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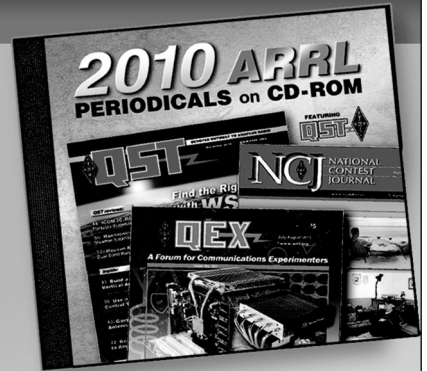
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Author: Billy Lunt, KR1R

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By Randall A. Thompson, K5ZD

11 Hollis St,
Uxbridge, MA 01569

e-mail k5zd@contesting.com
and

Billy Lunt, KR1R
Contest Manager

1996 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW Results

Alan was nearly frantic. A simple project that should have taken only a few minutes had already lasted more than three hours. He checked his watch. The ARRL November Sweepstakes would start in less than 60 minutes. Whether he was ready or not, operators from around the US and Canada would begin their annual treasure hunt for QSOs, section certificates, division plaques, Clean Sweep coffee mugs, and PINS awards. Alan didn't want to miss it!

A last-minute antenna project had gone terribly sour when Alan momentarily lost his grip on the antenna. The weight of the 80 meter dipole quickly pulled the rope through the pulley holding it up high in the tree. As everything collapsed to the ground, he thought, "Why didn't I just leave well enough alone?" Instead of relaxing before the start of the contest, he got to spend hours in the cold weather trying to repair the damage.

With minutes to spare, Alan sat down in front of the radio, started the computer logging software, and checked the SWR on the repaired antenna. Ah! Perfect! He hoped that would be the last he saw of Murphy for the weekend.

Alan found a clear frequency and started the contest with a snappy CQ. It was exhilarating as he raced to enter one call after another into his log. He concentrated on copying each exchange perfectly. Competition was usually so close that he didn't want to risk losing any contacts when the ARRL Contest Branch checked his log.

Alan quickly settled into the rhythm of the contest. He loved the long Sweepstakes exchange, with its roots in the early days of traffic handling. He never tired of chasing sections in pursuit of a Clean Sweep. He marveled at the QRP entrants' ability to squeeze their tiny signals in amongst the big guns. Familiar calls he had worked many times blended together with those of newcomers enjoying their first taste of radio competition. These were just some of what always made the first weekend in November so special.

As he was entering a contact, Alan's logging software emitted a beep of protest. It refused to accept "NNY" as a section. Alan pounded his fist on the table as he remembered the addition of the new Northern New York Section. He had forgotten to add it to the multiplier list. He completed the QSO using the keyer paddles and frantically exited the software and brought up the editor. As the software restarted, Alan made a mental note to do a better job of preparation for

Top Ten, CW

Single Operator, QRP	Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator, High Power	Multioperator
K1TR 112,050	KR0Y 209,508	W5WMU (N6TR,op) 223,236	K1ZX 224,640
N0AX 107,464	K8HVT/KP2 201,432	N5RZ 220,740	AA5B 215,754
K7MM 102,960	KP4TK (at NP4Z) 201,240	W0SD (WD0T,op) 219,604	KS9W 193,752
K0EJ 100,950	N4ZZ 189,072	K4VX/0 (WX3N,op) 214,500	K5RV 191,100
K9OM 93,328	K0EU 180,804	W6GO (N6IG,op) 212,472	KY1H 186,108
W7YAQ 91,322	AA7BG 174,040	W5KFT (WN4KKN,op) 209,440	WABZDT 180,024
K0FRP 90,144	K4XU (at K0KE) 170,170	W7RM (AA7NX,op) 206,544	N6K1 176,748
K0RI 88,160	W4WA (AA4GA,op) 169,260	K7UP (KN5H,op) 206,388	K6XO/7 175,500
WB9HRO 86,700	AC1O/4 162,084	WB0O 206,206	N6ZS 175,344
WA0RPI 85,824	W7ZRC 161,854	K0RF 205,744	K0WA 166,440



Tom, K7PJT, has been having trouble finding the Wyoming Section in the past, but *not* this year, he reports. Tom, says, "Sweepstakes is right up there with Field Day for fun!"

the next contest. Both of his early problems had been things that could have easily been solved weeks before!

