

2010 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Results

Cold winter weather throughout most of North America coupled with the usual winter TV sporting event distractions. Yet activity improved from recent years — *a good sign.*

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There is good news to report for the 2010 January VHF Sweepstakes competition, held January 23-25 — 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. The second highest number of logs submitted in the past six years indicates improving interest in the January VHF SS competition.

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, Midlothian, IL hiked to the top of Wasson Peak at 4687 feet ASL near Tucson, Arizona carrying an 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!

Propagation

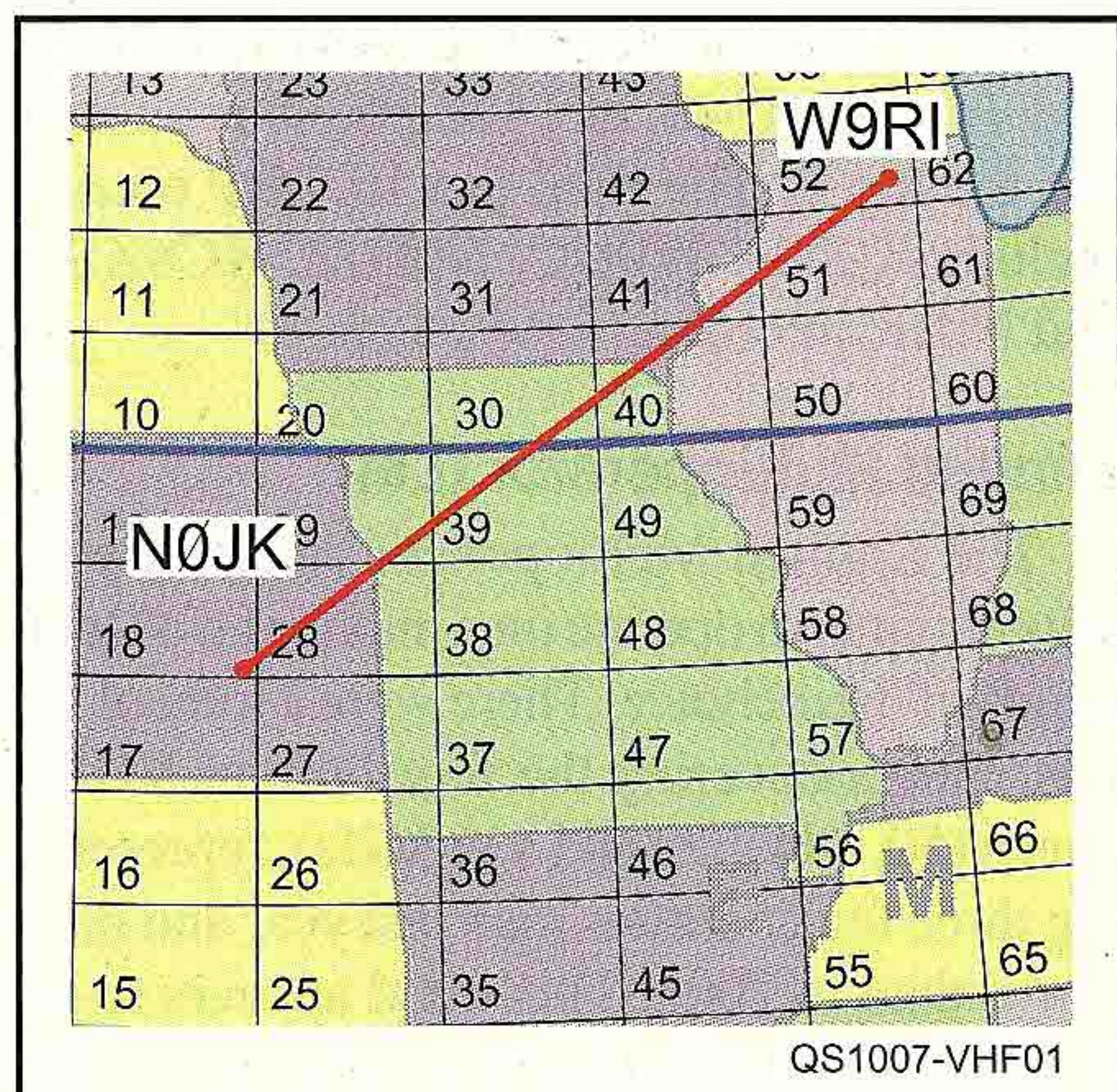
Jon, N0JK, of Wichita, KS mentioned that there was no tropo at all on the 144 MHz band and no sporadic E skip on 50 MHz. He set up his portable station early Sunday morning at the “Cattle Pens” in the heart of the Flint Hills. Jon noted that his best DX with 10 W transmitter output on 144 MHz was about 250 miles. 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. Bob, K2DRH, Albany, IL noted that “conditions were flat, flat, flat with no

