

2006 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes Results

Steve London, N2IC
n2ic@arrl.net



W

hile there have been many changes in Amateur Radio over the years, with more changes on the immediate horizon, this 73rd running of the ARRL November CW Sweepstakes proves that CW continues to be extremely popular. Not only is CW activity continuing, but if the 2006 CW Sweepstakes is any indicator, CW activity is increasing!

Despite the rumors portending the demise of CW, 1327 entries were submitted, the highest number since 1997. And even with bottom-of-the-sunspot-cycle propagation, there were a record setting 64 new Section records and 17 new Division records.

Sweepstakes isn't just about setting new records. For many participants, it's a contest-within-a-contest, with the yearly quest for the "Clean Sweep" being the ultimate goal. In the 2006 running of CW SS, a record setting 233 Clean Sweeps were achieved by working at least one station in each of the 80 ARRL Sections. For James Brown, K9YC; Gary Hembree, N7IR; Eric Hilding, K6VVA; Jim Seifert, AD6WL; Jay Minnich, AJ1M; Colin Jenkins, KU5B; Brad Hedges, AL4T; Jim Hall, AD4EB; Mark Schontz, K8FU; Greg Brown, KT0K; Kelly Johnson, N6KJ, and others, it was their first Sweep ever! Some ops, such as Matt Trott, K7BG, did the sweep in only 10 hours; others, like John Desloge, N6MU, did it by making only 80 contacts.

Some longtime hams joined in the SS fun for the first time. Tim Goepfing, K6GEP, says "Since I have an antenna on 80 meters now, I hung out there to pick up some new states for 5BWAS." On the other hand, for John Baumgarten, N0IJ: "This was my 50th entry — started as a Novice in 1957 and don't think I've ever missed! Saturday is so much fun, and Sunday — well, it's better than work!"

Mother Nature's Challenges

Compared to the previous few years, the ionosphere was much more cooperative for the 2006 running of CW SS. We were spared the blackouts caused by X-class solar flares and geomagnetic storms. Being at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, there were virtually no contacts made on 10 meters, making 20 and 40 meters the "money bands" during the daytime, while 40 and 80 meters took the action



Brad Hedges, AL4T, happy after his first clean sweep!

**Table 1
Accuracy Honor Roll**

Call	# QSOs	Category	Error Rate (%)
WX0B	1464	B	0.7
K7BG	1220	A	0.8
W6EU	1167	U	0.7
K9NW	1155	U	0.8
N6XI	1150	U	0.9
N9CK	1037	A	0.5
K9BGL	1034	B	0.8
NA0N	1017	A	0.5
N0NI	979	Q	0.5
KO7X	970	U	0.7
W6RQ	848	U	0.8
K4BAI	806	B	0.6
W6RGG	775	U	0.9
N8TC	742	A	0.8
K1HT	730	A	0.5
N2CU	694	A	0.3
K8IR	688	A	0.7
W1ECH	641	A	0.9
VE2AWR	634	A	0.3
W2JU	616	A	0.4
K9WA	613	A	0.7
W6CT	562	B	0.7
K0RC	545	A	0.9
N6YEU	544	A	0.7
W8TM	526	Q	0.2
KT5X	518	Q	0.6
N5CHA	508	A	0.6
WD4AHZ	507	A	0.4
W1TO	503	A	0.8

at night. There was even a 160 meter "activity hour" each night, bringing in some topband aficionados who don't normally operate SS. Hope to have you back next year!

Operators in the Pacific Northwest had their share of weather-related challenges, contending with high winds, power failures, heavy rain and static.

The Elusive Clean Sweep

While 233 participants earned Clean Sweeps, another 126 participants came so close, missing only one section. What section did they miss? Twenty-seven missed the Northern Territories, despite activity from

Jay Allen, VY1JA, and Gary Anderson, W8IVF/VE8. Twenty-six missed Manitoba, where Derrick Belbas, VE4VV; Kelly Taylor, VE4XT, and Ed Henderson, VE4YU, were active, and 26 missed Newfoundland/Labrador, represented by Wayne Smith, VO1TA; Paul Piercey, VO1HE, and Frank Davis, VO1HP. Many thanks to these ops for making their rare sections available.

