

# This Ain't Baseball. It's the 1998 CW Sweepstakes.

**Y**ogi Berra, the great Yankee's catcher, is generally credited with coming up with the expression "It ain't over till it's over!" Berra was a baseball player, not a contester. In contesting it ain't over when it's over: it ain't over 'til the log checker sings.

And the log checkers did quite a bit of singing and dinging this year, digital dinging. Tree, N6TR and Trey, N5KO, totally revamped the ARRL contest computer log checking system so that electronic log submissions could be entered into a database, acknowledged automatically (hopefully eliminating lost logs) and then subjected to an extremely vigorous cross checking. The list of "Logs Received" available on the web also helped ensure arrival of logs. It's safe to say this year's contest is the most thoroughly checked in Sweepstakes history.

After the last out in baseball, you know the final score. After the last QSO in Sweepstakes, you didn't. The preliminary results are quickly available. Tired, but anxious to find out how the competition did, many players sit around the virtual locker room on 3830, knock back a non-virtual ice cold 807, and partake of the post mortem and other lore of the previous 30 hours of action before heading to the showers.

There is even a strategy to reporting in after the short walk from the dugout of CW to the SSB locker room on 3830! Right after the national anthem, a short cacophony of "hoooooooo yaaaahhhhhhhhhhh's" and "hellllllloooooo raaaaadioooooo's" of unknown origin, someone starts taking the list and repeating the score just reported for the strained ear of the distant crowd. Some big guns like to lead off, some top 10 regulars like to report clean up, and some pinch hitters wait till there are two outs in the bottom of the ninth. By 0330 all the all-stars have reported, signed off, and headed for the showers, pretty well knowing where in the standings they finished.

If you've never listened to 3830 kHz right after the finish of Sweepstakes, you've missed out on some of the fun and part of the camaraderie of contesting. Hear the veterans' and rookies' claimed scores, along with myriad comments about sweeps, band conditions, multipliers found or lost, visits from Murphy, etc. Its also an oppor-

## Revision

This article is a revision of the original 1998 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW article which appeared in the June 1999 issue of *QST*. Due to the use of different ASCII characters for the number zero, callsigns which contained the number zero were not updated when merging the database created by the independent log checkers into the main ARRL database. The scores contained in this revised article are correct. The error was discovered before the publication of the 1998 Phone Sweepstakes article in the July *QST*. Our apologies to those this data management error affected.

tunity to go up a few kHz with the locals. In the last few years a post contest post to the virtual 3830 (3830@contesting.com) has become as common as a QSL. On the virtual 3830 the preliminary results are compiled and the final Top Ten and Regional boxes are apparent after only a few days.

The 3830 CW SS buzz from the virtual locker room after this running of the fall classic was that the game had a terrific beginning on Saturday followed by a dismal

ending Sunday. After a high scoring first two innings in which many found they were off to their best starts ever in CW Sweepstakes, the same many found a solar flare shut them out and dropped them behind last year's rate sheet by the end of the fourth. It was like going from an Ernie Banks "Let's play two" kind of day to a long rain delay. One comment was "40 meters sounded like a haunted house at night." To paraphrase a W4, "W8's fluttered like Russians over the Pole." While 10 meters came back with a vengeance from prior years at the start, the solar flare caused 10 meters to be ejected and put 15 meters on the disabled list. The dugouts all emptied on 20 meters, and it made for quite a brouhaha. The brawl was best summed up by N6IG at W6GO who, perhaps wishing there had been someone to call in from the bullpen, lamented, "I don't want to talk about it!!!"

For 1998, when the log checkers finally sang, the #2 claimed score, due to its low .9 ERA (error rate average) wound up in the #1 spot in the prestigious High Power CW Sweepstakes category. It was the Grapefruit League's Ted Williams (Dan, K1TO) passing Caribbean League Babe Ruth (Rich, KE3Q at WP3R) The Babe hit more homers (claimed QSOs,) but Ted struck out less and had a better right on base average (fewer lost QSOs.) K1TO's total also set a Mark McGuire type all time high score in this category. Rich did hang on to the #2 spot by one QSO over Tree, N6TR, visiting at W5WMU. The final statistics show K1TO lost only 14 QSOs with no callsign errors for a B power league leading 0.9% ERA.

John, N6MU, won the Golden Glove for ERA accuracy among all top ten finishers. Out of 748 QSOs, John erred only three exchanges for a great error rate of 0.4%. The overall ERA leader was Ralph, VE7XF who had one error in 353 at bats for a 0.3% rate. Greg, K7KJ was a close second with one error in 298 chances. Both play in the A Power League along with Dave, KØRX, who was the A Power league ERA accuracy top ten champ with a 1.3% error rate. Bob, N4BP, lead the B Power League top ten with a nifty zero exchange miscues and merely 5 busted calls in 1360 total QSOs.