enhanced propagation to speak of” and “nothing like the unusual tropo inversion to the east that we’d had just a weekend before.”

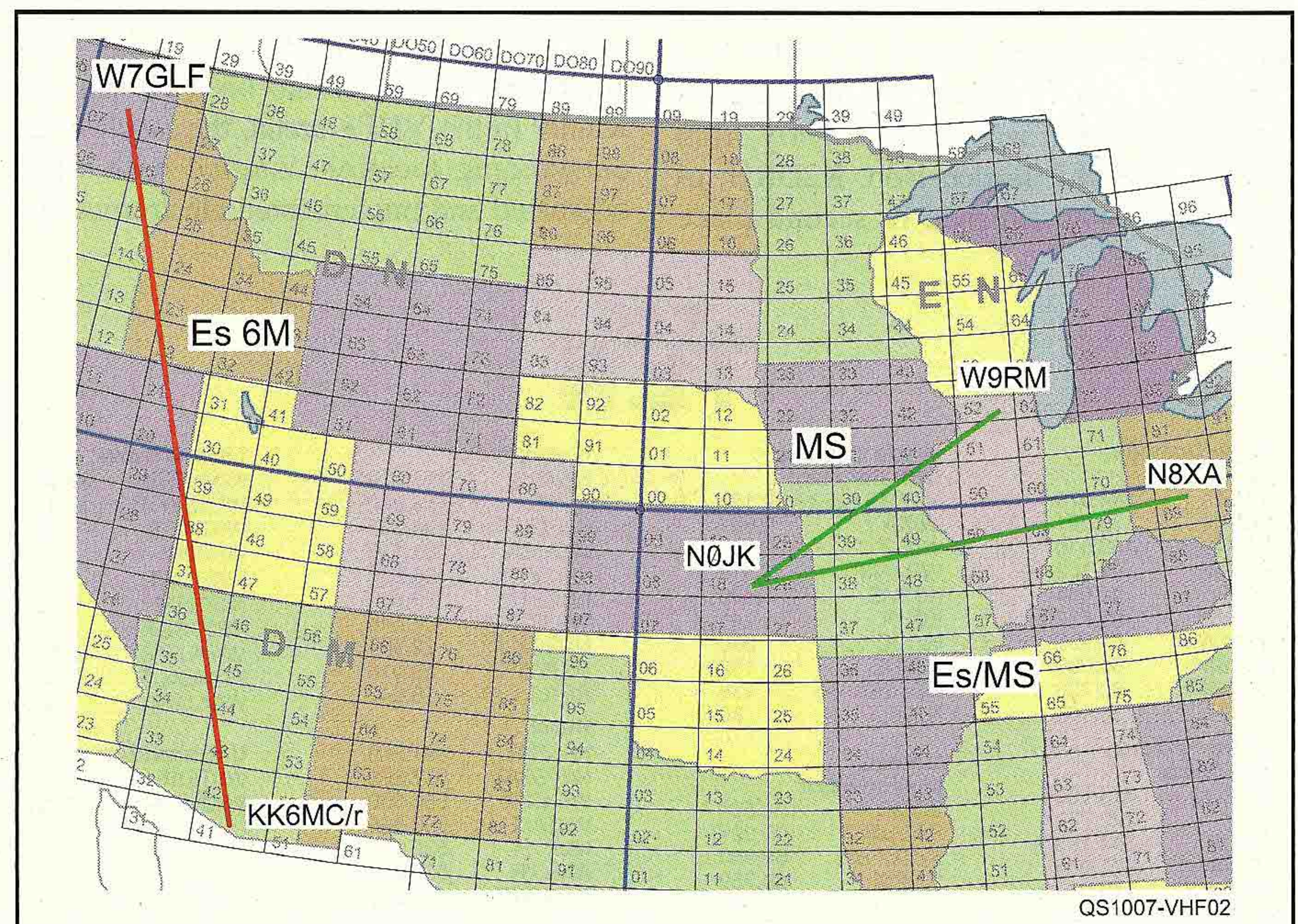
The few reported sporadic E and enhanced tropo contacts reported were few and far between. This was a typical winter event with tropo scatter as the primary propagation mechanism, generally reaching maximum QSO distances out to about the 300- to 400-mile range.