Late Saturday evening, the receiver suddenly went quiet. "Strange," thought Alan. When he touched the key to transmit, the amplifier instantly tripped off line and Alan knew something in the coax or antenna system had failed. "Why does a station that has worked perfectly for months suddenly fail during a contest?" Alan asked himself—not expecting an answer. He knew that this kind of unexpected challenge helped keep his interest in radio competition high. He marked an off time in the log and started troubleshooting.

"I am not quitting," he thought. "With six hours of off time I can fix this without hurting my score. But I wonder what else Murphy will deliver before this contest is over?"

High Power Category

The high-power race was an interesting mix of stations and strategies. When the log-checking dust had settled, Tree, N6TR, piloted W5WMU in Louisiana to a repeat victory. Tree had had his share of challenges, including a coax connector failure that

forced him to take a 30-minute off time during the *first* hour of the contest! After the break, he went directly to 40 meters and proceeded to spend the next seven hours at a rate that averaged over 90 contacts per hour! He was one of the few operators who found 40 productive all night, and ended up with over 1000 contacts on the band. Sunday evening, Tree spent some time in the 40 meter Novice band and was rewarded with a small pile-up. Could those contacts have been the difference?

After watching K5GA finish in second place last year, Ralph, N5RZ, took the chair himself this time—only to duplicate the result. Despite damage from a summer lightning storm, Ralph was able to cobble together enough working antennas to compete. From his West Texas location, Ralph found 40-meter skip too long most of the evening and was forced to go to 80. As Ralph put it, "If anyone told me before the contest I'd make more QSOs on 80 than 40, I'd have told them they were crazy."

Third place went to Todd, WD0T, operating from W0SD in South Dakota. Todd had his best finish and score ever, while breaking the Dakota Division record. He took full advantage of his central location to pound 40 meters with a full-size three-element Yagi to the east and a two-element Quad to the west. An 80 meter dipole at 160 feet kept the rate up during the late night hours. Missing the neighboring state of Wyoming cost Todd a Sweep and a place in the standings.

In fourth place was Dave, WX3N, operating the superstation of K4VX in Missouri. W6GO operated by N6IG took fifth and bested AA7NX (at W7RM) for top West Coast honors. The seventh- through tenth-place finishers were separated by less than 800 points—a difference of only 12 contacts! The top score from back East was KE3Q, who finished 23rd place overall.

Low Power Category

The best story of the contest has to be the

incredible low power score of Jeff, KRØY. In addition to repeating as champion of the low power category, Jeff posted a score that is an all-time record for the category—and would have placed him *sixth* in the high power Top Ten! Breaking into the overall Top Ten with low power has only occurred once before in the past 25 years.

Lest you think this requires a massive station, Jeff operated from a 100×150-foot city lot in suburban Dallas. He used two radios that were connected through a fully automated antenna- and headphone-switching system. For extra flexibility, the weekend before the contest Jeff added a small tribander mounted on his chimney at the 25-foot level. It paid off by helping him break the huge 20 meter pile-up on N7NG in Wyoming Sunday afternoon for the Sweep.

The battle for second place was a photo finish between two stations in the Caribbean. Ahead by a nose was Hal, K8HVT, operating from St Croix in the US Virgin Islands. His antennas were only 35 feet above the ground, but he had the added advantage of being on the edge of a 900-foot drop toward the states (not to mention being surrounded by salt-water). He made most of his contacts on 15 and 40 meters, since he just couldn't make a dent in the 20 meter QRM. Hal had every section call him except Wyoming, which he missed for the Sweep.

Just behind, and repeating his third place finish of a year ago, was Eric, KP4TK. Eric operated from NP4Z, which also provides a high hilltop with excellent terrain toward the US. Eric got his Sweep but came up only *three* contacts short of second place!

Despite declines in the scores of the high power Top Ten; the low power category saw significant score increases. Don, N4ZZ, improved his score from 1995 by over 12%, set a new division record, and still remained in fourth place. The exception was Randy, KØEU, who saw his score drop from the previous year, which moved him down to fifth.

Matt, AA7BG, missed VE1 and VE2 but still broke into the Top Ten for the first time, finishing sixth. AA4GA and AC1O both enjoyed their first trips to the low power Top Ten.

QRP Category

Want a challenge? Like calling stations? Enjoy the thrill of the hunt? Try running less than 5 W in the Sweepstakes. With its emphasis on hunting for each new QSO rather than just calling CQ, the QRP category tests operating skill rather than location. This year the Top Ten ranged from coast to coast, but, interestingly, all from the northern half of the country.

