

# 2005 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes Results

Some dynasties continue —

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Sports of all kinds are defined by their dynasties. Ask for sporting dynasties and a very elite list comes to mind... the dominating UCLA Bruins under John Wooden... the unmatched success of the Boston Celtics with Red Auerbach at the

helm... those guys in pinstripes playing in the “House that Ruth Built” in the Bronx... If hockey is your sport then you start with the perennial first-place finishes posted by “Les Habs” of Montreal.

But the important thing in a dynasty is simple: A dynasty lasts for more than one year! So let’s look at the dynasties of this particular aspect of “radiosport” known as the ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes.

We’re not going to start with the dynasty you think. The Mount Frank Contesters, K9NS, put their 25 year partnership to use again, convincingly winning the Multioperator class for the third straight year. Dave, K6LL, again took home the Unlimited category trophy and last and certainly not least, Rich, KE3Q, piloted WP3R to his seventh straight high power victory.

fall? Rich, KE3Q, may have suffered a brownout during two-and-a-half of his hottest hours on Saturday, but even so, his score always seemed to be the most resilient on Sundays. As Bill, K4XS, laments, he often woke up Sunday morning beating WP3R



Yvette, KB3HTS, carefully scans 20 meters at the Case Western Reserve University club station, W8EDU.

Top 10			
<b>Single Operator, QRP</b>		<b>Single Operator, Unlimited</b>	
K7MM	74,560	K6LL	264,640
N1DD	67,080	W7RN	257,920
VE4MM	66,000	(WX5S, op)	
N8IE	59,496	K3MM	254,080
NK8Q	53,656	K6IF	245,120
K8IR	52,350	WB1GQR	243,040
WA8ZBT	47,854	(W1SJ, op)	
K10OV	47,728	W3PP	242,080
KA1LMR	46,508	(N4BAA, op)	
WA8REI	44,850	W4NF	234,720
<b>Single Operator, Low Power</b>		<b>Multioperator</b>	
N4PN	222,240	K9NS	320,320
N4ZZ	195,288	K5TA	291,200
VE6EX	180,480	NA7XX	278,720
AJ9C	179,680	N2NT	277,920
N0KK	174,560	NK7U	276,640
N3CA	166,080	K7IR	261,920
K1BX	165,600	KT0R	261,440
WD5K	164,640	N8HR	257,440
VE5SF	159,680	N5DO	252,320
K6LA	156,160	K4JNY	251,200
<b>Single Operator, High Power</b>		<b>School Club</b>	
WP3R	369,600	K0HC	239,680
(KE3Q, op)		KB0VVT	220,160
K5TR	322,240	W5YM	87,520
K4XS	318,880	W8SH	65,400
KP2TM	298,240	W4AQL	47,716
(K9TM, op)		W8UM	35,712
W6Y1	296,480	W0HSC	33,672
W7WA	291,352	KD5VVI	32,092
K7RL	291,200	K5LBJ	22,388
N6BV	286,240	W9PU	17,360
W0SD	275,680		
(W0DB, op)			
W5WU	273,280		

## Multioperator

In any team sport, knowing what your teammates expect at any given time is the key to victory. A hockey or basketball player often doesn’t need to look for his teammate; he just instinctively passes. It takes years of playing together to develop that skill, and if you look at K9NS, that’s exactly what has kept them on top of the game since 2002.

“Most of us have been contesting together for around 25 years, first in college, then at K9HMB’s previous station. So each of us knows what the other is doing and what to expect,” says K9NS team member Pete, K9PW.

The team started at the newest location of K9HMB in 1999, placing second each year up to 2002, when they started to really gel and figure out the best way to optimize what’s really a DX-oriented station.

Pete writes: “Understanding propagation, fully utilizing the station’s capability, operator experience, good teamwork, reliable setup, versatile station, good strategy and preparation are all important to doing well. Getting together with friends at a great station to see if we can do better is why we’ll be back for SS 2006.” Team members include K9HMB, K9PW, K9XW, KO9A and W9RM.