The National Scene

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, I have found



This map shows the path of the meteor scatter SSB QSO between W9RM in EN52 and N0JK in EM18.



With the exception of a short sporadic-E opening from Arizona to Washington state on Saturday and some meteor scatter between Illinois and Ohio and Kansas Sunday morning, conditions this year were pretty flat.

Division Winners by Category

Single Operator, Low Power

Division	Call	Score
Atlantic	W3SZ	144,979
Central	K2DRH	139,671
Dakota	K0SIX	8,507
Delta	N4QWZ	40,748
Great Lakes	K8MR	17,000
Hudson	WB2SIH	64,800
Midwest	N0LL	8,631
New England	N1DPM	93,102
Northwestern	KD7UO	5,070
Pacific	K1YQP	9,415
Roanoke	K4FJW	9,114
Rocky Mountain	N0YE	6,144
Southeastern	W2BZY	16,591
Southwestern	N6RMJ	19,404
West Gulf	W6ZI	3,612
Canada	VE3SMA	18,104

Single Operator, High Power

Division	Call	Score
Atlantic	K1RZ	222,772
Central	K9EA	32,571
Dakota	W0GHZ	26,962
Delta	K5WBX	1,537
Great Lakes	K8MD	46,816
Hudson	W2KV	9,477
Midwest	WQ0P	2,774
New England	K1TEO	415,492
Northwestern	W7CE	36,182
Pacific	K4QI	58,590
Rocky Mountain	WA7KYM	440
Southeastern	K0VXM	171,000
Southwestern	KC6SEH	5,828
West Gulf	K5LLL	26,208
Canada	VE3ZV	27,534

Single Operator Portable (QRP)

Division	Call	Score
Atlantic	N3YMS	32,184
Central	W9SZ	2,268
Dakota	W0UC	380
Delta	No Entrant	
Great Lakes	N8XA	6,864
Hudson	WB2AMU	1,518
Midwest	N0JK	80
New England	K1EXE	60
Northwestern	No Entrant	
Pacific	K9TMS	1,420
Roanoke	KC8KSK	138
Rocky Mountain	K0NR	741
Southeastern	K2ULR	1
Southwestern	K9PY	50
West Gulf	No Entrant	
Canada	VA3RKM	56

Limited Multioperator

Division	Call	Score
Atlantic	W3SO	174,564
Central	W9RM	60,759
Dakota	W0VB	5,842
Delta	W4OAR	2,158
Great Lakes	N8ZM	19,783
Hudson	K2OAK	10,197
Midwest	N0LD	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	

Multioperator

Division	Call	Score
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	K0KU	48
New England	N1JEZ	20,016
Northwestern	No Entrant	
Pacific	W6TV	30,366
Roanoke	WY3P	13,920
Rocky Mountain	W0EEA	51,113
Southeastern	No Entrant	
Southwestern	No Entrant	
West Gulf	K5QE	156,060
Canada	VE6AO	476

Rover

Division	Call	Score
Atlantic	K1DS/R	152,334
Central	W9FZ/R	
	(+KC9RDC)	19,890
Dakota	W0ZQ/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	K4GUN/R	26,634
Rocky Mountain	N0LP/R	15,463
Southeastern	N2CEI/R	101,244
Southwestern	N6NB/R	591,300
West Gulf	AE5BN/R	57,672
Canada	VE3OIL/R	37,962

Limited Rover

Division	Call	Score
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	WR0I/R	1,911
New England	N1FJ/R	646
Northwestern	NL7HJ/R	1,764
Pacific	No Entrant	
Roanoke	W5JMC/R	5,688
Rocky Mountain	No Entrant	
Southeastern	K2STO/R	1,794
Southwestern	N6ZE/R	1,332
West Gulf	KD5IKG/R	481
Canada	VA7AJK/R	1,577

Unlimited Rover

Division	Call	Score
Pacific	W6TE/R	212,812
Rocky Mountain	KR0VER/R	24,327

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.