First place finisher Ed, K1TR, visited neighbor N6BV's station in New Hampshire and enjoyed the advantage of a two-element quad on 80 meters and a three-element Yagi for 40. Ed made the most of those two bands to build a substantial contact advantage. However, the big antennas didn't help him find VE8 or nearby VE1 and VE2. Second place went to Ward, NØAX, operating from Western Washington. Ward achieved a personal best score despite missing Wyoming and VE2. In contrast to K1TR, the majority of Ward's contacts were made on 20 and 15 meters. K7MM in Eastern Washington got the Sweep, but could only find enough contacts to finish a close third. KØEJ represented the middle of country by finishing fourth from Tennessee.

Multi-Operator

After four consecutive multi-op victories, the crew at AA5B in New Mexico had established themselves as the team to beat. K1ZX in Southern Florida took advantage of the job relocation of WRTC-96 co-champion K1TO to create a winning duo that definitely knows the code. Thanks to 40 meters, K1ZX got off to a big lead on Saturday night. When AA5B was forced down to 80 meters by the long skip on 40, they knew they were in trouble. Missing Wyoming for the Sweep ended their

string. The KS9W gang did a great job to finish third from a 60×100-foot city lot in the so-called "RF black hole of Illinois."

Regional Competition

The Top Five regional score boxes will help you compare your score to others in your area of the country. Each region consists of a combination of ARRL divisions chosen for a "best fit" in terms of common geography or population.

The Northeast was highlighted by a close high power race between KE3Q and the familiar call of W2PV, operated this time by WZ1R. Perennial low power ace W2TZ took top honors with an excellent effort from WNY. KY1H took regional multi-op honors and set a new division record. While no score from the new NNY section made the box this time, we should all recognize what a great job NNY contesters did in activating this section for its first Sweepstakes.

In the Southeast, the biggest battle was for low power, with all five region winners also making the national Top Ten. KB4GID and K14UZ had a photo finish in the QRP category.

Due to a bad combination of demographics, geography and propagation, there aren't many national winners found in the Central Region. However, this doesn't mean that there aren't great contesters or competition there! After finishing tenth nationally last year, KO9Y just missed making the box again this year, finishing in eleventh place. The high power category was a dogfight. NJ2L crossed the border to operate VE3EJ and just got by NØBSH, who was operating the KS9K superstation. KS9W and WA8ZDT both had excellent multi-op scores that made the overall Top Ten.

Once again the Midwest retained its title as toughest region by putting three QRP scores, three low power, and seven high power scores in the national boxes—*wow!* The closest race was a three-way QRP battle

Top Five, CW

Boxes list call sign, score and class (Q = QRP, A = Low Power, B = High Power, M = Multioperator)

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)		Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)		Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)		Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)		West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT/Yukon Sections)	
K1TR	112,050 Q	KØEJ	100,950 Q	K9OM	93,328 Q	KØFRP	90,144 Q	NØAX	107,464 Q
K3TM	83,700 Q	KB4GID	74,936 Q	WB9HRO	86,700 Q	KØRI	88,160 Q	K7MM	102,960 Q
WA1GUV	77,550 Q	K14UZ	74,444 Q	WA8RJJ	72,750 Q	WAØRPI	85,824 Q	W7YAO	91,322 Q
KB2R (at K1VR)	75,312 Q	W8DL	72,352 Q	WB8RUQ	71,188 Q	KG5U	85,644 Q	W6JTI	84,854 Q
N1JAC	74,998 Q	K5SL	66,600 Q	N9NE	61,466 Q	W5TFB	73,840 Q	W6REC	79,872 Q
W2TZ	142,424 A	K8HVT/KP2	201,432 A	KO9Y	158,808 A	KRØY	209,508 A	AA7BG	174,040 A
WA1LNP	133,380 A	KP4TK (at NP4Z)	201,240 A	AB4RX	148,980 A	KØEU	180,804 A	W7ZRC	161,854 A
WT1O	124,024 A	N4ZZ	189,072 A	AA8AV	148,824 A	K4XU (at KØKE)	170,170 A	K7OX	156,936 A
WA2STM	121,656 A	W4WA (AA4GA,op)	169,260 A	N8JEC	146,484 A	KK9W	154,596 A	KC6CNV	152,614 A
K3SA	119,042 A	AC1O/4	162,084 A	N4TY	141,336 A	KBØJSU	149,996 A	AA7KF	147,224 A
KE3Q	195,734 B	W5WMU (N6TR,op)	223,236 B	VE3EJ (NJ2L,op)	195,312 B	N5RZ	220,740 B	W6GO (N6IG,op)	212,472 B
W2PV (WZ1R,op)	194,688 B	KM9P (K7GM,op)	204,516 B	KS9K (NØBSH,op)	194,376 B	WØSD (WDØT,op)	219,604 B	W7RM (AA7NX,op)	206,544 B
W3GH (K3UA,op)	193,732 B	K5GO	196,092 B	K8CC	188,916 B	K4VX/Ø (WX3N,op)	214,500 B	K6LL	204,360 B
K1IU	191,412 B	N4BP	187,200 B	W9RE	188,448 B	W5KFT (WN4KK,op)	209,440 B	K6NA (AG9A,op)	203,736 B
K5ZD	189,540 B	K4PQL	186,340 B	N4AR	185,796 B	K7UP (KN5H,op)	206,388 B	KY7M	203,580 B
KY1H	186,108 M	K1ZX	224,640 M	KS9W	193,752 M	AA5B	215,754 M	N6K1	176,748 M
WA2UKP	142,272 M	K5RV	191,100 M	WA8ZDT	180,024 M	K6XO/7	180,024 M	N6ZS	175,344 M
KE2VB	135,720 M	NJ4F	163,800 M	K8JM	155,220 M	KØWA	166,440 M	K6GV	165,672 M
W2GD	130,572 M	N4EC	124,024 M	NJ9C	150,384 M	NJ8M	149,136 M	A16V	156,310 M
K2SX/1	126,360 M	K5MC	123,728 M	WØBLLD	140,556 M	KJØG	131,362 M	W6BIP	138,776 M

