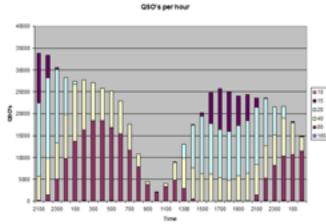


Steve London, N2IC

"75th Anniversary Edition Brings Out the Crowds"

The 75th anniversary edition of the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes was a record breaker in so many ways – increased activity, numerous records broken in all categories, challenging multipliers, and some of the closest races in recent memory. While the sunspot cycle remained stuck at the bottom, showing few signs of new solar Cycle 24, conditions were indeed improved over the 2007 running. In 2007, many participants bemoaned the long skip conditions on 75 meters, resulting in 0-point contacts with Europeans, while at the same time making contacts within 500 miles was a difficult undertaking.



**Figure 1**-Here is the ebb and flow

of Sweepstakes, showing the number of QSOs made on each band during each hour.

This year, 75 meters was much better behaved, with nearby contacts being easy to complete, and strong signals from coast-to-coast. Even 15 meters was improved this year, especially if you were fortunate enough to be on the East or West Coasts, Hawaii, or in the Caribbean ARRL sections. 20 meters took the brunt of activity during the daytime hours, resulting, expectedly, in very crowded conditions. Figure 1 shows where the contesters were throughout the contest.

To the surprise of many, the 2008 Phone Sweepstakes smashed the old record for the number of entries submitted – 1872 entries. Every year, more and more hams discover how much fun contesting is! This year, there were 38 new Section records, and 13 new Division records as seen in the table.

Table - New Section and Division Records

- 1		1				
	Call	Score	Category	Section	Division	Division

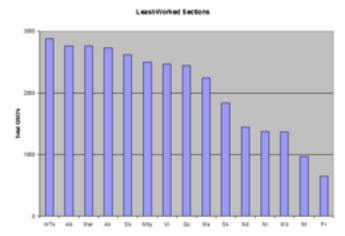
					Record ?
W4AAA(KK9A,op)	237280	A	NC	Roanoke	Y
K7ZSD	216618	A	OR	Northwestern	
K1BX	211360	A	NH	New England	Y
W4LT	166374	A	WCF	Southeastern	
VY2TT(K6LA,op)	281736	В	MAR	Canada	
W1XX	268960	В	RI	New England	
N8II	264000	В	WV	Roanoke	
K8PO	241760	В	ME	New England	
VE3TA	208320	В	ON	Canada	
W6YI	350880	M	SDG	Southwestern	Y
K5NA	336480	M	STX	West Gulf	Y
NØNI	278400	M	IA	Midwest	
K1LZ	258962	M	EMA	New England	
K2NNY	249280	M	NNY	Atlantic	
VE6EX	236052	M	AB	Canada	
K2Z	236000	M	NLI	Hudson	
KC5R	111520	Q	LA	Delta	Y
NX9T	92400	Q	NC	Roanoke	Y
K7MM	21700	Q	QC	Canada	
K2CC	38360	S	NNY	Atlantic	
KØVVY	26288	S	SD	Dakota	
K7RL	342080	U	WWA	Northwestern	Y

WB1GQR(W1SJ,op)	280160	U	VT	New England	Y
NØQO	277280	U	СО	Rocky Mountain	Y
W3GRF(K3MM,op)	270560	U	MDC	Atlantic	Y
W4MR(AA4NC,op)	261760	U	NC	Roanoke	
N4ZZ	253760	U	TN	Delta	Y
W2RE	250400	U	ENY	Hudson	Y
N2MM	230880	U	SNJ	Atlantic	
NF4A	203360	U	NFL	Southeastern	
KTØR(KØOB,op)	171444	U	MN	Dakota	
KØHW	164320	U	SD	Dakota	Y
K7BG	160640	U	МТ	Northwestern	
N6QQ	124662	U	LAX	Southwestern	
KH6LC(SMØDRD,op)	124480	U	PAC	Pacific	
VY1EI	107172	U	NT	Canada	
W3TZ	96160	U	AR	Delta	
NX7TT	62900	U	ID	Northwestern	
VE7KS	54880	U	ВС	Canada	
		L	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

### The Elusive Clean Sweep

Of course, most participants don't expect to be setting a new record. However, Sweepstakes does provide a meaningful goal for all – the "Clean Sweep" (working at least one station in each of the 80 ARRL sections). This year, like most years, there were a small number of sections that presented challenges for many participants. In fact, many lamented missing the Clean Sweep this year. One section really stood out this year for its relative rarity – Puerto Rico. (see Figure 2) For each of the previous ten years, Puerto Rico was quite common. This year a number of Puerto Rican stations made QSO's in Sweepstakes, but the total number of contacts from KP4 was not large. Despite the challenges, 258 made the grade for a Clean Sweep this year. For K1GIL, N7WH, W7PP, K6NV, N6XG, VE3GLO, and others, it was their first sweep ever! For W9OL, it was his first sweep after 41 years! Which Sections were the most common? Figure 3 shows the sections that were more represented in the submitted logs.

While 258 participants were very pleased to earn their clean sweeps (See the "Clean Sweep Winners" table for the complete list), another 109 participants were disappointed to come so close, missing only one section. As Figure 4 shows (not surprisingly) 33 missed Puerto Rico, despite activity from KP4SQ, KP4ZY, WP4SK, NP4Z, NP3CW and KP3S. Yukon and the Northwest Territories are always difficult, and this year was no exception, even with significant efforts from VY1EI, VE8DAV and VE8EV (See the "High Arctic Sweepstakes" sidebar for an idea of what it's like to do Sweepstakes from latitude 68 North). See the "Clean Sweeps" table for a complete list of those who achieved this feat.



<u>Figure 2</u>-If one of these rare Sections was not in your log, you have a lot of company. These were the Sections worked by the smallest number of participants.

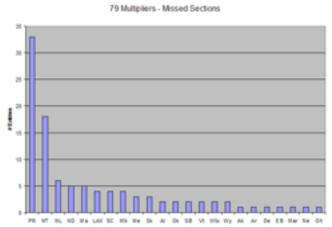


Figure 4- Which one was just out of reach for that Clean Sweep? The most common only-missed-Section was, no surprise, PR, followed by NT, NL, ND, and MS. Even common Sections can be devil a log as the entries for EB and OH demonstrate. We feel your pain!



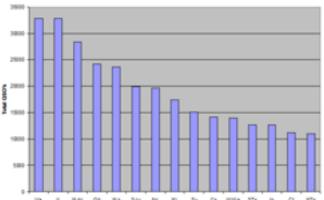


Figure 3- These Sections were the ones worked by the most participants. If you missed one of these, it wasn't for lack of activity!

This year, the number of participants missing Newfoundland/Labrador was down significantly, thanks to VO1KVT, VO1HE, VO1MP and VO1TA. Many thanks to those ops for making their rare sections available. In addition to the usual suspects, more than a few participants missed the sweep by not working "common" sections, such as Los Angeles and South Carolina. Do I see contest expeditions to Hollywood and the Citadel next year?

