

2004 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW Results

Five Easy (?) Pieces (of information)...

Randy Thompson, K5ZD

Amateur Radio operators pride themselves on their ability to communicate under all conditions. The hurricanes in Florida and the tsunami in Asia have demonstrated the value of having trained communicators at the ready in time of need. The ARRL November Sweepstakes, with its message-like exchange and roots in traffic handling, is a practice and proving ground for developing those communication skills. Whether you see the SS as a serious competition or just for fun, there is valuable skill building going on.

For each completed contact, there are five distinct pieces of information that must be exchanged. If anyone of them is copied incorrectly, the QSO is lost and score reduced. Why such an emphasis on accuracy? In the real world of emergency communication, even the smallest error can have dire consequences. Copying the precedence as A or B may cost you a point in the contest, but if it represents the blood type of an injured person, that single character could mean life or death.

The SS offers much more than the pursuit of logging perfection. It also provides the adrenalin rush of competition, the thrill of a multiband scavenger hunt, and the opportunity to compete against records at the section, division and national levels. Victory is not a destination, but a journey. If you happen to develop your operating skills along the way, then the contest was not only fun, it was good for you, too!

For radio amateurs across the United States and Canada, the weekend of November 6-7, 2004 was the 71st opportunity to renew this annual tradition of operating excellence in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW. Log submissions were down about 10% to 1113. But, with a total of 484,304 QSOs reported,

there was plenty of fun and experience to be had!

What do you Like about SS CW?

When we asked the top scorers in each category this question, the responses were amazingly varied. For Ken, N6RO, "it is because CW is my natural mode, music." Rich, KE3Q, agreed, "I enjoy the 'musicality' of it, listening to a 'note' rather than a voice. We listen to voices all day every day in our normal life; listening to CW is special; 'ordinary people' don't do it; just us."

Some mentioned the competitive aspects. To K6LA, "it is the National Championship." For K7BG, "SS is two contests in one, that is run like blazes the first 10 or 12 hours and then dig out the Qs on Sunday." Bob, K5WA, noted, "I like being able to hear the QSO count of fellow competitors and see how the 'race' is going...or if I'm even in the race." Steve, N2IC, likes



Dick, K4XU, finished in 10th place in the Low Power category.

"the challenge of executing a strategy that squeezes out as many QSOs as possible." Tom, K1KI, also valued strategy saying, "You can't win just by CQing a lot. You have to go find new people to work." According to K7GK, "this contest forces everyone to bring their best game."

It's not all about having the largest station either. Dave, K6LL, likes it that, "a small station like mine can score quite well in this contest." Dick, K4XU, sees the SS as, "the contest where a modest station is adequate for serious competition...it is a far better test of operator skill than any other contest."

You can even choose your own form of competition. Jim, W19WI, looks forward

2004 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes Sponsored Plaque Winners

Category	Winner	Sponsor
Overall Single Operator High Power	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	Trey Garlough, N5KO
Overall Single Operator Low Power	N4ZZ	Kirk Pengelly, N0KK
Atlantic Division Single Operator High Power	K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	North Coast Contesters
Atlantic Division Single Operator Low Power	K3WU	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Atlantic Division Multioperator	K2NNY	North Coast Contesters
Central Division Multioperator	K9NS	Don Haney, W9WW
Dakota Division Single Operator High Power	W0SD (W0DB, op)	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	WD0T	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Single Operator QRP	N0UR	Tod Olson, K0TO
Dakota Division Single Unlimited	KT0R	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Multioperator	KR0B	Minnesota Wireless Association
Great Lakes Division Single Operator High Power	N4GN	North Coast Contesters
Great Lakes Division Single Operator Low Power	W8CAR	Mad River Radio Club
Great Lakes Division Single Operator QRP	W8TM	Mad River Radio Club
Hudson Division Multioperator	W2GD	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial
Midwest Division Multioperator	KB0VVT	Lincoln Amateur Radio Club
New England Division Single Operator QRP	W1QK	QRP Club of New England
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	N6ZFO	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
Roanoke Division Single Operator High Power	N4AF	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Roanoke Division Single Operator Low Power	K8AC	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW
Roanoke Division Single Operator QRP	WA4PGM	Bill Harding, K4AHK
Southwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	K6AM	Larry Serra, N6NC
Southwestern Division Single Operator QRP	N7IR	Ray and Donna Day, N6HE & N6HTH
West Gulf Division Single Operator High Power	K5TR (N5RZ, op)	Ken Adams, K5KA
Canada Single Operator Low Power	VE4VV	Don Haney, W9WW

