

2011 ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes Results

"Next year finally came!"

Steve London, N2IC, n2ic@arri.net



Finally! For years, we have been telling you that the start of solar cycle 24 was imminent, and sunspots would return — next year! Well, beginning just a few months before Sweepstakes our dreams came true. OI' Sol was back in force! 10, 15 and 20 meters were again the premier daytime bands in Phone Sweepstakes. We could spread out in the wide-open spaces of 10 meters and when we needed some closer-in contacts there was some breathing room on 15 and 20 meters. Shortly after the Sun went down the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) dropped like a rock, leaving 40 and 80 meters to be the night-time workhorses.

Power and High Power Categories. The existing Unlimited records became the Unlimited, High Power records and the existing Multioperator records became the Multioperator, High Power records. And, of course, all of the Section and Division winners in the Unlimited, Low Power and Multioperator, Low Power categories established new record benchmarks. As a result, this year there were 12 new Division records and 30 new Section records.

The Not-So-Elusive Clean Sweep

Thanks to the great conditions and favorable activity from all 80 sections, this year provided the best shot at a Clean Sweep (working at least one station in each of the 80 Sweepstakes sections) in many years. This year, 410 participants earned a Clean Sweep, an increase of 123 sweeps over 2010. 36 competitors mentioned in their comments that this was their first Clean Sweep ever. Congratulations!

Another 140 operators came really close to a sweep — missing only one section. What section was the most challenging this year? Just like last year, it was Puerto Rico (19 missed sweeps). In a real surprise, Rhode Island was the next toughest with 9 missed sweeps. Tied for the third most-difficult were Northwest Territories and Santa Barbara(!). For those of you still shaking your head, those four sections were well represented thanks to NP4Z, NP4A, KH2RU/KP4, WP4I, KP4DKE, W1WBB, W1XX, AB1JV, K1VSJ, KA1GEU, VE8EV, VY1EI, VE8GER, VE8NSD, WA6FGV, KI6QDH, W6RFU, N6K, W1PR, AG6AY and W6RSP. Many thanks to those ops for making their rare sections available.

Close Races

Every year there are a number of very close Section races. Some of these are completely accidental — the two participants didn't even know they were competing in the same category, while others were clearly rivalries, extending back many years.

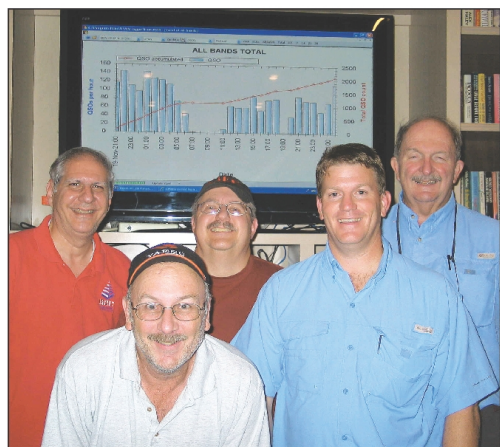
This year, the most exciting close race was in the Single-Op, Low Power category in Connecticut. David, AA1JM won over Alec, W2JU by just one QSO! Neither David nor

Alec operated for the full 24 hours so there was an opportunity for either of them to win. In the New Hampshire Single-Op, High Power category only 18 contacts separated AF1T and KK1KW out of a total of 1300 contacts.

Thanks to great club activity, Maryland-DC is always a competitive section. This year, in the Single-Op, Low Power category there was a