among KØRI, WAØRPI and KG5U, who were all within just a few contacts of one another. WBØO's Top Ten finish made sure that North Dakota was easy to find. Up North, under the aurora, VY1JA and VE6SH/VE8 helped increase the demand for coffee mugs from Newtonton.

Out in the West Coast region, there were close races in every category. NØAX, K7MM, and W7YAQ all broke into the QRP Top Ten. Down in the Sunbelt between Phoenix and San Diego, K6LL, K6NA and KY7M raced to a close finish in the high power class. N6KI and N6ZS battled for region multi-op honors. Special recognition is due to W1WEF/KH6 who helped more than one operator complete a Clean Sweep with his presence on the bands.

Final Notes

ARRL HQ received 1265 CW entries—1150 single ops and 115 multiops. Of the single ops, we had 170 QRP, 739 "A power" (<150 W), and 241 "B power" logs. Special congratulations to all the stations that earned a Participation in November Sweepstakes (PINS) pin! All PINS awards were mailed in January, so you should have received yours by now.

The Phone Sweepstakes results will appear in the June issue of QST. The contest has grown too large to get everything into one issue. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant Sharon Taratula for her help in preparing the results. Mark your calendar now for the 1997 ARRL November Sweepstakes—CW, November 1 to 3, and Phone, November 15 to 17.

SOAPBOX

Poor conditions Saturday night; 40 and 80 were very difficult. Sunday was much better, especially on 40 and 80 meters (WB9HRO). A nine-digit portable, other country call signs, and roof-mounted dipoles is no way to win a contest, especially CW (KG5HN/VE6). I enjoyed the contest, and I especially liked the moderate operating speeds and PINS. I'll try again (K5CWR). Eighty meters played well but 40 carried the load. Thanks to VE5SF for my Sweep at around 1800Z. Maybe back to multi-op next year (KMØL). Where was Wyoming? The last five QSOs were invalid for us due to overtime (KJØB). What a great contest again! Who says you can't work all states running QRP? Can't believe W1WEF/KH6 heard me, but where was VE2 for my Sweep (N1JAC)? Where were Wyoming and Quebec (K5MC)? We would have easily broken 1000 QSOs if we didn't have to deal with some horrible line noise that started eight hours before the end of the contest (W6BIP). Great contest. Lotsa fun; sixth straight year (AA9BJ). At 2100, I started to call CQ only to hear a loud popping from the other side of the basement. The GFCI outlet was getting RFI and was

