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# The 1997 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW Results

**I**t was three days after the 1997 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW contest and Alan was comparing experiences with Alex, a new member of the local radio club. Alex was recently licensed and Sweepstakes had been his first attempt at CW contesting.

"I couldn't believe how crowded the bands were!" Alex exclaimed. "Every band seemed to be filled with stations calling CQ SS."

Alan nodded, recalling the contest and how much more enjoyable it had become since installing 250-Hz CW filters.

Alex continued, "Some guys were sending so fast that I really had to concentrate to catch their calls. When I called them, I would send QRS after my call—just like you suggested. And it worked! They slowed down to match my speed."

"Of course," replied Alan. "They want to work you as badly as you want to work them. The good operators will always slow down and repeat things as many times as you need."

"There is one thing I don't really understand," said Alex.

Alan leaned forward expecting some deep philosophical question penetrating to the core of his contesting soul.

"What is a precedent?" asked Alex.

Alan blinked and thought for a moment as he tried to understand the question. As one who had come up through the CW traffic handling ranks, it was a question he had never really considered.

He tried to explain. "The correct term is 'precedence.' It is part of the official ARRL message preamble. In traffic handling, it indicates the order in which messages are to be handled: Emergency first, Priority next, then finally Routine.

"The Sweepstakes exchange is derived from the official message format used in traffic handling. That's why there are so many elements in the exchange.

"Precedence became part of the SS exchange in 1966, when it was added after the message number. All exchanges carried the R precedence, for Routine. In 1968, it was changed to indicate power levels—A for 150 W and less, or B for over 150 W. Q for QRP was added in 1987."

"Is that also why they call the year licensed the 'check'." asked Alex?

"Yes," replied Alan. "In a message, the check represents the number of words that are in the message. For the Sweepstakes, since there is no message, it is the year the operator was first licensed."

"I worked one station that sent a check of 17. That guy must be old!" exclaimed Alex.

"Well, some club stations like to use the year they were first licensed just for the novelty. But there are some regular SS participants, like W6BIP in San Francisco, who have been around for a long time and enjoy giving out a low number."

"The hard part for me," said Alex, "was knowing how to ask for repeats on the precedence and check. I didn't know what to send."

Enjoying the role of teacher, Alan ex-

plained. "For the precedence, most people send PR? or PREC? to request a fill. If that fails, I sometimes try POWER?"

"Oh," said Alex. "I had several people send PR and I thought they were asking for the number again!"

"Yes, that is a common difficulty. As for the check, usually CK? gets the job done. But YR? or YEAR? are also effective."

"That makes sense now that you explain it," said Alex. "This contesting stuff is a lot of fun. What can you tell me about the Phone Sweepstakes coming up?" asked Alex.

Alan smiled with the realization that the contest flame was beginning to flicker in this one. "Well, it's a completely different contest..."

## High Power Category

Heading into the contest, N6TR had made it clear that he planned to drive W5WMU to his third high power title in a row. The rest of the high power entrants were equally determined to stop him. Who could do it?

The answer came from a somewhat unlikely place—South Dakota! Todd, WD0T, operated W0SD to his first Sweepstakes victory and the first ever from that area of the country. Todd is no stranger to the top ten, having finished in third last year, and was considered a true contender. But the fifth call area seemed to have a lock on the top spot with wins in seven of the last eight years. Short of W5WMU's 1995 all time record score, Todd gets a new division record to go with his win. Could this be a precedent setting effort for next year?

In a tight battle for second place, Steve, N2IC, in Colorado just squeaked by Tree, N6TR, (operating at W5WMU) by a mere two contacts. Tree got the contest off to a fast start by making 580 QSOs in the first 6 hours! With 12 hours left to go in the contest Steve knew Tree was more than 100 contacts ahead of him. Undaunted, Steve racked up some big hours on 20 meters during the Sunday afternoon doldrums while Tree struggled! Steve caught him in the final hour to take second overall and a new Rocky Mountain Division record.

Claiming that he only has his 20 meter antennas working, Dan, K1TO, took advantage of his new South Florida QTH to take the fourth spot. Dan made over 600 of his contacts on 40 meters using a ground mounted HF2V vertical! What's he going to do when he gets his real antennas up?