The Midwest Region was the place to be for a top ten Big Power League finish. Dave, K5GN at W5KU, took the #4 spot

## Top Ten CW

Single Operator, QRP	
W4PA	125,736
KG5U	120,588
K1TR	117,936
N6MU	116,220
(at N6NB)	
NØAX	109,802
N9CIQ	107,124
K3CR	106,080
(KB3AFT op)	
W1MJ	101,556
(at K1TTT)	
AC5K	97,636
W8RU	95,004

Single Operator, Low Power	
N5TJ	208,244
KØEU	190,390
K4WX	180,804
K6LA	170,352
K7UP	169,884
KY7M	164,162
K9IG	159,580
NØNR	158,474
NA4K	157,248
K9TM	157,248

Single Operator, High Power	
K1TO	240,792
WP3R	232,260
(KE3Q,op)	
W5WMU	232,102
(N6TR,op)	
K5GN	222,938
(at W5KU)	
N2IC	221,674
N5KO	216,618
NØNI	216,302
(AG9A,op)	
W4AN	214,722
(K4BA1,op)	
N2NT	213,616
(N2NC,op)	
WXØB	212,194
(K5GA,op)	

Multioperator	
K4OJ	202,398
KØRF	201,552
K2TW	179,014
W2PV	177,750
KØ7X	177,528
K4LT	171,904
W3GH	169,218
W4MYA	166,690
KØVB	166,532
W2RE	163,688

## 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 \$60 per plaque. If you, your club, or business is interested in sponsoring any of the unsponsored plaques call Dan Henderson, N1ND, at ARRL HQ.

Category	Winner	Donor	Category	Winner	Donor
<b>Overall</b>			<b>Northwestern Division</b>		
QRP CW	W4PA	MI QRP Club	QRP CW	N0AX	Paladin Contest Club
Low Power CW	N5TJ	In Memory of Charles Oakes, W6UQF	Low Power CW	K7BG	
High Power CW	K1TO	N5KO and W0UA	High Power CW	KL7Y (WA2GO, op)	
Multioperator CW	K4OJ		Multioperator CW	K7FD	
<b>Atlantic Division</b>			<b>Pacific Division</b>		
QRP CW	K3CR (KB3AFT op)	Gary Hembree, N7IR	QRP CW	N6MU (at N6NB)	Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV
Low Power CW	W2TZ	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Low Power CW	WX6V	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
High Power CW	K3LR (K3UA,op)	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	W6GO (N6IG,op)	Richard Hallman, N7TR
Multioperator CW	W3GH	North Coast Contesters	Multioperator CW	N6ZS	
<b>Central Division</b>			<b>Roanoke Division</b>		
QRP CW	N9CIQ	W9QOX Memorial	QRP CW	N4ROA	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Low Power CW	K9IG	In Memory of Mike Corke, N9AEJ	Low Power CW	N8II	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
High Power CW	N9RV	In Memory of Richard Harper, W9RW	High Power CW	N4AF	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Multioperator CW	K9MMS	Don Haney, W9WW	Multioperator CW	W4MYA	Tidewater Morse Code Society
<b>Dakota Division</b>			<b>Rocky Mountain Division</b>		
QRP CW	N0UR	Tod Olson, K0TO	QRP CW	K0FRP	Ron Stark, KU7Y
Low Power CW	N0AT (N0KK,op)	Minnesota Wireless Assn, W0AA	Low Power CW	K0EU	Ron Stark, KU7Y
High Power CW	W0SD (WD0T,op)	Minnesota Wireless Assn, W0AA	High Power CW	N2IC	Southern New Mexico DX Assn-WW5DX
Multioperator CW	KT0R	Minnesota Wireless Assn, W0AA	Multioperator CW	K0RF	
<b>Delta Division</b>			<b>Southeastern Division</b>		
QRP CW	W4PA	Pat Sonnier, W5WMU	QRP CW	W4DEC	Bill Harding, K4AHK
Low Power CW	K4WX	Pat Sonnier, W5WMU	Low Power CW	NP3A	
High Power CW	W5WMU (N6TR,op)	Pat Sonnier, W5WMU	High Power CW	K1TO	
Multioperator CW	K5MDX	Twin City Ham Club	Multioperator CW	K4OJ	
<b>Great Lakes Division</b>			<b>Southwestern Division</b>		
QRP CW	W8RU	Bill Maxson, N4AR	QRP CW	N7IR	Ray Day, N6HE and Donna Day, N6HTH
Low Power CW	K9TM	Mad River Radio Club	Low Power CW	K6LA	Larry Serra, N6NC
High Power CW	K1AO	North Coast Contesters	High Power CW	K6LL	
Multioperator CW	K4LT	David Smith, ND4Y	Multioperator CW	N6KI	Warren Hill, K7WX
<b>Hudson Division</b>			<b>West Gulf Division</b>		
QRP CW	K2WK	NJ-QRP Club	QRP CW	KG5U	AZ ScQRPIons
Low Power CW	K2UF	John Golomb, N2NC and Andy Blank, N2NT	Low Power CW	N5TJ	D. Craig Boyer, AH9B
High Power CW	N2NI (N2NC,op)	Edgar Gilbert, K2SQ	High Power CW	K5GN (at W5KU)	Leo E. Oyler, Jr, W0GOW—W5RO
Multioperator CW	K2TW	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	Memorial		
<b>Midwest Division</b>			Multioperator CW	NA5B	Young Gunners DX Foundation
QRP CW	N0OCT	Brian Keegan, KF2HC	<b>Canada</b>		
Low Power CW	K0RX	Johnson County Contest Club, N0JX	QRP CW	VE3SMA	Chuck Adams, K5FO
High Power CW	N0NI (AG9A,op)		Low Power CW	VE7CC	Don Haney, W9WW
Multioperator CW	K0VBU		High Power CW	VY1A (KN5H op)	
<b>New England Division</b>			Multioperator CW	VE9HF	
QRP CW	K1TR	Maryland Milliwatt Club			
Low Power CW	KM1X	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F			
High Power CW	K5ZD				
Multioperator CW	K1IG				