#### Close Races

Every year there are a number of very close Section races. Some of these are completely accidental – the two participants didn't even know they were competing in the same category, while others were clearly rivalries, extending back many years.

The most exciting close race was for Low Power in Southern Texas. Rene, K5JX edged out Phil, KD5MMM by just a single contact. In Eastern Washington, Low Power, Jay, WAØWWW finished with a seven QSO lead over Tony, WS7V. Only eight QSO's separated Richard, KV2R from Manny, W2MF in the Southern New Jersey, Low Power race. Similarly, in the West Virginia, Low Power competition, Marty, W8AKS bested Gary, W8IVF by eight QSO's while operating portable from an RV park! Ironically, Marty did not work a single West Virginia station! In Illinois, Low Power is always a competitive section and category, and this year was no exception as nine contacts separated Greg, WR9L from John, N9LYE. You can't get much closer than a tie, and the Roanoke Division saw just that this year. Rich NN3W (@N4RV) and Jeff N8II both managed to score exactly 264k in the Single-Op High-Power category. Who buys the frosty malts in THAT battle?

See the "Close Races" table for a complete rundown of those "photo finishes."

#### **High Power Category**

After ten consecutive High Power victories, concluding last year, WP3R took the year off. This opened up the High Power field to serious competition for the #1 spot. Looking at the top runner-ups for the previous years, W7WA, KP2TM (op K9TM), KH7B (op K4XS), K5TR, KDØS (op WDØT), WØSD (op WØDB) and K6NA (op N6ED) were all going to be gunning for the top spot in 2008. The result was the tightest race in any category that this author has seen in many years. Only 4% separated the #1 spot from the #5 spot. Only 26 QSO's separated Number 1 from Number 3. The race between Dan W7WA, Tim K9TM at KP2TM, and Bill K4XS at KH7B can only be described as a classic.

Figure 5 shows that KP2TM got off to a quick start, with a 20 QSO lead over W7WA in the first hour. However, the Caribbean advantage quickly vanished with the sunlight, and W7WA jumped ahead in the 2nd hour, a lead that Dan held throughout the evening and night. Surprisingly, KH7B was almost out of the

running during the first 12 hours due to a 30-minute power outage during the second hour. At 0900Z, W7WA had a formidable 135 OSO lead over KP2TM, and a 151 OSO lead over KH7B.

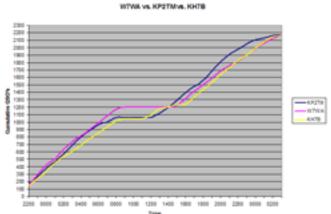


Figure 5- The hour-by-hour progress for

W7WA, KP2TM, and KH7B who finished 1-2-3 in Phone Sweepstakes.

Things got more interesting in the next six hours, with differing off-time strategies. Dan took all six hours off in one break, from 0830Z to 1430Z.Tim took 4.5 hours off, from 0600Z-0630Z and 0800Z-1200Z. Bill chose an interesting strategy, taking only 2.5 hours of nighttime off-time. This left things much closer at 1400Z, with only 10 QSO's separating Bill, Tim and Dan. With daylight, Tim's Caribbean advantage came into play. There's nothing like having 15 meter propagation to nearly all of continental North America, simultaneously. By the time the sun set in St Croix around 2100Z, Tim had built up a monstrous 159 QSO lead over Dan, and a 179 QSO lead over Bill.

Three hours later, with only three hours left, Tim still had more than a 100 QSO lead. Then things got interesting. At 0130Z, the contest was over for KP2TM – he had operated his full 24 hours with 2162 contacts. For KH7B, the contest ended at 0200Z with 2154 QSO's. Meanwhile, remember that Dan took all six hours of off-time in one break. Like the tortoise-and-hare, Dan just kept pushing on in those last hours, ekeing out a 12 QSO lead...and his first SS Phone victory since 1987!

The rest of the Top Ten was only slightly behind Dan, Tim, and Bill. Bruce, AA5B, traveled to N2IC's southern New Mexico location, taking the #4 spot. George, NR5M, came out of a 15-year contest retirement, putting his new Houston super-station to use for fifth place. Craig, N6ED, operating from K6NA, was the top W6 station, in 6th place. Seventh and eighth places were the battle for South Dakota. This year, Joe, WØDB, operating at WØSD, edged out Todd, WDØT, operating from KDØS. Year-after-year, these two guys are neck-and-neck. Two Hawaiian stations made the Top Ten this year, with Mike KH6ND, placing number 9 from the KH7X station. Dean, N6BV, finished out the Top Ten list. The top East Coast score was in 11th place, with Bob, NA4BW, operating from K4SSU's station in Atlanta.

### **Low Power Category**

The Low Power category continues to be the most popular category for SS participants. Again, this year more than twice as many logs were submitted for this category (817), compared to any other category. Those making the Low Power Top Ten came from all parts of the United States.

John, KK9A, using the W4AAA call sign, moved up from 3rd place to #1 this year, with 1483 QSO's and a new Division record. This is John's first Sweepstakes victory, as he continues to build his North Carolina station. Brad, K7ZSD, had a solid 2nd place showing from his snowy Oregon mountain QTH. Another Low Power veteran, Art, K1BX, had a little easier time with fickle New England propagation this year, taking the 3rd place spot and a new Division record. Art had a much lower error rate than any other TopTen finisher, moving him up several places in the standings.

In his 55th year as a ham, Paul, N4PN took the 4th place spot, with 1286 QSO's from Georgia. Bob, the "Green Hornet", W3GH, stung the competition, with a 5th place finish from Western Pennsylvania. Steve, NA4K, moved into the Top Ten this year, with 1170 QSO's from Tennessee and the #6 spot. Showing that the Top Ten can be made from Minnesota, Kirk, NØKK placed 7th. Lu, W4LT, jumped into the Top Ten this year as number 8. Not only did he make more QSO's in less time than last year, but cut his error rate by 2/3.Great show! Rounding out the Top Ten were John, N8AA, from Michgan, and Bill, ACØW, operating from Minnesota.



KUØG is happy about his first clean sweep in 25 years. (Photo - KUØG)



This was the first Sweepstakes for Ralph, N1DJF. (Photo - N1DJF)



QRP operated from Quebec as K7MM/VE2. (Photo - K7MM)

### **QRP** Category

Operating the Phone Sweepstakes, with less than 5 watts, takes patience, skill and determination. This year, 62 entries were received in this challenging category.

Can you say three-peat? Congratulations to Al, KC5R, QRP operator extraordinaire, on winning the QRP category, and setting a new Division record in the process. While QRP involves hours of tedious search-and-pounce, Al was able to take advantage of a few holes in the QRM to run some stations, making 697 QSO's. Al was also one of only two QRP entries to make a Clean Sweep.

The 2nd place entry was also a "repeat performer" from last year. Dave, N9KT, was the other QRP Clean Sweep. Dave made 633 QSO's – not easy from the Indiana "Black Hole". Jeff, NX9T, moved up one place this year to number 3, with 600 QSO's, an increase of 81 from last year. Jeff also set a new Division record. Another midwest Black Hole entry came in 4th place—congratulations to Ralph, K9ZO. Moving into the Top Ten this year is Randy, NDØC with 464 contacts and 5th place.

