



2015 ARRL January VHF Contest Rules

(Updated 01/09/2015)

1. Objective: To work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only.

2. Date and Contest Period: The date will be announced annually by the ARRL but will generally be the third or fourth weekend in January. Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday (January 24-26, 2015).

3. Entry Categories:

3.1. Single Operator (spotting assistance is NOT permitted)

3.1.1. High Power (1500 W PEP or maximum power allowed by your Amateur license, whichever is less)

3.1.2. Low Power (200 W PEP on 50/144 MHz; 100 W PEP on 222/432 MHz; 50 W PEP on 902 MHz and higher)

3.1.3. Portable (10 W PEP or less, portable power source, portable antennas, cannot set up at a permanent station location)

3.1.4. 3-Band (6m, 2m & 432 MHz only; 100 W or less on 6m/2m, 50 W or less on 432 MHz.)

3.1.5. FM Only (6m-446 MHz, 100 W or less on all bands)

3.2. Single Operator Unlimited (spotting assistance is permitted)

3.2.1. High Power (1500 W PEP or maximum power allowed by your Amateur license, whichever is less)

3.2.2. Low Power (200 W PEP on 50/144 MHz; 100 W PEP on 222/432 MHz; 50 W PEP on 902 MHz and higher)

3.2.3. Portable (10 W PEP or less, portable power source, portable antennas, cannot set up at a permanent station location)

3.2.4. Spotting assistance is not permitted for Single Operator 3-Band or FM-Only. Operators using assistance in these sub-categories will be reclassified as Single Operator Unlimited Low Power.

3.3. Rover

3.3.1. Rover A rover is comprised of no more than two operators that moves among two or more grid squares during the course of a contest. An operator may perform any or all rover functions, but a driver's function shall be limited to driving the vehicle. Drivers may be switched out during the event. Any number of observers is also allowed, however observers may not perform any rover function at any time. Rover vehicles with only one occupant are allowed to perform all functions listed above.

3.3.1.1. A rover vehicle may transport only one station using a single call sign. An exception is provided for in "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" number 3.5 (Family Rule).

3.3.1.2. Rover vehicles must transport all the equipment, power supplies, and antennas used at each operating site.

3.3.1.3. Rovers MUST sign "rover" on Phone and /R on CW and digital modes after their call sign.

3.3.1.4. All Rovers are encouraged to adopt operating practices that allow as many stations as possible to contact them.

3.3.1.5. Rover operators may submit separate logs for single operator (fixed station) in addition to their rover entries. Rovers submitting a score for inclusion in a club competition must also include a secondary summary sheet indicating the portion of the score that counts for the club score if any of the QSOs submitted take place outside of their club's territory.

3.3.1.6. Rovers are permitted to use APRS. Rovers using APRS transmit only their call sign and position. Any multi-op or single-op unlimited station may access rover APRS data directly or via the Internet.

3.3.1.7 Rovers are not permitted to use assistance. Any Rovers using assistance will be re-categorized as an Unlimited Rover.

3.3.1.8. A rover may not make more than 100 QSOs with any other one rover.

3.3.2. Limited Rover (1 or 2 operators, 6m - 432 MHz only; 200 W PEP or less on 6m/2m, 100 W PEP or less on 222/432 MHz.)

3.3.2.1. Limited Rovers are not permitted to use assistance. Any Limited Rovers using assistance will be re-categorized as an Unlimited Rover.

3.3.3. Unlimited Rover (all bands above 50 MHz, 1500 W PEP or maximum power allowed by your Amateur license, whichever is less, but may use more than two operators and are exempt from rules 3.3.1.2 and 3.3.1.8.)