Winners of Overall and Division Level plaques that have not been sponsored may purchase the plaque from the ARRL for \$67. Contact Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, at kallison@arrl.org or by phone at 860-594-0295.

to “the challenge of trying to win the section in whatever category I enter.” Todd, N9NE, enjoys “watching the multiplier total rise toward 80 and having a contest with myself to see if I can make a clean sweep.” K7RE likes that there are “lots of good ears for QRP signals.” Bill, N7OU, likes “the work them only once rule.”

High Power Category

Rich, KE3Q, continued his string of victories from WP3R in Puerto Rico. He has now won an amazing six consecutive times. That’s one for the thumb plus one more! Rich took advantage of his southern location to avoid the aurora and post giant QSO totals on 40 and 10 meters. His 1497 QSOs was 40 more than last year.

In second place was Steve, N2IC, operating from his new QTH in New Mexico. This is Steve’s third Top Ten finish from three different stations in three years as he moved from Colorado to his new retirement home and dream radio location! His 1405 QSOs dominated everyone who wasn’t on a Caribbean island.

Third place went to Ralph, N5RZ, who drove over to the central Texas station of K5TR for the weekend and 1351 contacts. Two hundred miles to his north, Bill, K5GA, operated WX0B to fourth place, just 4 QSOs behind Ralph.

The battle for fifth place looked like a tie between Mark, AG9A, operating N0NI in Iowa and Randy, K5ZD, operating AK1W in Massachusetts. Each submitted 1346 claimed contacts, but after the log checking, N0NI had one fewer error to take the position! Both achieved their precontest goals of making the Top Ten. AK1W went away happy with a new record score for the New England Division. And it’s also worth noting that even after 72 years of operating (ck 32), Vic, N4XR, made 628 QSOs from Connecticut. Congrats, Vic!

Low Power Category

The largest category in number of entrants, low power, is always a dogfight. The two top scorers this year are perennial favorites who always generate a close race. Don, N4ZZ, takes the prize this time from his effective station in Tennessee. Don’s 1166 contacts and a clean sweep produced a score just slightly above his third place result from a year ago. To think that Don almost gave up the contest in favor of going hunting using a muzzle loader! Randy, K0EU, in Colorado finished a close second with 1148 QSOs. Randy had his fastest clean sweep ever just 10 hours into the contest.

Third place went to everyone’s Virgin



Three-time winner of the Unlimited category, Dave, K6LL.

Top Ten

Single Operator, QRP

K4RO	121,280
K7MM	108,640
W2RU	108,230
KG5U	107,282
N7OU	105,768
VE6EX	103,512
N0UR	102,542
N9NE	100,962
W19WI	100,320
K7RE	99,684

Single Operator, Low Power

N4ZZ	186,560
K0EU	183,680
NP2B (N4BP, op)	183,200
K7BG	180,320
K0DI	180,000
WD0T	178,240
K7GK (@K7ZSD)	170,400
W7UT	165,760
K5WA	165,120
K4XU	163,040

Single Operator, High Power

WP3R (KE3Q, op)	239,520
N2IC	224,160
K5TR (N5RZ, op)	216,000
WX0B (K5GA, op)	214,880
N0NI (AG9A, op)	212,480
AK1W (K5ZD, op)	212,320
N9RV	209,120
K5GN	204,320
K6LA	201,760
K1KI	201,440

Single Operator, Unlimited

K6LL	202,080
N6RO	193,920
KO7X	174,400
W7RN (W0YK, op)	174,240
N4GG	168,160
N5NA	167,638
KX7M	166,560
N6XI	160,320
W4NZ	159,200
W4MYA	157,248

Multi-Operator

N6VR	216,480
K9NS	199,840
W2GD	187,040
K8CC	181,920
KB0VVT	178,560
W4RM	175,680
AB0S	165,742
W6OAT	163,040
W7CT	160,160
W1AW	152,944

School Club

K7UAZ	63,516
K8ITT	36,156
KC4WQ	10,340
N7BYU (AD7BN, op)	570

Island multiplier, NP2B, operated by Bob, N4BP. With 1145 contacts, only 3 behind K0EU, Bob moved up from fifth last year. Bob is the only entrant in the top 30 low power scores who didn’t make a QSO on 80 meters!