smoking. Talk about starting a contest with a bang (N2KJM). Bands were not the greatest of shape but still had a ball. Was able to top out last year's score. Had some trouble copying the New England sections, even on 80 (WA2UKP). First time since the first year you had a QRP class. Feels good to be back. All I can say is, "Tree, you done good." At least I didn't have to work too hard to do badly (KU7Y). Missed WAS by one state and a Sweep by three sections; I guess you know what next year's goal is (AA8TC). Lots of fun trying to make the 100 QSOs for a pin, running QRP from River Valley. Did much better and got three more QRP states for my WAS (KW3U). During the thick of the contest, my curiosity prompted me to listen with a 6 kHz filter; then I crawled back into my 500 Hz cave (KK5HD). Nice contest; nice activity; but one thing seems a bit troubling: of my 234 contacts, only 20 were licensed after me (1980). Doesn't look so hot for the future (NK6F/5). I found 40 meter much easier to operate and avoid some of the biggggggg signals on 20 Sunday afternoon and fairly good rates for the Left Coast. Competition is very tough in the Western Washington section; however, the scores were not very close together. I guess my operating or the band conditions need to improve (K7QQ). Dang. Missed the Clean Sweep again. I'm getting closer though. SS QRP is hard work (AB5OU). Where was Wyoming?! (W9LT). Had a good time but couldn't find VE2. Where are you, Quebec? (W6TKF). Conditions were poor, activity seemed to be down, and couldn't find VE4 for my Sweep, but I still had a great time (K8NZ). Where did all those QRP stations come from? (VE6EX). Each year, I want to add a challenge. This year, it was QRP with a direct-conversion transceiver (Ten-Tec). Last year, it was tubes and 35 W, with a Heath HW-16 and HG-10B VFO (KB9IUA). Thanks and a big 72 to all those patient

ARRL November Sweepstakes Plaque Winners

Listed below are all of the plaque category winners. Only plaques with sponsors will be awarded. If you have won a plaque category without a sponsor, you may purchase your own plaque. The cost is \$50 per plaque. If you, your club, or business is interested in sponsoring any of the unsponsored plaques call Billy Lunt, KR1R, at ARRL HQ.

Category	Winner	Donor	Category	Winner	Donor
Overall			Northwestern Division		
QRP CW	K1TR	ARRL	QRP CW	NØAX	NW QRP Club
Low Power CW	KRØY	In memory of Charles Oakes, W6UQF	Low Power CW	AA7BG	Ken Kopp, KØPP
High Power CW	W5WMM (N6TR,op)	WN4KKN and WØUA	High Power CW	W7RM (AA7NX,op)	
Multioperator CW	K1ZX	ARRL	Multioperator CW	W7UQ	
Atlantic Division			Pacific Division		
QRP CW	K3TM	Randy Rand, AA2U	QRP CW	W6JTI	Dennis Motschenbacher, AA7VB
Low Power CW	W2TZ		Low Power CW	N6NF	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
High Power CW	KE3Q	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	W6GO (N6IG,op)	Richard Hallman, K13V/7
Multioperator CW	KE2VB		Multioperator CW	N6ZS	
Central Division			Roanoke Division		
QRP CW	K9OM		QRP CW	W8DL	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Low Power CW	KØ9Y	Society of Midwest Contesters	Low Power CW	WJ9B	
High Power CW	KS9K (NØBSH,op)		High Power CW	K4PQL	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Multioperator CW	KS9W		Multioperator CW	NJ4F	
Dakota Division			Rocky Mountain Division		
QRP CW	WAØRPI	Tod Olson, KØTO	QRP CW	KØFRP	
Low Power CW	NØAT (NØKK,op)	Twin City FM Club	Low Power CW	KØEU	
High Power CW	WØSD (WDØT,op)	Minnesota Wireless Assn, WØAA	High Power CW	K7UP (KN5H,op)	
Multioperator CW	AAØXH	Minnesota Wireless Assn, WØAA	Multioperator CW	AA5B	In Memory of M. R. Neary, N7AA
Delta Division			Southeastern Division		
QRP CW	KØEJ	Pat Sonnier, W5WMM	QRP CW	KB4GID	
Low Power CW	N4ZZ		Low Power CW	K8HV7/KP2	
High Power CW	K5GO		High Power CW	KM9P (K7GM,op)	
Multioperator CW	K5RV		Multioperator CW	N4EC	
Great Lakes Division			Southwestern Division		
QRP CW	WA8RJF	Bill Maxson, N4AR	QRP CW	N7IR	
Low Power CW	AB4RX	Mad River Radio Club	Low Power CW	K7OX	Larry Serra, N6AZE
High Power CW	K8CC	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	K6LL	
Multioperator CW	WA8ZDT	David Smith, ND4Y	Multioperator CW	N6KI	Warren Hill, KF7AY
Hudson Division			West Gulf Division		
QRP CW	KF2HC		QRP CW	KG5U	
Low Power CW	WA2STM		Low Power CW	KZ8E	D. Craig Boyer, AH9B
High Power CW	W2PV (WZ1R,op)	Edgar Gilbert, WA2SRQ	High Power CW	NSRZ	Leo E. Oyler Jr, WØGOW—W5RO Memorial
Multioperator CW	WA2UKP	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	Multioperator CW	W5EHM	Young Gunners DX Foundation
Midwest Division			Canada		
QRP CW	NØEID		QRP CW	VE3SMA	
Low Power CW	KK9W		Low Power CW	VE6EX	Don Haney, KA1T
High Power CW	K4VX/Ø (WX3N,op)		High Power CW	VE3EJ (NJ2L,op)	River City Contesters
Multioperator CW	KØWA		Multioperator CW	VE5TR	
New England Division					
QRP CW	WA1GUV				
Low Power CW	WA1LNP	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F			
High Power CW	K1IU	Michael Perry, WM1K			
Multioperator CW	KY1H	Jon Neary, W1UA			