There was very keen competition for the next five slots in the top-10, with only 9 % separating 6th place through 10th place. Congratulations to Phil, NØKE, Bob, W7YAQ, Dan, N8IE, Dan, KIØOVand Doug, KR2Q.

### **Unlimited Category**

Thanks to the rivalry between two major contest clubs, the Unlimited category has become the second most popular category, with 391entries this year.

After years of intense competition for the top spot, Mitch, K7RL, ran away from the pack in 2008. His 2138 QSO's was a personal best for Mitch, and also set a new Division record. His Clean Sweep was no easy task this year – On Sunday afternoon he still needed VO1/2, VY1/VE8, and KP4. Washington was clearly a hot spot this year, with two category winners residing near Puget Sound.

Matt, WX5S, operating W7RN in Nevada, moved up to 2nd place this year. Mitch, WB1GQR, made many folks happy with the Vermont multiplier. Mitch moved up to 3rd place this year, thanks to outstanding conditions on 40 and 75 meters. Mitch also set a new Division record.

In 4th place was a newcomer—congratulations to Ken Long, NØQO! Ken has only been a ham for two years, but is already making a name for himself in contesting with this new Division record. The historic W3GRF call was proudly used by Ty, K3MM, for 5th place. And yes, this, too, was a new Division record! Three Northern California contesters, battled for the next 5 slots. Dan, K6IF, Dean, N6DE, and Ed, K6YT (WØYK, op) placed 6th, 7th and 9th, with only 70 QSO's separating them. Will, AA4NC, operating W4MR from North Carolina, battled stormy weather and high noise levels on the low bands, but still took the #8 spot. Don, N4ZZ rounded out the Top Ten from Tennessee, setting a new Division record.

In the Unlimited category, new Division records were also set by KTØR (KØOB, op) (Dakota Division) and W2RE (Hudson Division).

#### **Multioperator Category**

The Multioperator Category has become an extremely popular and highly contested choice for many SS participants. It's a great opportunity to contest with friends and improve your operating skills.

The W6YI team of Jim, W6YI, John, K6AM, Dan, N6MJ and Dennis, N6KI, were again the winners, with their best score ever. These guys have operated together for many years – clearly, a well-oiled team. Like Team Avis, 2nd place was also a repeat of last year. Station owners Richard, K5NA and Susan, K5DU, were very happy to have Colin, KU5B and Richard, N5ZC do 99% of the operating, with their best score ever. Both the W6YI and K5NA teams set new Division records.

The Kansas team of WØNO moved up from 6th to 3rd place this year. Congrats to Allan, WØNO, Tim, ABØS, Lee, KØWA and Mike, KØFJ. Team SteppIR, this year sporting the call K7PU, and operated by K7IR, K7EDX, N9ADG, K7XS and K7XH, moved up to the number 4 slot this year. Only eight QSO's down, in 5th place, was the Iowa NØNI team of KØWHV, NØAC, NØNI and NØXR.

The next four slots turned into the "Battle for New England". Congratulations to the K1LZ team of K1LZ, N8BO, K6ND and K6ND for their 6th place finish. In 7th place was the W1AW HQ station, operated by the ARRL team of KX9X, NØAX, K1RH, K1MMH, W1KRB, WY7FD and K1SFA. Another classic call, W2PV, was activated by K1TTT, NJ1F and W1VE. In 9th place, was the Northern New York K2NNY station, operated by K2DB, W1TY, W2LB, N2ZN, AF2K, K2CS, and N2TWI. It's great of these guys to activate this rare multiplier. Another rare multiplier rounded out the Top Ten. Many thanks to N5DO and KE5OG for making West Texas an easy OSO.



Yvette, KB3HTS, is the picture of cool confidence at W8EDU. (Photo - KB3HTS)



at W8SH, Michigan State University. (Photo - KE7ESD)

## **School Club Category**

The Hesston College Amateur Radio Club, KØHC, again won the school club category, with 1455 QSO's, an increase of 65 QSO's over the previous two years. A great job by Bob, WØBH, Eric NØLQU, Lorna, KØWHY, and a number of not-yet-licensed members.

The MIT Radio Society, W1MX, operated by Ben, N1VF and Ryan, AG4ZP, came in 2nd place, despite their very noisy city location. Third place went to Worcester Polytechnical Institute Wireless Society, W1YK, operated by KB1OJH, AJ4KE, AB1JD, KE5GQI, KB1RGK, KB1LUJ, KI6RKZ, and KB1MS.

The Nacogdoches School Amateur Radio Club, KD5VVI, placed 4th, and the Clarkson College Amateur Radio Club, K2CC, operated by N2GZ, KC2LRC, WP4NYQ, KC2RGZ, KB1PXO and KC2UDS placed 5th.

Other schools making the Top Ten were Florida Atlantic University, K4FAU, Michigan State University, W8SH, University of Arkansas, W5YM, University of Nebraska, NØUNL, and South Dakota School of Mines, KØVVY.

### **Club Competition**

Activity in Sweepstakes is a long-standing tradition for many clubs, going back to the early years. Without the promotion of Sweepstakes by the clubs, there would be far less activity for us to all enjoy. The October-November-December "contest season" is a crowded time on everyone's calendar. It takes a tremendous amount of planning, promotion and execution to "beat the drums" and "bring out the troops" for Sweepstakes every year. Thanks!

Again this year, the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) and the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) battled for the top spot in the Unlimited Club category. This year, the mid-Atlantic-based PVRC was victorious, with an amazing 317 entries, and over 22 million points! Only 10% behind was the NCCC, with 278 entries and 20 million points. Honorable mention also goes to the Society of Midwest Contesters, for putting together 236 entries and 13 million points for 3rd place.

The Southern California Contest Club easily took 1st place in the Medium Club Category, with 43 entries and nearly 4 million points. The Tennessee Contest Group put together even more entries, 48, in their fine 2nd place showing. The next eight slots were remarkably tight. Just one or two more big scores could have moved any of these clubs into 3rd place!

In the Local Club category, the New Mexico Big River Contesters repeated last years' win with ten entries and 1 million points. Congratulations!

### Acknowledgments

Many thanks to "Tree" Tyree, N6TR, for his hard work checking the logs, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X for promptly answering my many questions, and Sweepstakes Contest Manager Ken Adams, K5KA, who maintains the SS records. In addition, Larry Hammel, K5OT, Glenn Rattman, K6NA and Bob Wilson, N6TV, painstakingly typed in the handwritten logs, so that they could be properly adjudicated.



