

# 2013 ARRL January VHF Contest Results

**New year, new categories!**

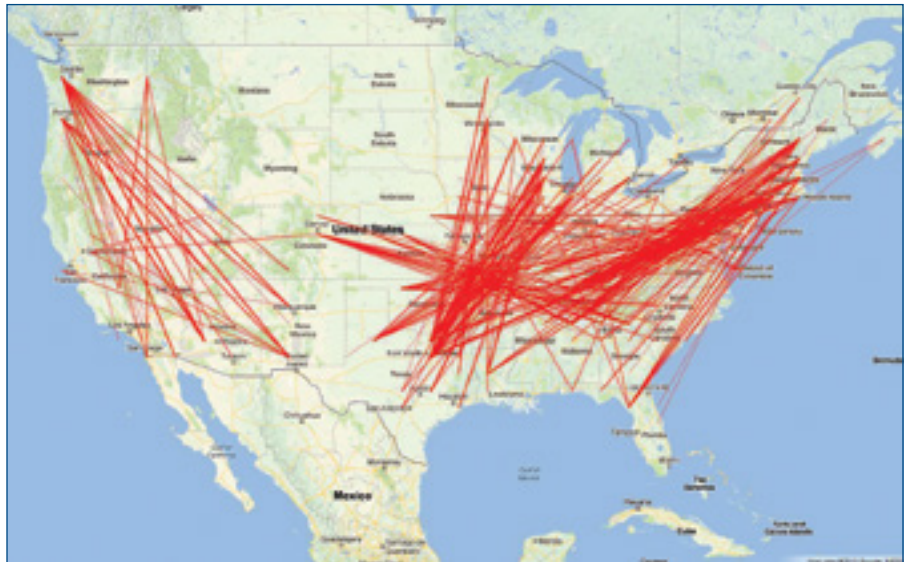
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The first ARRL VHF radiosport event of the New Year rang in with two new entry categories: Single Operator, Three Band (SO3B) and Single Operator, FM Only (SO-FM). Those new categories gathered a total of 100, 77 and 23 log submissions, respectively. While the total number of logs submitted for 2013 slipped slightly to 721 from 2012's count of 767 (about 6%), approximately the same percentage (about 60%) are made up of Single Operator entries using low power. Congratulations to the first-time winners of the two new categories, Rich, KV2R, for SO3B and Ev, W2EV, for SO-FM!

Logs submitted in the new categories contained numerous comments indicating that this was their first contest or first January contest, such as N2SLO's "My first January contest, now with 432 MHz operation. My new 15 element Yagi with 50 watts is a small footprint, but worked above my expectations. Six meters opened up at 0200 on Saturday night, with K0HA worked in EN10 from Long Island."

Not to ignore the other categories, congrats to Roger, W3SZ, for topping the "classic" Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP) entrants, and to Jeff, K1TEO, in a very familiar spot for him as leading scorer among this year's 134 Single Operator, High Power category entrants. Single Operator, Portable can be a challenge in January, especially in the northern latitudes, yet Richard, N2SPI, prevailed as the top scorer among the 10 category entries and from the Western New York section, no less. The teams at N3NGE and W3SO lead the competition in the Multi-operator (MO) and Limited Multioperator (LM) categories (59 and 22 entries, respectively). Roving in January can also be a challenge, yet 63 rover logs were submitted in 2013. Wayne, N6NB, topped the 29 "classic" Rovers. John, K9JK, teamed up with Mike, WB8BZK, to lead the 30 Limited Rovers (RL) and Harry, W0BL, bested the four Unlimited Rover (RU) entries.

Besides the 721 call signs for which logs were submitted, over 3500 other call signs appeared in the more than 63,000 QSOs that were included in the submitted logs. Ten logs crossed the 500 QSO barrier with the



Map showing 6 meter propagation enhancement on Saturday of the contest.

N3NGE multiop team actually topping 1000 QSOs with their effort.

