

# 2009 ARRL CW November Sweepstakes

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The first weekend in November is the harbinger of a slower time. Baseball's World Series is finally ending, the weather is turning, days are shorter and the smell of wood stoves and fireplaces are first noticed in the northern air. Yet this time also means the beginning of the contest season, and nothing rings in November like the collective tones of CW across the HF bands: "CQ SS, CQ SS...."

For the 76th year, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes on November 7-9 drew in amateurs from all areas of the US and Canada, of all skill levels and from all interests in the hobby, to get on and make QSOs with a harkening back to the days of traffic handling. The most intense of competitors eyed the standings, looking for top honors in their category. Others set their sights on their Division record, a certificate for a Section victory, or perhaps the trophy from their local club. Still others worked toward a Clean Sweep mug or participation pin, and many more simply got on the air and handed out contacts for the pure enjoyment of the activity.

Jim, KC4HW, who finally earned his first Clean Sweep in SS CW, never gives up: "Make goals and try for them! Have fun along the way. Some say they can't compete, heck I am only competing with myself! This time I won with my first "Clean Sweep." Next time I might not. You win some, you lose some, some days just get rained out, but the Sun was shining for me after SS CW."

Brad, N5LUL, and Jim, K5BZH, had a "friendly wager" from West Texas this year. Jim claimed early victory with 220 QSOs and 69 sections ("not bad for a lite contester using S&P, a trap vertical, and a hand key," Jim wrote), but after the log-checking dust settled, it was Brad who claimed the spoils in the battle for Amarillo. As a consolation prize, Jim did manage to work Rhode Island for his 50th state on 40 meters. The local competitions are some of the best unwritten stories of Sweepstakes.

When the smoke had cleared and the last SS transmission was sent into the ether at

0259 UTC on Monday, November 9, 2009, the clock at ARRL HQ started ticking. CW Sweepstakes continues to be a strong draw for testers, with 1552 logs in the official results and more than 600,000 QSOs logged.

## Record Setters

Records are meant to be broken, even by the person who sets them. And that has rarely been as apparent as in the 2009 running of the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Two all-time records

fell, one of which was held by the person doing the breaking. Steve, N2IC, set the high water mark in High Power even higher than last year, pushing aside his record set in 2008 (244,640) with 255,520 points by squeezing in another 68 QSOs.

Jim, W6YI, and crew (N6MJ, N6RT, N6KI and K6AM) broke a record that has stood since 1995, when Bruce, AA5B's New Mexico powerhouse scored 237,160 points. The W6YI crew pushed that mark to 246,880 points. That the record stood for 14 years and was broken during a low point in the sunspot cycle makes the W6YI effort all the more noteworthy.

Browsing the records (available online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)) an amazing 18 Division records

and 66 Section records were set this year. That's almost 14 percent of the Division and 19 percent of the Section records that are brand-new in 2009! What are the oldest records, I hear you asking? That would be the two 35 year old 1974 records for the Pacific Section! The High Power record is held by W6NUT (op-K6BB) with 153,750 points and the Multioperator record was set by the Maui Radio Club, KH6RS, with a total of 151,950 points. 1974 must have been a good year! Figure 1 shows the distribution of records over the past 35 years.

## High Power

Steve, N2IC, continues to dominate from his New Mexico location. Not only has he twice crashed through records that once looked untouchable, he's doing so at the bottom of the solar cycle. The no. 2 spot in High Power was a tie between Kevin, N5DX, operating Stan's, K5GO, station, and Mark, AG9A, guest at Toni's, N0NI, Iowa location. Remarkable is that Kevin's and Mark's score (244,960) also beat N2IC's previous High Power record. Todd, WD0T, made a lot of SSers happy with the rare-but-were-it-not-for-him South Dakota section to take the no. 3 spot.

## Category Winners

Category	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Section
High Power	N2IC	255,520	1,597	80	NM
Low Power	N5AW	192,320	1,202	80	STX
QRP	N0AT (N0KK, op)	137,760	861	80	MIN
Unlimited	K3MM	212,960	1,331	80	MDC
Multioperator	W6YI	246,880	1,543	80	SDG
School Club	K0HC (W0BH, op)	188,000	1,175	80	KS

JIM JOHNSON, KC4HW



Jim, KC4HW, took his first-ever Clean Sweep literally! Jim's efforts helped the Alabama Contest Group break into the Unlimited Club category for the first time. Club Competition results will be in the Phone Sweepstakes write-up next month.

## Low Power

With 707 of the 1553 logs entered this year, Low Power remains the most popular category for SS. The competition in the category came down to a tight race between Marv, N5AW, and Tor, N4OGW, with Marv edging out Tor by just six QSOs. Marv ended with 1202 QSOs and 80 sections to Tor's 1196 QSOs and 80 sections.

Among the Low Power stations who earned a sweep, the spread was only 108 QSOs. And for anyone who doubts that rate is key to victory in SS, a contest with a fixed maximum of 80 multipliers, look at Bill, N7VM, in seventh place, with 1089 QSOs and 79 sections versus ninth-place Bob, K8IA, with 80 sections but 1034 QSOs. Bruce, AA5B, in eighth, also used rate over multipliers to edge ahead of K8IA. Bruce only found 77 sections, but his 1106 QSOs were enough for a 1110 point advantage.

## QRP

In the less-power-than-a-light-bulb QRP Kirk-to-Kirk showdown, Kirk, NØKK, ran Ron, NØAT's MN station to the QRP title, just ahead of Kirk, K4RO, in Tennessee. Got that? Kirk (the winning one) says he arrived at Ron's station uncertain in which category he'd be entering. "I had hoped you would have decided by now!" Ron told him. With 30 minutes to the start, he decided it would be QRP, something he had wanted to try again after a few years in Low Power. But he realized his biggest hurdle would be psychological.

"I had to believe I was loud and contest as such. To think otherwise would allow me mentally to open the door to fatigue and excuses," Kirk said, but the contest went better than he anticipated. His success even included breaking through to the perennially piled-upon VO1MP and VY1EI. With one section to go — VE4, of course — Kirk started listening frantically for VE4EAR, whom he had heard earlier. But Ed was nowhere to be found. Fortunately, he came across KEØZ/VE4 on 40 at 20-over-9. Sweep!

## Multioperator

Jim, W6YI, says they never set out to beat a record, but credits a load of preparation, a heaping helping of contest survival food and some fine station engineering by guest op John, K6AM, for their record-setting effort. Hot on the tail of W6YI was the big NR5M station from South Texas.

"Winning from the West Coast is a challenge as the previous contest results reflect how seldom it is accomplished. We were able to set the records this year, after years of working together and fine-tuning our game plans, as everything came together for us," Jim wrote in an e-mail.

Jim writes the station includes homebrewed OWA Yagis on 40 through 10, a 3-element inverted V at 130 feet for 80 and a 2-element switched phased array



## 2009 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW

Single Operator, QRP		Single Operator, Unlimited	
NØAT		K3MM	212,960
(NØKK, op)	137,760	K6LL	212,800
K4RO	127,360	W6YX	
K8MM	121,836	(N7MH, op)	210,400
KØAV	114,392	K7RL	205,120
N7IR	104,122	KB7Q	204,000
NØUR	103,584	N6XI	202,240
N7OU	101,760	K6XX	201,120
W7YI	97,944	K6TA	
W9WI	97,032	(N6BV, op)	198,080
W7YAQ	95,432	N4BP	196,800
<b>Single Operator, Low Power</b>		<b>Multioperator</b>	
N5AW	192,320	W6YI	246,880
N4OGW	191,360	NR5M	229,600
K7BG	188,800	K4TD	225,120
KP3Z		KP2M	219,040
(NP4Z, op)	178,240	WY7SS	218,080
KØAD	176,000	W2FU	214,880
W4OC	175,040	W4RM	209,760
N7VM	172,062	K5KA	205,440
AA5B	170,324	K2NNY	198,720
K8IA	165,440	NG7M	186,400
KE7X	163,520	<b>School Club</b>	
<b>Single Operator, High Power</b>		KØHC	
N2IC	255,520	(WØBH, op) 188,000	
K5GO		N9UC	
(N5DX, op)	244,960	(WØ9S, op) 106,334	
NØNI		N5XU	
(AG9A, op)	244,960	(AA5BT, op) 23,556	
WDØT	233,120	W8SH	
WXØB		N9GTC	
(K5GA, op)	230,560	W4UVA	
W9RE	228,800	(WF7I, op) 1,044	
WØUA	228,160	W9UIH	
K5ZD	224,160	(KB9E, op) 50	
WØSD		KØVYV	
(WØDB, op)	224,000	(ACØLU, op) 18	
N2NT			
(N2NC, op)	223,570		

for 160 as well as a DX Engineering four-Beverage receive antenna system.

## School Club

Bob, WØBH, who has become a fixture on the weekly Northern California Contest Club Sprint contests, continues to put KØHC at Hesston College in Kansas on top of School Club.