Just five QSOs back is another repeat



Rob, K6RB, operating high power from SCV tried for a clean sweep but missed it by only two—YT and MAR.

## Top Ten

CW		Single Operator, High Power	
<b>Single Operator, QRP</b>		<b>W0SD</b>	234,788
N5TJ	166,058	(WD0T,op)	
W0UN	137,214	N2IC	229,416
(K9AN,op)		W5WMU	229,100
K1TR	125,096	(N6TR,op)	
N0AX	114,660	K1TO	227,362
KG5U	110,048	WB0O	226,572
K7MM	106,650	K7UP	217,882
AA7KF	105,490	(KN5H,op)	
W7YAQ	97,736	W6GO	217,724
K9OM	95,000	(N6IG,op)	
K3CR	94,572	K6LL	217,566
(KB3AFT,op)		K5GN	216,934
<b>Single Operator, Low Power</b>		K5BN	216,618
K0EU	190,008	(K5GA,op)	
K7BG	184,860	<b>Multioperator</b>	
WP2Z	183,300	K4OJ	217,408
(AG8L,op)		K07X	203,346
VE7CC	179,172	K8LX	197,974
AD6DO	179,172	W9JA	195,920
N4ZZ	177,276	K5MDX	192,760
KN4T	176,170	W3GH	189,916
K7FR	173,404	AB0S	188,136
K5RT	173,168	K0RWL	182,806
K6LA	168,744	K6RC	175,696
		AA2FB	172,694

## CW Top Five

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	125,096	Q	N4UW	90,324	Q	K9OM	95,000	Q	N5TJ	166,058	Q	N0AX	114,660	Q
K3CR	94,572	Q	K5SL	89,076	Q	W8RU	88,160	Q	W0UN	137,214	Q	K7MM	106,650	Q
(KB3AFT,op)			W2CS	80,106	Q	WA8RJF	79,952	Q	(K9AN,op)			AA7KF	105,490	Q
AD8J	87,780	Q	N4ROA	77,964	Q	K8XXX	79,560	Q	KG5U	110,048	Q	W7YAQ	97,736	Q
W1AW	78,736	Q	W8DL	59,280	Q	(K8AQM,op)			N0UR	92,554	Q	N7IR	93,300	Q
(W1VT,op)						K8DD	60,198	Q	W5TFB	88,950	Q			
KA1O	77,184	Q												
W2TZ	159,432	A	WP2Z	183,300	A	K8BL	162,740	A	K0EU	190,008	A	K7BG	184,860	A
WA1S	149,468	A	(AG8L,op)			K9IG	160,054	A	K5RT	173,168	A	VE7CC	179,172	A
K1VUT	146,016	A	N4ZZ	177,276	A	W8MJ	159,738	A	N0NR	166,296	A	AD6DO	179,172	A
WT1O	144,456	A	KN4T	176,170	A	K9TR	156,262	A	K7CF	159,896	A	K7FR	173,404	A
KM1X	143,780	A	NA4K	158,312	A	KU8E	148,824	A	N0AT	159,744	A	K6LA	168,744	A
			WJ9B	144,570	A				(N0KK,op)					
									W0SD	234,788	B	W6GO	217,724	B
K5ZD	204,136	B	W5WMMU	229,100	B	K9DX	189,916	B	(WD0T,op)			(N6IG,op)		
N2NT	202,488	B	(N6TR,op)			W19WI	163,086	B	N2IC	229,416	B	K6LL	217,566	B
(N2NC,op)			K1TO	227,362	B	WT9Q	159,120	B	WB0O	226,572	B	N7TR	215,828	B
K1AM	194,498	B	WC4E	201,134	B	W8RC	147,896	B	K7UP	217,882	B	W7RM	203,424	B
K3MM	194,024	B	N4BP	200,148	B	KE9I	146,308	B	(KN5H,op)			W6NL	202,714	B
W1WEF	193,708	B	W4AN	195,130	B				K5GN	216,934	B			
			(K7GM,op)											
W3GH	189,916	M	K4OJ	217,408	M	K8LX	197,974	M	K07X	203,346	M	K6RC	175,696	M
AA2FB	172,694	M	K5MDX	192,760	M	W9JA	195,920	M	AB0S	188,136	M	N6VR	171,272	M
K2TW	170,640	M	W4RM	164,794	M	K4LT	163,688	M	K0RWL	182,806	M	N6KI	170,008	M
NA2N	166,374	M	NT4D	130,900	M	K8JM	150,732	M	KT0R	172,536	M	N6ZS	166,532	M
K2DS	148,520	M	K5MC	123,900	M	K9MMS	132,088	M	KJ0G	142,896	M	K6RCC	162,266	M

