

THE BLACK HOLE



ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

Volume XVII Issue VII

Dec 2004

MEMBER PROFILE: K9DX

by Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z and Howard Dybedock, AK9F

It is appropriate that we devote our Member Profile this issue to John Battin, K9DX, who earlier this month smoked all competition in the ARRL 160 CW test. Over the past several years, John has developed one of, or likely, THE most formidable antenna system in the world on Top Band. To prove it, John absolutely squashed all comers in the ARRL test with an amazing 1,810 Q's, 79 of the 80 possible sections, and 79! countries for 518,496 points. John almost doubled up on his closest competitor in the Single-OP/HP class, former powerhouse AA1K who could only muster 390K points from the East coast. 160 meter regulars can attest to the fact that John's nine-tower steerable directional array develops an awesome signal. This reporter (WB9Z), while operating from PJ2 has been on the DX side when John points his signal your way and can attest to the fact that there just isn't anybody louder coming from W/K, and certainly not from the Black Hole. Even more interesting is that John operates this monster, not from the antenna site in Northern Illinois, but by remote control from his home shack, miles away! Let's talk about it with John:

SMC- John, you've been a ham for a long time. Tell us how you got interested in radio and how young you were at the time?

K9DX- I have always been fascinated by electricity and started repairing radios at 11 years old and got my Class B license at 13 years old (before the days of novice). I practiced code from W1AW listening on an Admiral shortwave broadcast radio into which I had built a BFO not very stable!!!!!!

SMC- How old were you when you first got on the air, and what equipment were you running?

K9DX- There was no money except for what I could make for myself ... so my first rig was a crystal controlled... a 6L6 driving an 807 ... receiving on an S-38.

SMC- Were you a DXer back in your early days of radio and did DXing lead to Contesting, like it did for a lot of us?

(Continued on page 4)

ARRL UHF Results

By Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA

Congratulations to Bob, K2DRH, for winning the top spot in the Nation in the SOLP with a score of over 174,000! Bob also broke his own Central Division record that he set in 2001. Congrats also to Barry, N2BJ, who placed #5 in the nation among the multis, and to Tim and Pat Sullivan, K0PG and K9ILT, who joined in the Rover mania in Iowa and ended up in 5th and 6th place nationally in the rover class. Also participating from the SMC were Jon, K9JK running as a rover in Illinois; Gene, N9TF, in the low power class, and N9TZL, also a SOLP. Good job by everyone.

2004 Log Deadlines

ARRL SS Phone: December 22, 2004

ARRL 160 mtr: January 5, 2005

ARRL 10mtr: January 12, 2005

All computer generated logs must be in the new Cabrillo format. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/contests> for details

The Black Hole



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Membership in **The Society of Midwest Contesters** is open to all persons with a bona-fied interest in amateur radio contesting. The club doesn't collect annual dues, but instead funds everything through member donations. For more information contact one of the following officers:

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SMC Needs Your Financial Support

As one of the top contest clubs in the nation, we continue to sponsor plaques for a number of major contests including Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, CQWW, and CQWPX, as well as make monetary donations in the interest of promoting radio sporting.

A few years ago, we decided to eliminate formal dues of \$10 per year, and instead, maintain funds through member donations. We encourage all members to consider making an annual donation to the club. Your generous donations allow us to continue to expand our support of radio sporting.

You can make your donation two ways:

1. Send a check, money order, or cash to:

JON OGDEN, NA9D
905 SURREY LN
ALGONQUIN IL 60102-2058

2. Use Paypal at www.paypal.com and email your donation to dues@w9smc.com.

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To get your SMC stuff, see the last page of the newsletter or visit the SMC website, <http://www.w9smc.com/merchandise.htm>



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The Role of Clubs in VHF Contest Log Entries

By W9GKA, Kevin Kaufhold

Introduction. The large swings in log entries in the VHF Contests have been the subject of much thought and reflection going back more than 40 years (Tilton, 1959, 1960; Roseman, 1990). The role that VHF clubs play in these large variations has not been as well documented and researched, however. This may simply be due to the lack of solid, reliable, and available data. The purpose of this paper is to explore the impact from VHF clubs upon log entry and contest activity. The conclusions of this article cover new ground, as I have just finished compiling much of the data presented here (although I still have gaps in log entry numbers for 1986-1992 on the UHF, EME, and 10 Gig, and I am very desirous of band activity numbers from the 1960's and 1970's). Figure I shows the estimated or known log entries for ARRL sponsored VHF contests. The dramatic variation in yearly contest logs is obvious from the graph.

