



ARRL CW Sweepstakes

2013 Results

By Kelly Taylor, VE4XT



A look at the granddaddy of domestic contests — then and now.

With shouts of ‘On ye Brave; Who rush to glory or the grave’... So began E.L. Battey’s report on the first Sweepstakes from the May, 1930 issue of *QST*, eighty-three years ago. (The article is available to ARRL members from the *QST* Online Archives.) It was a much different time, in a much different month (January), with the winner, J.F. Feely, W1ADW, of Danbury, Conn., running a Hi-C Hartley transmitter in a largely home-built station replete with exposed tuning coils, capacitors, tubes and high-voltage connections. To win it took him two weeks to log a record-setting 153 QSOs in 43 sections — missing a clean sweep of all 68 sections. Back in 1930, only 48 sections took part!

The contest has been held for all but 4 of the 83 years since, and contesters have tried to claim the title in the granddaddy of domestic contests. Much of the contest has changed, yet contesters are still awarded two points per contact. The reasoning behind this can be traced back to the 1930 Sweepstakes, where stations were awarded one point for sending an exchange and one point for receiving an exchange.

Single-Operator, High Power (B or SOHP)

This category is considered the gold standard for Sweepstakes because the victor in this category is usually the overall winner of the contest, and because of the number of entrants, and the fact no spotting assistance is permitted.

Single Operator, High Power

W7RN (N6TV, op)	242,360
N9RV	235,720
NØNI (AG9A, op)	235,388
N5RZ	228,250
WDØT	222,108
NR5M	219,452
K6LA	217,294
WØUA	216,464
N4OGW	215,136
W9RE	215,136

Sweepstakes went through a period where it seemed if you weren’t operating from Puerto Rico, you didn’t have a hope. Lately, the southwestern U.S. seems to be the hot spot, and this year’s winner is no exception. Bob, N6TV, piloted the Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN, in Nevada, not only winning with 1,460 QSOs and 83

sections, but setting a Pacific Division record with 242,360 points.

“I didn’t notice it was the contest’s 80th anniversary,” Bob writes. “But it was exactly 40 years since my very first SS in 1973 (at age 16).” Bob credits new antennas at W7RN (at the home of Tom, K5RC) for his being loud and being able to hear well, as well as Nevada’s semi-rare status as a multiplier. “People will hang around the frequency much longer to work you.”

But most of all, he credits accuracy in copying and logging. His error rate was an excellent 0.7 per cent. “I was trained at a very young age by one of my contest mentors, N6AA, that accuracy is everything, especially in Sweepstakes where there are so many things in the exchange that you can miscopy,” he writes. “So though I always go for rate, I never hesitate to ask for a confirmation or repeat if I have any doubt. I don’t want to lose a single QSO.

“My view is if you run 100 QSOs per hour but have a lot of busted QSOs, your real QSO rate is much lower, so a high run rate can be very misleading.”



Bob, N6TV, at the controls of W7RN, on his way to a coveted win in the Single-Op, High Power category. (Photo by K5RC)

Pat, N9RV, is right behind, taking second place and setting the Northwestern Division record with 1,420 QSOs and 83 sections for 235,720 points. In third place is another common Top Ten finisher, Mark, AG9A operating his usual haunt at NØNI. He scored 1,418 QSOs and 83 sections for 235,388 points. Rounding out

the Top 5 are Gator, N5RZ (228,250 points) and Todd, WDØT (222,108).

The Secret of Contest Longevity

Finding out why Sweepstakes has endured for 80 years might require looking not at the top scores, but at some in the middle. Ted, WB3AVD, took up the broom in 1998 and is a self-proclaimed “putterer” in Sweepstakes. He usually averages about 200 QSOs or so and only worked a sweep once, in 2013. That doesn’t diminish the sense of accomplishment felt when he put Nebraska in the log Sunday night and then “retired to a good bottle of Port.”

“You see, for all those years, to me being a kind of lazy, not-very-serious contest operator, the Clean Sweep seemed about like seeking the Holy Grail,” Ted writes. “So after all these years, ham radio still had a challenge and a reward which made me feel like a kid again. And on a key I built myself!” Ted has been building keys for three years, teaching himself to be a machinist. “Typically, now, I use the contest to evaluate one of my new key designs — figuring that if it doesn’t work well, I’m not stuck in a long ragchew,” he said.



Ted, WB3AVD, holding his homemade Key No. 19. It can be used four ways: as a standard dual-lever paddle, a single-lever paddle, a straight key, or as an iambic paddle with fingers actuating the keys horizontally, like the buttons on a computer mouse. (Photo by WB3AVD)

One longtime Top Ten operator, Matt, K7BG, salutes operators like Ted. “Sweepstakes, as with most any contest, is made possible by the casual operator. That is how I started out. When I entered my first few Sweepstakes years ago and realized how much fun it was, my goal became simply to improve my previous best score,” Matt wrote. “I tip my hat to the casual operator who gets out a bug or straight key and memorializes the love of CW and Sweepstakes by returning each year. In many ways, these operators are leading the flock.”