Surprisingly, a few participants missed the Sweep by not working more common sections such as Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and even South Florida.

High Power Category

Rich Boyd, KE3Q, continued his streak of 8 consecutive victories from the WP3R superstation in Puerto Rico with 1511 contacts. During the daytime, he could be counted on to be on 15 meters, while at night he racked up big numbers on 40 meters. For Rich, 20 meters was a transition band during the dawn and dusk hours.

Within the continental USA/Canada, there was a heated battle within the 5th call area for the next 5 slots. When the dust settled, Steve London, N2IC, from southwest New Mexico, took 2nd place with 1437 contacts, a mere 3 contact margin over Bill Bradford, K5GA, 1435. Bill was operating from WX0B's station in the Dallas area.

In 4th place, only 20 contacts behind Bill was Ralph Bowen, N5RZ, operating at K5TR's station near Austin. Rounding out the top 6, were Rich King, K5NA, also from the Austin area, and Mark Beckwith, N5OT, operating from northeastern Oklahoma. The West Coast winner, in 7th place overall, was Ken Widelitz, K6LA, from Los Angeles.

It's always tough to break into the Top 10 from the East Coast, but this year two perennial SS competitors made the grade. John Golomb, N2NC, operating from N2NT, coming in 8th and Randy Thompson, K5ZD, coming in 10th, separated by only 22 contacts.

In 9th place was another central Texas station — Jim George, N3BB. Clearly, central Texas is a hot spot for SS! Rob Brandon, K5PI, operating at W5KFT, made it into 11th place. In the Midwest, Mike Wetzel, W9RE, was the winner in 12th place, while Tim Totten, N4GN, from Kentucky, placed 14th. In the far-Northwest, Tree Tyree, N6TR, came in 13th place, using the

2006 November CW Sweepstakes Results Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs, individuals and Icom — the principal awards sponsor for the 2006 ARRL November Sweepstakes — we are pleased to announce that the Overall and Division leaders in each category receives a sponsored Sweepstakes plaque. Many thanks to the sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque program would not be possible.