Top Ten

Single Operator, High Power	Call	Score
	W7WA	345,920
	KP2TM (K9TM, op)	344,000
	KH7B (K4XS, op)	341,760
	N2IC (AA5B, op)	334,240
	NR5M	331,520
	K6NA (N6ED, op)	321,760
	WØSD (WØDB, op)	313,760
	KDØS (WDØT, op)	306,560
	KH7X (KH6ND, op)	302,080
	N6BV	294,240
Single Operator, Low Power	Call	Score
	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	237,280
	K7ZSD	216,618

	W4LT	166,374
	W4LT	166,374
	N8AA	155,532
	ACØW	146,624
Single Operator, QRP	Call	Score
	KC5R	111,520
	N9KT	101,280
	NX9T	92,400
	NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	89,856
	К9ZO	72,228
	NDØC	71,456
	NØKE	68,888
	W7YAQ	65,832
	N8IE	64,622
	KIØOV	62,900
Single Operator, Unlimited	Call	Score
	K7RL	342,080

	W7RN (WX5S, op)	282,240
	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	280,160
	NØQO	277,280
	W3GRF (K3MM, op)	270,560
	K6IF	269,280
	N6DE (@ N6TV)	262,880
	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	261,760
	K6YT (WØYK, op)	258,080
	N4ZZ	253,760
Multi-Operator	Call	Score
	W6YI	350,880
	K5NA	336,480
	WØNO	286,240
	K7PU	279,680
	NØNI	278,400
	K1LZ	258,962
	W1AW	252,800
	W2PV	252,640
	K2NNY	249,280
	N5DO	243,952
School Club	Call	Score

КØНС	229,890
W1MX	156,262
W1YK	57,512
KD5VVI	43,878
K2CC	38,360
K4FAU	32,706
W8SH	32,292
W5YM	30,020
NØUNL (WDØBGZ, op)	26,936
KØVVY	26,288



**Division Leaders By Category** 

Single Operator High Power			
Atlantic	KD4D	244,640	
Central	WB9Z	271,840	
Dakota	WØSD (WØDB, op)	313,760	
Delta	W5WMU	244,320	
Great Lakes	K8AO	175,868	
Hudson	N2LH	87,374	
Midwest	KØDEQ	176,160	
New England	NN1N	278,720	
Northwestern	W7WA	345,920	
Pacific	KH7B (K4XS, op)	341,760	
Roanoke	NN3W (@N4RV)	264,000	
Roanoke	N8II	264,000	
Rocky Mountain	N2IC (AA5B, op)	334,240	
Southeastern	KP2TM (K9TM, op)	344,000	
Southwestern	K6NA (N6ED, op)	321,760	
West Gulf	NR5M	331,520	

Canada	VY2TT (K6LA, op)	281,736		
Single Operator Low Power				
Atlantic	W3GH	195,604		
Central	WR9L	73,154		
Dakota	NØKK (@ NØAT)	172,220		
Delta	NA4K	187,200		
Great Lakes	N8AA	155,532		
Hudson	KU2M	108,724		
Midwest	KUØG	92,960		
New England	K1BX	211,360		
Northwestern	K7ZSD	216,618		
Pacific	AA6YX	72,072		
Roanoke	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	237,280		
Rocky Mountain	WØETT	116,960		
Southeastern	N4PN	205,760		
Southwestern	WAØKDS	132,800		
West Gulf	WD5K	144,960		
Canada	VA3DX	139,360		
Single Operator	QRP			
Atlantic	N3YD	52,976		
Central	N9KT	101,280		
Dakota	NDØC	71,456		
Delta	KC5R	111,520		

Great Lakes	N8IE	64,622
Hudson	KR2Q	62,216
Midwest	KIØOV	62,900
New England	KA1LMR	27,528
Northwestern	NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	89,856
Pacific	N6WG	20,532
Roanoke	NX9T	92,400
Rocky Mountain	NØKE	68,888
Southeastern	AA4W	23,450
Southwestern	N7JXS	6,318
Canada	VA3DF	50,516
Single Operator	Unlimited	
Atlantic	W3GRF (K3MM, op)	270,560
Central	N2BJ	214,400
Dakota	KTØR (KØOB, op)	171,444
Delta	N4ZZ	253,760
Great Lakes	W8MJ	240,480
Hudson	W2RE	250,400
Midwest	WØTT	96,640
New England	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	280,160
Northwestern	K7RL	342,080
Pacific	W7RN (WX5S, op)	282,240
Roanoke	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	261,760

Rocky Mountain	NØQO	277,280
Southeastern	NF4A	203,360
Southwestern	N6QQ	124,662
West Gulf	NICC	80,160
Canada	VY1EI	107,172
Multioperator	<u> </u>	
Atlantic	K2NNY	249,280
Central	К9МОТ	165,600
Dakota	KØFVF	131,140
Delta	W5RU	216,160
Great Lakes	NT8V	204,320
Hudson	K2Z	236,000
Midwest	WØNO	286,240
New England	K1LZ	258,962
Northwestern	K7PU	279,680
Pacific	N6EE	205,600
Roanoke	KA1ARB	238,880
Rocky Mountain	K7VU	160,368
Southeastern	W4QG	228,480
Southwestern	W6YI	350,880
West Gulf	K5NA	336,480
Canada	VE6EX	236,052
School Club	1	II
1		

Atlantic	K2CC	38,360
Central	N9GTC	17,446
Dakota	KØVVY	26,288
Delta	W5YM	30,020
Great Lakes	W8SH	32,292
Midwest	КØНС	229,890
New England	W1MX	156,262
Southeastern	K4FAU	32,706
Southwestern	W6YV	8,464
West Gulf	KD5VVI	43,878



**Regional Leaders** 

**B= Single Operator, High Power;** 

**A = Single Operator, Low Power;** 

**Q= Single Operator, QRP**;

**U** = Single Operator, Unlimited;

**M** = **Multioperator**;

S = School Club

Call	Score	Class
Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions;	Maritime and Quebec Section	ns)
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	281,736	В
NN1N	278,720	В
W1XX	268,960	В
KD4D	244,640	В
K8PO	241,176	В
K1BX	211,360	A
W3GH	195,604	A
K1PY (@ W2TZ)	120,992	A
KU2M	108,724	A
K1EP	107,796	A

KR2Q	62,216	Q
N3YD	52,976	Q
NK8Q	48,248	Q
KA1LMR	27,528	Q
K7MM	21,700	Q
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	280,160	U
W3GRF (K3MM, op)	270,560	U
W2RE	250,400	U
N2MM	230,880	U
W3PP	180,480	U
K1LZ	258,962	M
W1AW	252,800	M
W2PV	252,640	M
K2NNY	249,280	M
K2Z	236,000	M
Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)		
KP2TM (K9TM, op)	344,000	В
K4SSU (NA4BW, op)	291,826	В
WP2Z (K8MJZ, op)	279,502	В
N4OX	272,480	В
I		

NN3W (@N4RV)	264,000	В
N8II	264,000	В
W4AAA (KK9A, op)	237,280	A
N4PN	205,760	A
NA4K	187,200	A
W4LT	166,374	A
AB4GG	125,440	A
KC5R	111,520	Q
NX9T	92,400	Q
AA4W	23,450	Q
KI3O	18,240	Q
W5JBV	14,632	Q
W4MR (AA4NC, op)	261,760	U
N4ZZ	253,760	U
W4NF	242,240	U
NF4A	203,360	U
N1LN	193,440	U
KA1ARB	238,880	M
W4QG	228,480	M