Fourth place went to Matt, K7BG, operating from Montana. Matt entered the contest with the goal of beating K0EU and N4ZZ. He didn’t make it, but repeated his fourth place finish from last year.

QRP Category

It doesn’t take a lot of power to find success in the Sweepstakes as long as you have a commitment to your goal and the willingness to stay in the chair. Kirk, K4RO, came into the contest focused on finishing in first place. In spite of only operating 23 hours, his 758 QSOs and a clean sweep did just that. After a slow start, Kirk noted, “Eighty meters the first night was just amazing. It may have been the best I’ve ever heard the band in a do-

mestic contest. KL7WV answered my 5 W CQ!”

Dan, K7MM, also entered the contest with a mission. “My goal was to finish in the QRP Top Ten, to have a great time doing so, and to beat my score last year.” His 679 QSOs and a sweep were good enough for second place. Dan was one who benefited from some sporadic E that was mixed in with the disturbed conditions. He worked his last two close in sections, W7IS in EWA and VE6EX in AB, during the last hour of the contest on 20 meters!

The next four positions had close QSO totals, but it was their ability to find multipliers that set the order of finish. Bud, W2RU (ex-K2KIR as he may be better known), celebrated his new call by making more contacts than K7MM but missed the sweep to finish third. Bud selected his goal for the contest this way, “I decided before the contest to select an entry category that would maximize my chances of

Regional Scores

Tables 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 Sections)		
AK1W (K5ZD, op)	212,320	B	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	239,520	B	N9RV	209,120	B	N2IC	224,160	B	K6LA	201,760	B
K1KI	201,440	B	W4PA	191,040	B	N4GN	196,640	B	K5TR (N5RZ, op)	216,000	B	VA7RR	192,602	B
N2NT (N2NC, op)	196,320	B	N4OGW	189,920	B	W9RE	176,160	B	WX0B (K5GA, op)	214,880	B	N6TV	185,600	B
K3CR (LZ4AX, op)	182,400	B	N4AF	187,360	B	K9DX	173,440	B	N0NI (AG9A, op)	212,480	B	K6TA (N6BV, op)	181,120	B
KD4D	182,240	B	W5WMU	176,480	B	K9NW	171,040	B	K5GN	204,320	B	N7TR (N7ON, op)	174,720	B
K3WU	149,152	A	N4ZZ	186,560	A	N9CK	155,360	A	K0EU	183,680	A	K7BG	180,320	A
W1RM	148,678	A	NP2B (N4BP, op)	183,200	A	W8CAR	138,566	A	K0DI	180,000	A	K7GK (@K7ZSD)	170,400	A
W3EF	145,834	A	KM5G	158,632	A	K9UIY	135,248	A	WD0T	178,240	A	K4XU	163,040	A
WY3A	122,928	A	WJ9B	143,680	A	AJ9C	134,080	A	W7UT	165,760	A	K6AM	155,520	A
N2PP	119,922	A	WO4O	143,360	A	KJ9C	130,400	A	K5WA	165,120	A	AA6PW	151,048	A
W2RU	108,230	Q	K4RO	121,280	Q	N9NE	100,962	Q	KG5U	107,282	Q	K7MM	108,640	Q
K3TEJ	92,092	Q	WA4PGM	91,040	Q	W19WI	100,320	Q	N0UR	102,542	Q	N7OU	105,768	Q
W1QK	69,496	Q	K3AN	62,550	Q	W8TM	81,158	Q	K7RE	99,684	Q	VE6EX	103,512	Q
W1CSM	63,384	Q	K4UK	51,450	Q	WT9Q	76,752	Q	W7FB	93,912	Q	N7IR	98,280	Q
AA1CA	55,480	Q	W8DL	48,202	Q	N8IE	72,072	Q	W0ZQ	90,744	Q	W6JTI	91,200	Q
N2MM	150,080	U	N4GG	168,160	U	KI9A	143,622	U	KO7X	174,400	U	K6LL	202,080	U
AB2E	137,124	U	W4NZ	159,200	U	N8BJQ	131,200	U	N5NA	167,638	U	N6RO	193,920	U
K2FU	107,172	U	W4MYA	157,248	U	W9IU	129,244	U	W0ZP	150,720	U	W7RN	174,240	U
K3DI	102,858	U	N4PN	144,160	U	KT8X	126,560	U	K5UN	140,304	U	(W0YK, op @K5RC)		
K3SV	98,118	U	N6ZO	109,652	U	K9MOT	124,960	U	W0BH	135,680	U	KX7M N6XI	166,560 160,320	U
W2GD	187,040	M	W4RM	175,680	M	K9NS	199,840	M	KB0VVV	178,560	M	N6VR	216,480	M
W1AW	152,944	M	W4UG	80,160	M	K8CC	181,920	M	AB0S	165,742	M	W6OAT	163,040	M
K2NNY	145,920	M	W4ZYT	52,930	M	KB9AX	152,800	M	W7CT	160,160	M	W6YX	137,618	M
N2EK	119,132	M			W8TK	141,094	M	KR0B	128,480	M	N6RC	132,160	M	
W2CDO	101,280	M			K8JM	123,360	M	W0MU	90,324	M	N6EE	131,360	M	