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 10 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.

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, K0VXM of Merritt Island, FL claims the fourth spot with 171k points, followed by WJ9B, K3DNE, WA2FGK, K1JT and W2SJ rounding out the top 10, all with very close scores.

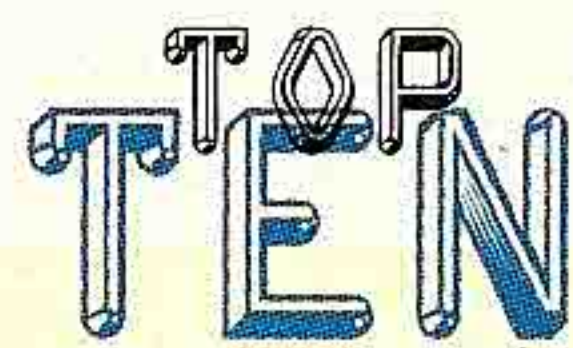
QRP Portable (QRP)

Nick, N3YMS, of Felton, DE took the top position in the QRP Portable category again this year with 32,184 points. Nick improved his score by more than 12,000 points compared with his results last year. Second place in QRP goes to Phil, N8XA, Dayton, OH with 6864 points, followed by Zach, W9SZ, with 2268, Ken, WB2AMU, at 1518, and Tom, K9TMS, at 1420 points rounding out the top 5. The final top 10 QRP entries include K0NR, W0UC, N0HJZ, KC8KSK and N0JK 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 in the wrong direction!

The leader in the LM category by a wide margin is W3SO, the Wopsonnock Mountaintop Operators of Altoona, PA with a score



Single Operator, Low Power

W3SZ	144,979
K2DRH	139,671
WA3NUF	138,810
N1DPM	93,102
AF1T	84,084
W3RJW	83,722
W3PAW	66,992
WB2SIH	64,800
K2SMN	60,750
K1KG	50,165

Single Operator, High Power

K1TEO	415,492
K1RZ	222,772
K3TUF	194,183
K0VXM	171,000
WB2RVX	149,578
WJ9B	141,120
K3DNE	138,567
WA2FGK	138,475
K1JT	128,136
W2SJ	122,490

Single Operator QRP Portable

N3YMS	32,184
N8XA	6,864
W9SZ	2,268
WB2AMU	1,518
K9TMS	1,420
K0NR	741
W0UC	380
N0HJZ	192
KC8KSK	138
N0JK	80

Limited Multioperator

W3SO	174,564
KA2LIM	90,297
KB1DFB	66,960
W9RM	60,759
W3HZU	44,560
W1QK	33,733
WO9S	25,258
W4NH	22,542
N8ZM	19,783
K2QO	12,768

Multioperator

N3NGE	717,676
K5QE	156,060
K3EOD	104,339
W0EEA	51,113
W6TV	30,366
KB0HH	29,808
WB3IGR	24,640
N2GCZ	22,984
N1JEZ	20,016
KE1LI	16,641

Rover

N6NB/R	591,300
N6TEB/R	557,925
W6XD/R	556,660
W6TAI/R	553,926
K9JK/R	539,160
AF6O/R	532,854
KK6KK/R	477,829
N6VI/R	472,125
KJ6CNO/R	467,728
WB2WIK/R	164,619

Limited Rover

KC2QZF/R	28,842
WB8BZK/R	12,410
W5JMC/R	5,688
WR0I/R	1,911
K2STO/R	1,794
NL7HJ/R	1,764
KB2BSL/R	1,725
VA7AJK/R	1,577
KC9MKL/R	1,545
WA4JA/R	1,500