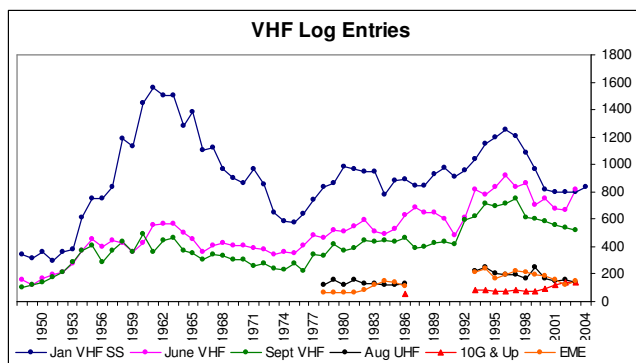


Figure I – VHF Contest Log Entries, 1948-2004

Club Impact on the January VHF SS – Qualitative Evidence. The first VHF Sweepstakes occurred in January, 1948. Almost immediately thereafter, contest write-ups began to note the large contributions of the clubs. From the 3rd VHF Sweepstakes in 1950: "Much of the credit for the large turnout must be given to certain club groups whose organization work resulted in many new calls appearing on our v.h.f. bands." (QST, April 1950, at p.50). A few years later in the 6th VHF SS: "As it has been the five previous runnings of this popular event, the club award incentive brought out a large number of contestants." (QST, April 1953, at 54). In the 12th Sweeps: "As always in the V.H.F. SS, it was the clubs that made the contest the huge success that it was." (QST, July 1958, at 65). The immense role that VHF clubs have in the contests becomes readily apparent when one realizes that the 1976 January contest occurred with notice being given primarily to just the VHF clubs. The ARRL had inadvertently left out the rules announce-

Hooter's Hungry 100 Club

by Mike, AJ9C

High Score CW: Mel, KJ9C

High Score SSB: Brian, WO9LF

In the effort categories:

N9TF for his story involving the genocide of a large amount of Christmas cookies and the subsequent snaking of his plumbing.

W9LYA for effort. Anyone who contests with a 14 AVQ vertical deserves something.

Winners receive a \$10 gift certificate card for Hooter's fabulous hot wings and a certificate suitable for framing or lining a bird cage.



WRTC 2006 Announcement

by Oms, PY5EG

Referring to our next WRT2006 in Florianopolis, we are pleased to inform you all, that our internal WRTC2006 Committee has started the activities to organize the event.

Our initial Committee is formed by:

PP5JR - Sergio - pp5jr@terra.com.br

PP5WG - Walter - pp5wg@th.com.br

PP5UA - Pedro - pp5ua@icablenet.com.br

PT2ADM - Gustavo - pt2adm@pobox.com

PY0FF - Andre - py0ff@noronha.com.br

PY1KN - Marcelo - marcelo@alternex.com.br

PY2EMC - Eric - py2.emc@pobox.com

PY2YP - Cesar - py2yp@pobox.com

PY5CC - Peter - py5cc@50mhz.com

PY5KD - Luciano - luciano@cefetpr.br

PY5EG - Oms - py5eg@inepar.com.br

Later, on the natural process of organization, other friends are going to be incorporated in the Committee.

We are launching our web page www.wrtc2006.com advising all of you that the page is, still under construction. You can see our preliminary rules and also the criteria selection and something about our beautiful Florianopolis.

From time to time we will incorporate new information on our page, and we kindly invite you to continuously visit WRTC 2006 page.

We invite the Ham radio community to subscribe our reflector via our Web page, in order to receive all news about the event. <http://maresia.onda.com.br/mailman/listinfo/wrtc2006>.

(Continued from page 1)

K9DX- My Elmer was W9EVJ in Elgin Illinois and he was a CW traffic handler. So I began handling traffic and then got into the old CD contests. I remember calling CQ CD on 40 meters with a BC-459 and thinking it was real hot to work a dozen stations in an hour. I also remember winning 80 meter CW CQWW single band with about 20 contacts none of which were European. I soon worked a few DX stations and also got hooked on DX. I can still remember the thrill of working KV4AA on 20 CW.

SMC- Tell us about your early contest activities, and your other calls. How long have you that great call, K9DX.