## Fireworks in 2013?

While not as widespread or lengthy as in 2012, there was enhanced 50 MHz propagation this year. On Saturday, the count of 50 MHz QSOs exceeding 600 km from about 0100 through 0500 UTC (even though it was Sunday in UTC) was almost 2900 with the peak of over 1200 QSOs in the 0300-0400 hour. Saturday's enhancement included much of the country (see map above). On Sunday, the two hours from 2300 UTC through 0100 UTC (Monday UTC) each netted over 900 QSOs (1885 total) on 50 MHz that indicated paths longer than 600 km, though Sunday's conditions were much more favorable to the eastern half of the country. The extended version of this article at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) has separate maps for each of the four hours on Saturday, showing the progression of propagation paths over time, as well as a map of Sunday's propagation paths.

The ionosphere was not the only method of making longer QSOs. A number of stations bounced signals off of that passive reflector that orbits our planet approximately ¼-million

miles away to make intracontinental and intercontinental QSOs. On 144 MHz K1JT, K5QE, KL7UW, NC2V, W4AS, W9GA, W9JN, WA3QPX and WB2RVX reported such QSOs. K5QE and W7MEM report EME QSOs on 432 MHz in their logs and W3HMS reported a couple of EME QSOs on 1296 MHz. The log from K5QE also shows a 222 MHz QSO with W6MYC that was likely to have been via EME, even though it was not over as long a path as EME QSOs completed on other bands.

## Regional Spotlight

The Northeast region, which includes the Atlantic, Hudson and New England Divisions along with the eastern reaches of Canada, was the source of more than 40% of the logs submitted with 303. The Atlantic Division alone provided over half of those (165) and the Eastern Pennsylvania Section (EPA) provided the highest count from any single section with 82. EPA actually tied the log totals from the entire New England Division (which is comprised of seven sections). The next highest count of logs from any single division was the 58 from the Central Division. With so many stations active in the area, many of the overall Top Ten by Category listings contained only stations from the Northeast region. The initial

## Affiliated Club Competition

|                                    | Logs | Score     |
|------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| <b>Unlimited Club Category</b>     |      |           |
| Mt Airy VHF Radio Club             | 65   | 2,601,071 |
| <b>Medium Club Category</b>        |      |           |
| North East Weak Signal Group       | 20   | 589,759   |
| Nacogdoches ARC                    | 5    | 584,300   |
| Florida Weak Signal Society        | 11   | 407,792   |
| Potomac Valley Radio Club          | 31   | 405,921   |
| Contest Club Ontario               | 12   | 128,193   |
| Badger Contesters                  | 16   | 127,363   |
| Pacific Northwest VHF Society      | 19   | 114,416   |
| Society of Midwest Contesters      | 14   | 110,954   |
| Northern Lights Radio Society      | 11   | 100,572   |
| Yankee Clipper Contest Club        | 11   | 89,619    |
| Tennessee Contest Group            | 4    | 70,490    |
| Roadrunners Microwave Group        | 6    | 42,062    |
| Frankford Radio Club               | 7    | 36,160    |
| North Texas Microwave Society      | 4    | 32,240    |
| Bergen ARA                         | 11   | 18,029    |
| Six Meter Club of Chicago          | 11   | 17,823    |
| Florida Contest Group              | 6    | 15,421    |
| Rochester VHF Group                | 6    | 14,232    |
| Northern California Contest Club   | 9    | 12,087    |
| South Jersey Radio Assn            | 5    | 10,979    |
| Carolina DX Association            | 4    | 9,890     |
| Rochester (MN) ARC                 | 14   | 9,748     |
| CTRI Contest Group                 | 3    | 8,545     |
| Mad River Radio Club               | 4    | 5,408     |
| Alabama Contest Group              | 3    | 5,366     |
| Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers | 4    | 2,935     |
| Georgia Contest Group              | 4    | 1,322     |
| Contest Group Du Quebec            | 3    | 990       |
| Minnesota Wireless Assn            | 4    | 231       |
| Alaska VHF-UP Group                | 3    | 225       |
| <b>Local Club Category</b>         |      |           |
| Murgas ARC                         | 3    | 30,770    |
| Bristol (TN) ARC                   | 9    | 16,728    |
| Granite State ARA                  | 5    | 14,935    |
| Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs         | 6    | 10,674    |
| Stoned Monkey VHF ARC              | 3    | 9,087     |
| Meriden ARC                        | 4    | 7,796     |
| DFW Contest Group                  | 3    | 5,424     |
| Contoocook Valley Radio Club       | 4    | 3,382     |
| Burlington County Radio Club       | 3    | 3,308     |
| Sterling Park ARC                  | 3    | 2,336     |
| Mobile Sixers Radio Club           | 4    | 2,246     |
| Maritime Contest Club              | 3    | 347       |