Unlimited Rover

W6TE/R	212,812
KR0VER/R	24,327

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	144,979	A	N4QWZ	40,748	A	K2DRH	139,671	A	NØLL	8,631	A	N6RMJ	19,404	A
WA3NUF	138,810	A	W2BZY	16,591	A	K9MU	29,280	A	KØSIX	8,507	A	K1YQP	9,415	A
N1DPM	93,102	A	K4FJW	9,114	A	KC9BQA	26,640	A	NØYE	6,144	A	KD7UO	5,070	A
AF1T	84,084	A	K4ZOO	8,326	A	WA9FIH	19,965	A	W6ZI	3,612	A	K6XN	4,920	A
W3RJW	83,722	A	WA4QYK	7,315	A	VE3SMA	18,104	A	WØETT	2,596	A	W6OMF	3,906	A
K1TEO	415,492	B	KØVXM	171,000	B	K8MD	46,816	B	WØGHZ	26,962	B	W7CE	36,182	B
K1RZ	222,772	B	WJ9B	141,120	B	K9EA	32,571	B	K5LLL	26,208	B	N7EPD	17,848	B
K3TUF	194,183	B	W4ZRZ	58,630	B	VE3ZV	27,534	B	W5LUA	17,875	B	K7CW	9,476	B
WB2RVX	149,578	B	K4QI	58,590	B	K8CC	17,009	B	WØZQ	9,512	B	W7GLF	7,392	B
K3DNE	138,567	B	KE2N	57,072	B	K2YAZ	16,133	B	KØAWU	5,720	B	KE7SW	6,534	B
N3YMS	32,184	Q	KC8KSK	138	Q	N8XA	6,864	Q	KØNR	741	Q	K9TMS	1,420	Q
WB2AMU	1,518	Q	K7RLL	15	Q	W9SZ	2,268	Q	WØUC	380	Q	K9PY	50	Q
K1EXE	60	Q	K2ULR	1	Q	VA3RKM	56	Q	NØHJZ	192	Q	W6MDH	12	Q
KB2AYU	45	Q						NØJK	80	Q	W6CT	4	Q	
WA1LEI	39	Q						KD7WPJ	48	Q				
W3SO	174,564	L	W4NH	22,542	L	W9RM	60,759	L	WØVB	5,842	L	KB5WIA	360	L
KA2LIM	90,297	L	K1KC	2,639	L	WO9S	25,258	L	NR5M	2,400	L	W7PBJ	261	L
KB1DFB	66,960	L	W4OAR	2,158	L	N8ZM	19,783	L	WD5YF	2,065	L	AI6O	154	L
W3HZU	44,560	L	N4ARR	1,224	L	N9TF	10,122	L	NØLD	1,508	L	W6RKC	20	L
W1QK	33,733	L	WB8COX	720	L	W9RVG	7,434	L				K7MKL	14	L
N3NGE	717,676	M	WY3P	13,920	M	W8RU	12,648	M	K5QE	156,060	M	W6TV	30,366	M
K3EOD	104,339	M	N4JQQ	5,217	M	KO9A	9,761	M	WØEEA	51,113	M	W6YX	10,857	M
WB3IGR	24,640	M			N2BJ	2,050	M	KBØHH	29,808	M	VE6AO	476	M	
N2GCZ	22,984	M						KC5MVZ	98	M				
N1JEZ	20,016	M						KØKU	48	M				
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	W5JMC/R	5,688	RL	WB8BZK/R	12,410	RL	WRØI	1,911	RL	NL7HJ/R	1,764	RL
KB2BSL/R	1,725	RL	K2STO/R	1,794	RL	KC9MK/R	1,545	RL	KD5IKG/R	481	RL	VA7AJK/R	1,577	RL
N1XKT/R	1,050	RL	WA4JA/R	1,500	RL	VE3RKS/R	1,139	RL	K6LMN/R	91	RL	N6ZE/R	1,332	RL
N1FJ/R	646	RL	N4TZH/R	350	RL	N9IFG/R	1,014	RL				W6TE/R	212,812	RU
			WA2VNV/R	120	RL	KC9NJZ/R	1,014	RL	KRØVER/R	24,327	RU			

of 174,564 points produced by 36 club members. This was a substantial effort, surpassing the excellent 2009 top score of 102,582 by K1JT. Second place goes to Ken, KA2LIM, of 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 the Keystone VHF Club, W3HZU in fifth place. The remaining top 6 through 10 LM finalists are W1QK, WO9S, W4NH, N8ZM and K2QO in order.