operators who pulled out my QRP signal (WA5OES). I'm always amazed how well the high-scoring stations can hear my QRP signal, whereas the low-scoring stations seem to miss it. [Perhaps the reason is obvious!—Ed.] It is always fun running QRP, particularly during a crowded contest. Thanks for a great contest and a lot of fun (W9NJP). Well, another CW Sweepstakes has come and gone, and again I didn't get the 100 contacts needed to get a pin. I had a lot of fun and again promised myself I will work to improve my code speed. Too many stations going too fast for me. Thanks for putting on the Sweepstakes, and I am planning on getting a pin in the phone contest. I can manage that one more easily (AD4F). I had a blast. I haven't done Sweepstakes since I was a kid. Worked several states for the first time from this QTH, including my home state of Montana. I also worked a couple of old friends, N6UR and K1ZZ. What fun! (AA6UL/4). There was lots of action—15 was hot, and I worked 39 states with my attic QRP (AE0Q). It appeared there were more people using real keys this year. Sweepstakes and Field Day are my contests (N4LJS). This was my first time ever in the Sweepstakes. What a good contest to increase your CW speed (N2FF). I operated CW Sweepstakes portable from my mom's house, about 90 miles away from home. This was the first contest where NNY would count as a multiplier, so I couldn't miss putting it on the air. The amazing thing was the performance of my portable setup on 20 meters. I've operated entire Field Days without working Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, etc.—but I got them from NNY. Wish I could have worked all California sections. Looking forward to the phone Sweepstakes (N2TNW). After about five years of inactivity on CW, it was great fun to "pound brass" and send the familiar exchange. It's amazing how quickly your code speed can improve over a SS weekend. Where are all of the new hams? Most all of the checks were pre-1980 (WB1GEX). Thanks for the great contest (N4UOH). I tried QRP for the first time this year; it's a big thrill to have a pileup running only 5 W. Was 80 meters great this year or what?! (K5SL). Going into the contest, I was probably reliably copying 15 to 18 WPM. At the end of the "ordeal," I was at 40 WPM with 95% accuracy. A darn good way to get the speed up and, all in all, a very good contest. Next year, I promise to put up at least one directional antenna. That might help me sort out the signals on 20 a bit better (N2TPA). Well, I had hoped to reach 500 QSOs with my "pure" QRP this year after making some 460 last year, but conditions weren't all that helpful. I fell way behind on Saturday evening and never could catch up. I am terrible at keeping up with world and national events in the news. Perhaps I missed the news that the state of Maine no longer exists and that they joined the state of New Hampshire? (K3WWP). I really enjoyed the contest and QRP makes it a real challenge. Keep up the good work (VE7CA). This was my first Sweep ever from my home station. I've been in multi-ops where we've done it but never as a single-op. Thanks to K8HVT, VE6SH, and all the others for making it possible (KK9W). It was fun, as always, but I could sure tell that we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle (AB4RX). I started out with two radios; ended up with one working (K8DD). Last year, I had 199 QSOs in 11 hours; this year, 439 QSOs in 22 hours. Heard all the sections. Next year, I'm moving to Wyoming (K5FO). It was a challenge to operate QRP with a straight key, but very rewarding. Unfortunately, I did not earn a pin but was happy with 80 QRP CW QSOs in seven hours of operation. I'm sure I would have hit the 100 or more mark if I had operated on Sunday. I look forward to operating QRP again next year (KB2TEO). Where were the Canadians? (N4EC). I love this contest, but how can we go about changing the rules to allow us to work stations on more than one band? Allowing one QSO *per band* would help to relieve Sunday doldrums (WD9HTC). I set my goal at 100 contacts for the participation pin and got that plus a few more—it was fun! Those old timers sure do pound the brass fast. Some of them were a blur to me. I'll be back next year looking for the Clean Sweep (VE3FMC). Hope propagation returns soon; my ears can't stand the 20 meter big guns' signals (K6HRT). Thanks for creating and sponsoring this contest. It was so much fun that it was a challenge to tear myself away from the radio to do homework. Please continue the high quality of service that has come to represent the ARRL (KG8TS). My first time over 100k in CW Sweepstakes. It was great to hear and work a ton of



