the enjoyment he derives from getting out on the road and making QSOs: “In the end, for me, there is nothing more fun in radiosport than roving in a VHF contest. While the effort required for a top finish is substantial, it is offset by gourmet meals, great accommodations, and sometimes magical moments of enhanced propagation. Is it any surprise that we keep coming back for more?” So put your all-band rig in the car, pack a pole and a few antennas, and give roving a try!

relatively poor contest conditions, so here’s to hoping that on September 10 – 12, there will be some improved band conditions and lots of activity on the VHF+ bands!



## Radiosport

# The April 2016 ARRL Rookie Roundup — Phone

**1800 UTC – 2359 UTC, Sunday, April 17**

- Rookies who have been licensed for less than 3 years will attempt to make as many contacts as possible during this 6-hour event. Rookies work everyone and non-Rookies work only Rookies. If you were first licensed in 2016, 2015, or 2014, you can enter as a Rookie.
- Rookies can enter as a Single Operator or invite Rookie friends over and operate as Multioperator. Up to five Single Operator Rookies can also enter from their individual stations and submit their total score as a team!
- The exchange is your name, the last two numbers of the year you were licensed, and your state, province, or “DX” if you’re outside of the US and Canada.
- This is a great way for clubs to get their newer members on the air, and the perfect opportunity to be an Elmer to new licensees.
- Non-Rookies, join the fun by calling “CW Rookies,” to encourage the Rookie operators to flock to you.
- All scores must be reported within 72 hours after the event. No late entries will be accepted.



Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB, operated in the 2013 Rookie Roundup from her station in New Hampshire. Anita and her husband Fred, AB1OC, blog about their ham radio activities at [stationproject.wordpress.com](http://stationproject.wordpress.com). [Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, photo]

**Complete rules, logging sheets, and links for submitting your score can be found at [www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup)**