## Single Operator High Power

Speaking of dynasties, is one about to

## Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
<b>Unlimited Category</b>		
Northern California Contest Club	16,952,868	222
Potomac Valley Radio Club	13,786,604	210
Society of Midwest Contesters	9,314,570	187
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,972,400	104
Minnesota Wireless Assn	5,620,990	103
<b>Medium Category</b>		
South East Contest Club	3,901,726	45
Southern California Contest Club	3,130,268	39
Mad River Radio Club	2,582,520	41
Tennessee Contest Group	2,420,384	34
Florida Contest Group	2,304,620	30
Western Washington DX Club	1,885,284	24
Frankford Radio Club	1,760,918	28
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	1,639,554	21
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	1,467,488	15
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	1,327,854	24
North Texas Contest Club	1,054,824	11
Utah DX Assn	1,013,654	8
Contest Club Ontario	900,946	26
Willamette Valley DX Club	884,510	14
Motor City Radio Club	657,418	24
North Coast Contesters	642,826	8
Carolina DX Assn	633,538	10
Oklahoma DX Assn	588,734	5
Central Arizona DX Assn	552,868	13
Kentucky Contest Group	530,400	12
Texas DX Society	514,518	7
Alberta Clippers	450,568	5
Kansas City DX Club	397,452	4
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	389,500	6
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	289,996	5
Murgas ARC	242,424	3
West Park Radiops	236,904	11
East Coast Canada Contest Club	184,340	6
Northern Arizona DX Assn	135,248	4
Rip Van Winkle ARS	128,786	5
Woodbridge Wireless	107,116	4
South Jersey Radio Assn	104,998	4
Eastern Iowa DX Assn	97,148	3
South Jersey DX Assn	84,776	4
Central Michigan ARC	59,658	5
Hazel Park ARC	46,188	3
Southern California DX Club	36,930	3

<b>Local Category</b>		
New Mexico Big River Contesters	1,051,502	10
Mt Frank Contesters	667,962	6
Spokane DX Association	392,190	6
Medina 2 Meter Group	365,194	6
Maritime Contest Club	341,350	6
Northern Rockies DX Association	309,986	4
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio	298,102	4
CT RI Contest Group	270,676	9
Binghamton ARA	220,512	5
Sussex County ARC	165,754	3
Green River Valley ARS	112,206	5
Sterling Park ARC	98,730	7
Dominion DX Group	73,462	6
10-70 Repeater Assn	60,016	3
Low Country Contest Club	47,382	4
Meriden ARC	44,882	4
Falmouth ARA	39,988	3
Albuquerque DX Assn	26,794	3
Nacogdoches ARC	13,218	4

soundly, only to have Rich close the gap and run away with the contest. "I really thought he would have his last win at the bottom of the cycle somewhere, and if gets beat it should be this year or next. After that, it will be tough," Bill said.

Even Rich admits that if there's ever going to be a year to beat WP3R, this might be it. Waning sunspots are hampering his bread-and-butter high-band activity, and he just can't compete with the Gulf Coast stations on 75 and 40. "I would guess that the best time to beat WP3R is in a low sunspot year. At least I would say that the Gulf Coast SS-tweaked 'SS super stations' should be able to work a lot more people on 80 and 40 than I can," Rich wrote.

George, K5TR, this year's No. 2 fin-



**Kristin, KC0INX, hunkered down in the seat.**

isher, isn't convinced WP3R is leaving the podium any time soon: "Vulnerable? Are you joking?"

Rich takes solace in that if anyone is go-

ing to beat his achievement, it will take them eight years to do it. And perhaps it's just psychological warfare, but he teases with this: "We [Rich, station owner Jim, WA3FET, and call sign donor Angel, WP3R] don't plan to do B category every year." Then he quickly adds: "But we do have a streak going for a moment and I for one am reluctant to voluntarily end it."

Bill, K4XS, finished third in what may well be his last SS from Florida. He's moving to KH6 but hopes to leave his Florida superstation in good hands; the whole works is for sale.

## Single Operator Low Power

If there's one category where a dynasty never seems to take hold, it's Low Power.

## Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs, individuals and Icom America — Principal Awards Sponsor for the 2005 ARRL November Sweepstakes — we are pleased to announce that the Overall and Division winners in each category receive a sponsored Sweepstakes plaque. Many thanks to the sponsors for their commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program.