In a contest where the winning stations must work more stations than actually submit logs (top-scoring W7RN made 1,460 QSOs, 97 more than the 1,363 logs submitted), casual operators such as Ted and others who don’t submit logs are critical to the contest’s success.

Single-Operator, Low Power (A or SOLP)

A common battle at the top of this category has usually pitted two close friends, Matt, K7BG, and Randy, KØEU. While Randy was off winning the Single-Op Unlimited, High Power category, Matt was busy running away with the title in Single-Op, Low-Power. His 1,206 QSOs and 83 sections were good for 200,196 points and the Northwestern Division record for the category.

Single Operator, Low Power

K7BG	200,196
K7GK (@W6JZH)	189,904
N9CK	187,580
K4RO	187,414
NØAT (NØKK, op)	186,916
NAØN	185,920
KØAD	180,774
WA1Z	176,292
WJ9B	175,794
N7XU (K4XU, op)	171,478

“I must admit it was with some degree of disappointment when I worked Randy and he was not in ‘A’ class this year,” Matt said. “I will also admit it was with some degree of relief, as well.” Incredulous, he went on to say, “You mean I actually stayed above the 200k mark after log checking? I can now retire! That has been a goal for some time now. Of course, the three new Ontario sections made it possible, but don’t tell anybody.” Actually, Matt didn’t know it, but his error rate was identical to N6TV’s at 0.7 per cent. High marks for accuracy!

Matt’s main piece of advice for anyone hoping to bridge the gap between casual participant and competitor is this: “SO2R (single-operator, two radios) is essential to be competitive in Sweepstakes. It also makes the slower Sunday operating so much more enjoyable. Being able to CQ on one radio and tune on another band simultaneously looking for additional stations to work is

the bread and butter of modern-day radiosport, but especially Sweepstakes.”

Matt closes, saying, “I really can’t say when the last time was that I found myself not operating the CW SS. Like the swallows returning to Capistrano at their appointed time each year, so the CW ops return to Sweepstakes. It’s always fun to work all the old familiar “faces” each year and one tends to really notice when some of the regulars don’t make it into the log for whatever reason.”

A number of ‘A’ category division records were set in 2013, not the least of which was Matt’s. Second-place K7GK (@W6JZH) took the Pacific Division record with 1,144 QSOs and 83 sections for 189,904 points. Third-place N9CK is the new Central Division record holder with 1,130 QSOs and 83 sections for 187,580 points. Kirk, K4RO, didn’t set a record but did take fourth with 1,129 QSOs, 83 sections and 187,414 points. Ron, NØAT, operating at another Kirk’s station, NØKK, closes out Top 5 with 1,126 QSOs, 83 sections, 186,916 points and the Dakota Division record.

Contacts and Exchanges, Then and Now

Today’s exchange is a relatively simple affair, complex as it is. Call sign, serial number, precedence (denotes operating classification), check (year of first license) and section. In 1930, the exchange was not specified exactly, but had to be a two-way exchange consisting of no fewer than 10 words each. It is one thing to have a complex exchange when you know what to expect: It is something else entirely when operators can choose a random 10 words themselves.

In 1930, Sweepstakes was a two-week contest consisting mainly of CW contacts, though one station (W9GHI in Baldwin, Kansas) was singled out for using phone for “a good number” of contacts. Considering amateurs didn’t start seriously experimenting with single-sideband modulation until after World War II, AM would have ruled the day in 1930. Back then, the few phone contacts made were blended with the CW contacts and all counted the same. SS today is divided between the first and third weekends in November, with CW taking place on the first and Phone on the third weekend. Operators may work a maximum of 24 hours.

Over those 2 weeks in 1930, the winner, W1ADW, made 153 QSOs. Today’s top stations can make that many QSOs in less than an hour during the high-rate periods on Saturday afternoon. In 2013, we measure rate in QSOs per hour. In 1930, some rates were measured in hours per QSO.

Single-Operator, QRP (Q)

It is perhaps the height of irony on display at the top of the QRP category for 2013. Mark, K6UFO, operating as NN7SS, won with 766 QSOs, 82 sections and 125,624 points, just a hair ahead of Ward, NØAX, operating as WØEEE, with 751 QSOs, 83 sections and 124,666 points.

Single Operator, QRP	
NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	125,624
WØEEE (NØAX, op)	124,666
NØUR	120,682
WI9WI	117,916
K9TM	117,588
N1RR (@K1TTT)	115,038
N7IR	113,212
WF7T	105,742
KØOU	105,410
N4OO	102,754

The ironic part? A few years back, Ward sold his Vashon Island station just outside Seattle and moved back to Missouri. Who did he sell it to? You guessed it: Mark. “I got beat by my old station!” Ward writes.