3.3.3.1. Unlimited Rover scores may NOT be applied to a club score for Club Competition.

3.4. Multioperator (spotting assistance is permitted.)

3.4.1. Multioperator (1500 W PEP or maximum power allowed by your Amateur license, whichever is less)

3.4.2. Limited Multioperator (Limited to any 4 bands above 50 MHz, 1500 W PEP or maximum power allowed by your Amateur license, whichever is less)

4. Exchange:

4.1. Maidenhead grid-square locator (see www.arrl.org/grid-squares)

4.2. Exchange of signal report is optional.

5. Scoring

5.1. QSO points:

5.1.1. Count one point for each complete 50- or 144-MHz QSO.

5.1.2. Count two points for each 222- or 432-MHz QSO.

5.1.3. Count four points for each 902- or 1296-MHz QSO.

5.1.4. Count eight points for each 2.3 GHz (or higher) QSO.

5.2. Multiplier: The total number of different grid squares worked per band. Each grid square counts as one multiplier on each band it is worked.

5.3. Final score: Multiply the total number of QSO points from all bands operated by the total number of multipliers for final score.

5.4. Rovers only: The final score consists of the total number of QSO points from all bands times the sum of unique multipliers (grid squares) worked per band (regardless of which grid square they were made in) plus one additional multiplier for every grid square from which they successfully completed a contact.

5.4.1. Rovers are listed in the contest score listings under the Division from which the most QSOs were made.

6. Reporting:

6.1. Email electronic Cabrillo-formatted logs to JanuaryVHF@arrl.org; hand-written paper logs or diskettes should be mailed to ARRL January VHF Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

6.2. Entries that have been electronically generated must submit their log file in the Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of electronic files are not acceptable substitutes. Logs created with word processing or spreadsheet software are considered electronic logs and must be submitted in Cabrillo format.

6.3. Entries must be emailed or postmarked no later than **0359 UTC Wednesday, February 25, 2015.**

6.4. Entries may be submitted using the [web applet](#).

6.5. Rovers who submit scores for the club competition must submit a second summary sheet indicating QSOs and score *if they make any contacts from outside of the club territory*. Indicate clearly on the summary sheet and in log if the log is the total entry or that portion to be counted for the club score.

7. Miscellaneous:

7.1. Stations may be worked for credit only once per band from any given grid square, regardless of mode. This does not prohibit working a Rover station from more than one grid square with the same call sign.

7.2. All stations may have only one signal per band (6, 2, 220MHz, etc) at any given time regardless of mode.

7.3. Multioperator stations may not include QSOs with their own operators except on frequencies higher than 2.3 GHz. Even then, a complete, different station (transmitter, receiver and antenna) must exist for each QSO made under these conditions.

8. Awards: Certificates will be awarded in the following categories:

8.1. Single Operator

8.1.1. Top Single Operator entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section for High and Low Power.

8.1.2. Top single operator on each band (50, 144, 222, 432, 902, 1296 and 2304- and-up categories) in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Note: Since the highest score per band will be the award winner for that band, an entrant may win a certificate with additional single-band endorsements.) For example, if KA1RWY has the highest single-operator all-band score in the CT Section and her 50- and 222-MHz scores are higher than any other CT single operator's, she will earn a certificate for being the single-operator Section leader and endorsements for 50 and 222 MHz.

8.2. Top Single Operator, Portable entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Single operator portable entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.3. Top Single Operator, 3-Band entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Single Operator, 3-Band entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.4. Top Single Operator, FM Only entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Single Operator, FM Only entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.5. Top Single Operator Unlimited entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section for High and Low Power. (Single operator unlimited, high and low power entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.6. Top Single Operator Unlimited, Portable entrant in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Single operator unlimited portable entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.7. Top Rover, Limited Rover and Unlimited Rover entrant in each ARRL Division and Canada where significant effort or competition is evident. (Rover entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.8. Top Multioperator score in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Multioperator entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.9. Top Limited Multioperator in each ARRL/RAC Section where significant effort or competition is evident. (Limited Multioperator entries are not eligible for single-band awards.)

8.10. Top DX stations where significant effort or competition is evident.

9. Other:

9.1. See “[General Rules for All ARRL Contests](#)” and “[General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands above 50 MHz \(VHF\)](#)”

9.2. For more information contact contests@arrl.org or (860) 594-0232.