Division	Winner	Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Division	Winner	Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor
Overall	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom	New England	W1MKY	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Overall	N4PN K7MM	Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone	Ken Adams, K5KA QRP Amateur Radio Club International	New England	WA1ABC	School Club Division Phone	Icom
Overall	K6LL K9NS	Single Operator Unlimited Phone Multioperator Phone	Central Texas DX & Contest Club	Northwestern	W7WA	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
Overall	K0HC	School Club Division Phone	Icom	Northwestern	N7LOX	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom
Atlantic	KD4D N3CA	Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone	North Coast Contesters Potomac Valley Radio Club	Northwestern	K7MM	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom
Atlantic	NK8Q K3MM N3OC	Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited Phone Multioperator Phone	Icom Icom Mark Sickmeyer, KB3GJ Memorial	Northwestern	AL9A	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Central	N0IJ	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom	Northwestern	NA7XX	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Central	AJ9C	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom	Pacific	N6BV	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
Central	KC9AMM	Single Operator QRP Phone	Don Haney, W9WW	Pacific	N6NF	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom
Central	KE9I	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	Pacific	N6WR	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom
Central	K9NS	Multioperator Phone	Don Haney, W9WW	Pacific	W7RN	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Central	W9PU	School Club Division Phone	Icom	Pacific	(WX5S, op) W6YX	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Dakota	W0SD (W0DB, op)	Single Operator High Power Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	Roanoke	NN3W	Single Operator High Power Phone (@N4RV)	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Dakota	N0KK	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	Roanoke	N8II	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society — W4DW
Dakota	ND0C	Single Operator QRP Phone	Tod Olson, K0TO	Roanoke	WA8WV	Single Operator QRP Phone	NoVa QRP Group
Dakota	K0HW	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Minnesota Wireless Association	Roanoke	W4NF	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Dakota	KT0R	Multioperator Phone	In Memory of Jim Dokmo, K0FVF By Minnesota Wireless Assn	Roanoke	KA1ARB	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Dakota	W0HSC	School Club Division Phone	Icom	Roanoke	KE8AZ	School Club Division Phone	Icom
Delta	W5WMU	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	K0KE	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
Delta	N4ZZ	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	K7VU	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
Delta	KN4QS	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	KI0RB	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom
Delta	W3TZ	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	K7UT	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Delta	K4JNY	Multioperator Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	K5TA	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Delta	W5YM	School Club Division Phone	Icom	Rocky Mountain	WV7T	School Club Division Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	KY1V	Single Operator High Power Phone	North Coast Contesters	Southeastern	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	K8BL	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Mad River Radio Club	Southeastern	N4PN	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	N8IE	Single Operator QRP Phone	Mad River Radio Club	Southeastern	W5JBV	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	W8MJ	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	Southeastern	K8XS	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	N8HR	Multioperator Phone	Icom	Southeastern	WW4LL	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Great Lakes	W8SH	School Club Division Phone	Icom	Southeastern	W4AQL	School Club Division Phone	Icom
Hudson	W2RE	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom	Southwestern	W6YI	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
Hudson	W2ID	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom	Southwestern	K6LA	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom
Hudson	KR2Q	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom	Southwestern	KE6CC	Single Operator QRP Phone	Ray and Donna Day, N6HE and N6HTH
Hudson	W2GDJ	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	Southwestern	K6LL	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Hudson	N2NT	Multioperator Phone	Icom	Southwestern	N6K1	Multioperator Phone	Icom
Midwest	W0CEM	Single Operator High Power Phone	Kirk Pengelly, N0KK	Southwestern	W6YV	School Club Division Phone	Icom
Midwest	N0AC (@ N0NI)	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom	West Gulf	K5TR	Single Operator High Power Phone	Ken Adams, K5KA
Midwest	KI0OV	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom	West Gulf	WD5K	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Ralph "Gator" Bowen, N5RZ
Midwest	K0BJ	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	West Gulf	WA8ZBT	Single Operator QRP Phone	Icom
Midwest	W0NO	Multioperator Phone	Icom	West Gulf	N5ZC	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
Midwest	K0HC	School Club Division Phone	Icom	West Gulf	N5DO	Multioperator Phone	Icom
New England	KK1L	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom	West Gulf	KD5VVI	School Club Division Phone	Icom
New England	K1BX	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom	Canada	VE3SY	Single Operator QRP Phone	Frank Merceret, NA4CW
New England	N1DD	Single Operator QRP Phone	QRP Club of New England	Canada	VE6EX	Single Operator High Power Phone	Icom
New England	WB1GQR (W1SJ, op)	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom	Canada	VE4MM	Single Operator Low Power Phone	Icom
				Canada	VE3VSM	Single Operator Unlimited Phone	Icom
				Canada	VE6AO	Multioperator Phone	Icom

If you wish to order a duplicate plaque, you may contact Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, at 860-594-0295 or by e-mail at [kallison@arrl.org](mailto:kallison@arrl.org). The cost for a duplicate plaque is \$67, which includes shipping.

Paul, N4PN, had been out of Top 10 for a while after a move to Georgia, and then this year he won it all. Indeed, only two of the Top 10ers from 2004 finished in Top 10 this year, WD5K and VE5SF.