Division/Plaque	Winner	Plaque Sponsor	Division/Plaque	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
Overall					
Single Operator High Power CW	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	Trey Garlough, N5KO	Northwestern	Single Operator High Power CW	W7RM (N6TR, op) Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	K0EU	Icom	Single Operator Low Power CW	K7BG	Icom
Single Operator QRP CW	N0NI (AG9A, op)	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	K7MM	Icom
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K6LL	Hal Kennedy, N4GG	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K7OX	Icom
Multioperator CW	W6YI	Icom	Multioperator CW	W7VMI	Icom
School Club College Division CW	K0HC (W0BH, op)	Icom			
Pacific					
Atlantic					
Single Operator High Power CW	KD4D	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	N7TR (N7ON, op)	Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	NY3A	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Single Operator Low Power CW	N6NF	Bob Wilson, N6TV
Single Operator QRP CW	K3MD	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	W6JTJ	Icom
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K3MM	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N6RO	Icom
Multioperator CW	K2NNY	Icom	Multioperator CW	K6ANP	Icom
Roanoke					
Central					
Single Operator High Power CW	W9RE	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	NY4A (N4AF, op)	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Single Operator Low Power CW	AJ9C	Icom	Single Operator Low Power CW	K4QPL	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW
Single Operator QRP CW	N9NE	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	K4ORD	Bill Harding, K4AHK
Single Operator Unlimited CW	WE9V	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	NI1N	Icom
Multioperator CW	K9NS	Icom	Multioperator CW	KT3Y	Icom
Rocky Mountain					
Dakota					
Single Operator High Power CW	W0SD (W0DB, op)	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator High Power CW	N2IC	Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	N0AT (N0KK, op)	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Low Power CW	K0EU	Icom
Single Operator QRP CW	N0UR	Tod Olson, K0TO	Single Operator QRP CW	K0AV	Colorado QRP Club
Single Operator Unlimited CW	NN7L	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Unlimited CW	W7UT	Icom
Multioperator CW	K0RT	Minnesota Wireless Association	Multioperator CW	K7UT	Icom
Southeastern					
Delta					
Single Operator High Power CW	W4NZ	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	N4OGW	Icom	Single Operator Low Power CW	K1PT	Icom
Single Operator QRP CW	K4RO	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	N4JF	Icom
Multioperator CW	K15EE	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N4GG	Icom
			Multioperator CW	WP2Z	Icom
Southwestern					
Great Lakes					
Single Operator High Power CW	N4GN	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	K6LA	Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	N8SS	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator Low Power CW	AA6PW	Larry Serra, N6NC
Single Operator QRP CW	W8TM	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator QRP CW	N7IR	Icom
Single Operator Unlimited CW	W8MJ	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K6LL	Icom
Multioperator CW	K8CC	Icom	Multioperator CW	W6YI	Icom
West Gulf					
Hudson					
Single Operator High Power CW	N2NT (N2NC, op)	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	WX0B (K5GA, op)	Ken Adams, K5KA
Single Operator Low Power CW	W2LK	Icom	Single Operator Low Power CW	K5KA	Icom
Single Operator QRP CW	KR2Q	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	KG5U	Icom
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K2QMF	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K5YA	Icom
Multioperator CW	KC2NMZ	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	Multioperator CW	W5TM	Icom
Canada					
Midwest					
Single Operator High Power CW	K0DEQ	Icom	Single Operator High Power CW	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	Icom
Single Operator Low Power CW	K0PY	Icom	Single Operator Low Power CW	VE7CC	Icom
Single Operator QRP CW	N0NI (AG9A, op)	Icom	Single Operator QRP CW	VA3NR	Icom
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N0YY	Icom	Single Operator Unlimited CW	VE3RZ	Icom
Multioperator CW	AB0S	Icom	Multioperator CW	VE6AO	Icom
New England					
Single Operator High Power CW	K5ZD	Icom			
Single Operator Low Power CW	K1BX	Icom			
Single Operator QRP CW	K1AK (W2ID, op)	Icom			
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K1IG	Icom			
Multioperator CW	W1NRG	Icom			

If you wish to order a duplicate plaque, contact Tom Hogerty, KC1J, at 860-594-0232 or by e-mail at thogerty@arri.org. The cost for duplicate plaques is \$67 (includes shipping).

reversed W7RM call sign from Oregon.

Low Power Category

The "A" precedence is clearly the most popular category for SS participants. This year, there were 585 submitted logs in the Low Power category, more than twice as many as any other category.

Congratulations to Randy Martin, K0EU, for being the winner in the hotly contested, Low Power category with 1207 contacts. This was Randy's first Low Power victory since 2001, and his 5th win overall. It looks

like Randy's antenna improvements are finally paying off. Only 13 contacts behind in 2nd place, was Matt Trott, K7BG, another perennial Low Power competitor from the Rocky Mountain States.

Top 10 finishers in the Low Power category often come from all regions, and this year was no exception. Paul Tibbetts, K1PT, placed 3rd from South Florida. Bob Patten, N4BP, made the Virgin Islands an easy multiplier, operating from NP2B, in 4th place. Years ago, Mississippi could be a tough multiplier; however, 5th place finisher

Tor Clay, N4OGW, fixed that problem.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Don Binkley, N4ZZ; Ken Adams, K5KA; Bruce Draper, AA5B; Marv Bloomquist, N5AW; and a 10th place tie between Bob Evans, K5WA, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, operating from WA7LT. It's worth noting that Bruce made the grade with a Field Day-style operation of only inverted V and inverted L antennas.

QRP Category

Every year, the bar gets raised a bit

higher in this demanding category. This year, Mark Obermann, AG9A, operating at the NØNI superstation in Iowa, coasted to an easy victory with an impressive 955 contacts, a Clean Sweep and a near error-free log! Kirk Pickering, K4RO, put his new “antenna nexus” switch to a workout for a fine 2nd place finish. Al Sinopoli, KC5R, had trouble working his own section, but still came in 3rd from his tribander-and-wires station in Louisiana. Alan Higbie, KØAV, borrowed the Colorado mountain station of WØLSD to place 4th.

The East Coast broke into the Top 10 with a fine 5th place finish by John Worthington, W2ID, using the K1AK club call in Western Massachusetts. Way to go, John! Dan Ransom, K7MM, came in 6th from his Eastern Washington radio ranch. Despite numerous visits by Murphy (and accidentally turning a time-off into a contest-ending trip to dreamland), Dale Martin, KG5U, placed 7th — never forget to set that alarm clock! Tom Hammond, NØSS; Gene Shea, KB7Q, and Todd Fonstad, N9NE, rounded out the Top 10.

Unlimited Category

The Unlimited category seems to grow in popularity each year. There were 206 entries this year, only slightly fewer than the number of High Power category entries.

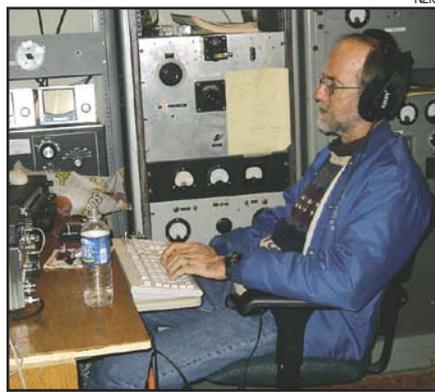
This year, the 1st and 2nd place finishers were on opposite sides of the continent. Congratulations to Dave Hachadorian, K6LL, from Arizona for his 5th consecutive victory in the Unlimited category, with 1322 contacts. Dave notes that each year the “packet pileups” grow bigger and tougher to break with his modest second-radio antenna. Ty Stewart, K3MM, from Maryland was only seven contacts behind. Clearly this is a category that could be won from almost anywhere.

In the next two places was the “battle of the Bay Area” between Ken Keeler, N6RO, and Bob Wolbert, K6XX. When the dust settled, Ken had 1294 contacts to Bob’s 1270.

Hal Kennedy, N4GG, from Georgia, came in 5th, edging out Dean Straw, N6BV (operating at K6TA’s station), by a mere 3 contacts. Seventh place belonged to Dennis Mowers, K5YA, proving again that Central Texas is a great place for CW SS! In his first-ever full-time CW SS effort, Chad Kurszewski, WE9V, took 8th place from Wisconsin. Rounding out the Top 10 were Jim Duffy, W6EU, and Mike Tessmer, K9NW.

Multioperator Category

There’s no better way to get through the Sunday afternoon low-rate doldrums than to share the operating with some friends. Repeating their victory from last year was the team at W6YI, operated by the same four operators — Jim Stevenson, W6YI; Dan Craig, N6MJ; John Barcroft, K6AM,



Jim Stahl, K8MR, operator of K8MR, N8TR, AC8E and K8AZ in the “Single-Operator, Multi-Station” category.

and Dennis Vernacchia, N6KI. These guys clearly have their act together. Operating from the K9HMB superstation north of Chicago, the K9NS team of David Carlson, AA9D; John Battin, K9DX; Frank Miller, K9HMB; Pete Walter, K9PW; John Meyer, K9QVB; John Kay, K9XW, and James Spence, K09A, took 2nd place.