seeing my call in print.... After analyzing recent years' entries, I decided I had the best chance of landing in a Top 10 box by entering the QRP category." It worked!

Dale, KG5U, a regular visitor to the QRP Top Ten finished fifth. Dale also commented on the excellent propagation on 80 meters. He heard VY1JA before the contest started, but never when it counted. Bill, N7OU, accomplished his goal for the contest by finishing in fifth place. Unfortunately he missed AB and VY1 for the sweep. Bill credited his modest antenna farm for his success, "Thought my fixed wire Yagis—constructed of bamboo, garden stakes and duct tape—performed great. They hang from fir trees on my suburban lot."

Unlimited Category

The unlimited category continues to be popular as participants look for extra help to garner the elusive clean sweep of all 80 sections. In a duplicate finish to last year, Dave, K6LL, bested Ken, N6RO, for the victory. This is Dave's third consecutive win in the Unlimited category. Ken's goal of beating K6LL will have to wait until next year. Alan, KO7X, handed out Wyoming to finish third, despite operating only 21 hours. W0YK visited W7RN in Nevada to claim fourth, just one QSO behind KO7X!

Hal, N4GG, fought with computer problems all weekend but still pounded out 1051 QSOs and a sweep to take fifth place. Even packet doesn't guarantee a clean sweep as Alan, N5NA, unfortu-



Bud, W2RU (ex-K2KIR), entered QRP and made the Top Ten so he could get his picture in the write-up.

nately discovered. It cost him a place in the standings, but he still managed a respectable sixth.

Multioperator Category

The multioperator category continues to attract a combination of serious competitors and those out for fun or as a training exercise. At the top of the list for the second year in a row is N6VR. Ray invited KR6X and AC6T to make a top-notch team that broke the Santa Barbara section record. K9NS, operated by K9HMB, K9PW, K9XW and KO9A from the Illinois QTH of K9HMB finished a strong second. W2GD, operating from the

Expanded Results, Line Score Printouts Available

For complete contest results online, please visit www.arrl.org/contests/results. ARRL members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.

station of NO2R in New Jersey, battled the aurora to take third.

Final Thoughts

Once again, a lot of credit for the quality of log checking must go to N6TR. Tree works hard to make sure the log checking process is both fair and consistent. You can make his job easier by submitting your logs electronically using the Cabrillo format and by making sure all of the information in your entry is correct. We all benefit from knowing that the winners of the Sweepstakes are truly deserving of the honor.

The next running of the Sweepstakes CW will be the weekend of November 5-6, 2005. Where else can you practice your communication skills and copying accuracy with some of the best operators in the country? See you on the radio! 