and top regional honors, followed by Steve, N2IC #5, Trey, N5KO in an unusual home game #6, Mark, AG9A visiting at N0NI #7 and Bill, K5GA away at WX0B, #10. Rounding out the top ten were John, K4BAI at W4AN #8 and John, N2NC playing at N2NT, #9 overall and tops in the Northeast Region. In the Cactus League, once again, Dave, K6LL, came out ahead of the rest of the West Coast Region.

The most amazing overall performance in the contest was by Jeff, N5TJ, who not only finished first in the low A Power category, but missed the high power top ten by only 26 QSOs. Jeff is simply in a league of his own. The Midwest Region was the place to be to make the low power top ten with #2 Randy, K0EU, #5 John, K7UP, and #6 KY7M all making the grade from that region.

Ed, K4WX wound up #3 overall in low power and #1 in the Southeast Region. The top slugger in the West Coast Region was

#4 finisher Ken, K6LA. In the #5 spot was John, K7UP followed by Lee, KY7M at #6. Greg, K9IG was #7 overall while taking top honors in the Central Region closely followed there by NA4K and K9TM who tied for 9th place. N0NR pulled off a #8 finish. Carl, W2TZ, was #1 in the Northeast Region.

It is interesting to note that while seven of the top ten high power players were designated hitters at visiting team stadiums (guests ops) all of the low power top ten had the home field advantage.

In the Little Watt League Scott, W4PA made his own runs, bunting and stealing every fraction of a dB on his way to the #1 QRP spot. Dale, KG5U, finished #2 and tops in the Midwest Region. Ed, K1TR was #3 and the pennant winner in the Northeast Region. John, N6MU at N6NB was #4 overall and took top West Coast Region honors. Ward, N0AX finished #5. #6, Jay, N9CIQ, finished first in the Central Region. Jim, KB3AFT at K3CR was #7, followed

by Eliot, W1MJ at K1TTT. John, AC5K and W8RU rounded out the QRP top ten. A special note: 176 QRP entries were received this year. Maybe we are seeing a come back of the old bunt and run contesting to compliment the gorilla sluggers in the High Power League.

K4OJ was the MVP of the Multi-Op League finishing in 1st place. In this tough category #2 K0RF finished a close second. and #5 K07X provided tough competition. K2TW finished #3 overall and first in the Northeast Region, immediately followed by W2PV in 4th place.. K4LT was #6 overall, taking top honors in the Central Region. W3GH finished in 7th place. Rounding out the top 10 in the MVP race in this league were W4MYA, K0VBU and W2RE. N6ZS was first from the Pacific Coast (West Coast. Region) league.

From the fans whose favorite just missed making the Top Ten or Regional boxes, a sigh and a cry of "wait till next year!!!"