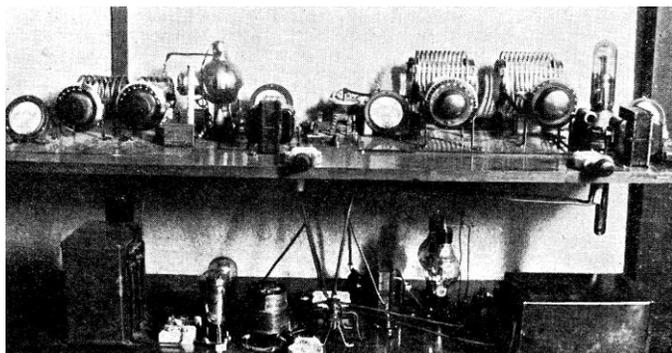
“Well, I count Ward as a good friend — maybe not anymore,” Mark counters jokingly. “He proved this was a good location and I made a few more improvements after I bought the house from him in 2006. “I’m sure Ward will get his revenge on me in some other contests, so I think I just re-energized a future competitor.”

“You mentioned I missed a sweep, so one of my sections must have gone NIL (Not In the Log). It’s tough when QRP to cleanly work them all through the unruly pileups,” Mark e-mailed. Even so, with 766 clean QSOs, 82 sections and a fraction of the transmitting power, in 24 hours he quintupled W1ADW’s 1930 QSO count — while running five watts.

The other contestants may not have been ironic, but they were close. NØUR was third with 727 QSOs, 83 sections and 120,682 points; WI9WI fourth at 719 QSOs, 82 sections and 117,916 points and K9TM in fifth with 717 QSOs, 82 sections and 117,588 points.

Historical Hardware

The first entrants used homebrew tube transmitters, with J.F. Feely, W1ADW using a Hartley circuit and 2nd place winner W9DEX using the famed Type 10. The most recent high-power winner, W7RN (operated by Bob, N6TV), used a pair of Elecraft K3s which combined took up less than one-quarter the desk space of W1ADW’s station. Full details of W1ADW’s equipment aren’t specified, but one can imagine it likely included lead-acid batteries for both the tube filaments and possibly for driving a generator to produce the B+, likely between 500 and 1,000 V.



In 1930, W1ADW would have had his hands full operating one radio set, juggling T-R switching and swapping his UV-203a triode transmitting tube for an 852 triode from time to time. Bob, N6TV, like most top-scoring stations, would have alternated between his two Elecrafts, often transmitting on one while listening on the other, a quite-legal practice known as Single-Operator, Two Radio (SO2R). “SO2R is essential to winning Sweepstakes these days,” Bob wrote. “I spend every possible moment doing S&P (search and pounce) on the second radio, trying to find new ones, while also trying to keep a CQ run going on the first. It is very difficult.”

In 1930, the operators confined themselves to “the 3500, 7000, and 14000 kc bands.” Today, Sweepstakes contacts are made on all of the traditional bands from 160 to 10 meters, excepting 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters.

Little was said of antennas in the 1930 Sweepstakes report, but it’s safe to assume wire antennas were the norm. Most articles of the day referred to coupling to single-wire feed lines and Hertz antennas or doublets and even today, some stations achieve outstanding results in this domestic contest using nothing more than the average city-lot antenna farm.



A pair of rotating monopoles holding multiple stacked antennas at W7RN. (Photo by K5RC)

On the other hand, among its eight towers W7RN uses a pair of rotating monopoles with multiple stacks of antennas, including a pair of three-element 80 meter Yagis, one at 175 feet and the other at 55 feet.

Bob, N6TV, said the biggest benefit was being able to hear signals approaching from multiple angles, helping eliminate fading and maximizing received signal strength. In 1930, many were still learning the many nuances of propagation.

Multioperator, Low Power (ML)

One of the smallest categories might be one of the best for introducing new operators to Sweepstakes. Multioperator, Low Power appeals to a variety of operators, from those looking to get newcomers’ feet wet to those who don’t want to individually go hard for 24 hours but don’t want to run big power to be competitive.

It’s a good category for new operators because with only 23 entries in 2013, you’re guaranteed a Top 25 finish. But it’s not as though the category can’t be competitive, either. At the top, nine QSOs separated the top three stations. The gang at WØDLE in Colorado (W2FU, KØAV, WBØGAZ and WØDLE) took top honors with 1,100 QSOs, 83 sections and 182,600 points; K5CM (K5CM, W5CW) was second with 1,094 QSOs, 83 sections and 181,604, and KH6LC (AH6RE, KH6LC and NH6V) was third with 1,091 QSOs, 83 sections and 181,106 points.

Multioperator, Low Power

WØDLE	182,600
K5CM	181,604
KH6LC	181,106
VE4EA	137,924
N4UW	135,456
W8EDU	129,646
W5RU	126,492
K5KC	122,176
AC5K	115,702
KU7Y	88,614

In fourth place, marking the birth of the then-unnamed Radiosport Manitoba club is VE4EA (VE4EA, K3KU, VE4XT), with 841 QSOs, 82 sections and 137,924 points. Their presence was welcome news for those who regularly miss VE4 for a sweep. N4UW (N4UW, N4IR, N4DD) round out Top Five at 816 QSOs, 83 sections and 135,456 points.

Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power (UL)

Is it fair to call Chad, WE9V, an accidental victor? Chad’s an excellent operator, but he was also scheduled to have his daughter that weekend, so only expected a part-time effort. “I usually pull the plug at the 14-hour mark.” But when it worked out his ex-wife had plans for

her and their daughter, Chad found himself at home with no one to answer to. “I was free to do what I wanted. Apparently, I wanted to operate SS CW.”

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

WE9V	197,872
VE6EX	188,078
KK7S	185,754
W4MR (AA4NC, op)	185,422
KTØR (KØOB, op)	184,758
KE7X	183,430
KB7Q	175,296
K2NNY (K2DB, op)	161,684
N4PN	160,854
N2MM	160,356

Chad writes he started off hoping to set the Wisconsin record for Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power, but like Forrest Gump, once he got to the state line, he just kept running. And running. Chad writes that once he achieved the Wisconsin record, he started wondering if the W9 record was in sight. He broke that, too. “Then I was wondering what the all-time record was. Well, I broke that, too!” Chad’s 1,192 QSOs and 83 sections were good for 197,872 points as well as the all-time Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power record.

Contained within Chad’s performance is some excellent insight for aspiring top-tier operators: Stay in the chair! “Ya know... I’m probably not the best person to ask,” he demurs. This was only his second full-time effort, but what an effort it was! “I guess the best advice I can give to increase BIC (butt-in-chair) time is to increase your interest or fun. Do something different, not mundane. Use the second radio much more.

“While it won’t help your rate as much: watch TV, read a magazine, surf the Internet: Something to take the boredom out and add spice. Want to help your score the most? Turn on packet spots and enjoy the folly. Shoot the fish in the barrel.”

What a year for UL it turned out to be. After Chad’s all-time record, the next six stations in line all set division records: VE6EX, KK7S, W4MR (AA4NC, op.), KTØR (KØOB, op.), KE7X, and KB7Q. N4PN, in 9th place, also set a division record. And while not enough for Top Ten, KØNE, N1QD, and N5DO also all set division records.

Sweepstakes Here and There

In 1930, operators such as VE4IC (the only Manitoba station but not the only VE4, because that call area then included Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta), would have been within arm’s reach of their tuning controls. In 2013, Hal, W1NN, operating his Ohio station, wasn’t even in North America. Hal is a business consultant helping North American companies do business in Japan and spends a large part of each year at his Tokyo

apartment. Hal’s 961 QSOs and a sweep were good for 20th place in Single Operator, Low Power.

“I am using a TS-480 with the RemoteRig boxes (www.remoterig.com),” explained Hal. “The front panel of the radio is with me in Tokyo and the rear end stays in Ohio.” Hal says that despite the separation, the part he misses the most about doing Sweepstakes remotely (he normally leaves for Japan after the contest) is not having SO2R capability. “Tokyo is about 6,500 miles from my station in Ohio, but amazingly, latency is not an issue at all,” he said, referring to Internet delays. High-speed Internet connections at both ends extend the control wires of his TS-480. Keying, tuning, received audio, and antenna switching commands travel back and forth between Tokyo and Ohio.

Time difference is a big issue for Hal: “The contest starts at 6 AM Sunday Japan time and ends at noon on Monday. This may be an advantage during the first half of the contest, because I start off pretty fresh after a good night’s sleep. However, when it’s 3 AM in Ohio and things slow down, it is still only 5 PM in Tokyo.” The time shifting made the usual sleep breaks impossible. “I operated on and off until 3 AM Tokyo time (1 PM Ohio time) but then collapsed for 3 and a half hours (during the afternoon Ohio time).”

Back in 1930, DX spotting was likely done by carrier pigeon, if at all. In 2013, 434 operators entered as Single Operator Unlimited, which allows stations to use the DX spotting network or other methods, including CW Skimmer (an automated, multi-channel, CW decoder), to find multipliers they need. Operators can set up their logging software to identify a needed station and then use the mouse to click on that spot and tune their radio to the station’s frequency instantly.

“I like working a sweep as quick(ly) as possible. So toward the beginning of the contest, I used (spotting) fairly heavily to get the sweep,” said Chad, WE9V. “I’m still amazed at the CW Skimmer technology, and for a CW contest, in assisted mode it’s like drinking from a fire hose. There’s always someone new to work.”

Single-Operator Unlimited, High Power (UH)

Randy, KØEU, who won the Single Operator Unlimited, High Power category, admits even he finds it a bit hypocritical for him to be in this category, much less win it. He has wanted to try a new category for a while, having won and placed in the Single Operator, Low Power category a number of times. He said that when operating high power, the attraction of using spotting isn’t as great as it seems. “Operating SO2R high power, a sweep is like the point-after after a touchdown —

almost automatic. Add in spots, and — unless there is no activity from a given section — a sweep truly is automatic.”

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

KØEU	234,890
KH7XX (KH6SH, op @ KH6YY)	218,788
K7RL	212,978
K6LL	206,670
KO7AA	206,006
N4BP	202,520
NY3A	201,192
N4ZZ	198,868
N6XI	195,548
KTØA	192,726

A perennial Top Ten entrant for more than a decade, Randy keys into one of the major attractions with Sweepstakes. “This may surprise you, but Sweepstakes is not my favorite contest. However, it is the one I have been most successful at in terms of first-place finishes. For that reason, I tend not to miss many of them.”