K9DX- I was W9MEM until I moved to Florida in the early 70's and became WB4YLG. I kept W9MEM until I traded it in for K9DX when the opportunity opened up in the late 70's.

SMC- Have you operated with any other big multi-op efforts other than K9NS? I can remember back in the 80's when you were K9DX in California and you had the biggest signal on 40 CW from the west coast. What was your antenna out there?

K9DX- I have usually operated my own station for contests except for K9NS in recent years. Ray K9RS and I have done some contesting from VP5 and ZF. I believe we still hold the high world ARRL CW record from ZF. I was not allowed an antenna in San Diego but put one on a pneumatic mast with a tri-bander and two element 40 up 60 feet. At night when no one could see it. During the day it was nestled on the roof and not in sight. It was OK for DX but a pain in contests because I had to shut down just as the bands would begin to open at sunrise. It created quite a stir when I forgot to lower it and went to work one day!!!

SMC- Don't you have a BIG quad on 40 at your home now? How large is that monster?

K9DX- The Quad is a Cubex and is 4 elements on 10,15, and 20, and 2 elements full size on 40. You can see a picture of it on the Cubex web site. It is my main antenna at

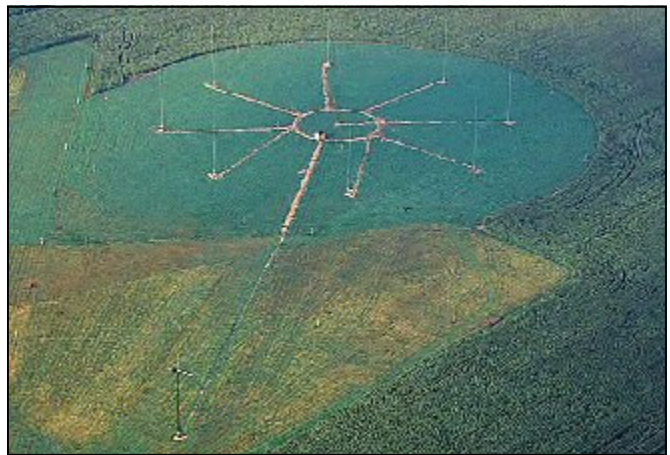


the house, backed up with a KT-34 on a smaller tower.

SMC- Tell us about your home station and how you remote it to your antenna farm many miles away?

K9DX- The remote is on 80 acres about 25 miles north near the Wisconsin border. When I bought it, it was a cornfield without power or telephone. Although there is now a Bencher Skyhawk Triband yagi at 70' out there, it is mainly a low band site with vertical arrays and beverages. It is controlled by computer links and 28k ADPCM audio over two pairs of 64k leased data lines. There are extensive remote switching capabilities to control the radios, amplifiers, and all of the antennas.

SMC- Most everyone reading this has heard about your large 160 array out on your antenna farm. Give us another brief run down on the number of elements, how many acres it takes up and what other arrays and antennas that make up your remote system. I believe this is the largest 160 array in the world, is that correct?



K9DX- As far as I know, no one has been crazy enough to build an antenna this large. It covers 8 acres and has eight 110' verticals in a 420 foot diameter circle with one in the middle. There is over one mile of buried 1-5/8 inch Heliac , 24 miles of radial wires, and thirty 8-foot ground rods.

SMC- You pretty much dominate 160 from the Midwest now. Congratulations to you now that all your hard work has paid off. Do you have any future plans for 160?

K9DX- I have pretty much run out of major ideas for 160 now. This summer I put in a little 9 element brother of the 160 array for 80 meters. That will be fun to play with this winter

SMC- How many countries have you worked on 160 now? What are some of your most difficult and long haul 160 contacts?

(Continued on page 9)

SMC 2nd In June VHF

by Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA

The big news of this contest is that we once again scored 2nd place in the medium club competition. We also fielded the 2nd highest number of entries, at 27. Congratulations to everyone for the very strong showing. I have felt for some time now that the SMC can put forth its best effort in the June VHF, due to so many of our ops being able to run in HF-like conditions on 6 in the middle of the summer. The results bear this belief out. We have quite a way to go, however, before we can seriously mount a challenge to PVRC, who outscored us by over 1 Million points. Of course, if we could get over 50 ops, we would be the one and only club to have ever entered the unlimited club competition for either June or September (Northern Lights was close this year in the September VHF at 40+ ops).

Thanks must go out to everyone on the following list, both large and small (and especially the small entries, as it shows an increasing depth of support inside SMC for VHF activities). These are the people that made our 2nd place showing possible:

K2DRH	235,470	SOLP	IL
W09S	41,690	SOLP	IL
K9ZO	29,694	SOLP	IL
WA1MKE	19,780	SOLP	IN
NV8V	15,600	SOLP	IL
K9IJ	4,680	SOLP	IL
N9DR	4,214	SOLP	IN
K9SG	3,128	SOLP	IN
K9CS	2,988	SOLP	IL
W9LYA	473	SOLP	IL
N9LF	420	SOLP	IN
KG9N	209	SOLP	IL
WB9Z	193,802	SOHP	IL
W9XA	17,394	SOHP	IL
W9VA	6,450	SOHP	IL
N2BJ	5,074	SOHP	IL
W9SE	3,818	SOHP	IL
WC9C	3,182	SOHP	IN
NG9U	108	SOHP	IL
W9SZ	2,080	SO Port	IL

K0PG	73,108	Rover	Cent.
K9ILT	72,520	Rover	Cent.
K9JK	48,204	Rover	Cent.

W9RVG 58,575 Multi-U IL

K9NS 583,041 Multi-L IL

N9TF 19,034 Multi-L IL

NG9R 13,870 Multi-L IL

W9GKA 2,263 Multi-L IL

SMC members took all six division leader positions, and had several national top 10 spots. Bob, K2DRH once again won the National title in SOLP, almost doubling the score of the next closest competitor. Great going, Bob! Jerry, WB9Z, won the division in the SOHP with almost 200K, and placed 4th in the nation. The great limited multi-op of K9NS placed 2nd in the nation, behind PVRC's entry, K8GP (notice that it's PVRC versus SMC even in the category runs for national titles). Marshall, W9RVG, is too far south to be in the SMC circle, but he won the division in the unlimited anyway, at 58,575 points. I always enjoy working Marshall for the EM57 contacts. W9SZ won the division in the QRP category, and placed 10th nationally. The Sullivans took the 9th and 10th positions nationally in the rover category. Other strong efforts were made by W09S at 41K in the SOLP; WA1MKE with 19K; NV8V at 15K; W9XA, in the high-power SO at 17K; at K9JK, at 48K in the rover.

Also, K9JK has pointed out to me that the Illinois section fielded more total log entries than any other ARRL section. I have to believe that is because of the great efforts of our SMC members. Tremendous showing, everyone.

Now, its onto the January VHF SS, where Mt. Airy dominates in the club event. Can we do better than 4th or 5th this year in 2005?

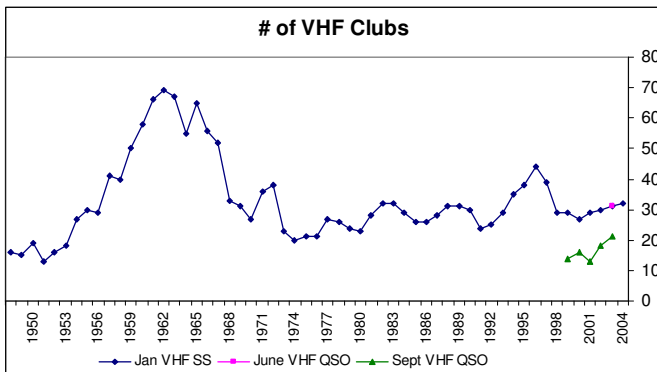


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ment of the contest from both the December 1975 and January 1976 QST editions. Upon realizing the mistake, the League quickly contacted several VHF clubs, including the Pack Rats and the Rochester VHF Group. The clubs then informed their members that the contest was still on. Through the efforts of the clubs, log submissions actually increased over the prior few years, and by a rather impressive 10%! (QST, August, 1976, p.80 and 83).

Club Impact on the January VHF SS – Quantitative Evidence. By all rights, the January contest should have the lowest participation levels of any of the VHF contests, considering the flat band conditions and notoriously bad weather. And yet, the January SS enjoys the highest log entry participation of all the VHF events, and at times has even had the 4th highest number of log entries of all ARRL contests, including HF events (ranking behind Field Day, the HF SS, and the International DX). Additionally, as can be seen in the Figure I, the 1961 peak in contest logs was largely limited to the January event, with far smaller increases in June or September occurring during that time. This suggests that club activity was the driving force behind January log entries in the early years of contesting versus the lack of organized club competition in the other contests. The disparities between January and all other VHF events have continued into more current time frames, although the differences between the three contests are much smaller.

The statistical evidence supports a club impact upon log entry levels. The following graph shows the number of VHF Clubs with members submitting three or more entries in the

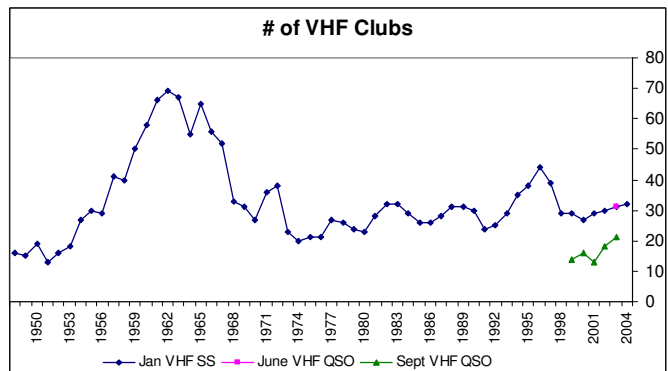


VHF contests.

Figure II – Club Activity in VHF Contests, 1948-2004

In a simple linear regression conducted on the data forming the basis of Figure II, 76% of the variation in VHF log entries submitted in the January contest was explained by the variation in the number of clubs. The model, $y = b_0 + b_1 \text{ VHF clubs} + u$, was used for the regression. Various statistical tests inferred that the results were statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

Data was also collected on the number of log entries generated by club members, and this information was also regressed against total logs submitted by all contestants in the January VHF SS. The following graph depicts club



log entries from 1961 forward, when the numbers were first reported in QST.

Figure III – Log Entries from Club Members, 1948-2004

The regression analysis on club log entries showed that 72% of the variation in VHF logs from the January VHF SS was explained merely by the variation in log entries from club members. The results were also statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. When a multiple regression was run with both the number of VHF clubs and the number of club member logs as independent variables, the results explained over 78% of the variation in total contest logs, and both the club and club member log variables were statistically significant. In addition to these regressions, the raw data clearly indicates that the January VHF SS has always enjoyed large participation from the clubs, both as to the percentage of point production and as to log entries. 51% of all points in the very first VHF contest in 1948, some 55 years ago, were made by participating club members. In 2004 January, 61% of points and 48% of the logs were from club members.

These numbers and ratios demonstrate that ARRL affiliated clubs have played an enormous part in the VHF contests. With one-half of all logs, 60+% of all points, and over 70% of all variation in yearly log entries being traced to the clubs, it is safe to conclude that the VHF clubs provide a critical base of support and a core of operators for the January contest.

Club Impact on the VHF QSO Parties – Quantitative Evidence. The support from the clubs is not limited to just the January VHF SS, however. Regression analysis cannot yet produce significant results for either the June or September contests, due to the small sample size on those contests, but the raw data and information shows a clear pattern. A good case in point is the 2003 June VHF QSO Party itself. In the

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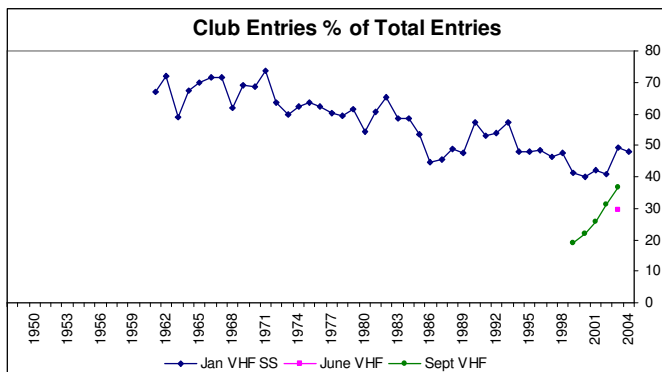
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first year of club competition, the 2003 June event was the only single contest since 1948 with more log entries than the January contest of the corresponding year! Indeed, 41% of all points in this event came from club members. (Please note that I feel excellent band conditions and moral persuasion had a lot to do with the high number of logs and points in this contest, in addition to the contest being the first year of club competition).

The September contest also has strong participation from the clubs: in the few years that the September QSO Party has had club activity, club percentages have dramatically increased. From an initial level of 19% of all log entries being from the clubs in 1999, the percentages have grown to 36% of logs in 2003. Further, 46% of all points in the 2003 September were made by club members. These kinds of numbers amply show the influence from the affiliated VHF clubs.

Arguably, the positive contribution that the clubs have made in January has carried over to the other VHF contests for many years prior to start-up of club participation in those events. It is hard to imagine that the clubs could have mustered one-third of all logs and almost one-half of all points by the 5th year of the club competition in September had not informal club activity been occurring all along. It is far more likely that club activity in January has been regularly spilling over to the VHF QSO Parties, with many motivated club members participating in these contests on an individual basis. The club participation levels in the QSO Parties are rather amazing. In only a few years of club competition, the QSO Parties have generated close to the same percentages of points and logs as has January, with its half of century of club competition and tradition. With roughly 1 in 2 VHF contest operators being associated with a club for one or more of the contests, club activity levels can be seen as not only providing the backbone of support for January, but for the other VHF contests, too.

The Waxing and Waning of Club Influence. Just as partici-



participation in the VHF contests has gone through dramatic cy-

cles, so too has club activity levels. In fact, the number of clubs and the number of log entries from club members

Figure IV – Club Log Entry Percentages, 1961-2004

bears an eerie similarity to overall log entry levels in the contests, as seen in Figures I through III. Club influence has undergone a downtrend over the years, with approximately 32 clubs now active in January and June events (down from 69 clubs in 1962). Club log entries are currently hovering at 400 for January, and even less in the QSO Parties (down from over 1,000 club entries in the 1961 January VHF SS). Not only are these numbers down, but the rate at which clubs members are submitting logs has also declined, as shown in the following graph.

Club entries accounted for between 60 to 70% of all log entries in the January event in the early 1960's and 1970's. Today, between 40 to 50% of all log entries are from participating club members. On a bright note, however, the percentages in the September contest have been rising since the beginning of the club competition in 1999 (up to 36%, currently). Even the initial June club competition in 2003 had almost 30% of all log entries coming from the clubs. That's quite an achievement, considering that June is the one contest in which an individual could do very well on his or her own, given the right band conditions.

The Maturity of VHF Contesting. The reduction in club member entry levels, the number of clubs, and club log entry percentages all may be symptomatic of a larger trend – the maturation of the VHF rules set. At the start of VHF contesting in 1948, the clubs reigned supreme: January was the only large contest in existence, and the non-club events of June and September had far lower counts. Only one operator class existed until 1954, when multi-ops were added after many people grouped together in joint runs. The January event patterned itself closely on the HF Sweeps, with one contact per station, regardless of band, and ARRL sections were used as the multipliers. In that environment, one simply had to congregate on the work-horse bands of 6 and 2 meters and revolve around other club members to do well in a VHF contest.

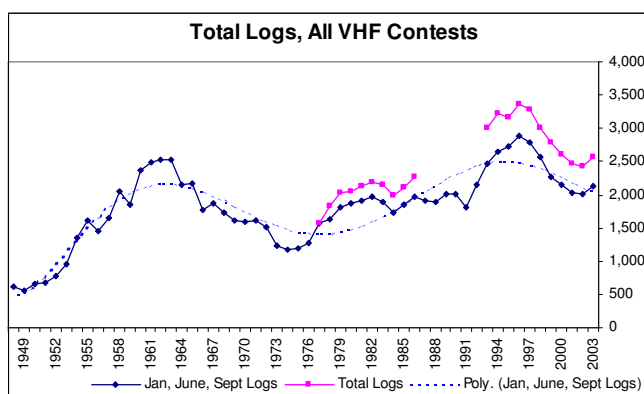
Contrast that with more current time frames. Starting in 1978, January adopted varying amounts of QSO points per band, thereby starting the trend towards microwaves. The UHF and EME contests were developed at the same time, as was the QRP category. Grid squares were adopted in 1983, revolutionizing VHF operating and contesting activities. The 10 Gig was added in 1987, and was then expanded to "10 G and Up" some years later. Rovers and limited multis arrived on the scene in 1991, and single ops were split into low and high power categories in 2000. "Quasi clubs" have been known to form around the bigger

(Continued on page 8)

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multis and rovers, thus generating coordinated contesting activities. The Internet has also aided in disseminating much information regarding the whereabouts and activities of various contesting stations. Individual VHF contesters have more operating choices than ever.

While I have previously written that many of the individual rules changes did not generate an increase in log entries (Kaufhold, Other Impacts, 2004), they certainly have accelerated contest point production. Total club aggregate points in 1977, the last year before the rules started down a more modern path, stood at 1.8 million points. By 1985, the combination of QSO points and grid squares in the January VHF SS helped to produce over 6 million club aggregate points. In 2004, 11.2 million points were scored by club members, and this was down from 13.3 million points in 2003.



When all rules revisions starting in 1978 are lumped together as the “modern rules”, the impact upon log entries becomes more discernable. It does appear that log submissions began to increase around the time that the rules were modernized, as shown in the following graph.

Figure V – Total VHF Log Activity, 1948-2004

In terms of statistical analysis, the total log entries in the ARRL “big three” contests as well as all six ARRL VHF contests can be described as a 6th order polynomial, with 2 local maximas in 1962 and 1996, and three local minimas in 1949, 1974, and 2002. In a simple linear regression run on the modern rules regime starting in 1978, 26% of the increase in log submissions in the three main VHF contests can be traced to the mere use of a single dummy variable simulating the onset of rules revisions. The regression results were significant at the 95% level of confidence. Thus, individual rules changes have not only generated an increase in club point levels, the rules as a total regime may have been responsible for a large increase in log entries across all contests.

The Trend in Contest Activity. Going past statistical wizardry for the moment, one can easily see in Figure V the impact from the modern era in contesting. Even though many people currently complain about the lack of VHF contest activity, the overall trend in log activity has been generally upward since 1975. In the early 1960’s peak, some 2,525 logs were entered in the three VHF events. Compare this to 1996 peak, when 1,000 to 1,500 more logs were submitted in the VHF contests, totaling 2,890 logs for the big three contests, and 3,362 logs for all contests. This same trend is evident at the minimas: Only 1,169 logs were received and counted in 1974 while 2,009 logs were entered for January and the two VHF QSO Parties in 2002, and some 2,426 logs for all six ARRL events. In the most current year having complete data (2003), the numbers expanded to 2,136 logs being counted for just the big three contests alone, representing 550 more logs than were submitted in the last year prior to the beginning of new rules, contests, and categories (1977, with some 1,572 logs).

The modern era of VHF contesting has resulted in a healthy, diverse, and fully mature contesting experience with a great variety of individual operator options. With almost 1,000 more logs currently being submitted in the three main contests than in the last minimum in 1974, VHF contesting is alive and well. Most critically, with 50% of all log entries still coming from the affiliated clubs, a very large “bang for the buck” can be generated by simply continuing the emphasis on the club format. Frankly, we should be concerned about the potential adverse impact upon VHF activity levels from the next likely regulatory change to the amateur licensing structure, that of the no-code proposal on HF. We should also not turn a blind eye to serious, well-thought out ideas designed to increase the diversity and fullness of the modern rules regime. But when over 70% of the ups and downs in contest log activity can be statistically explained by the changes in the number of VHF clubs and club member logs, rules proposals are simply not complete unless they continuously factor in the huge role that clubs have on VHF contest activity.

Future Research. Prior articles on the swings in VHF log entries have focused on major impacts from technological and regulatory matters (Kaufhold, Trend I, 2003; Trends II, 2004). Overall participation levels and participation to log entry ratios have also been discussed and analyzed (Frenaye, Final Report, 2004). While it is evident that regulatory changes have resulted in tremendous shifts in log entry rates, this article shows that VHF oriented clubs have also been responsible for much of the variation in contest log entries. Perhaps, the regulatory, technological, and demographic changes exert a joint effect upon both VHF club activity and overall log entry levels. That would ex-

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plain the symmetry of pattern in the number of clubs, the amount of club logs, and total operator entries.

The dramatic shifts in log entries over the years are obviously the result of a complex mix of factors simultaneously impacting VHF contest activities. I doubt if simple linear regression analysis can adequately explain those impacts. Future efforts will focus on “detrending” the data through a time series format, and more extensively utilizing multiple regression analysis to account for possible effects. Ultimately, I hope to develop a generalized model of all known or probable causative factors underlying the VHF contests.

Note on data availability: A companion VHF data file that was the source of the data used for the statistical analysis of this article can be found at: <http://w9smc.com/SMC VHF/uvhfdata.pdf>.

Note on joint publication: This article is being published in the Mt. Airy VHF Club’s Cheese Bits and is also available either through the SMC web-site or in the SMC’s Black Hole.

Cited References:

“Final Report of the VHF-UHF Contests / Awards Subcommittee”, (including Attachment I), Tom Frenaye, K1KI, July 14, 2004.

“Other Impacts on VHF Contests”, Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA, 2004, SMC web-site, VHF sub-page.

“Trends in VHF Contesting, Part II”, Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA, SMC Black Hole, Jan. 2004.

“Trends in VHF Contesting”, Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA, National Contest Journal, Jan / Feb 2004, p. 6- 8, and in SMC Black Hole, Dec. 2003;

“A Brief History of North American VHF Contesting”, VHF/UHF Column, Curt Roseman, K9AKS, Emil Pocock, W3EP, and Mike Owens, W9IP, National Contest Journal, Nov/Dec 1990, p. 21-22.



K9DX- I am not much of a country counter ... guess I have around 200 or so. One of most fun DX contacts was to be one of the first to work JT1CO on 160.

SMC- I can confirm the array really works. I was on Curacao at the PJ2T station, after the 2003 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge. I listened to K9DX for 2 hours after my local sunrise! Simply amazing! I also remember you and Ray K9RS beating everyone worldwide from VP5 in the ARRL10 Meter Contest a few years back. Tell us about some of your other DXpeditions and Contest Expeditions outside the USA. How about operating from K9NS? You’re pretty much an icon there, even in the VHF Contest. Frank’s lucky to have you. Can you tell us any humorous stories from past multi-op contest efforts?



K9DX- It is an honor to operate from Frank’s QTH. If you started with a blank piece of paper and did a contest station the best you could imagine, it would probably still be the lesser compared to what K9HMB has put together. Franks only problem is being in the black hole.

SMC- You were in corporate America many years; where do you see the big utilities going with this BPL crap?

K9DX- That is a two-headed question. First of all, I can credit Motorola for a fascinating career and making it possible for me to retire and be able to spend as much time as I wish playing with my toys. As far as BPL is concerned, I think it will die of its own weight. Compared with cable, wireless, or fiber, it is not a good technical or business proposition for the operator of the system. Forcing them to clean up interference problems will make it become extinct earlier.

SMC- John, thanks so much for your time. It’s gratifying to see that SMC appears to continue its domination of the Top Band club competition, with big scores this month in the ARRL contest. In addition to John’s huge #1 score in SO/HP, according to postings on the 3830

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Web site, nearly a dozen other SMC stations are contributing to the club score. Bob, WT9Q warmed up a great performing new vertical with 1,101 Q's, 77 sections and 8 countries for 189,720 points. Mike, W9RE contributed 186,000 points in only 13 hours of operation, N9CK posted 117K and W9YC added just over 75K points. Multi-HP entry K9FO @ WB9Z appears to be comfortably in third place with 1,551 Q's, 78 sections, 38 countries and 387,324 points. The call

K9FO was used to celebrate Will's 50th year in ham radio. Other op's were K9NR, K9CS, WB9Z and AK9F. In SO/LP, K9WJU @ W9CG contributed almost 144K, K9MMS 120K, and WT9U with 81K points. With only 5 watts, N9NE made 395 contacts to lock in a #4 position in QRP with a score of 52,930.

Next 160 meter events are the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge December 18-19, CQ WW 160 CW on January 29-30 and SSB February 26-27. See you there!



The new layout at K9SD.



K9PG and the future of Contesting!!!!



Hey ... who let those PVRcers in here???



KH7U, KA9FOX, and KL9A

SMC
Dayton 2004



KL9A, K9PG and KL7RA



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KC9FD

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Club badges can be obtained by sending a check for \$5.50 to:

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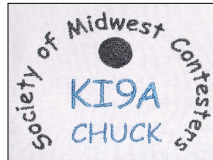
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Be sure to note that it is for a "Black Hole" badge and please allow a couple weeks for delivery.



SMC Shirts

SMC short-sleeve Polo shirts are available in two styles: white shirt with "SMC" in black and "name and call" in blue lettering as shown below, or red shirt with black lettering. The cost is \$20, including shipping. You can email your orders to AD9P@swbell.net (Al) or N0UXQ@swbell.net (Sandy)



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