W5RU	216,160	M
AE5T	193,234	M
K4HR	185,280	M
Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions:	; Ontario Section)	
WB9Z	271,840	В
K9BGL	258,400	В
К9СТ	246,400	В
NØIJ	216,320	В
VE3TA	208,320	В
N8AA	155,532	A
K8BL	145,280	A
VA3DX	139,360	A
W8TM	97,328	A
KY4J	91,200	A
N9KT	101,280	Q
K9ZO	72,228	Q
N8IE	64,622	Q
VA3DF	50,516	Q
KT8K	45,298	Q

W8MJ	240,480	U
N2BJ	214,400	U
W9IU	191,840	U
N9CK	165,760	U
K8UP	161,280	U
NT8V	204,320	M
К9МОТ	165,600	M
WD9CIR	122,450	M
K9SD	116,800	M
K8DV	106,492	M
Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and W	est Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and S	askatchewan Sections)
N2IC (AA5B, op)	334,240	В
NR5M	331,520	В
WØSD (WØDB, op)	313,760	В
KDØS (WDØT, op)	306,560	В
K5WA	291,036	В
NØKK (@ NØAT)	172,220	A
ACØW	146,624	A
WD5K	144,960	A
VE5ZX	132,600	A
	1	

WØETT	116,960	A
NDØC	71,456	Q
NØKE	68,888	Q
KIØOV	62,900	Q
NØUR	39,576	Q
KIØRB	18,328	Q
NØQO	277,280	U
KØUK	206,822	U
WA7LNW	190,880	U
KTØR (KØOB, op)	171,444	U
КØНW	164,320	U
K5NA	336,480	M
WØNO	286,240	M
NØNI	278,400	M
N5DO	243,952	M
KCØMO	224,000	M
West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern E	Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia	a and NWT Sections)
W7WA	345,920	В
KH7B (K4XS, op)	341,760	В

K6NA (N6ED, op)	321,760	В
KH7X (KH6ND, op)	302,080	В
N6BV	294,240	В
K7ZSD	216,618	A
WAØKDS	132,800	A
W7ZRC	120,960	A
WA6FGV	120,120	A
W7ZR	108,800	A
NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	89,856	Q
W7YAQ	65,832	Q
WA7PVE	24,790	Q
N6WG	20,532	Q
W7PT	20,352	Q
K7RL	342,080	U
W7RN (WX5S, op)	282,240	U
K6IF	269,280	U
N6DE (@ N6TV)	262,880	U
K6YT (WØYK, op)	258,080	U
W6YI	350,880	M

K7PU	279,680	M
VE6EX	236,052	М
WA7U	206,560	М
N6EE	205,600	M



**Affiliated Club Competition** 

Unlimited Category		
	Score	Entries
Potomac Valley Radio Club	22,689,100	325
Northern California Contest Club	20,369,120	278
Society of Midwest Contesters	13,037,472	236
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	8,526,302	117
Minnesota Wireless Assn	6,087,726	95
Mad River Radio Club	4,457,660	55
Florida Contest Group	4,184,318	53
Tennessee Contest Group	3,280,172	51
Medium Category		
	Score	Entries
Southern California Contest Club	4,263,496	44
Frankford Radio Club	2,526,632	38
Alabama Contest Group	2,416,376	25
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	2,333,286	18

Western Washington DX Club	2,226,662	26
Contest Club Ontario	2,167,820	37
South East Contest Club	2,155,194	28
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	2,121,586	25
North Texas Contest Club	1,919,074	16
Willamette Valley DX Club	1,618,276	17
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	1,318,338	22
Central Arizona DX Assn	1,302,442	17
BC DX Club	1,186,978	11
North Coast Contesters	934,984	10
CTRI Contest Group	926,560	13
Northern Rockies DX Association	923,926	8
Utah DX Assn	797,870	9
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	789,846	12
Louisiana Contest Club	771,160	7
Saskatchewan Contest Club	691,826	7
Kentucky Contest Group	624,766	13
Alberta Clippers	464,560	3
Iowa DX and Contest Club	457,956	3
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	414,390	9
Western New York DX Assn	412,548	8
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	373,002	12
Contest Club Du Quebec	311,550	6

Carolina DX Assn	310,098	10
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	305,054	4
Oklahoma DX Assn	287,780	10
Motor City Radio Club	271,950	12
East Coast Canada Contest Club	243,742	5
Eastern Iowa DX Assn	95,988	4
Bergen ARA	75,204	6
Local Category		
	Score	Entries
New Mexico Big River Contesters	1,028,508	10
Maritime Contest Club	617,332	10
Lincoln ARC	514,152	9
Spokane DX Association	321,422	7
Kansas City DX Club	234,374	3
Northern Arizona DX Assn	227,308	3
South Jersey Radio Assn	222,522	3
Sterling Park ARC	215,148	8
Ashe County ARC	208,316	5
Sussex County ARC	202,572	4
West Park Radiops	200,678	9
West Lark Radiops	200,070	
Green Mountain Wireless Society	198,934	3

Low Country Contest Club	152,024	7
Wireless Association of South Hills	146,042	6
Meriden ARC	143,108	6
Portage County Amateur Radio	126,982	6
Pocatello ARC	122,644	5
West Allis RAC	109,856	3
10-70 Repeater Assn	88,754	3
Bay Area Wireless Assn	85,346	3
Granite State ARA	77,888	3
Hazel Park ARC	70,300	4
Central Michigan ARC	65,766	5
Cedar Mountain ARC	64,392	4
Mile High DX Assn	57,424	3
Athens County ARA	49,734	3
Panhandle ARC	48,320	5
Albany ARA	45,620	3



**Clean Sweeps** 

AA6PW	K6RIM	N1CC	N9STL	W4JO
AB2DE	K6SV	N1DG	N9UM	W4KFC
AB4GG	K6WC	N1EU	NA4K	W4MR
AB7R	K6XX	N1HRA	NA8W	W4MY
AC4PY	K6YT	N1LI	NB1U	W4MYA
AD5XD	K7BG	N1LN	NC1I	W4NF
AE5T	K7PU	N1RK	ND8DX	W4QG
AF5Q	K7RL	N1WR	NE1B	W4UAT
AH6FC	K7SV	N2BJ	NE9U	W5ASP
AJ1M	K8BL	N2ED	NF4A	W5RU
AJ3G	K8MM	N2IC	NK7J	W5WMU
KØAD	K8UP	N2LH	NM6G	W5WW
KØDEQ	K8YM	N2MM	NN1N	W5YM
KØFVF	K8ZZU	N2NHN	NN3W	W6BX
KØGND	K9BGL	N2NS	NN4TO	W6DRX
КØНВ	К9СТ	N2QT	NN7ZZ	W6EB
КØНС	K9DA	N2SQW	NO2X	W6EU