Top Ten by Category

Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power
N9RV 367,200	K0TI 111,680
VY2ZM (K1ZM, op) 358,240	KK6MC 98,720
KH7X (KH6ND, op) 352,000	K0AD 96,800
W7WA 343,360	K0TG 96,000
KL7RA (N6TR, op) 337,440	N3TD 92,000
K7RL 327,040	WU9B 90,168
NR5M 313,280	N4RA 89,600
N2IC (N0QO, op) 300,000	K0MPH 85,920
NN3W 296,000	W1WBB 81,600
K5WA 285,920	AB1JV 78,560
Single Operator, Low Power	Multioperator, High Power
VA7RR 256,160	W6YI 372,160
KH6LC (NH6V, op) 255,360	W5RU 310,880
K1BX 233,760	K7IR 303,040
W4AAA (KK9A, op) 223,200	K0DU 297,280
N4PN 222,880	W0NO 289,920
K9ZO 217,120	NP2B 288,960
W7YAO 212,000	K4OV 288,000
N0KK 207,360	WY7SS 264,480
KF6T 198,880	K1KP 242,720
W4LT 194,720	VE6AO (VE6TC, op) 235,736
Single Operator, QRP	Multioperator, Low Power
NN7SS (K6UFO, op) 108,160	K2NNY 198,720
W1MR 96,800	N5DO 180,000
NW2K 93,120	K7VU 157,440
K0KE 92,320	N8HR 153,920
N3UR 87,848	VE3MGY 130,560
K0RH 85,162	N6K1 100,640
ND0C 81,844	K0ORB 95,326
KD0S (WD0T, op) 79,716	KC8IMB 95,040
W4SVO 77,616	KK0SD 87,828
K6OO 77,440	W8VI 86,240
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	School Club
WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) 310,560	W6YX 256,480
K6LL 282,560	K0HC 254,560
W7RN (WX5S, op) 276,320	W4UAL 159,360
K3MM 274,080	W1AF 125,768
N0XR 271,200	W0EEE 93,760
N4ZZ 269,120	W1YK 89,076
K1KD 264,480	W8SH 60,480
W6PZ (K6SRZ, op) 261,760	K2CC 59,250
W4MR (AA4NC, op) 250,560	K0VVY 56,736
WA5ZUP 249,120	W6RFU (KB3RPN, op) 49,800



The W5RU Team, #2 in the Multiop, High Power Category, (l-r) Ted, KN5O; Steve, KG5VK; Mark, K5ER; Scott, W5WZ, and Dallas, K1DW.

For those licensed within the last 10 years, you could now start to believe the tales of the old-timers. For those with new Technician-class licenses, you could fully experience Sweepstakes for the very first time! This year, 1827 logs were submitted. Adding in those that did not submit a log but made a number of contacts, we had nearly 5000 participants. Over 635,000 QSOs were reported in the submitted logs with almost equal numbers on 15, 20 and 40 meters (approximately 145,000) and equal totals on 10 and 80 meters (approximately 100,000).

This year, several new categories were added to Sweepstakes. The existing Unlimited and Multioperator categories were split into Low

three-way battle between KB3OK, WA3KYY and K8GU. Only two QSOs separated KB3OK from WA3KYY and 27 more QSOs from K8GU! In the Multioperator, High Power category, the battle was among N3OC, WA3EKL and WR3Z. These weren't the only close races. Details of all the Section close races are in the table "Close Races" in the online write-up.

Single-Op, High Power (B) Category

Every year, there is a pack of big dogs going after the Single-Op, High Power title. The names change slightly from year-to-year but not the level of intensity. This year, Pat, N9RV worked hard to get his Montana antenna farm in shape for the competition and was well-rewarded. Pat took the lead after 5 hours, and held it to the end, relying primarily on 10 meters in the daytime, and 40 meters at night. While Pat has a very capable SO2R (single-op, two radio) station, his SS operation was done entirely with one radio. Last year's winner, Jeff, K1ZM operating from his VY2ZM Prince Edward Island QTH placed 2nd, 56 contacts behind N9RV. Jeff tried to use 20 meters to his advantage during the daytime but much of the activity had moved to 10 and 15 meters where Jeff's 10 and 15 meter signal skipped over some of the high-population areas.

Moving to the other side of the ARRL domain, 3rd place was captured by Mike, KH6ND operating from KH7X. Mike got off to a great start but once 20 meters closed at 0330Z, he struggled on the low bands until 1700Z. Dan, W7WA took 4th place from Western Washington. It was tough sledding for Dan on the low bands Saturday night, falling more than 250 QSOs behind N9RV — a margin that stayed nearly constant throughout the day on Sunday. N6TR piloted KL7RA to 5th place despite power outages and antenna damage, Tree still set a new Alaska record.