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, TX 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 the Trowel Radio Club, W6TV, in Fresno, CA. The final 6 through 10 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." Perennial VHF SS competitor Wayne, N6NB, from Tustin, CA was very pleased with his results, 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. 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 10 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 10 Rover listing. The bottom five of the top 10 competitors in the Rover category include 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 Mike, WB8BZK/R, of Algonquin, IL with 12,410 points, followed in third place by W5JMC/R of Alexandria, VA with 5688 points. The fourth place slot goes to Mel, WRØI/R, of Sedgwick, KS, with the fifth place listing awarded to John, K2STO/R, from Floral City, FL. The sixth through 10th RL places are awarded to NL7HJ/R, KB2BSL/R, VA7AJK/R, KC9MKL/R and

WA4JA/R in order.

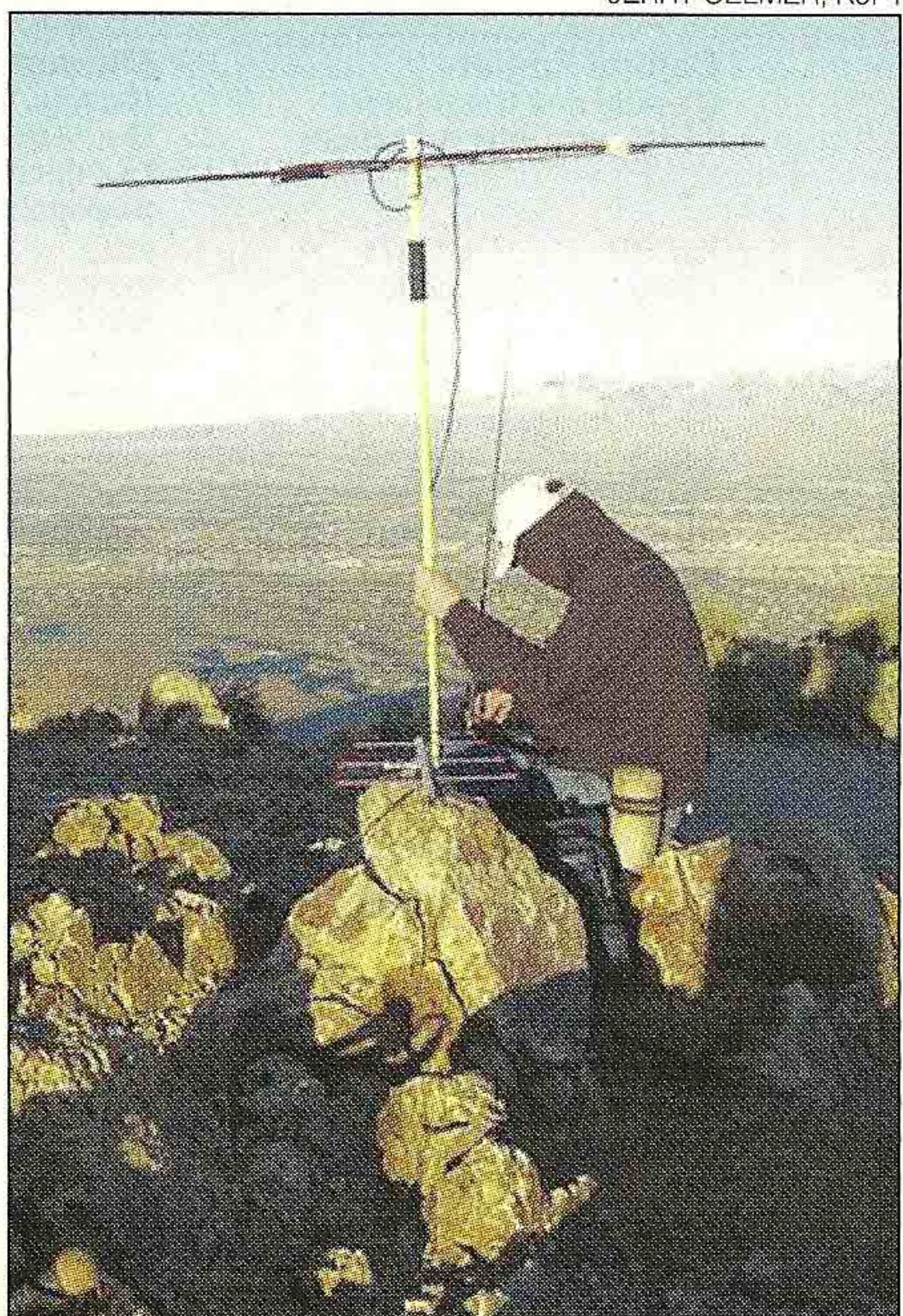
The final category is Unlimited Rover (RU), which allows more than two operators in a single vehicle. There were only two competitors this year compared with five in the 2009 event, although there was only one competitor in the 2008 competition. The top position is awarded to David, W6TE/R, of Fresno, CA with 212,812 points, followed by Eric, KRØVER/R, of Littleton, CO 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 (aka 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 W2KKN 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