K9SB, claims, "Having copied CW for years from head to paper, it was very difficult typing to go from head to keyboard. So for much of the contest, info was flowing from head to paper to keyboard. At 35 WPM, it didn't flow very well. I still had a lot of fun. Anyone know of a good typing tutor?"

QRPers (K3CR). In almost six years of hamming, I've never ever heard such loud line noise. We could copy only the strongest signals. Yep—a couple of days after the contest, the noise disappeared (K4IX). This was the first contest with my new Extra class license. Can't wait for the DX test, new vanity call sign just showed up (WD6DXH). North Dakota. Worked All States. Mission accomplished! (KE9EX). Is it really necessary for the contest to be so long? It is very difficult for me to find the time to operate for such an extended period. Wouldn't it be just as much fun if the contest was only four hours or so? How about a short little contest in the Novice bands (KB9LGI). Where were Maine and Wyoming (KA5DAV). My rig blew an electrolytic capacitor. Oh well, it was fun while it lasted (AA3GM). I've always enjoyed operating in Sweepstakes; thanks for a great contest (KB2USV). I really enjoyed Sweepstakes this year and I can't wait to break 100k next year. So, until then, 73 and have a good year (KB8UKP). Once again, this is the best contest of the year. My score keeps going up, but I still can't find all the multipliers. This year, I got the local homeowner's association to allow me to put up a temporary A3 tribander for the CW contest weekend. I guess this is the first step (W4RM). I operated the Sweepstakes portable 0 at Sunrise Beach, Camden County, Missouri, running 100 W to dipoles for 40 to 20 meters. This is a lot different from my 500 W and beams at home in Tennessee. I set a goal of trying to work all sections, but never even heard a VE1 or a KL7 (K4LTA/0). Twenty-four hours of pure radio bliss—that's how I would describe Sweepstakes. My brother and I compete against each other every year. He ran low power and I ran high, and I beat him by only 50 QSOs. I guess I have to get bigger antennas and a full-power amp (WB4NFS). I had a great time and also a good night's sleep (KJ5WX). I have the dubious record of operating in SS for 40 years without making a Clean Sweep. I have come within one section on several occasions (W6PH). Work de-



John, NJ9C, says, "Multi-opping with friends [as John did with Steve, AA9AX] is what the spirit of ham radio and contesting is all about."