Single-Op, Low Power (A) Category

Single-Op, Low Power continues to be the most popular category for SS participants with 887 submitted logs and a Top Ten distributed across all parts of North America. This year, the spread between the winner and second place was virtually nonexistent. Before taking into account scoring penalties, a mere two QSOs separated the winner and runner-up. Congratulations to both Gary Caldwell, VA7RR the victor, and Rob Van Geen, NH6V operating from KH6LC!

It was a see-saw battle between these two competitors. Gary got off to a great start, 21 QSOs ahead of Rob after the first hour but Rob made up that gap in the 2nd hour. The margin between them was no more than 21 QSOs until the 0200Z. At that point Gary lost 20 meter propagation while Rob continued to have 2 more great hours on 20 meters thanks to his Hawaii "Big Island" QTH. By 0400Z Rob had a 120 QSO lead over Gary.

This margin stayed essentially constant through the nighttime hours. Both competitors began their off-time around 0830Z, biding their time until sunrise brought the high bands back to life. With Gary's British Columbia sunrise being two hours before Hawaiian sunrise, Gary made up a 136 QSO deficit to take a 1 QSO lead at 1700Z. From there the lead shifted back and forth with no clear advantage for either competitor. When the dust settled and the logs were adjudicated VA7RR won by five QSOs (including scoring penalties).

Single-Op, QRP (Q) Category

This year 75 brave souls entered in the QRP category. Congratulations to the winner, Mark, K6UFO operating from NN7SS near Seattle. Despite running only 5 W, Mark sustained some nice runs on 10 meters with 676 QSOs and a Clean Sweep. Chris, W1MR (ex-

KA1LMR) took 2nd place, moving up from 6th place in 2010 with 177 more QSOs and a Clean Sweep. In 3rd place is Dean, NW2K. This appears to have been Dean's first serious QRP SS effort and he set a new Section and Division record as well as turning in a Golden (perfect) Log! Dean had good success running on 40 meters during the daytime.

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	22,897,542	291
Northern California Contest Club	14,750,346	189
Society of Midwest Contesters	8,096,720	137
Minnesota Wireless Assn	7,224,936	121
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	6,797,492	95
Florida Contest Group	4,743,018	62
Medium Category		
Southern California Contest Club	4,525,364	47
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	3,811,970	37
Frankford Radio Club	3,371,364	49
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	3,203,376	50
Tennessee Contest Group	3,050,026	47
Western Washington DX Club	3,029,530	34
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	2,432,252	24
Mad River Radio Club	2,320,848	34
North Texas Contest Club	2,062,560	22
Alabama Contest Group	1,925,290	29
Contest Club Ontario	1,709,964	28
South East Contest Club	1,643,462	22
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	1,562,366	22
Willamette Valley DX Club	1,473,726	24
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	1,094,804	22
CTRI Contest Group	810,768	9
ORCA DX and Contest Club	793,326	11
Saskatchewan Contest Club	786,144	9
Northern Rockies DX Association	725,514	5
Maritime Contest Club	689,632	13
Kentucky Contest Group	688,252	10
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	663,686	10
North Coast Contesters	657,494	8
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	635,456	9
Contoocook Valley Radio Club	634,712	6
Alberta Clippers	572,560	4
Louisiana Contest Club	546,740	5
Utah DX Assn	494,794	9
Contest Group Du Quebec	490,462	11
BC DX Club	400,962	4
East Coast Canada Contest Club	308,160	4
Motor City Radio Club	257,224	10
Carolina DX Association	254,272	9
Western New York DX Assn	230,524	6
Local Category		
New Mexico Big River Contesters	862,386	9
Iowa DX and Contest Club	671,378	5
Kansas City DX Club	644,412	8
Delara Contest Team	444,098	8
Spokane DX Association	439,658	9
Bristol (TN) ARC	434,646	9
599 DX Association	359,698	3
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society	314,184	4
Hazel Park ARC	262,342	6
Lincoln ARC	236,518	3
Trojan ARC	193,498	4
West Park Radiops	163,656	4
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	149,034	6
Portage County Amateur Radio	148,056	4
All Amateur Radio Club	142,422	3
Sterling Park ARC	132,030	10
CorTek Radio Association	126,320	5
Badger Contesters	125,320	4
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club	116,444	8
Southern Berkshire ARC	115,058	6
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	106,852	4
South Jersey Radio Assn	104,074	4
Meriden ARC	100,272	4
Arrow Communications Assn	89,472	3
OH-KY-IN ARS	88,204	3
Great South Bay ARC	86,522	7
Saginaw Valley ARA	82,542	3
West Allis RAC	82,280	3
Boeing Employees ARS - St. Louis	63,792	3
Bergen ARA	63,754	3
Metro DX Club	60,184	4
Central Michigan ARC	55,712	3
Granite State ARA	55,634	3
Alexandria Radio Club	50,508	3
St Charles Amateur Radio Club	46,250	4
South Texas DX and Contest Club	37,834	3
Rowan ARS	33,596	3
Nanaimo Amateur Radio	25,410	3
Hays-Caldwell ARC	10,020	3