W8EDU is the club station of the Case Amateur Radio Club at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Operator and trustee Jim, W8WTS, relates that, "You could hear a pin drop on the bands at the start of the contest. Signals were strong on 40 meters, the SS band in the Midwest." Murphy paid a visit in the form of amplifier power supply failure, but a spare amplifier was pressed into service and W8EDU never missed a beat.

It's unfortunate more alumni, staff and students can't put schools on the air for SS. Top 10 for the School category is only a Top 8 because that's all the entries there were! If you're interested, check out the rules for school clubs and get your school on the air! [Watch for changes in the School Club rules for 2010 — Ed.] It is an interesting category plus it is an opportunity to introduce more people to Amateur Radio contesting.

## Unlimited

You can't come any closer than one QSO [unless you tie for second as in High Power — Ed.], but that's exactly how the top of Unlimited played out this year. Ty, K3MM, ended with 1331 QSOs and 80 sections to Dave's, K6LL 1330 and 80. And from there, it was only 15 QSOs down to W6YX (Mike, N7MH, op). The margin of victory was 160 points or one QSO. One QSO!

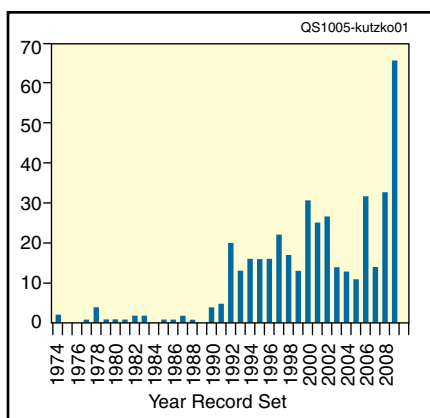
And here's a call sign you don't see in SS very often: SMØDRD. Goran operated KH6LC to 1227 QSOs and 80 sections to take home 10th place.

Unlimited is becoming an increasingly popular category for stations, with 375 logs for 2009. It allows full power and spotting assistance, but considering one Top 10er, Rick, N6XI, in sixth, missed a sweep, the use of spotting isn't mandatory and doesn't guarantee the participant a Clean Sweep coffee mug. Nor is it necessarily an operating godsend, considering that Rick's rate carried him ahead of Bob, K6XX, who did get a sweep.

## Photo Finishes

It's all fine and good to talk about the winners, but considering there can only ever be six winners (A, B, M, Q, S and U), it's often the regional races that are more interesting to talk about. Check out the Regional Leaders table in the online Sweepstakes article at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

It's not often you see an exact tie at the top, but that's exactly what happened in the Central Region's High Power race, where Steve, N9CK, and John, N8AA, finished with



**Figure 1 — The oldest CW Sweepstakes records date from 1974. Increasing interest and activity resulted in a surge of records this year, including two all-time records.**

## Want More Stuff to Sweep?

Complete SS CW score listings and extra data can be found on the Web. Visit [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) for more!

## Sponsored Plaque Winners for CW

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 email at [kx9x@arrl.org](mailto:kx9x@arrl.org). Plaques cost \$75 each, which includes all shipping charges.