member of the top ten club, WB0O. Bill makes sure everyone has rare North Dakota for the sweep. He made over 800 contacts on 20 meters using a TH7DXX at 50 feet. You get the feeling that the Dakotas were the place to be for the first weekend of November 1997.

An old Op Aid 6 dupe sheet could cover the rest of the top ten. Just eight QSOs were the difference between K7UP (KN5H, opr) at number 6 and K5BN (K5GA, opr) at number 10. W6GO, with N6IG at the key, just got by perennial top ten visitor K6LL for the high West Coast score. In ninth, K5GN got back into the top ten after missing last year.

Top score back east was Randy, K5ZD in WMA, who finished 15th overall. John, N2NC, operating from N2NT had six more QSOs, but missed VE1 for the sweep and the honorary title of eastern champion.

### Low Power Category

In the contest's most popular entry category, Randy, K0EU, demolished the competition for his first national SS victory. Despite missing a section, Randy's 48 QSO lead put him firmly in front.

The battle for second place was much closer and missing a section made all the difference. Matt, K7BG, in Montana just got by Dave, AG8L, operating from the rental station of WP2Z. Dave finished with five more QSOs than Matt but missed Yukon to finish in third. Matt commented that he never worked leader K0EU and wonders if this is the first time the top two in a category didn't work each other?

Fourth place is as close as it gets! When the log checkers were through, Dan, AD6DO, and Lee, VE7CC, finished in a perfect tie. It was a battle of youth versus experience. Dan is a 16-year-old up-and-

comer while VE7CC packs years of SS top ten experience. They'll have to come back next year for a rematch.

Next up is Don, N4ZZ, for his third consecutive year in the top ten, followed by Walt, KN4T. Gary, K7FR, had enough QSOs to beat Don, but missed Maritime and Yukon to land in the eighth position. After 8 years of making sweeps, Gary summed it all up by saying, "I think the sweep is more important to me than 1000 QSOs." K5RT, a newcomer to the SS top ten, finished ninth.

Ken, K6LA, got the last spot in the list, but not without some competition. N0NR was just two contacts back but missed a section. N6NF had enough QSOs to finish number 10 but he missed two sections. Kind of makes the decision to run rate or chase the last section a little more interesting, doesn't it?

### QRP Category

Name this contestant! With his victory in the QRP category he becomes the first person ever to achieve Sweepstakes category victories five years in a row. Interestingly, he won high power twice, then low power twice, and now QRP—the last three from his home station. His score breaks the QRP category record by over 37K (that's 181 QSOs!). He made nearly 500 band changes in amassing his 1051 contacts.

If you said Jeff, N5TJ, you have probably been beaten by him before. Jeff simply destroyed a very competitive QRP category and set a standard that will be hard to beat. Steve, K9AN, visited the perpetually under construction super station of W0UN in Colorado to break the existing QRP record and win the 'mere mortal' category. Steve missed Maritime and Yukon for his sweep.

Last year's champion Ed, K1TR, again visited neighbor N6BV's station, this time

to finish in third. After losing power in a storm at 0550Z, Ed went to bed only to wake at 12Z and find the power still off. He ran home, picked up a generator, and operated on emergency power until 18Z when the power returned. He does earn a new division record for his extra effort! Ed reported that he never heard Yukon or the new NL section for his sweep.