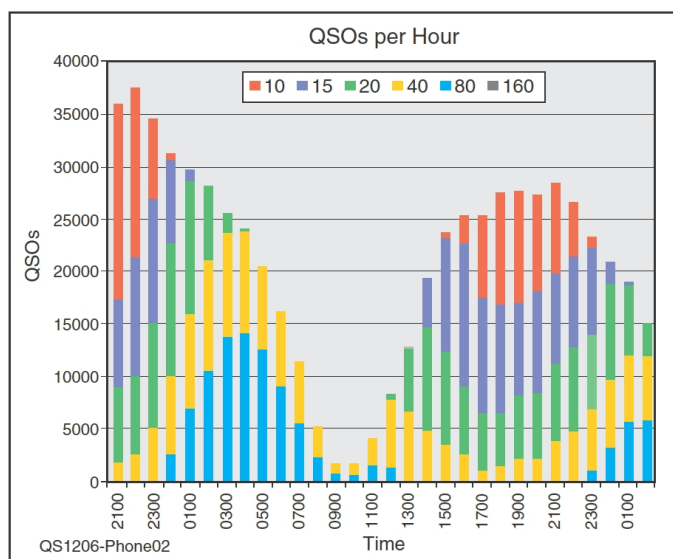


Figure 1 — This chart shows the number of QSOs made on the bands during each hour of the contest. Compare the terrific 10 meter totals with the band's barely visible presence last year!

Sponsored Plaque Winners

We are pleased to announce that the Overall and Division leaders in each category receive a sponsored Sweepstakes plaque. ARRL is grateful to ICOM America and numerous clubs and individuals for sponsoring Sweepstakes awards. For more information on awards sponsorship or to order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X at 860-594-0232 or by e-mail at kx9x@arrrl.org. Plaques cost \$75 each, which includes all shipping charges.



Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor	Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
Overall Winner			Northwestern Division		
Single Operator High Power Phone	N9RV	Don Lisle, K6IPV	Single Operator High Power Phone	N9RV	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power Phone	VA7RR	ARRL Contest Branch - Ken Adams, K5KA Memorial	Single Operator Low Power Phone	W7YQA	ICOM America
			Single Operator QRP Phone	NN7SS	Barbara Yasson, AC7UH
Single Operator QRP Phone	NN7SS	QRP Amateur Radio Club		(K6UFO, op)	
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	WB1GQR	International ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	AL9A	ICOM America
	(W1SJ, op)		Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	KK7X	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	K0TI	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	K7IR	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	W6YI	ICOM America	Multioperator Low Power Phone	N6LO	ICOM America
Multioperator Low Power Phone	K2NNY	ICOM America	School Club Phone	No Entrant	
School Club Phone	W6YX	David Brandenburg, K5RQ			
Atlantic Division			Pacific Division		
Single Operator High Power Phone	W2ID	North Coast Contesters	Single Operator High Power Phone	KH7X	The Carroll Dean Jensen Memorial (K6CDJ)
Single Operator Low Power Phone	W3PAW	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Single Operator Low Power Phone	KH6LC	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP Phone	NW2K	ICOM America		(NH6V, op)	
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	K3MM	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP Phone	K6OO	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	N3TD	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	W7RN	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	N3OC	Mark Sickmeyer, KB3GJ Memorial		(WX5S, op)	
			Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	N6RK	ICOM America
Multioperator Low Power Phone	K2NNY	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	K6MMM	ICOM America
School Club Phone	K2CC	ICOM America	Multioperator Low Power Phone	No Entrant	
			School Club Phone	W6YX	ICOM America
Central Division			Roanoke Division		
Single Operator High Power Phone	K9CT	Society Of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator High Power Phone	NN3W	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Single Operator Low Power Phone	K9ZO	Society Of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Low Power Phone	W4AAA	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW
				(KX9A, op)	
Single Operator QRP Phone	K9ARF	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	Single Operator QRP Phone	K4WY	Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	N2BJ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	W4MR	Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	K9IR	ICOM America		(AA4NC, op)	
Multioperator High Power Phone	N9SJ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	N4RA	ICOM America
Multioperator Low Power Phone	N9CK	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	K4OV	Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL
School Club Phone	K9IU	ICOM America			
Dakota Division			Multioperator Low Power Phone	KN4KL	ICOM America
Single Operator High Power Phone	W0SD	Minnesota Wireless Association	School Club Phone	WD4EOG	Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL
	(W0DB, op)			(KF4YPD, op)	
Single Operator Low Power Phone	N0KK	Minnesota Wireless Association			
Single Operator QRP Phone	ND0C	Tod Olson, K0TO	Rocky Mountain Division		
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	K1KD	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator High Power Phone	N2IC	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
				(N0QO, op)	
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	K0TI	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power Phone	N7MZW	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	N0GF	In Memory of Jim Dokmo, K0FVF - Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator QRP Phone	K0KE	Colorado QRP Club
			Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	W5A2UP	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
Multioperator Low Power Phone	KK0SD	ICOM America			
School Club Phone	K0VYV	Tod Olson, K0TO	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	KK6MC	ICOM America
			Multioperator High Power Phone	K0DU	ICOM America
			Multioperator Low Power Phone	K7VU	ICOM America
			School Club Phone	No Entrant	
Delta Division			Southeastern Division		
Single Operator High Power Phone	N8OO	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power Phone	K4SSU	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
Single Operator Low Power Phone	NA4K	ICOM America		(NA4BW, op)	
Single Operator QRP Phone	KS4X	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power Phone	N4PN	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	N4ZZ	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP Phone	W4SVO	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	WB0RUR	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	K5KG	Charlie Wooten, NF4A
Multioperator High Power Phone	W5RU	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	N4KH	ICOM America
Multioperator Low Power Phone	KK5K	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	NP2B	David Higdon Jr KD4ICT - With thanks to W4QO
School Club Phone	W5YM	ICOM America			
Great Lakes Division			Multioperator Low Power Phone	No entrant	
Single Operator High Power Phone	K8AO	Mad River Radio Club	School Club Phone	W4UAL	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power Phone	W5MX	Mad River Radio Club			
Single Operator QRP Phone	KT8K	Mad River Radio Club	Southwestern Division		
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	N8SNM	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power Phone	AA6PW	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	W56K	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power Phone	K9WZB	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	NT8V	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP Phone	W6AQ	N6HE and W6DL
Multioperator Low Power Phone	N8HR	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	K6LL	ICOM America
School Club Phone	W8SH	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	WU9B	ICOM America
			Multioperator High Power Phone	W6YI	ICOM America
			Multioperator Low Power Phone	N6KI	ICOM America
			School Club Phone	W6RFU	ICOM America
				(KB3RPN, op)	
Hudson Division			West Gulf Division		
Single Operator High Power Phone	KM2O	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power Phone	NR5M	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power Phone	K2UF	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power Phone	N1CC	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP Phone	AA2VK	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP Phone	KJ5RM	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	W2VQ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	KJ5T	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	KA2D	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	K5ID	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	NO2X	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	KB0HH	ICOM America
Multioperator Low Power Phone	WA2IID	ICOM America	Multioperator Low Power Phone	N5DO	ICOM America
School Club Phone	No Entrant		School Club Phone	W5UH	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
				(KU5B, op)	
Midwest Division			Canada		
Single Operator High Power Phone	K0DEQ	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power Phone	VY2ZM	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power Phone	KU0G	Society of Midwest Contesters		(K1ZM, op)	
			Single Operator Low Power Phone	VA7RR	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP Phone	K0RH	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP Phone	VA3DF	Frank Mercet, NA4CW
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	N0XR	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	VE3RZ	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	NU0Q	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	VA2WA	ICOM America
Multioperator High Power Phone	W0NO	ICOM America		(VA2WDQ, op)	
Multioperator Low Power Phone	K0ORB	ICOM America	Multioperator High Power Phone	VE6AO	ICOM America
School Club Phone	K0HC	ICOM America	Multioperator Low Power Phone	VE3MGY	ICOM America
			School Club Phone	No Entrant	
New England Division					
Single Operator High Power Phone	NC1I	ICOM America			
	(K9PW, op)				
Single Operator Low Power Phone	K1BX	ICOM America			
Single Operator QRP Phone	W1MR	QRP Club of New England			
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone	WB1GQR	ICOM America			
	(W1SJ, op)				
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone	W1WBB	ICOM America			
Multioperator High Power Phone	K1KP	ICOM America			
Multioperator Low Power Phone	N2GZ	ICOM America			
School Club Phone	W1AF	Michael McLaughan, K1DM			