“I’ve often wondered why the top assisted (Unlimited) category scores for a given power level rarely are on par with the top unassisted scores,” he writes. “My guess is, by and large, the best operators consider assisted to be less of a challenge. To them, the only true competition is one where it is you and your radios against the world. I agree with that philosophy. My excuse is that entering in U class gave me a good shot at a first-place finish that I wouldn’t have had in the B class.”

Yet even in a category where a sweep is automatic — and never worth more than 83 multipliers — rate is king. “Spots were helpful in finding second-radio opportunities. “It’s hard to estimate how much different my score would have been without assistance, probably by 50-100 QSOs,” Randy adds. “The Sunday doldrums didn’t go away, even with assistance. The name of the game is to maximize rate throughout the contest.”

In second behind Randy’s 1,415 QSOs and 83 sections was John, KH6SH, operating at KH7XX at KH6YY. His 1,318 QSOs and sweep was good for 218,788 points and the Pacific division record. K7RL (1,283 Qs, 83 sections, 212,978 points), K6LL (1,245 Qs, 83 sections, 206,670 points) and KO7AA (1,241 Qs, 83 sections, 206,006 points) round out the Top Five.

Sweepstakes Rules!

In 2013, there remains much debate over rules. Is Hal’s remote operation permitted by the rules? (Yes, it is.) Can we keep working once our 24-hour period has run out? (Yes, and stations you work will get credit for those contacts, but you’ll only get credit yourself for contacts made within the 24-hour period.) In 1930, there was similar confusion about the rules. Some operators believed you could only work other ARRL members (not true). Other stations were under the impression only

contacts made with stations actually participating could count for points (also not true). Some stations did well by cajoling non-participants into giving them a contact just as they do during today’s Sweepstakes.

Multioperator, High Power (MH)

Although multiop in SS — likely owing to the shorter time-frame — isn’t the most-popular category (only 51 entries out of 1,364 in both high and low power), it is getting to be quite competitive.

W2FU (N2ZN, KØSM, NW2K, NM2O and W2FU) logged 1,386 QSOs and 83 sections to win the category and claim the Atlantic Division record with 230,076. More interesting is that they were within 100 QSOs of N6TV’s single-op record from the geographically challenged (as far as Sweepstakes is concerned) Western New York section, with the same 24-hour limit. Could we one day see an MH entry challenge for No.1 overall? W2FU is in fifth place overall, with three Bs and one UH score ahead of them.

Multioperator, High Power

W2FU	230,076
NX6T	227,254
AA5B	225,096
VY1EI	210,986
W4RM	207,002
KP2M	202,354
KØWA	195,880
NY6C	162,348
K6SU	157,534
KT4RR	156,704

NX6T (1,369 QSOs, 83 sections, 227,245 points), AA5B (1,356 QSOs, 83 sections, 225,096 points), VY1EI (1,271, 83 sections, 210,986 points) and W4RM (1,247 QSOs, 83 sections, 207,002 points) round out Top Five. Records also fell in the Canadian division (VY1EI (VY1EI, N6TR)) and Midwest division (KØWA (KØWA, ABØS, WØNO)).

School Club (S)

This category could be so much more! As it is, most years, it has trouble attracting enough entries to be able to form a Top 10. This year is no different, though the winner, W6YX (KBØVVT and N7MH) and the runner-up, KØHC (WØBH op.) each posted scores that would be impressive in most other categories. W6YX scored 1,242 QSOs and 83 sections for 206,172 points, while Bob, WØBH at KØHC counted 1,103 QSOs and 83 sections for 183,098 points. A division record fell in this category, too, with W6RFU (AC6T, op.) claiming the Southwestern Division record with 732 QSOs and 83 sections for 121,512 points. That also is the new Santa Barbara record.

School Club	
W6YX	206,172
KØHC (WØBH, op)	183,098
W6RFU (AC6T, op)	121,512
W6BB (K6JEB, op)	113,324
W3YI (AB3LS, op)	73,538
W2DSC (WB2NVR, op)	37,228
N5XU (AA5BT, op)	28,552
K5LSU	15,494
WB5H	10,716
W1AF (W1PL, op)	9,800

So, here's the challenge, alumni, staff and students: Get your school club on the air! Let's get some rivalry going here. Harvard, you really going to sit back and let Stanford take all the marbles every year? What about you, Princeton? And it's not just limited to four-year universities, either: School Club is open to technical and trade schools as well as secondary and other schools.

The catch? Operators must be staff, students or alumni. As well, if the school has a club station, the operation must be at the club station. If there is no club station, another station may be used but it must be owned by a staff member, student or alumni to qualify. It's important to point out the spirit of the school club rules is to involve students and inspire them in ham radio and contesting, it's not just to bring in ringers and be an easier category.

