

Regional and State VHF Survey

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Based on 2008 – 2011 Data

Regional Information. By combining the on-line contests results into one spreadsheet, I have been able to identify the call-signs and band activity of every entrant in the five state area within the SMC circle.

For the last years between 2008 – 2011 covering 15 ARRL VHF contests, 327 stations submitted 925 logs in the five state area of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Iowa. The band capability of these contest-oriented stations follows, along with a comparison to the last survey conducted of SMC service area VHF stations, circa 2002-2004.

Stations Active				
	2008-2011	% of Station	2002-2004	% Change
Stations	327		233	40.3
Logs	925		548	68.8
6	299	91.4	201	48.8
2	243	74.3	220	10.5
222	109	33.3	104	4.8
432	191	58.4	171	11.7
902	33	10.1	32	3.1
1296	63	19.3	70	-10.0
2.3G	15	4.6	12	25.0
3.4G	7	2.1	4	75.0
5.7G	3	0.9	3	0.0
10G	14	4.3	8	75.0
24G	3	0.9	4	-25.0
47G	0	0.0	0	0.0
75G	0	0.0	0	0.0
119G	0	0.0	0	0.0
142G	0	0.0	0	0.0
241G	0	0.0	0	0.0
Light	6	1.8	5	20.0

Substantial growth has occurred between the two surveys on both the number of stations active in the ARRL VHF contests as well as the number of logs submitted. This is largely due to the growth of 6 meter activity. This should be no surprise, given the development of HF + 6/2 radios in this period. Almost all VHF stations have 6 meter capability (91.4%). Most of the other bands

had modest growth in station activity. The depth of band activity remains consistent with the initial survey in 2002-2004, with 74% having 2 meters, 33% were on 222, and 58% of all stations reported at least one contest with 432 activity.

Contest Classes. SOLP is the most popular category, followed by SOHP. Multi-ops comprise only 71 logs between two sub-classes, but without doubt, has a much higher impact on a QSO and points basis. Rovers are a healthy group of classes, but are now divided among three classes. QRP has a small but ardent amount of stations participating.

A	576
B	153
Q	18
L	44
M	27
R	50
RL	43
RU	1
10G class	11
10UP class	2
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	925

State Level Information. The same combined data-base can generate output for each state in the SMC service area.

2008-2011						2002-2004					
State	IA	IL	IN	MO	WI	State	IA	IL	IN	MO	WI
Ops	25	146	50	34	72	Ops	23	112	29	13	56
Logs	72	432	120	71	219	Logs	49	273	66	21	140
6	24	130	46	33	62	6	18	90	26	13	54
2	21	113	27	24	55	2	22	106	28	9	55
222	6	57	8	6	32	222	12	54	11	2	25
432	16	90	20	15	48	432	17	87	21	7	39
902	4	16	1	0	12	902	5	19	3	0	5
1296	5	32	5	4	17	1296	11	37	6	2	14
2.3G	3	7	0	0	5	2.3G	5	6	0	0	2
3.4G	1	5	0	0	1	3.4G	2	2	0	0	0
5.7G	1	2	0	0	0	5.7G	2	1	0	0	0
10G	2	6	0	0	6	10G	2	3	2	0	1
24G	1	1	0	0	1	24G	2	0	2	0	0
47G	0	0	0	0	0	47G	0	0	0	0	0
75G	0	0	0	0	0	75G	0	0	0	0	0
119G	0	0	0	0	0	119G	0	0	0	0	0
142G	0	0	0	0	0	142G	0	0	0	0	0
241G	0	0	0	0	0	241G	0	0	0	0	0
Light	0	6	0	0	0	Light	2	2	0	0	1

Illinois continues to have the largest number of contest stations, followed by Wisconsin and the other three states in the SMC circle. The band usage for any one state follows the same pattern as the entire region – almost all ops have 6 and 2 capabilities, and a very high percentage also have 432. Iowa has almost as much microwave activity as does the much larger state of Illinois, and this is likely due to several individuals in that state putting great emphasis on microwave capability.

Club Activity. 586 logs were entered for some club in the most recent 15 contests in the last 3 years. This amounted to 63% of all logs submitted in the 5 state area covered by the survey. This large percentage is likely due to the expansion of club competition in most of the ARRL VHF contests, but the rather high percentage in general shows the power of clubs to generate contest activity. The largest club remains the SMC, followed by Badgers Contesters. All other clubs fall off from there.

SMC	322
BC	133
Chipp Villy	33
Stnd Mnkys	32
MtFrank	14
6MtrClub	11
NLRS	10
FtWayne	9
MetroDX	5
MDXC	5
Miss Valley	4
BARC	1
STARC	1
Raytown	1
ORC	1
KY CG	1
IA DXCC	1
FRRL	1
FDL	1
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	586
% club	63.4