JERRY CELMER, K9PY

Jerry, K9PY, operated from Wasson Peak (4687 feet) near Tucson, AZ in DM42 to take the Southwestern Division in the Single Operator, QRP Portable category.

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.

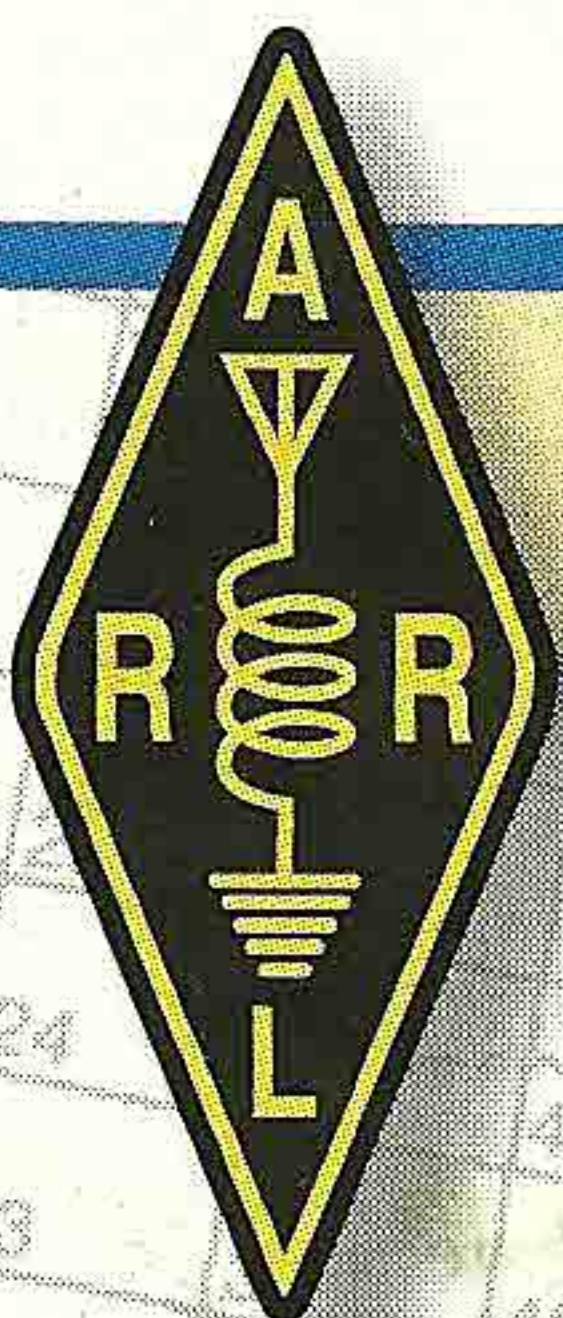
The Local Club category saw 14 clubs submit scores. This year, the gavel goes to Eastern Connecticut ARA, pulling off a repeat of their 2009 Local Club victory, submitting 5 logs for 87,423 points. Second place is awarded to the Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters, up from third place in 2009. From the Midwest,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

Much More Online

For more on the January VHF Sweepstakes, see www.arrl.org/contests.



2010 ARRL August UHF Contest

1800 UTC Saturday, August 7 - 1759 UTC Sunday, August 8

ED SHEKLETON, K1ZE

■ 220 MHz and up is the place to be! UHF operating offers some great propagation possibilities, making QSOs over hundreds of miles possible. Operate from home, find a great hilltop in a rare grid square or hit the road and go "roving" through multiple grids. Get several of your ARRL-affiliated club members active and go for a club competition gavel!

■ E-mail Cabrillo-formatted logs to augustuhf@arrl.org. All logs must be received by 1800 UTC Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

■ Complete rules can be found at www.arrl.org/contests