winners of this year's new categories, Rich, KV2R, for SO3B and Ev, W2EV, for SO-FM, both operated from the region and three of the other Top Ten finishers in each of the new categories were from the Northeast. National SOLP leader, Roger, W3SZ, was joined by five other SOLP entrants from the region. Jeff, K1TEO, had more company from the Northeast, with seven other SOHP national Top Ten finishers from there (five of those from the EPA Section). Another national leader from the Northeast region was Richard, N2SPI, who was accompanied by three other Single Operator, Portable entrants. The national top scorers in the multioperator categories were also from the Northeast; the N3NGE team was joined by three other Northeasterners among the Top Ten in MO and the W3SO team led four other national LM leaders from the region. Leading rovers from the Northeast were Russ, NN3Q, (with Al, K3WGR), in "classic" Rover (accompanied by one other rover from the region), Justin, N2ZBH, in RL (also accompanied by one other from the region) and Sig, KJ1K, who was the sole RU entry from the Northeast.

The 115 logs from the Southeast region

(Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions) was the next highest regional log count. In the new Single Operator categories, the SO3B top scorer was Tim, KD5CKP, with Dave, N4DW, finishing first in SO-FM. For the SOLP and SOHP categories, Todd, N4QWZ, and Mike, W3IP, were the leaders for the region and there was no entry in SO-Portable from Southeast. The region's top multioperator entries were Steve, N4JQQ (+ assistance), in MO and Don, N3MK (+ assistance), in ML. The overall "classic" Rover winner, Wayne, N6NB, operated in the Southeast region, with Ray, KD4RSL, finishing in the top spot for the region's Limited Rovers.

Log submissions from the Central region, consisting of Central and Great Lakes Divisions plus the 4 new sections of Ontario totaled 107, with Bob, VE3KZ, and Erich, KC9CUK, leading the Central region in the new SO3B and SO-FM categories, respectively. Bob, K2DRH; Paul, W0UC and Rod, KD0EBT, topped the Central SOLP, SOHP, and SO-Portable categories, respectively. Jim, KO9A, went with assistance to lead MO and a team at N8ZM (with "lots of good food" according to their Soapbox) topped ML from the region. Central's leading rovers were Russell, VE3OIL, for "classic" and James, W8ISS, for Limited.

Four divisions; Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf; plus the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan make up the Midwest region from which 103 logs were submitted. Bob, K0NR, and Tim, WD9IGX, claimed the inaugural top spots for the region in the new SO3B and SO-FM categories, respectively. Midwest's best in SOLP was Keith, WB5ZDP, and in SOHP Ron, K5LLL. Stu, W0STU, claimed the region's top spot for SO-Portable with a mountain-topping expedition as his photos show at [www.arri.org/soapbox/view/8567](http://www.arri.org/soapbox/view/8567). Rovers in the Midwest were led by Tom, W5TV (with Ralph, WD5RAH) in "classic" Rover, your author John, K9JK (with Mike, WB8BZK) in RL and Harry, W0BL in RU.

Participants from the West Coast region; Northwestern, Pacific and Southwestern Divisions plus Alberta, British Columbia and NWT; submitted a total of 91 logs with John, K6MI, topping the new SO3B category and Terry, K6TDI, prevailing in the new SO-FM category from the region. Bob, AF6RR, and Eric, N7EPD, were the region's lead-

ers in SOLP and SOHP, respectively. Duane, KI6QEL, was the lone SO-Portable entrant from the West Coast and also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the category. Tom, KE7SW (+ assistance), claimed the region's top spot in MO with a margin of less than 200 points over the team at AE6GE. The ML entry from the West Coast was W6QAR with this being their second foray into VHF+ contesting. Their Soapbox comment also noted that they "Had a couple of newcomers participate who should soon be licensed." West Coast rovers kept it Limited (no "classic" or Unlimited rovers from the region) with Darryl, WW7D, finishing atop the category.