mands cut into my operating time. Thanks to everyone for all the fun (K4JYO). Tremendous contest. (K9OM). I'm always coming up short on one of the Canadian sections (what do they have against me). Seems like the Clean Sweep is just not meant to be. Where, oh where, was that VE4? SS is great fun, especially in the QRP class (W8DL). Lots of QRP stations. Good to see increased activity (WB00). I started out to make just a few QSOs to get the feel of CW Sweepstakes. Then I got carried away. Next year, maybe I can computer log and go for points. I decided to go for the mug this time about halfway through, and almost made it. I did make the pin (AA5XQ). This was my first year operating QRP in this contest. Thanks to those who had the patience to dig my little signal out of all the QRM. It was also the first year I have been able to add the Yukon to the log. As usual, the best contest of the year. (AA7QY). Six decades of Sweepstakes and it's still fun. My first score appeared in the April 1942 QST. Who needs a computer? I've always been able to log and dupe with my left hand while sending with my right (W2NZH). I haven't had this much fun since I was a teenage (KN6AZA) Novice in the SJV section in 1957. Thanks (K6AZA/W5). With nearly the same amount of QSOs as 1995, this was a wonderful contest weekend, proving that the little guys with only wires can have fun too (KK5CA). I love this contest; great operators. A guy with just wire antennas can still be competitive. I felt much better about my station after the contest. See ya next year, guys (WA0RPI). Since band conditions were not the best from here in Oklahoma, I only got 64 of the 78 available sections. My first was getting a little sloppy toward the end, and I appreciated the patience of my contacts (KB5ENP). My goal for this year was to get my participation pin and to beat last year's score. I made both goals, but why does SS have to fall on the weekend with the most leaves to rake, the best football games, and the busiest schedule at church? (N8XMS). I operated a personal all-time CW contest high of 21 hours in this contest and got bit real hard by the CW bug. Although I missed a Clean Sweep, lacking only VE2 and KH6, it was a thrill to have NWT call me on 80 meters late Saturday night (AB5SE). Once again, I enjoyed the limited time I spent on the Sweepstakes (N3GUK). My first Sweepstakes where the off period was not dictated by equipment failure (N0LNO). I finally got my condo antenna working just in time for the contest. It's been over 10 years since my last SS CW. A great challenge and lots of fun (WA9FBC). Thanks for another great contest. I beat last year's score (call was KB0LOB) by quite a bit, and I hope to do it again next year. Still waiting for the Clean Sweep though (AA0ZV). Fun, as always (K0JV). The main reason I participate in contests is to prepare for the next Field Day. Without a doubt, the November Sweepstakes is the best of the lot for that purpose. With the time that I was able to devote to this year's event, all I did was hunt and pounce. My goal was to work every section. Oh well, no mug this year (N8CPA). Conditions on 20 meters were good. Most stations could hear me the first time; something I am not accustomed to (AA0VY). I came about as close as hammingly possible to a Clean Sweep and still came up short. I was scouring every noisy bit of 80 meters, having spent an hour on 40 with no luck. I heard VE2FFE on 3524, as weak and warbly as a UI8 on 20 meters. He worked a few guys on the East coast and then sank back into the noise. Can you believe it? Maybe I could at least get a chipped mug for my efforts (N6SJ). Getting better at CW contesting but still not where I want to be yet. Improvement on the 80 meter antenna is a priority; my sloper is pointed in the wrong direction and resonant too high in the band. A lot of guys racked up big totals on 80, but I was not one of them. The pins are nice, but I would like to drink from a Clean Sweep mug. Thanks again for sponsoring the best domestic contest going (VE6KRR). Too bad the vanity calls weren't out in time for CW (AA0OB). Had fun working lots of DX during the contest period, but sure wish they counted for points. I really enjoyed getting called by VY1JA and W1WFF/KH6 with my "killer" 20 meter inverted V at 55 feet (KQ2M). Forty meters was so long that the East Coast seemed to be located near the United Kingdom. Eighty meters was a surprise (K0WA). Once again, the vast majority of participants were intense but courteous and a pleasure to contact (W4PBG). Having a beam on 20 helped, but it would have helped more to have a good 15 or 10 meter opening (N9CIQ). Looking back over the past few years, this

is my favorite contest, and this year was no exception. I was able to work a few less hours than last year, but my score is a personal best. It must be enjoyable for others too. At least 20% of the stations on my log are also on my log for last year's November Sweepstakes (AASHV). I enjoyed the slow code section, but it lacked activity. I appreciate the gentlemanly attitudes and spirit of communication by all the operators on CW (KB7UIS/5). This was the first time I've tried computer logging and keying. I lost

two hours when the computer locked up on Sunday morning. Thanks to AB1T for all the technical support (NW1S). I must commend all who entered this year. I don't recall making so many easy contacts in SS ever before. Somehow I was able to make the full 24 hours, even with S6 line noise Saturday evening through Sunday morning, then the wife and I starting the home buying process by making an offer on our dream home (N4DW). I discovered it does not hurt at all to call CQ (WB0HZZL). Turned 50 during

Sweepstakes... immediately felt tired and took a nap. When I awoke, the contest was almost over. Sweep down from last year, but finally a Clean Sweep (KJ9C). This year, I never heard any SC, AK, or PAC stations. Seems the Quebec and Wyoming stations were only answering the CQs of the high power stations (K4UK). Forty meters was the best for me by far; could not get anything going on 80; 20 was only fair on Sunday morning. I felt either propagation was bad or there was lack of activity (N4KW).

Scores

Within each section, scores are listed in descending order, by power categories, followed by multioperators. Line scores list call sign, score QSOs, multipliers, hours, class (Q = QRP, A = Low Power, B = High Power).

Table of contest scores for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Eastern Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Northern New Jersey, and Maryland-DC. Each entry includes call sign, score, QSOs, multipliers, and hours.

Table with columns for call sign, frequency, power, and other technical details. Includes sections for various states and territories such as Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Maritime-Newfoundland.