KØIP	K9JF	N3AM	NR5M	W6KC
KØJPL	К9МОТ	N3BA	NS7P	W6OAT
KØKX	K9MUG	N3GJ	NT4D	W6PZ
KØMD	K9NR	N3II	NT4Q	W6SR
K1BKE	K9SD	N3JT	NT5V	W6SW
K1BX	K9WMS	N3KS	NT8V	W6SX
K1GIL	KA1ARB	N3ME	NV4B	W6XU
K1KP	KA1LMR	N3NRN	VA3DX	W6YI
K1PL	KB4GYT	N3OC	VE3GLO	W7IJ
K1RH	КСØМО	N3RM	VE3TA	W7PP
K1RX	KC5R	N3TIR	VE4EAR	W7RN
K2AX	KDØS	N3UA	VE7CC	W7WA
K2DFC	KD4D	N3WD	VE7FO	W7ZR
K2NNY	KD4SN	N3YD	VE7KS	W7ZRC
K2PLF	KEØL	N4BP	WØBR	W8EDU
K2UF	KE3Q	N4EEB	WØETT	W8KEN
K2Z	KE5K	N4FR	WØNO	W8MJ
K3DI	KE9I	N4FX	WØRIC	W8RJL
K3JD	KFØLA	N4GG	WØSD	W9IU
K3TW	KF6T	N4GU	WØTT	W9OL
K3WW	KG5VK	N4MM	W1AN	W9QL
K3ZO	KG9N	N4OX	W1AW	WAØKDS
K3ZQ	KH6LC	N4PN	W1BYH	WA1PMA

K4BAI	КН7В	N4XM	W1CRS	WA3AFS
K4EDI	KH7X	N4ZR	W1ECH	WA3EKL
K4EU	КН7Ү	N4ZZ	W1MX	WA3G
K4FPF	KIØF	N5AU	W1NG	WA4UJY
K4HR	KI1G	N5DO	W1NRG	WA7LNW
K4IX	KI6CG	N5RN	W1QK	WA7U
K4QPL	KI7AO	N6BOB	W1RH	WA8TWM
K4RG	KI9A	N6BV	W1RM	WBØTEV
K4SO	KJ6RA	N6DE	W1TO	WB1GQR
K4SSU	КЈ9С	N6EE	W1XX	WB2ABD
K4TS	KK1L	N6HC	W2CDO	WB2ZAB
K4WW	KK5K	N6MW	W2GB	WB9Z
K4XD	КМ9М	N6QQ	W2LK	WC2Z
K4ZGB	KN4KL	N6RC	W2OIB	WD4IXD
K5ER	KP2TM	N6RK	W2PV	WD5K
K5KA	KR4F	N6TU	W2RE	WD9CIR
K5NA	KS9W	N6XG	W3BW	WE9V
K5TDA	KT4Q	N7TR	W3FV	WJ6O
K5TQ	KUØG	N7TT	W3GRF	WK4P
K5ZD	KV2M	N7WH	W3KB	WK6I
K6IAM	KY5R	N7WI	W3KL	WM7DX
K6IF	KZ1X	N8II	W3LL	WN8R
K6JEB	NØFW	N8OH	W3PP	WT4Q

K6LRG	NØIJ	N8TR	W3TMZ	WT6G
K6MM	NØMA	N9CK	W3TZ	WT9U
K6NA	NØNI	N9IO	W3WPA	WW3S
K6NR	NØQO	N9KT	W4AAA	WW9R
K6NV	NØRU	N9MSG	W4GAC	WX3B
K6RB	N1BAA	N9NC	W4HZ	WY3A
				WZ8P



Close Races (Section-level races decided by less than 5000 points)

SEC	SM	CALL	SCORE	
AL	U	NE4M	42,480	
AL	U	K4HAL	40,296	
AZ	В	N7VF	37,728	
AZ	В	KC7V	36,564	
AZ	Q	N7JXS	6,318	
AZ	Q	KN5H	5,712	
СО	В	KØGAS	46,200	
СО	В	KCØVEU	42,120	
СТ	A	N1IXF	60,300	
СТ	A	W2JU	58,200	
СТ	Q	KA1VMG	5,032	

СТ	Q	W1AMF	2,250
ЕВ	A	AE6C	27,690
ЕВ	A	KD6WKY	27,608
EPA	В	N3NRN	30,338
EPA	В	NY3A	29,362
EPA	U	K3WW	116,640
EPA	U	WØBR	114,080
EWA	A	WAØWWW	43,452
EWA	A	WS7V	42,408
IL	A	WR9L	73,154
IL	A	N9LYE	71,918
KS	U	NØYO	49,742
KS	U	ABØTX	45,016
KY	Q	KY4F	9,660
KY	Q	KI4MUG	5,624

MB	A	VE4YU	27,060
MB	A	VA4HZ	23,892
ME	A	K1LOG	20,880
ME	A	N1OXA	19,136
MI	A	WA1UJU	77,000
MI	A	WZ8T	74,074
MT	A	AD7MQ	24,064
MT	A	K7SAM	20,440
NC	В	WK4P	130,560
NC	В	N4GU	125,920
ND	A	KØUB	27,336
ND	A	KØUD	24,684
RI	U	KI1G	56,472
RI	U	K1GIL	52,960
RI	A	K1VSJ	30,368
RI	A	NJ1Q/1	25,560

SF	В	K6CTA	5,112
SF	В	KB6CGE	3,444
	1	'	"
SFL	A	K4MF	27,300
SFL	A	NA4CW	24,564
		1	"
SNJ	A	KV2R	30,816
SNJ	A	W2MF	29,784
		1	<u> </u>
SNJ	M	AI2I	15,876
SNJ	M	NJ2AR	12,900
		1	ı
STX	A	K5JX	23,936
STX	A	KD5MMM	23,874
		1	"
SV	A	KF6MWA	23,270
SV	A	KQ6X	20,790
VA	M	K4HR	185,280
VA	M	K4TS	181,920
	1		II.
WI	A	K9KR	49,200

WI	A	К9ВТО	47,088	
WI	U	N9CK	165,760	
WI	U	WE9V	160,160	
WV	A	W8AKS	43,654	
WV	A	W8IVF	42,504	
WWA	М	NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	89,856	
WWA	М	N7PP	89,224	
	1 1			
WWA	Q	WA7PVE	24,790	
WWA	Q	W7PT	20,352	
		1	1	



#### **Plaque Winners**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs, individuals and Icom America - the Principal Awards Sponsor of the ARRL November Sweepstakes - we are pleased to announce the following winners of a plaque for their efforts in the 2008 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes. The ARRL wishes to thank the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible.

Plaque sponsorships are \$75, which includes shipping to the winner. If you are interested in sponsoring a plaque, please contact Sean Kutzko KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch Manager, at (860) 594-0232, or via email at <a href="kx9x@arrl.org">kx9x@arrl.org</a>.