"I've been in Top 10 before; never won it, though!" Paul wrote enthusiastically. He's a committed "ham-aholic" for more than 53 years and a contester for about as long.

As proof that SS isn't necessarily a contest where hardware wins all the marbles, his station is modest, especially by the standards of his old station back in Florida. An FT1000MP drove a TH5 at 70 feet, an 80/40 meter dipole at 65 feet and an inverted V at 90 feet in a pine tree. "That's it."

"SS is definitely one of my favorite again. I say again, because of the limited station that I have at this location. Can't really compete with the 'guns' in a DX contest but in SS I have a chance," he wrote. He hopes to have at least some of his Florida station reassembled in Georgia this year.

### Single Operator QRP

The QRP category may be the one where dynasties may be defined a little differently. Three of the top 10 stations in 2004 appear in the box for the fourth time in the last five years — a pretty good standard of excellence. But the 2005 winner, Dan, K7MM, missed this category box entirely in 2004, though he did manage the runner-up slots in 2001 and 2002 as well as a Top 10 finish in 2003.

Maybe the dynasty in this category is just making the Top 10, not necessarily winning. In fact this category's top three finishers in 2004 either changed categories or didn't participate in 2005. Fourth place finisher



**Yet another youth entrant: Michael, N3CA, gets ready to copy a call.**

Dan, N8IE, has the best current streak of four straight years finishing in the box for the category, with K8IR next best with a streak of two years. Yes, dynasty may be difficult to define among the dedicated operators running QRP phone.

### Single Operator Unlimited

The story in Unlimited is as much about individual effort as it is club competition. Dave, K6LL, finished No. 1 again — helping his Southern California Contest Club into No. 2 in the Medium Club Competition category. Dave was followed by a steadily improving W7RN (WX5S, op) who in 2004 finished third.

Matt, WX5S, said his goal isn't his own score; it's doing what he can to help his Northern California Contest Club retain the Unlimited Club gavel (which they did).

But it's not always a pedal-to-the-metal, all-out effort for Matt, who shared K5RC with Tom and Kurt, K7NV. Tom's station

has enough hardware that two stations can generally coexist, but halfway into the first hour, Matt and Kurt realized that for Kurt to have a good Saturday afternoon run, Matt would have to QRT — in the middle of a 164 QSO per hour rate.

"This sounds stupid. Why did Matt do that? The answer is that this was necessary for the other station to make points for the K5RC station as a whole," Matt said. Kurt moved to the high bands, did his run and then let Matt back into the game.

For his part, Kurt calls it HMO operating, standing for "Highly Motivated Operator." The strategy, approved as legal by the ARRL, is to have operators share one QTH with different call signs and equipment. The intent is to eliminate the Sunday doldrums, so that when one station starts to become stale in the pileups, a new operation adds fresh meat to the mix, and pileups begin anew as stations start getting desperate to work somebody — anybody — new.

"It is really challenging and lots of fun. No more Sunday doldrums! Plus, those of us doing it provide extra QSOs for everyone else on Sunday," Kurt writes. After he was done at K5RC on Saturday, Kurt fired up at home as K7NV, adding more QSOs to the NCCC mix.

### School Club

Every so often, a category seems to come into its own. While in previous years the School competition has been closely fought, it's generally been at around the 90,000-point level, enough to win the category but not to strike fear into competitors in any of the other categories. This year, things are different.

### Top 5

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

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)	
KK1L	237,120 B	WP3R (KE3Q, op)	369,600 B	N0IJ	220,640 B	K5TR	322,240 B	W6YI	296,480 B
KD4D	226,720 B	K4XS	318,880 B	K9BGL	205,600 B	W0SD (W0DB, op)	275,680 B	W7WA	291,352 B
W2RE	225,760 B	KP2TM (K9TM, op)	298,240 B	K9GX	199,360 B	W5KFT (WM5R, op)	265,280 B	K7RL	291,200 B
N3KS	221,920 B	W5WMU	273,280 B	KY1V	173,280 B	K0KE	230,720 B	N6BV	286,240 B
K1KD	219,146 B	WP2Z (K8MJZ, op)	258,560 B	K8AO	162,008 B	NN7ZZ (N5LZ, op)	193,600 B	WC6H	250,560 B
N3CA	166,080 A	N4PN	222,240 A	AJ9C	179,680 A	N0KK	174,560 A	VE6EX	180,480 A
K1BX	165,600 A	N4ZZ	195,288 A	KB9OWD	131,680 A	WD5K	164,640 A	K6LA	156,160 A
K8PO	137,864 A	N8II	151,522 A	K8BL	127,360 A	VE5SF	159,680 A	N7LOX	152,724 A
VA1CHP	100,016 A	W4TAA	138,684 A	VA3DX	127,040 A	K7VU	151,320 A	N6NF	128,872 A
W2ID	98,648 A	NA4K	134,616 A	K8NVR	100,168 A	N0AC (@ N0NI)	146,308 A	W7YAQ	110,916 A
N1DD	67,080 Q	W5JBV	36,936 Q	N8IE	59,496 Q	VE4MM	66,000 Q	K7MM	74,560 Q
NK8Q	53,656 Q	W8WV	17,640 Q	K8IR	52,350 Q	W8ZBT	47,854 Q	N4SL	40,752 Q
KA1LMR	46,508 Q	WA4HHG	14,456 Q	WA8REI	44,850 Q	K10OV	47,720 Q	N6WR	34,050 Q
K5ZD	39,168 Q	N4ZAK	12,792 Q	VA3DF	31,326 Q	ND0C	35,560 Q	W7PT	27,186 Q
KO1H	32,700 Q	K4UK	11,766 Q	KC9AMM	28,152 Q	AB0VM	25,600 Q	KE6CC	19,220 Q
K3MM	254,080 U	W4NF	234,720 U	KE9I	218,560 U	K7UT	185,808 U	K6LL	264,640 U
WB1GQR(W1SJ, op)	243,040 U	N4NW	119,680 U	W8MJ	191,360 U	K07X	118,184 U	W7RN (WX5S, op)	257,920 U
W3PP (N4BAA, op)	242,080 U	AJ3G	115,200 U	N2BJ	199,680 U	K0HW	114,866 U	K6IF	245,120 U
N6CY	197,760 U	N6ZO	111,840 U	W9IU	127,200 U	W0ZA	90,552 U	K6KM (N6DE, op)	231,520 U
K2PLF	196,480 U	K4QPL	93,786 U	W8DD	125,610 U	N5ZC	82,720 U	K6YT (W0YK, op)	206,560 U
N2NT	277,920 M	K4JNY	251,200 M	K9NS	320,320 M	K5TA	291,200 M	NA7XX	278,720 M
N3OC	228,160 M	KA1ARB	221,920 M	N8HR	257,440 M	KT0R	261,440 M	NK7U	276,640 M
WA3EKL	184,548 M	WW4LL	203,040 M	WE9V	155,156 M	N5DO	252,320 M	K7IR	261,920 M
W3SO	182,336 M	W4MYA	192,960 M	K9SD	127,764 M	K0DU	244,160 M	N6KI	198,080 M
W2XL	171,114 M	KG5VK	165,280 M	W9CA	117,280 M	K5NA	238,080 M	W6YX	189,440 M

KØHC rocketed to 239,680 points, just ahead of KBØVVT's 220,160 points.

It may have been a rude awakening to the rest of the Top 10, who put in scores that may have challenged for the lead in previous years: No. 3, W5YM, scored 87,520.

Bob, WØBH, one of the organizers — and host station — of the KØHC effort, said the win this year was the result of a determined effort to put Hesston College in Kansas back on the air after losing their station location when the college needed the space for a flight simulator.

"We entered Sweeps this year to create some excitement and recognition of amateur radio at Hesston College with the hope of a ham radio class and a new club station in the future," Bob wrote.

The station may be modest — an IC-756PROIII and Ameritron AL-80B driving a Mosley CL-33 at 60 feet and single dipoles for 40, 80 and 160 and for the Kenwood TS-440S multiplier hunter radio — but the preparation was where the results came from.

Using the college's computer lab, simulations were run to familiarize team members WØBH, NØKZV, NØLRA, NØLQU, KAØWHY and student KD7ZYS with logging software. As well, new antennas were added at WØBH's home QTH to ready the station for battle.

"We're still talking about the experience. The good news is that other non-hams on campus are interested, too. For this year at least, mission accomplished!" Bob added.

### Affiliated Club Competition

The ARRL Affiliated Club Competition for November Sweepstakes always seems to be a tough battle, especially in the Unlimited Category where three perennial powers try to stake their claim as keepers of the dynastic tradition. Befitting the great battles of any great rivalry — Duke/North Carolina, Boston/New York, San Francisco/Los Angeles — the Northern California Contest Club, the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the Society of Midwest Contesters continue to wage war for the coveted gavel.

In the late 1990s the PVRC reigned supreme, winning in 1997 and '98 before the NCCC wrested control of the top spot for the 1999 season. While NCCC and PVRC were developing their talent and strategies to battle it out in 2000, the SMC surprised everyone by making a concerted effort to jump from the Medium to Unlimited category and gained control of the gavel for a three-year stretch 2000-2002. And as befits any struggle to remain a dynasty the PVRC and NCCC refocused their efforts, with the NCCC claiming the gavel again in 2003, 2004 and now 2005, with PVRC close on their heels, dropping the SMC into the third slot. Maybe all three qualify as dynasties. Congratulations to all involved in this heated

rivalry for dominance.

Long-term dominance really isn't the hallmark of the Medium and Local categories in the Affiliated Club Competition. Rather it seems many solid clubs stage a "battle royal" each year. The keys to beating the competition is, as it is in the Unlimited category, getting as many members of your club active for as long as they can. For 2005, Medium Club winner the South East Contest Club averaged 86k points for its 45 entries and held off the strong challenge from the Southern California Contest Club's 39 submissions averaging 80k each. Third place Mad River Radio Club's 41 entries averaged about 8k less than the 71k average of the fourth place Tennessee Contest Groups 34 entries — showing the value generating as many entries as possible from your club members.

Kudos go to the New Mexico Big River Contesters for grabbing the 2005 ACC gavel for Local club category. Both they and runner-up Mt Frank Contesters averaged about 100k per log, but the difference was NMBRC getting 10 logs into the competition whereas Mt Frank only had 6 submissions.

Complete results, including scores for all entries, are available on the ARRLWeb at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

### Awards Sponsorship

The walls of each Divisional category winner will soon be adorned with one of the handsome ARRL November Sweepstakes plaques. How did this happen? First, you start with the core group of long-time plaque sponsors. These dedicated clubs and individuals continue to be at the core of the ARRL plaque program. Add to this elite group the support of Icom America who stepped forward to serve as the Principal Awards Sponsor for the 2005 ARRL Sweepstakes plaque program. Many thanks to the clubs, individuals and Icom America for taking this step to recognize the hard work necessary to post the winning scores from each division!

The ARRL November Sweepstakes offers different challenges to each participant. For the top competitors it's a horse race to make the most QSOs. Other will look for the challenge to make at least 100 Qs in order to qualify for the annual November Sweepstakes pin (a level of achievement 4 of ever 5 entries attained.) For many it's the challenge of working the "Clean Sweep" — contacting all 80 ARRL/RAC sections during the weekend. (This goal was achieved by 177 of the participants in this year's contest with another 84 entries coming up a single section short.)

Some individuals let their competitive nature take over and push their personal envelope with a goal of dethroning the reigning champs. Others will push themselves to setting their own personal best score ever. Many get on just to find a few states to help finish

off a 5-band Worked All States Award, while others will get on to play around for a few hours just to relax. Whatever the motivation, the ARRL November Sweepstakes remains on of the best and most challenging operating events.

One final word and reminder about contesting in general and the ARRL November Sweepstakes in particular... Both hardcore competitor and casual operator alike have a responsibility to maintain the highest operating standards at all times. In the heat of battle, it sometimes is easy to fall into bad operating habits. But this is something we all need to avoid.

Remember that our HF radio spectrum is a shared resource with non-contesters. Frequency wars and verbal assaults should be avoided. No one — contester, net or ragchewer — has the right to expect an absolute clear frequency. What each group does have the right to expect is a sense of cooperation and understanding. If you contest, remember you need to be aware of that net 2 kHz above your run frequency. If your net is scheduled to meet on a certain frequency, remember that if the contester was there before your net; he has the right to be there. I guess the point here is that we all need to remember to practice "reasonable accommodation" — as in laws such as PRB-1 — on the airways. All amateurs — contesters and non-contesters alike — are encouraged to read and study the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee's white paper entitled "HF Contesting — Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions," which can be found on the ARRLWeb at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests). While it doesn't cover every possible scenario or situation, following its guidelines can help make on-the-air operating more enjoyable for all of us.

Old timers will probably remember a popular song by Sonny and Cher called "The Beat Goes On." It seems appropriate for many areas of the annual competition known as the ARRL November Sweepstakes. The dynasties have six months to shore up their title defenses. The pretenders and challengers have time to plot their strategies. Get involved and start a dynasty of your own! 