Sweepstakes for the Past 80 Years

What has happened to Sweepstakes over the years? The following list captures major changes from the beginning.

1930 - First SS, then called the ARRL All-Section Sweepstakes, is held over two weeks in January.

1935 - Contest is cut to one week and renamed ARRL Sweepstakes, the name it enjoys today.

1936 - Contest begins to take modern form, cut to two 33-hour weekends with operators allowed a maximum 40 of the 66 hours. Exchange also begins to take modern form, becoming only the preamble to a message. Check isn't year of first license but rather a signal report.

1936 - First Sweep is made by W6ITH, cleaning up all 69 sections.

1937 - Number of entrants surpasses 1,000 for the first time, with 1,013.

1937 - Number of sections hits 70 with addition of South Carolina. W6MVK is only station to complete a sweep.

1939 - The Second World War breaks out, eliminating the possibility of a clean sweep as it imposed radio

blackout on Canadian amateurs, eliminating six sections. "You were missed!" *QST* exclaims to the Canadians.

1941 - Sweepstakes — with the sweep cut to 64 sections without the Canadian sections — is held Nov. 8-9 and Nov. 15-16. W9FS wins for CW and W9RBI wins on phone. Less than a month later, on Dec. 7, Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, plunging the U.S. into the Second World War. All Amateur Radio activity except for W1AW broadcasts is prohibited.

1946 - Sweepstakes is back!

1964 - Contest shortened to 24 hours

1974 - Contest weekends take on modern form, with CW the first weekend of November, Phone the third

1976 - In honor of the U.S. Bicentennial, special awards given for stations making 200 QSOs

1987 - QRP class is added

1990 - Participation pins for 100 or more QSOs offered

1992 - Mugs offered for clean sweeps

1999 - Added Unlimited, Multiop and School classes

2000 - West Central Florida section is created, making the total 80

2012 - Ontario is split into four sections — Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario East and Greater Toronto Area — making the total 83

2013 - ARRL celebrates 80th running of Sweepstakes

The Next 80 Years

As Sweepstakes heads into its 81st year, it appears to be as popular as ever. A domestic contest where anyone can make a splash appeals to a wide array of operators. In addition, the continuing popularity of a CW contest with a lengthy exchange is welcome news to any operator worried CW may be going the way of the spark gap.

KØEU, is gratified to see a large number of stations he hasn't heard before giving out recent checks (the year they were first licensed) in their exchanges. The results suggest about 80 or so stations had checks of the year 2000 or newer. "Always glad to see the new ops with the later check numbers. CW isn't dead!" he writes.

The 2014 running of Sweepstakes runs Nov. 1-3 for CW and Nov. 15-17 for Phone. Why not try it for yourself and write a little history of your own?

2013 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes Regional Leaders by Category

Boxes list call sign, score, and category (A/B/Q - Single-Op, Low Power/High Power/QRP, U/L - Single-Op Unlimited/Low Power, M/L - Multiop/Low Power, S - School Club)

Northeast Region			Southeast Region			Central Region			Midwest Region			West Coast Region		
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections			Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions			Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section			Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections			Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections		
N2NT (N2NC, op)	213,642	B	N4OGW	215,136	B	W9RE	215,136	B	N9RV	235,720	B	W7RN (N6TV, op)	242,360	B
AA3B	204,678	B	N4AF	201,856	B	KE9I	180,774	B	NØNI (AG9A, op)	235,388	B	K6LA	217,294	B
K5ZD	203,516	B	K4BAI	184,260	B	K9BGL	174,300	B	N5RZ	228,250	B	VE7CC	211,484	B
WA1Z	176,292	A	K4RO	187,414	A	N9CK	187,580	A	K7BG	200,196	A	K7GK	189,904	A
N8NA	164,672	A	NP3A	160,688	A	W1NN	159,526	A	NØAT (NØKK, op)	186,916	A	WJ9B	175,794	A
WY3A	161,352	A	KU8E	156,538	A	W8CAR	158,364	A	NAØN	185,920	A	N7XU (K4XU, op)	171,478	A
N1RR	115,038	Q	WF7T	105,742	Q	W19WI	117,916	Q	WØEEE (NØAX, op)	124,666	Q	NN7SS	125,624	Q
W1QK	90,720	Q	N4OO	102,754	Q	K9TM	117,588	Q	NØUR	120,682	Q	N7IR	113,212	Q
AA1CA	76,194	Q	K4QPL	101,898	Q	KT8K	101,352	Q	KØOU	105,410	Q	W6JTJ	100,532	Q
NY3A	201,192	UH	N4BP	202,520	UH	VE3KI	179,114	UH	KØEU	234,890	UH	KH7XX	218,788	UH
WR3Z	190,734	UH	N4ZZ	198,868	UH	N4TZ	164,174	UH	KTØA	192,726	UH	K7RL	212,978	UH
K11G	184,426	UH	N1LN	176,292	UH	K9NR	152,554	UH	K5RT	183,762	UH	K6LL	206,670	UH
K2NNY (K2DB, op)	161,684	UL	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	185,422	UL	WE9V	197,872	UL	KØØR (KØØB, op)	184,758	UL	VE6EX	188,078	UL
N2MM	160,356	UL	N4PN	160,854	UL	N9CO	159,858	UL	KE7X	183,430	UL	KK7S	185,754	UL
K3AU (K2YWE, op)	155,542	UL	N4KH	151,226	UL	K8BL	157,700	UL	KØMPH	159,360	UL	KB7Q	175,296	UL
W2FU	230,076	MH	W4RM	207,002	MH	K74RR	156,704	MH	AA5B	225,096	MH	NX6T	227,254	MH
K3AJ/2	154,048	MH	KP2M	202,354	MH	K8BZ	132,136	MH	KØWA	195,880	MH	VY1EI	210,986	MH
W3LJ	29,400	MH	AC8Y	116,366	MH	W9YK	85,772	MH	NY6C	162,348	MH	K6SU	167,162	MH
W3YI (AB3LS, op)	73,538	S	N4UW	135,456	ML	W8EDU	129,646	ML	WØDLE	182,600	ML	KH6LC	181,106	ML
W2DSC (WB2NVR, op)	37,228	S	W5RU	126,492	ML	VA3MN	74,358	ML	K5CM	181,604	ML	KU7Y	88,614	ML
W1AF (W1PL, op)	9,800	S	K3MZ	60,216	ML	N9MT	35,154	ML	VE4EA	137,924	ML	W6K	76,194	ML
			K5LSU	15,494	S				KØHC (WØBH, op)	183,098	S	W6YX	206,172	S
									N5XU	28,552	S	W6RFU	121,512	S
												W6BB (K6JEB, op)	113,324	S

2013 ARRL CW Sweepstakes – Rare Sections

The following table shows the number of QSOs verified with each section (the total only includes QSOs for which logs were submitted from each station). The rarest section this year was not Yukon-Northwest Territories or even North Dakota, but Newfoundland! Keep an ear out for those VO1 or VO2 stations in 2014.

VA	29493		WNY	8262		WMA	4636		WY	2944
MDC	25735		OR	8116		SJV	4521		SB	2878
SCV	23825		MO	8090		WCF	4516		NV	2866
MN	19731		CT	8075		NM	4509		AK	2685
IL	19614		AL	7945		GTA	4497		PAC	2674
OH	18966		NNJ	7488		NLI	4486		NNY	2629
WWA	17111		ENY	7231		ME	4321		MB	2463
EPA	17062		EB	7096		SNJ	4298		VT	2439
AZ	15627		ORG	6624		WTX	4070		MAR	2417
NC	15389		NFL	6044		ID	4068		WY	2263
NTX	14171		SF	6043		BC	4059		ONN	2005
STX	12950		KS	5986		SC	3793		SK	1745
MI	12547		IA	5833		UT	3756		AB	1730
SV	11962		SDG	5703		ONS	3607		ND	1698
CO	11897		WPA	5630		MS	3488		VI	1694
WI	11507		SFL	5605		DE	3484		NE	1638
TN	11481		LAX	5405		SD	3427		PR	1593
EMA	10792		MT	5006		RI	3389		NT	1548
GA	9331		LA	4907		ONE	3028		QC	1410
IN	9142		KY	4785		AR	3000		NL	1219
NH	8586		OK	4727		EWA	2999			