Division/Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
Overall		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Mike Fatchett, WØMU	W7WA
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Ken Adams, K5KA	W4AAA (KK9A, op)
Single Operator QRP Phone	QRP Amateur Radio Club International	KC5R
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	K7RL
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	W6YI
School Club Phone	Icom America	КØНС
Atlantic		
Single Operator High Power Phone	North Coast Contesters	KD4D

Single Operator Low Power Phone	Potomac Valley Radio Club	W3GH
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	N3YD
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	W3GRF (K3MM, op)
Multioperator Phone	Mark Sickmeyer, KB3GJ Memorial	K2NNY
School Club Phone	Icom America	K2CC
Central		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Society Of Midwest Contesters	WB9Z
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Society Of Midwest Contesters	WR9L
Single Operator QRP Phone	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	N9KT
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	N2BJ
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	К9МОТ
School Club Phone	Icom America	N9GTC
Dakota		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	WØSD (WØDB, op)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	NØKK (@ NØAT)
Single Operator QRP Phone	Tod Olson, KØTO	NDØC
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	KTØR (KØOB, op)
Multioperator Phone	In Memory of Jim Dokmo, KØFVF Minnesota Wireless Association	KØFVF

School Club Phone	Icom America	KØVVY
Delta		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	W5WMU
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	NA4K
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	KC5R
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	N4ZZ
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	W5RU
School Club Phone	Icom America	W5YM
Great Lakes		
Single Operator High Power Phone	North Coast Contesters	K8AO
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Mad River Radio Club	N8AA
Single Operator QRP Phone	Mad River Radio Club	N8IE
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	W8MJ
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	NT8V
School Club Phone	Icom America	W8SH
Hudson		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	N2LH

Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	KU2M
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	KR2Q
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	W2RE
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	K2Z
School Club Phone	Icom America	
Midwest		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	KØDEQ
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Society Of Midwest Contesters	KUØG
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	KIØOV
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	WØTT
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	WØNO
School Club Phone	Icom America	кøнс
New England		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	NNIN
Single Operator Low Power Phone	CTRI Contest Group	K1BX
Single Operator QRP Phone	QRP Club of New England	KA1LMR
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	K1LZ
		l

School Club Phone	Icom America	W1MX
Northwestern		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	W7WA
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	K7ZSD
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	NN7SS (K6UFO, op)
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	K7RL
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	K7PU
Pacific		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	KH7B (K4XS, op)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	AA6YX
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	N6WG
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	W7RN (WX5S, op)
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	N6EE
Roanoke		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Potomac Valley Radio Club	TIE: N8II and NN3W (@N4RV)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW	W4AAA (KK9A, op)
Single Operator QRP Phone	NoVa QRP Group	NX9T

Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	W4MR (AA4NC, op)
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	KA1ARB
Rocky Mountain		İ
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	N2IC (AA5B, op)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	WØETT
Single Operator QRP Phone	Colorado QRP Club	NØKE
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	NØQO
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	K7VU
Southeastern		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	KP2TM (K9TM, op)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	N4PN
Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom America	AA4W
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	NF4A
School Club Phone	Icom America	K4FAU
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	W4QG
Southwestern		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	K6NA (N6ED, op)

Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	WAØKDS
Single Operator QRP Phone	N6HE and W6DLD	N7JXS
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	N6QQ
Multioperator Phone	Inland Empire ARC	W6YI
School Club Phone	Icom America	W6YV
West Gulf		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Ken Adams, K5KA	NR5M
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Ralph "Gator" Bowen, N5RZ	WD5K
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	NICC
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	K5NA
School Club Phone	Icom America	KD5VVI
Canada		
Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom America	VY2TT (K6LA, op)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom America	VA3DX
Single Operator QRP Phone	Frank Merceret, NA4CW	VA3DF
Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom America	VY1EI
Multioperator Phone	Icom America	VE6EX



#### Accuracy

Thanks to the efforts of Tree, N6TR, Sweepstakes is quite likely the most accurately adjudicated of all contests. When the submitted scores of potential section, division and category winners are only a few QSO's apart, the operator who most accurately copies the SS information should be rewarded.

This year, there were a small group of exceptional operators whose accuracy stands out from the rest, with their almost "Golden Logs". The table "Accuracy Honor Roll" lists those operators who made at least 500 contacts, and had an error rate of less than 1.0 %. With the complex Sweepstakes exchange, that is awesome!

Table - Error Rates by Category - Stations Making Over 100 QSO's

Category	Average	Best	Worst
High-Power	4.2	0.0	33.0
(Top Ten only)	2.1	1.4	3.4
Low-Power	4.0	0.0	32.4
(Top Ten only)	2.1	0.8	3.1
QRP	3.7	0.2	15.5
(Top Ten only)	1.6	0.2	2.9
Unlimited	3.6	0.0	23.8
(Top Ten only)	2.1	1.3	2.8
Multi-Operator	5.0	0.9	19.9
(Top Ten only)	3.0	2.7	5.6

School	5.0	1.3	14.7
(Top Ten only)	4.7	1.3	7.5

The error rates in each category are shown in the table "Error Rates by Category". It's interesting to note that the overall error rate statistics are remarkably consistent across all four of the Single-Operator categories. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the Top Ten in each category exhibited significantly better error rates than the average for the entire category. Download your Log Checking Report (LCR) to see how you compared – and how you can improve next year!

**Table - Accuracy Honor Roll** 

Call	# QSO's	Category	Error Rate (%)
N9CK	1041	U	0.1
W8TM	618	A	0.2
NN4TO	1438	В	0.3
K4CZ	772	U	0.4
K9OR	510	U	0.4
N9IO	504	U	0.4
NV4B	735	A	0.5
VE3RCN	520	A	0.6
K9NW	556	A	0.7
KG4W	767	A	0.7
КЈ9С	722	В	0.7
W6SR	865	U	0.7
KØHW	1059	U	0.8
K1BX	1334	A	0.8
K3AN	614	A	0.8
W3BW	501	U	0.8
WA1UJU	507	A	0.8
AB4GG	802	A	0.9
K6RB	539	U	0.9
K9BGL	1638	В	0.9
N3II	637	U	0.9
W7ZRC	765	A	0.9
WD9CIR	784	M	0.9
WE9V	1015	U	0.9
WK6I	951	U	0.9
WNØG	544	A	0.9
WX3B	1510	M	0.9



Signing Your Call in Sweepstakes

Nov 14, 2008 16:42 ET Sean E. Kutzko, KX9X

Hi, folks-

There was some recent ballyhoo over whether you had to send your own call as part of the exchange in Sweepstakes, or if merely giving your call during your CQ message or answering a CQ was enough.

The rules state the following items must be included in the exchange:

- 4.1. A consecutive serial number
- 4.2. Precedence
  - 4.2.1. "Q" for Single Op QRP (5 Watts output or less)
  - 4.2.2. "A" for Single Op Low Power (up to 150 W output)
  - 4.2.3. "B" for Single Op High Power (greater than 150 W output)
  - 4.2.4. "U" for Single Op Unlimited
  - 4.2.5. "M" for Multi-Op
  - 4.2.6. "S" for School Club

#### 4.3 Your Call sign

- 4.4. Check
  - 4.4.1. The last 2 digits of the year of first license for either the operator or the station.
  - 4.4.2. The same Check must be used the entire contest.
- 4.5. ARRL/RAC Section

So, to answer this question, your own call MUST be a part of the standard exchange of information along with the other station's call, QSO number, Precedence, Check and Section.

As to the order of the items in the exchange, we're not quite as hard on that issue as we were back in 1947:

"1) Contest exchanges must be sent in the order indicated, that of ARRL message preambles. Incomplete exchanges or wrong order of sending justifies disqualification." - ARRL 14th Sweepstakes Rules, October 1947 *QST*, p.49

We're not going to disqualify you if you send all the items in the non-standard order...but why would you want to? All the logging tools are geared toward receiving the information in the way it has been received for decades. By sending the data out of the standard order, you give the other operator that "deer in the headlights" moment that nobody likes. So, be a swell operator; send that data in the standard format!

73, Sean Kutzko, KX9X Contest Branch Manager



Sweepstakes: Contest, Field Day, or Hamfest? - AG4XR

The plan was to do the November Phone Sweepstakes. My goal was nothing spectacular, just get a Clean Sweep. Last year, I only missed four sections. That was the plan anyways. The first obstacle was that one of the better hamfests was being held Sunday morning. Couldn't miss that one. OK, I have to be off for six hours anyways, a couple extra shouldn't hurt. I'll sleep in on Saturday, pack the treasures to sell at the hamfest before the contest starts and then spend the afternoon making contacts across North America!

Enter Murphy's Law. After packing the car, I glanced towards the back yard. Something didn't look right. I walked around the corner and there it was. Both of my wire antennas and the feed lines were laying on the ground. Hard to get a signal out with the antennas on the wet grass. We had some late season storms, complete with a tornado in the area during the night. It's an hour before the contest and no antennas. The rope holding everything in the top of the 90 ft oak tree broke.

OK, time to get the bow and arrow out. Murphy's Law, take two. No fishing line on the reel. Twenty minutes later, I had the line on the reel and ready to shoot a line over the tree. Murphy, take three. First shot, the line breaks and the arrow goes who knows where. Thankfully, it's a forest with nobody there. New arrow and some adjustments to the reel and the next shot is exactly on target. An hour later, I was finally able to get the antennas, their end lines and the coax adjusted to a decent height and configuration. Time to get to work on the contest. I cranked up the radio and the computer, started the logging software and switched bands on the radio. Re-enter Murphy, takes four and five. The computer and the radio were no longer connected. OK, a few seconds to reconnect. Recheck the interconnect. Hmmm, the radio and computer are talking, but not consistently. In fact, they were causing each other to do strange things. Fine. Just disconnect them. It's contest time and two and a half hours late!

Finally! Too bad the sun went down over an hour ago. Started on 20 meters and California was running hot. Moved down to 40 after nine contacts to do a quick sweep of the lower bands. Hmmm, okay at the bottom of the band, but the radio's tuner doesn't want to match up towards the top. Murphy, take six. The internal tuner was malfunctioning. It still worked, but just wouldn't tune in certain parts of some bands. Another handicap.

OK, 4 AM. Time to get ready to go to the hamfest. In short, Murphy stayed at home. I did pretty well selling some of my treasures to other hams, hi, hi. A 45-minute drive and I'm back at the radio. Within a few minutes, I had Hawaii and Alaska, back to back. That left most of Canada, a handful of states and Puerto Rico. Many of the remaining states popped up in short order. Strangely, the only missing state was Mississippi. Why??? I even got Orange County in the middle of all the fires and evacuations they had!

About Puerto Rico. I finally stumbled on one ham in PR that had just started operating. I tuned in around his 12th contact and started listening. For some reason he just didn't understand what a precedence was, and wasn't giving a proper exchange. I finally chimed in at 16 on his log. It took me a few minutes, but I finally got him to understand that "Alpha" means under 150 watts! Holy mackerel! As soon as I finished, the

pile-up went to a sub-orbital level! I think the entire world was waiting in the wings for him to get it right at least once! Glad I could help!

Finally, with an hour to go, the section hunt had died out. Everything seemed like a dupe and no new sections were showing up on the bands. Contacts didn't even sound like they were anywhere near Mississippi or Canadian sections that I needed. Since I was exhausted, I decided to call it a night. In summary, 75 sections and 253 contacts. That's one section less than last year and 10 more contacts.

Here's to next year!



**High Arctic Sweepstakes - VE8EV** 

An old Inuit proverb says: "When the Northern Lights with my eyes I see, will make my kilowatt QRP."



■ VE8EV, Field Day-style from Inuvik,

**Northwest Territories. (Photo - VE8EV)** 

Sweepstakes from the high Arctic is a DX contest for us and particularly challenging because all the stateside stations QSY to the low bands so early to work their neighbours all night long with low dipoles. Our only neighbours are a handful of KL7's and VY1EI, all about 1000 miles <u>south</u> of us. To that end, we spent the week before the contest working on amplifiers, installing big antennas for 40 and 80 meters, and praying for K=0 during the contest.

Our goal was simple: get a Clean Sweep and put as many stations in the log as we could. I've been the last section for others many, many times but never even came close to a sweep myself. With all the 75th Anniversary promotion and VE8DW's help in the second chair I knew this would be the year.

Conditions were good on Saturday afternoon. We worked a bunch of stations on 20 meters right before the contest (including a VE2) and got lots of reports saying we were loud. After the opening bell we had some nice runs on 15 and 20 meters in the first few hours. Then the local K-index shot up to 5 and all our precontest plans went in the dumpster. Despite our best efforts we only managed to put 20 Q's in the log between 0100Z and 0800Z when we finally called it a night and grabbed a few hours of sleep.

Conditions were still dodgy at 1200Z the next morning but in between mostly unanswered CQ's we managed to get VO1MP, KP2TM and VY2LI into the log so a sweep was looking like it might be a possibility. Finally, at 1730Z, conditions improved, someone spotted us and we finally got a run going. The bands started getting shaky again around 2100Z so we took a break to regroup and figure out what to do next.

Our hastily installed Internet connection to the contest site would drop out every time we transmitted so with about a dozen sections remaining for the sweep and 20 meters the only band open to the US, we decided to S&P (search-and-pounce), keep one eye on the packet spots and focus on multiplier hunting. After only 45 minutes we were down to just six Sections left and went back to running in the hopes that they'd come to us. As usual, we found a hole in the QRM and started calling with almost no takers. Finally we got spotted and then the rate jumped from 0 to 100 in the blink of an eye.

When NP4Z called in at 2002Z, I knew we were getting close. KP2 and KP4 are usually easy from here on 15 meters but that band didn't open at all on Sunday. After a nice little run the aurora popped up again at 2227Z (exactly) and the rate went back to zero just as fast as it came up. I actually got up and looked outside to see if an antenna fell down or a wayward snowmobile had snagged a feed line!

Still needing VE2, VT, SC and LAX we decided to take another 30-minute off-period and get set up for the home stretch. I was pretty sure we'd find LAX somewhere but after 20 meters closed the only hope for the last three would be on 40 meters. Before we got back on the air I went out in the snow and re-tuned the 80 meter vertical for 40 so we'd have that in addition to the 40 meter wire beam and both positions would be able to S&P on the same band.

As I hoped, in the last gasp on 20 meters we worked AI6V to put LAX in the log. At 0030Z we took our last off-period and then turned our attention to 40 meters. The good news was that the aurora had finally gone away and 40 was open from coast-to-coast. The bad news was that almost all the stations heard were already in the log, and there was no sign of our last three for the sweep. I made a half-hearted attempt at running in the last hour but the band dropped off again and all we could hear was the fat lady singing.

So, no sweep for us this time. Next year for sure! All in all, we had an absolutely great time. Thanks to all for the QSOs and we're already looking forward to next year!

73, John VE8EV and Wally VE8DW