In the “best window view” category was the 3rd place WP2Z team, operated by Ed Shekleton, K1ZE, and Dave Sarault, N3XF. From Michigan, the K8CC team took 4th place, operated by Dave Pruett, K8CC; Uli Ann, KK8I, and Don Chishom, K8BB. K4TD in Alabama came in 5th place, operated by Rick Walker, K4TD; WRTC 2006 champion Jim Roberts, VE7ZO, and Doug Haft, NX1T (now KY4F).

In the next two slots were the Potomac Valley Radio Club multi-op battle between 6th place KT3Y (operated by Phil Allardice, KT3Y, and Bob Cox, K3EST) and 7th place W4RM (operated by Bill O’Mara, W4RM; John O’Mara, W4NF, and John Thomason, K5VG). The Top 10 was finished out by George Wagner’s, K5KG, West Central Florida team, the Hickory Lake Contest Club’s, K2NNY, Northern New York team and Ed Gilliland’s, W5TM, Oklahoma team.

School Club Category

The Hesston College Amateur Radio Club, operated by Bob Harder, WØBH, won the School Club category with 1042 contacts. In 2nd place was the venerable MIT Radio Society, W1MX, sporting a check of “09,” operated by SS veterans Rebecca Rich, KBØVVT, and Andy Mui, K2TJ. The University of Arkansas ARC, W5YM, operated by Dan Romey, K5NER, came in 3rd, followed by Colin Jenkins, KU5B, representing Birmingham-Southern College.

Rounding out the School Club category was W9YV, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ARC, operated by Fred Helmstetter, N9FH, the Michigan State University ARC, W8SH, and the Harvard Wireless Club, W1AF, operated by Clayton Nall, NF1R.

Close Races

For many participants, SS is about bringing home the coveted “Section Winner” certificate. There is often a cross-town (or cross-section) rivalry involved with a close friend. There may even be a culinary award for the winner, courtesy of the runner-up — a slice of hot, sizzling, pizza downed with a cold beverage.

This year, there were a number of particularly close section races. The most exciting close race was Low Power, Kansas, where Mike Afton, KØPY, edged out Bill Henderson, KØVBU by 3 contacts. Too bad Bill didn’t find the Wyoming and Newfoundland/Labrador multipliers.

Another close race was in the Georgia section, Low Power category. Jay Pryor, K4OGG, won with 809 contacts and a Clean Sweep. Jay had only a 3 contact margin over Lee Hiers, AA4GA, and a 4 contact margin over Jeff Clarke, KU8E. I bet Lee wishes he could have found that VO1 multiplier.

Last year, Bob Wilson, N6TV, operated from Dave Leeson’s, W6NL, mountaintop location, placing in the Top 10. This year, in another extremely close race in the High Power category in the Santa Clara Valley section, Bob stayed home and beat Dave by 5 contacts. That’s no way to thank your host, Bob.

Accuracy

Thanks to the hard work of Tree Tyree, N6TR, over many years, Sweepstakes is arguably the most accurately adjudicated of all contests. When the submitted scores of potential Section, Division and Category winners are only a few contacts apart, it’s obvious that the operator who is best at getting the SS information correct should be rewarded. Each year there is a small group of exceptional operators whose accuracy stands out from the rest with their nearly “golden logs.” The Accuracy Honor Roll (see Table 1) lists those operators who made at least 500 contacts with an error rate of less than 1.0 percent. When you consider the complexity of the SS exchange, this is truly awesome.

It’s interesting to observe that the overall error rate statistics are remarkably consistent across all four of the single-operator categories. It’s also not surprising that the Top 10 in each category exhibited significantly better error rates than the average for the entire category. Download your Log Checking Report (LCR) and see how you compared and how you can improve next year!

To read John Crovelli’s, W2GD, Sweepstakes blog and Larry “Tree” Tyree’s, N6TR, Log Checking Mythbusters article, please see www.arrl.org/files/qst-binaries/london0507.zip.