## Club Competition

The results table tells the story. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Packrats continued their streak of winning the Unlimited Club category. Even though their log count dropped to 65 from last year's 77 (still plenty of margin above the 51-log minimum for Unlimited), their aggregate total score increased by almost 185,000.

Among the 30 entries in Medium Club, 20 members of the North East Weak Signal Group submitted their logs to claim that gavel with just 5,000 points more than the five logs



Justin, N2ZBH, sure had some great views during the contest! He roved to mountaintop locations in Eagle Rock Reservation (FN20vt), Mt. Peter (FN21uf), Nike Overlook Park (FN31ab) and Alpine Lookout (FN30aw) [Justin De Vuyst, N2BZH, photo]

## Top Ten

| Single Operator, High Power |         | Multioperator         |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| K1TEO                       | 349,305 | N3NGE                 | 575,706 |
| K3TUF                       | 263,948 | K5QE                  | 418,608 |
| WB2RVX                      | 191,260 | K3EOD                 | 67,528  |
| WA2FGK                      |         | KB0HH                 | 59,598  |
| (K2LNS, op)                 | 109,516 | WB3IGR                | 27,192  |
| WA3DRC                      | 92,272  | KE1LI                 | 20,945  |
| K3IPM                       | 76,196  | N1JEZ                 | 17,253  |
| K3CB                        | 57,715  | K09A                  | 17,136  |
| W0UC                        | 56,848  | KE7SW                 | 15,235  |
| WA2OMY                      | 49,368  | AE6GE                 | 15,050  |
| W0RSJ                       | 47,652  |                       |         |
| Single Operator, Low Power  |         | Limited Multioperator |         |
| W3SZ                        | 186,415 | W3SO                  | 116,920 |
| WA3NUF                      | 128,338 | K2LIM                 | 91,440  |
| N3RG                        | 88,786  | N8ZM                  | 30,076  |
| K2DRH                       | 81,648  | W1QK                  | 28,334  |
| AF1T                        | 76,248  | N3MK                  | 27,456  |
| WB2SIH                      | 71,642  | W4NH                  | 25,456  |
| N4QWZ                       | 69,750  | K0SIX                 | 14,256  |
| WA3GFZ                      | 66,663  | KB4BKV                | 9,776   |
| K1KG                        | 62,500  | K2QO                  | 8,050   |
| W2BZY                       | 40,107  | W9RVG                 | 3,645   |
| Single Operator, Portable   |         | Rover                 |         |
| N2SPI                       | 2,464   | N6NB/R                | 154,440 |
| K16QEL                      | 1,666   | W6TAI/R               | 134,310 |
| WB2AMU                      | 915     | W5TV/R                | 106,128 |
| W0STU                       | 666     | NN3Q/R                | 104,924 |
| KD0EBT                      | 270     | N2CEI                 | 101,707 |
| KK6MC                       | 252     | K1DS/R                | 99,162  |
| WA3WUL                      | 48      | K4SME                 | 94,224  |
| KC9ALX                      | 28      | WB2ONA                | 65,681  |
| W3MEO                       | 12      | N2CYM                 | 60,496  |
| KD2DCC                      | 6       | W5JMC/R               | 47,150  |
| Single Operator, 3-Band     |         | Limited Rover         |         |
| KV2R                        | 6,368   | K9JK/R                | 20,880  |
| VE3KZ                       | 5,680   | KE5GAQ/R              | 18,800  |
| K6MI                        | 5,145   | WW7D/R                | 18,216  |
| N11BM                       | 4,770   | N2ZBH/R               | 13,968  |
| AC8HU                       | 4,465   | K7BWH                 | 9,509   |
| N9TF                        | 2,369   | K0MHC/R               | 8,736   |
| WB9TFH                      | 2,160   | N6ZE/R                | 2,882   |
| N2SLO                       | 2,080   | KD4RSL/R              | 2,222   |
| W1DYJ                       | 1,840   | N2SLN/R               | 2,016   |
| KD5CKP                      | 1,679   | K6LMN/R               | 1,309   |
| Single Operator, FM Only    |         | Unlimited Rover       |         |
| W2EV                        | 1,080   | W0BL/R                | 10,086  |
| KC9CUK                      | 441     | KJ1K/R                | 9,682   |
| K6TDI                       | 324     | KR0VER/R              | 4,758   |
| N9ZE                        | 156     | AB0YM/R               | 3,082   |
| K2SI                        | 128     |                       |         |
| KB1YNT                      | 80      |                       |         |
| WD9IGX                      | 54      |                       |         |
| KL2DN                       | 54      |                       |         |
| K1KD                        | 40      |                       |         |
| KB1YSK                      | 33      |                       |         |