In fourth, with a personal best score, is Ward, N0AX, operating from Western Washington. A regular QRP entrant, Ward was thrilled to have the category taken seriously by former high power ops. Despite missing NNY for the sweep, he was optimistic for next year now that 10 and 15 meters are showing promising signs of life.

QRP activity was definitely up in part due to new interest from the growing QRP community. The QRP Internet mailing list was buzzing with excitement over new states and QSO totals following the contest. With top scores from all areas of the country, the QRP category is free from the geographic bias found in the other categories. You really can win from anywhere — and have a lot of fun doing it.

### Multioperator Category

The multiop category saw a repeat victory by Jim, K4OJ (who was K1ZX last year). Jim started the contest as a single op. On Sunday afternoon, afraid of missing the Sweep, Jim enlisted his parents (W1CW and W1YL) to join in the search for Yukon. The result was an easy victory for this family affair. Yes, they got the sweep!

K07X from Utah finished second with one of the most accurate logs received. The battle for third was a Midwestern show down between K8LX in Michigan and W9JA in Wisconsin. K5MDX in Mississippi took fifth.

## 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, 860-594-0252.

Category	Winner	Donor	Category	Winner	Donor
<b>Overall</b>			<b>Northwestern Division</b>		
QRP CW	N5TJ	MI QRP Club	QRP CW	NØAX	Paladin Contest Club
Low Power CW	KØEU	In Memory of Charles Oakes, W6UQF	Low Power CW	K7BG	
High Power CW	WØSD (WDØT,op)	N5KO and WØUA	High Power CW	W7RM	
Multioperator CW	K4OJ		Multioperator CW	K7VS	
<b>Atlantic Division</b>			<b>Pacific Division</b>		
QRP CW	K3CR (KB3AFT,op)		QRP CW	W6JTI	Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV
Low Power CW	W2TZ	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Low Power CW	N6NF	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
High Power CW	K3MM	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	W6GO (N6IG,op)	Richard Hallman, N7TR
Multioperator CW	W3GH	North Coast Contesters	Multioperator CW	K6RC	
<b>Central Division</b>			<b>Roanoke Division</b>		
QRP CW	K9OM	Charlie Kuhn, N9NVV	QRP CW	W2CS	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Low Power CW	KØIG	In Memory of Mike Corke, N9AEJ	Low Power CW	WJ9B	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
High Power CW	K9DX	In Memory of Richard Harper, W9RW	High Power CW	KT3Y	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Multioperator CW	W9JA		Multioperator CW	W4RM	
<b>Dakota Division</b>			<b>Rocky Mountain Division</b>		
QRP CW	NØUR	Tod Olson, KØTO	QRP CW	WØUN (K9AN,op)	Ron Stark, KU7Y
Low Power CW	NØAT (NØKK, op)		Low Power CW	NØNR	
High Power CW	WBØO	Minnesota Wireless Assn, WØAA	High Power CW	N2IC	Southern New Mexico DX Assn - WW5DX
Multioperator CW	KTØR	Minnesota Wireless Assn, WØAA	Multioperator CW	KØ7X	
<b>Delta Division</b>			<b>Southeastern Division</b>		
QRP CW	N4UW	Pat Sonnier, W5WMM	QRP CW	W4DEC	Bill Harding, K4AHK
Low Power CW	N4ZZ		Low Power CW	WP2Z (AG8L,op)	
High Power CW	W5WMM (N6TR,op)	Twin City Ham Club	High Power CW	K1TO	
Multioperator CW	K5MDX		Multioperator CW	N8PR	
<b>Great Lakes Division</b>			<b>Southwestern Division</b>		
QRP CW	W8RU	Bill Maxson, N4AR	QRP CW	N71R	Ray Day, N6HE and Donna Day, N6HTH
Low Power CW	K8BL	Mad River Radio Club	Low Power CW	AD6DO	Larry Serra, N6NC
High Power CW	W8RC	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	K6LL	Warren Hill, K7WX
Multioperator CW	K8LX	David Smith, ND4Y	Multioperator CW	N6VR	
<b>Hudson Division</b>			<b>West Gulf Division</b>		
QRP CW	KF2HC	NJ-QRP Club	QRP CW	KG5U	AZ ScQRPsions
Low Power CW	W2LK	John Golomb, N2NC	Low Power CW	K5RT	D. Craig Boyer, AH9B
High Power CW	N2NT (N2NC,op)	Edgar Gilbert, K2SQ	High Power CW	K5GN	Leo E. Oylar, Jr, WØGOW—W5RO
Multioperator CW	AA2FB	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	Multioperator CW	AB5I	Memorial Young Gunners DX Foundation
<b>Midwest Division</b>			<b>Canada</b>		
QRP CW	NØEID		QRP CW	VE7CA	Chuck Adams, K5FO
Low Power CW	NØAV	Johnson County Contest Club, NØJX	Low Power CW	VE7CC	Don Haney, KA1T
High Power CW	KØWA		High Power CW	VE2AWR	
Multioperator CW	ABØS		Multioperator CW	VE3EJ	
<b>New England Division</b>			<b>Special</b>		
QRP CW	K1TR	Maryland Milliwatt Club	Low Power Rookie CW	N7IF	Rob Kaufmann, VE4GV
Low Power CW	W1S	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F			
High Power CW	K5ZD				
Multioperator CW	W1SA				

## Tougher Log Checking

Accuracy is an important skill in contesting and this year it was a critical requirement for success. Log checking was the toughest in years with many entrants losing 20 or more contacts due to miscopied exchange information. Every log received undergoes a computer crosscheck for errors in call signs and exchanges. The log checkers noticed a disturbing increase in logging errors that were clearly caused by participants allowing their logging software to fill in information. Next year copy what was sent and take the time to ask for extra repeats if you are not sure of what you heard.

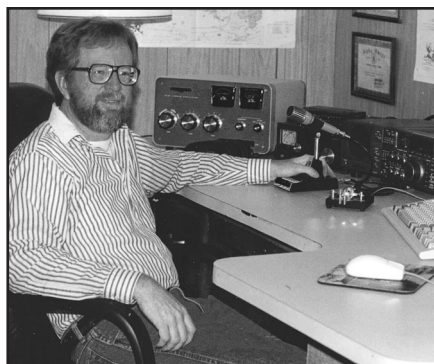
## Regional Competition

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.

In the Northeast, K1TR easily took the QRP race over K3CR and AD8J. The low power category was a New England affair—except for winner W2TZ in Western New York. K5ZD had his 20th year in a

row over 1000 QSOs in beating rivals N2NT and K1AM. Multi-op went to the "Green Hornet," W3GH.

The Southeast suffered under some extremely severe thunderstorms on Saturday evening. This forced some stations off the air and made the low bands noisy for everyone. Even so, there was a close QRP race between N4UW and K5SL. Three of the region's low power entrants made the na-



Ben, K9BF, was operating in the contest for the first time in many years. Ben said, "It was a lot of fun, and I'll see you next year."

tional top ten. WC4E finished just ahead of N4BP in a North Florida versus South Florida contest.

The Central Region had its usual close competition. K9OM led the QRP class. K8BL, K9IG, and W8MJ all went to the wire for the low power title. K9DX beat the distinctive vanity call of WI9WI (Wisconsin of course!) for high power. The national top ten finishes of K8LX and W9JA dominated multi-op for the region.

The Midwest region is always the toughest. N5TJ smashed the QRP category. KØEU bested K5RT and NØNF for low power. K7CF and NØAT were just a few points apart for fourth and fifth place. All five high power regional winners also made the national top ten. KO7X took out ABØS for the multiop crown.

Out in the Western region, NØAX, K7MM and AA7KF battled for the QRP category. All five of the low power entrants made the national top ten. W6GO (N6IG opr) just barely got by K6LL for the top high power score. K6LL achieved his 13th year in a row with more than 1000 QSOs in SS CW. N7TR placed 11th nationally to come in a close third in the region. Multi-op saw K6RC get past N6VR and N6KI.



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). Division leaders are listed in bold.

Table of contest scores categorized by state: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, Eastern Massachusetts, Eastern New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland-DC, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Alabama. Each entry includes call sign, score, QSOs, multipliers, hours, and class.