Division/Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor	Division/Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
<b>Overall</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	N2IC	Trey Garlough, N5KO	Single Operator High Power CW	N9RV	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	N5AW	ARRL Contest Branch - Ken Adams, K5KA Memorial	Single Operator Low Power CW	K7BG	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	N0AT (N0KK, op)	QRP Amateur Radio Club International	Single Operator QRP CW	N7OU	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K3MM	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K7RL	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	W6YI	ICOM America	Multioperator CW	WX7P	ICOM America
School Club CW	K0HC (W0BH, op)	Straight Key Contest Club	School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>Atlantic</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	AA3B	North Coast Contesters	Single Operator High Power CW	W7RN (N6TV, op @ K5RC)	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	WY3A	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Single Operator Low Power CW	N6ZFO	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
Single Operator QRP CW	K2ZR	Milt Coleman, K4OSO	Single Operator QRP CW	W6JTI	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K3MM	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	W6YX (N7MH, op)	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	W2FU	North Coast Contesters	Multioperator CW	A16YL	Straight Key Contest Club
School Club CW	no entrant		School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>Central</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	W9RE	Society Of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator High Power CW	N4AF	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Single Operator Low Power CW	N9CK	Society Of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Low Power CW	W4OC	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW
Single Operator QRP CW	W19WI	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	Single Operator QRP CW	W7IY	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	NE9U	Straight Key Contest Club	Single Operator Unlimited CW	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	N9YN	ICOM America	Multioperator CW	W4RM	ICOM America
School Club CW	N9UC (WO9S, op)	ICOM America	School Club CW	W4UVA (WF7I, op)	ICOM America
<b>Dakota</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	WD0T	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator High Power CW	N7VM	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	K0AD	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Low Power CW	K0AV	Colorado QRP Club
Single Operator QRP CW	N0AT (N0KK, op)	Tod Olson, K0TO	Single Operator QRP CW	W0ZP	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
Single Operator Unlimited CW	KT0R (K0OB, op)	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Unlimited CW	WY7SS	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	K0HB	Minnesota Wireless Association	Multioperator CW	no entrant	
School Club CW	K0VVY (AC0LU, op)	ICOM America	School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>Delta</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	K5GO (N5DX, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	WP3R (LZ4AX, op)	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	N4OGW	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	KP3Z (NP4Z, op)	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	K4RO	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	N0HT (W5JBV, op)	Straight Key Contest Club
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N4ZZ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N4BP	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	no entrant		Multioperator CW	K4TD	ICOM America
School Club CW	no entrant		School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>Great Lakes</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	W5MX	North Coast Contesters	Single Operator High Power CW	K6LA	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	N8AA	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator Low Power CW	K8IA	Larry Serra, N6NC
Single Operator QRP CW	K8MM	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator QRP CW	N7IR	N6HE and W6DLD
Single Operator Unlimited CW	W8MJ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K6LL	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	K8CC	ICOM America	Multioperator CW	W6YI	ICOM America
School Club CW	W8SH	ICOM America	School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>Hudson</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	N2NT (N2NC, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	WX0B (K5GA, op)	Ken Adams, K5KA (SK)
Single Operator Low Power CW	W2LK	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	N5AW	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	KR2Q	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	N5WLA	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N1EU	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N5JB	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	K2LE	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	Multioperator CW	NRSM	ICOM America
School Club CW	no entrant		School Club CW	N5XU (AA5BT, op)	ICOM America
<b>Midwest</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	N0NI (AG9A, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	VE3EJ	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	W10WA	Society Of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Low Power CW	VE5ZX	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	N0SS	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	VA3SB	QRP Amateur Radio Club International
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K0OU	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	VA2WDQ	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	K0WA	ICOM America	Multioperator CW	VE6EX	Straight Key Contest Club
School Club CW	K0HC (W0BH, op)	ICOM America	School Club CW	no entrant	
<b>New England</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	K5ZD	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	VE3EJ	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	K1BX	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	VE5ZX	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	W1AW (KX9X, op)	QRP Club of New England	Single Operator QRP CW	VA3SB	QRP Amateur Radio Club International
Single Operator Unlimited CW	W1SJ	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	VA2WDQ	ICOM America
Multioperator CW	W1MJ	ICOM America	Multioperator CW	VE6EX	Straight Key Contest Club
School Club CW	no entrant		School Club CW	no entrant	



exactly 163,372 points each.

Randy, K5ZD, is perhaps the exception to the rate-is-king rule, edging out John, N2NC (@N2NT) by one section despite 14 fewer QSOs to take the Northeast Region by only 590 points. Randy's sweep was the difference to John's 79 sections.

On the West Coast, Dave, K6LL, beat Mike, N7MH, operating at W6YX by only 15 QSOs in the Unlimited category. The Southeast Region's Unlimited race was also a tight one as Will, AA4NC, grabbed second just ahead of Don, N4ZZ, by 480 points.

In the Northeast Region's "Battle of the Minutians," QRP entrant K3TEJ just barely

held off the ARRL's own KX9X at W1AW by a 570 point margin.

## Summary

This was the first year for which the log submission deadline was tightened to 15 days in order to provide quicker results. We promised that the results for SS would be published at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) in 60 days. We fell a little short at 74 days, but the scores were published much faster than usual. The conversion of paper logs slowed the process of log checking considerably. Many thanks are due to the data entry volunteers who keyed in over 9800 CW QSOs from paper logs and converted

them to Cabrillo-formatted logs.

If you submitted a paper log this year, please consider switching to electronic logging; it cleans up your log, saves us time during data entry and gives you instant satisfaction in knowing that your log was received at HQ on time. If you like, use WA7BNM's Cabrillo-conversion Web page at [b4h.net/cabforms](http://b4h.net/cabforms).

As this writeup is being finished, the Sun has woken up and every day in the month of February was blessed with at least one sunspot. Our high bands are coming back to life and that will mean even more excitement on that first weekend of November. Mark your calendars for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November — CQ SS! 