from the Nacogdoches ARC (about 1% difference). Though not in contention for the gavel, the aggregate scores of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place Medium clubs were less than 2,000 points apart (under 1/2% difference) with the Florida Weak Signal Society sneaking in just ahead of the Potomac Valley Radio Club.

Twelve clubs vied for the Local Club gavel with the Murgas ARC claiming it. Three Murgas members submitted their logs to finish just over 14,000 points ahead of the total score from the nine logs received from members of the Bristol (TN) ARC.

### Summary

Welcome to the new Single Operator, Three Band and Single Operator, FM Only categories. Thanks as well to pioneering operators

## Division Leaders

| Single Operator, High Power |        |         | Multioperator         |           |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Atlantic                    | K3TUF  | 263,948 | Atlantic              | N3NGE     | 575,706 |
| Central                     | W0UC   | 56,848  | Central               | K09A      | 17,136  |
| Dakota                      | K0AWU  | 7,080   | Dakota                | NY0A      | 378     |
| Delta                       | WB4JGG | 7,614   | Delta                 | N4JQQ     | 13,356  |
| Great Lakes                 | K8MD   | 40,848  | Great Lakes           | K8GDT     | 11,712  |
| Hudson                      | W2BVBH | 13,708  | Hudson                | K2ZD      | 12,768  |
| Midwest                     | W0KT   | 680     | Midwest               | N0AC      | 6       |
| New England                 | K1TEO  | 349,305 | New England           | KE1LI     | 20,945  |
| Northwestern                | N7EPD  | 22,506  | Northwestern          | KE7SW     | 15,235  |
| Pacific                     | KC6ZWT | 16,796  | Pacific               | AE6GE     | 15,050  |
| Roanoke                     | W3IP   | 41,412  | Roanoke               | W4YCC     | 1,653   |
| Southeastern                | W4ZRZ  | 9,800   | Rocky Mountain        | W0RIC     | 1,898   |
| Southwestern                | WA7JTM | 4,294   | Southeastern          | K1KC      | 3,003   |
| West Gulf                   | K5LLL  | 28,747  | Southwestern          | K9PY/7    | 70      |
| Canada                      | VE3ZV  | 16,571  | West Gulf             | K5QE      | 418,608 |
|                             |        |         | Canada                | VA7FC     | 546     |
| Single Operator, Low Power  |        |         | Limited Multioperator |           |         |
| Atlantic                    | W3SZ   | 186,415 | Atlantic              | W3SO      | 116,920 |
| Central                     | K2DRH  | 81,648  | Central               | W9RVG     | 3,645   |
| Dakota                      | W0GHZ  | 13,986  | Dakota                | K0SIX     | 14,256  |
| Delta                       | N4QWZ  | 69,750  | Great Lakes           | N8ZM      | 30,076  |
| Great Lakes                 | K8WW   | 9,802   | Hudson                | W2GH      |         |
| Hudson                      | WB2SIH | 71,642  | (W2JSJ, op)           |           | 440     |
| Midwest                     | N0LL   | 10,731  | W0AO                  |           | 54      |
| New England                 | AF1T   | 76,248  | New England           | W1QK      | 28,334  |
| Northwestern                | KD7UO  | 9,064   | Roanoke               | N3MK      | 27,456  |
| Pacific                     | AF6RR  | 10,350  | Southeastern          | W4NH      | 25,456  |
| Roanoke                     | WB8TFV | 12,505  | Southwestern          | W6QAR     | 1,725   |
| Rocky Mountain              | KK0Q   | 3,920   | West Gulf             | WD5IYF    | 2,652   |
| Southeastern                | W2BZY  | 40,107  |                       |           |         |
| Southwestern                | K6TSK  | 3,944   |                       |           |         |
| West Gulf                   | WB5ZDP | 15,504  |                       |           |         |
| Canada                      | VA3ST  | 39,483  |                       |           |         |
| DX                          | XE2JS  | 4       |                       |           |         |
| Single Operator, Portable   |        |         | Rover                 |           |         |
| Atlantic                    | N2SPI  | 2,464   | Atlantic              | NN3Q/R    | 104,924 |
| Central                     | KD0EBT | 270     | Central               | W9FZ/R    | 20,400  |
| Hudson                      | WB2AMU | 915     | Dakota                | KC0P/R    | 4,320   |
| Pacific                     | K16QEL | 1,666   | Delta                 | N6NB/R    | 154,440 |
| Rocky Mountain              | W0STU  | 666     | Great Lakes           | NE8I      | 7,344   |
|                             |        |         | New England           | AA1I/R    | 4,061   |
|                             |        |         | Roanoke               | W5JMC/R   | 47,150  |
|                             |        |         | Southeastern          | N2CEI     | 101,707 |
|                             |        |         | West Gulf             | W5TV/R    | 106,128 |
|                             |        |         | Canada                | VE3OIL/R  | 36,646  |
| Single Operator, 3-Band     |        |         | Limited Rover         |           |         |
| Atlantic                    | KV2R   | 6,368   | Atlantic              | N2SLN/R   | 2,016   |
| Central                     | N9TF   | 2,369   | Dakota                | WA2VOI/R  | 672     |
| Dakota                      | AB0BW  | 174     | Delta                 | KD4NOQ/R  | 290     |
| Delta                       | KD5CKP | 1,679   | Great Lakes           | W8ISS     | 264     |
| Great Lakes                 | AC8HU  | 4,465   | Hudson                | N2ZBH/R   | 13,968  |
| Hudson                      | N2SLO  | 2,080   | Midwest               | N0JK      | 182     |
| Midwest                     | K0JQA  | 88      | New England           | WA1T/R    | 880     |
| New England                 | W1DYJ  | 1,840   | Northwestern          | WW7D/R    | 18,216  |
| Northwestern                | K7VIT  | 768     | Roanoke               | KD4RSL/R  | 2,222   |
| Pacific                     | K6MI   | 5,145   | Rocky Mountain        | KD7W/PJ/R | 54      |
| Roanoke                     | WA4LDU | 768     | Southeastern          | N4TZH/R   | 480     |
| Rocky Mountain              | K0NR   | 1,311   | Southwestern          | N6ZE/R    | 2,882   |
| Southeastern                | W4ETN  | 1,485   | West Gulf             | K9JK/R    | 20,880  |
| Southwestern                | WB6HYH | 800     |                       |           |         |
| West Gulf                   | AE5P   | 48      |                       |           |         |
| Canada                      | VE3KZ  | 5,680   |                       |           |         |
| DX                          | XE1AY  | 627     |                       |           |         |
| Single Operator, FM Only    |        |         | Unlimited Rover       |           |         |
| Atlantic                    | W2EV   | 1,080   | New England           | KJ1K/R    | 9,682   |
| Central                     | KC9CUK | 441     | Rocky Mountain        | W0BL/R    | 10,086  |
| Dakota                      | WD9IGX | 54      |                       |           |         |
| Delta                       | N4DW   | 22      |                       |           |         |
| Great Lakes                 | KT8D   | 24      |                       |           |         |
| New England                 | KB1YNT | 80      |                       |           |         |
| Northwestern                | KL2DN  | 54      |                       |           |         |
| Pacific                     | N6AJR  | 30      |                       |           |         |
| Roanoke                     | KK4MIN | 10      |                       |           |         |
| Southeastern                | N5EEO  | 1       |                       |           |         |
| Southwestern                | K6TDI  | 324     |                       |           |         |
| West Gulf                   | KC5FM  | 3       |                       |           |         |

who chose to explore these new paths and to the many who entered in the "classic" categories. It would have been quite interesting had similar propagation occurred in 2013 as was experienced in 2012, but that is part of the sport of radio: Like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. So what flavor of propagation will be found in 2014? Make your plans to participate and find out first-hand January 18-20!

## The Opening Continues Online!

Read even more stories and analysis in the Expanded Results article online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).