2013 ARRL CW Sweepstakes - Division Winners

Call	Category	Section	Score	Call	Category	Section	Score
Atlantic				New England			
AA3B	B	EPA	204,678	K5ZD	B	WMA	203,516
N8NA	A	DE	164,672	WA1Z	A	NH	176,292
WB8YYY	Q	MDC	27,832	N1RR	Q	WMA	115,038
NY3A	UH	EPA	201,192	K11G	UH	RI	184,426
K2NNY (K2DB, op)	UL	NNY	161,684	N1QD	UL	EMA	110,390
W2FU	MH	WNY	230,076	W1AF (W1PL, op)	S	EMA	9,800
W3YI (AB3LS, op)	S	WPA	73,538	Northwestern			
Canada				N9RV	B	MT	239,206
VE7CC	B	BC	211,484	K7BG	A	MT	202,022
VE4GV	A	MB	164,174	NN7SS	Q	WWA	125,624
VA3SB	Q	GTA	64,906	K7RL	UH	WWA	212,978
VE3KI	UH	ONE	179,114	KK7S	UL	WWA	185,754
VE6EX	UL	AB	188,078	Pacific			
VY1EI	MH	NT	210,986	W7RN (N6TV, op)	B	NV	242,360
VE4EA	ML	MB	137,924	K7GK	A	EB	189,904
Central				W6JTI	Q	SF	100,532
W9RE	B	IN	215,136	KH7XX	UH	PAC	218,788
N9CK	A	WI	187,580	N6EE	UL	SJV	105,410
WI9WI	Q	WI	117,916	K6SU	MH	UT	167,162
N4TZ	UH	IN	164,174	KH6LC	ML	PAC	181,106
WE9V	UL	WI	197,872	W6YX	S	SCV	206,172
W9YK	MH	IL	85,772	Roanoke			
N9MT	ML	IN	35,154	N4AF	B	NC	201,856
Dakota				N9NB	A	VA	148,902
WDØT	B	SD	222,108	K4QPL	Q	NC	101,898
NØAT (NØKK, op)	A	MN	186,916	N1LN	UH	NC	176,292
NØUR	Q	MN	120,682	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	UL	NC	185,422
KTØA	UH	SD	192,726	W4RM	MH	VA	207,002
KTØR (KØOB, op)	UL	MN	184,758	K3MZ	ML	VA	60,216
KØJE	MH	MN	23,760	Rocky Mountain			
KEØL	ML	MN	32,536	WØUA	B	CO	227,304
Delta				K7VU	A	WY	168,490
N4OGW	B	MS	215,136	KØRI	Q	CO	78,560
WF7T	Q	TN	105,742	KØEU	UH	CO	234,890
N4ZZ	UH	TN	198,868	KK6MC	UL	NM	202,440
W4NZ	UL	TN	101,924	AA5B	MH	NM	225,096
N4UW	ML	TN	135,456	WØDLE	ML	CO	182,600
Great Lakes				Southeastern			
N4QS	B	KY	173,138	K4BAI	B	GA	184,260
W1NN	A	OH	159,526	NP3A	A	PR	160,688
K9TM	Q	OH	117,588	N4OO	Q	GA	102,754
N8XE	UH	OH	67,562	N4BP	UH	SFL	202,520
K8BL	UL	OH	157,700	N4PN	UL	GA	160,854
KT4RR	MH	KY	156,704	KP2M	MH	VI	202,354
W8EDU	ML	OH	129,646	K4MM	ML	SFL	45,428
Hudson				Southwestern			
N2NT (N2NC, op)	B	NNJ	213,642	K6LA	B	LAX	217,294
W2LK	A	ENY	151,890	K6AQL (KØDI, op)	A	LAX	160,854
K2YGM	Q	NLI	16,352	N7IR	Q	AZ	113,212
W2VQ	UH	NNJ	130,974	K6LL	UH	AZ	206,670
WQ2N	UL	NNJ	124,832	KB7Q	UL	AZ	175,296
AB2DE	MH	NNJ	21,252	NX6T	MH	SDG	227,254
W2DSC (WB2NVR, op)	S	ENY	37,228	WA6KYR	ML	LAX	38,000
Midwest				W6RFU	S	SB	121,512
NØNI (AG9A, op)	B	IA	235,388	West Gulf			
KØVBU	A	KS	141,100	N5RZ	B	WTX	228,250
WØEEE (NØAX, op)	Q	MO	124,666	W8FN	A	NTX	159,858
NØXR	UH	IA	151,558	AA5TB	Q	NTX	45,346
KØNE	UL	NE	127,654	K5RT	UH	NTX	183,762
KØWA	MH	KS	195,880	N5DO	UL	WTX	154,380
KØHC (WØBH, op)	S	KS	183,098	K5CM	ML	OK	181,604
				N5XU	S	STX	28,552

Version 1.1 corrects the listings for Northwestern, Pacific, and Rocky Mountain Division winners

New Records

Three all-time records and 19 division records fell in the 2013 CW Sweepstakes.

All-time

Single-Operator Unlimited, High Power - KØEU, 234,890 points

(previous record: K6LL, 216,800 points (2002))

Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power - WE9V, 197,872 points

(previous record: KE7X (@KØPP), 171,644 points (2012))

Multioperator, Low Power - WØDLE, 182,600 points

(previous record: NP4DX, 181,760 points (2011))

Division records

Atlantic — W2FU, Multioperator, High Power, 230,076 points

Canada — VE6EX, Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 188,078 points; VY1EI, Multioperator, High Power, 210,986 points; VE4EA, Multioperator, Low Power, 137,924 points

Central — N9CK, Single-Operator, Low Power, 187,580 points

Dakota — NØAT (NØKK op.), Single-Operator Low Power, 186,916 points; KTØR (KØOB op.), Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 184,758 points

Delta — N4UW, Multioperator, Low Power, 135,456 points

Great Lakes — W8EDU, Multioperator, Low Power, 129,646 points

Midwest — KØWA, Multioperator, High Power, 195,880 points

Northwestern — KK7S, Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 185,754 points

Pacific — W7RN (N6TV op.), Single-Operator High Power, 242,360 points; K7GK, Single-Operator Low Power, 189,904 points; KH7XX, Single-Operator Unlimited, High Power, 218,788 points

Roanoke — W4MR (AA4NC op.), Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 185,422

Rocky Mountain — KE7X, Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 183,430 points

Southwestern — KB7Q, Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power, 175,296 points; W6RFU, School, 121,512 points; W6RFU, School Club, 121,512 points

West Gulf — K5CM, Multioperator, Low Power, 181,604 points

Plaque Winners

Due to delays within the ARRL Contest Branch, plaque winners will be listed in a combined table in the Phone Sweepstakes Results.