Accuracy Honor Roll

Stations with more than 500 QSOs and Error Rate below 1%

Call	# QSOs	Category	Error Rate (%)
NW2K	582	Q	0.0
K3AN	669	A	0.3
K5TA	803	A	0.3
N2QT	627	UH	0.3
W7YAQ	1336	A	0.4
WQ5L	525	A	0.4
NN7SS	684	Q	0.4
K6TU	851	UH	0.5
N6YEU	651	A	0.6
W1WBB	513	UL	0.6
ND0C	521	Q	0.6
WA3A	1578	B	0.6
WD0ECO	538	UH	0.6
K4B	1461	MH	0.7
ND8L	672	UH	0.7
W8TM	710	A	0.7
KC5R	815	A	0.7
VE9AA	568	B	0.7
K1BX	1478	A	0.8
K4EU	725	B	0.8
K2KR	801	MH	0.8
K6MM	1275	UH	0.8
K6GT	629	UH	0.8
KC8MB	602	ML	0.8
KD4D	1456	B	0.8
N2UT	782	B	0.9
N9SJ	1158	MH	0.9
W2ID	1595	B	0.9
W3SO	940	B	0.9
W6SR	638	UH	0.9
K4EDI	643	B	0.9
KD5LNO	585	A	0.9
VE2AWR	542	A	0.9
W7ZRC	878	A	0.9

Unlimited, High Power (UH) Category

The Unlimited, High Power category was very popular this year with 278 entries. Congratulations to Mitch, W1SJ operating from WB1GQR in Vermont on his second consecutive victory in the Unlimited category and a new Division record. Mitch ran away from the pack of competitors with 212 more contacts this year, relying primarily on 80 meters at night and 10 and 20 meters during the day with only a few QSOs on 15 meters.

Second place went to Dave, K6LL operating from his postage-stamp sized QTH in Arizona. While racking up big numbers on 40 through 10 meters, Dave made but 1 QSO on 80 meters!

Unlimited, Low Power (UL) Category

118 participants tried this new category this year. Leading the pack was Dan, K0TI operating from Minnesota. Dan made 698 QSOs and a Clean Sweep in a part-time effort. In 2nd place from New Mexico was Duffey, KK6MC. Duffey did it all with inverted-Vs and lots of persistence.

Multioperator, High-Power (MH) Category

This year the Multioperator category was split into separate High Power and Low Power categories. 79 entries were received for the High-Power category. The W6YI team of Jim, W6YI, John K6AM, Dan N6MJ and Dennis, N6KI, claimed the #1 spot for the 5th consecutive year! The San Diego dynasty continued with 2327 QSOs! The W5RU Louisiana team moved up in the rankings from 6th place in 2010 to 2nd place in 2011. Another big jump in placement came from the K7IR

team in Eastern Washington. The next 3 slots were incredibly close — with only 12 QSOs separating 5th, 6th and 7th places. W0NO in Kansas, team NP2B in the Virgin Islands, and team K4OV in North Carolina, respectively.

Multioperator, Low-Power (ML) Category

In the first year of the Multioperator, Low-Power category, 64 entries were received. The top three slots went to teams operating from rarer sections — Northern New York, West Texas and Wyoming.

Moving from the High-Power to the Low-Power category was this year's winner, K2NNY. The team made 1242 QSOs with over half of their contacts on 80 meters. Second place went to the N5DO team of N5DO and KE5OG. They made good use of 40 meters at night and all three high bands during the daytime despite being handicapped by a low, non-rotating antenna.

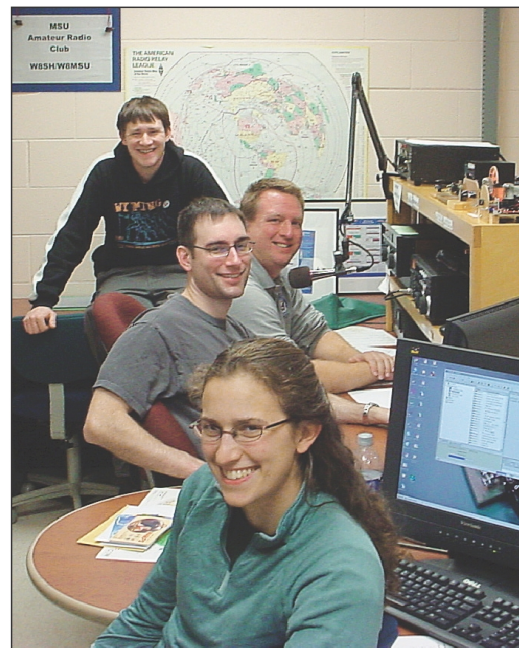
School Club (S) Category

Nineteen schools competed in the School Club Category in 2011. Last year's battle between Stanford University, W6YX and Hesston College, K0HC continued unabated. Last year W6YX won by 7 QSOs. This year it by was 12 QSOs! Unlike last year Stanford got off to a slow start, down 43 QSOs in the first hour and 105 QSOs at 0300Z. The earlier sunrise in Kansas gave the Hesston crew an advantage in the early morning, ahead by as much as 172 QSOs. Team Hesston may have been pretty confident at this point but then things started to unravel. Team Stanford took advantage of great daytime conditions on 10 and 15 meters to crawl back into contention: 63 QSOs behind at 2000Z, 12 QSOs behind at 2300Z, finally pulling ahead at 0030Z for victory at the 0300Z bell!

Club Competition

Thanks to the many clubs who rallied their troops into getting on the air for Sweepstakes. For many club members Sweepstakes and Field Day are their major on-the-air efforts of the year. We can't thank the clubs enough, and of course, their members for their commitment, dedication and understanding families. This year, 1522 participants submitted their CW and Phone SS scores towards their club aggregate scores.

In the Unlimited Club category, the Potomac Valley Radio Club ran away from the other megacclubs with 291 entries for 22.9 million points. This is a 6% increase in entries and total score over 2010! In 2nd place was the Northern California Contest Club with 189 entries totaling 14.8 million points. The Society of Midwest Contesters again took 3rd place with 137 entries and 8.1 million points.



The School Club category's 7th-place entry, Michigan State University Team W8SH (front-to-rear) Hanna, KD8OKM; Scott, KB8VWM; Mike, KB8ZGL, and Andrew, KE7ESD. [Greg Mulder, WB8LZG, photo]

In the Medium Club category, the Southern California Contest Club emerged victorious with 47 entries and 4.5 million points. That's an impressive 96,000+ points per entry! The Central Texas DX and Contest Club moved up to 2nd place with their 37 entries for 3.8 million points. There was a close race between the 3rd place Frankford Radio Club, and 4th place Arizona Outlaws Contest Club. Just one more high scoring entry from the Outlaws would have propelled them ahead.

In the Local Club Category, the Albuquerque-based New Mexico Big River Contesters took 1st place with 9 entries, averaging 95,821 points per entry. Well done! The Iowa DX and Contest Club took 2nd place and the Kansas City DX Club took 3rd place.

Acknowledgments

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As Always, There's More Online

For more reporting and graphics about this popular contest, including the story of how one operator used a Heathkit "Tener" on 10 meter AM, check out the extended write-up at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles.