

## 2010 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes Results

By Kelly Taylor, VE4XT <ve4xt@mts.net>



*There's a first time for everything!*

*[Version 1.03 corrects the discussion of Top Ten order-of-finish in Low Power.]*

In Game One of the 1936 Stanley Cup finals, the Detroit Red Wings finally defeated the Montreal Maroons at 16:30 of the sixth overtime — the equivalent of nearly three full games. A minor-league baseball game in 1981 went 33 innings before a winner was declared.

In Sweepstakes there is no overtime, no playoff, no extra innings and no shootout. When the logs are checked and the numbers tallied, they are what they are. Ties at the top have never happened before in a Single-Operator category but after 2010's November 6-8 running of the CW Sweepstakes, it's finally come about that Pat, N9RV, and Mark, AG9A (operating NØNI), shake hands as the co-winners of Single-Operator, High Power.

"I can't believe a tie at the top. I can't recall that in my 31 or so years of doing SS!!" says Todd, WDØT, who came in fourth, just behind ARRL Sweepstakes Manager, Dan, K1TO. [*The two top finishers will share first place and there is no second place this year – Ed.*] Indeed, according to the official list of winners, until 2010 no Single-Operator category had ever been declared a tie, all the way back to 1930. (In 2000, Multioperator teams at W1AW and N6VR finished in a dead heat.)

Mark, AG9A, said that as rare as a tie may be, it is a sign that there's no time to rest when trying to win SS. "It goes to show that every decision you make, every QSO you lose (for whatever reason) and QSOs that you weren't quite able to complete can make the difference between winning and tying or dropping a spot," Mark writes. "I do know that Pat had more QSOs than I did at the end of the contest, so I assume that the (log checking) made the difference."

That's something Pat humbly acknowledges. "The tie has to do with all of my logging errors." Pat attributed his and Mark's win to the absence of heavy hitters N2IC and WP3R. "Puerto Rico can win this any time it wants to."

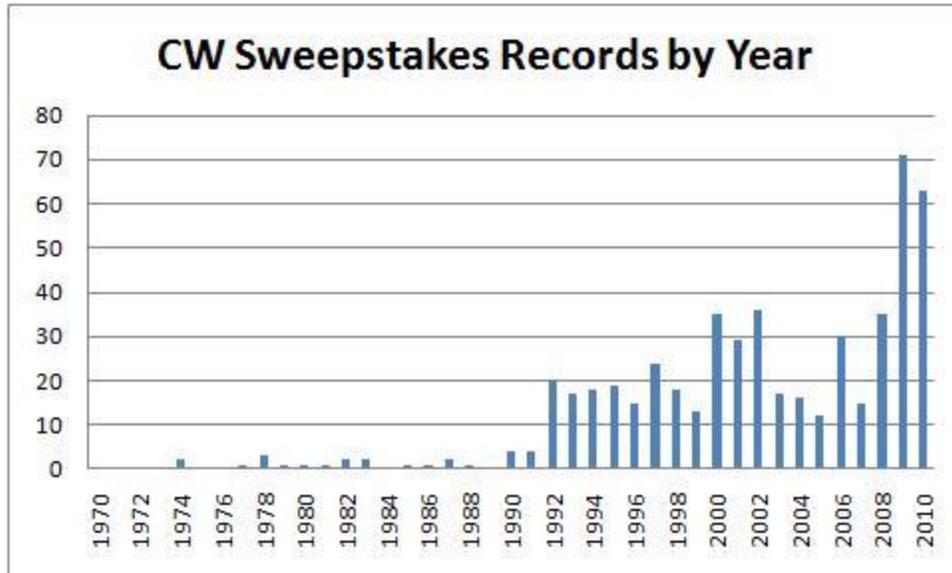
The claimed scores posted to the 3830 email reflector (see the sidebar) showed that the results were shaping up to be crowded at the top and the final numbers didn't disappoint. Only 2,200 points, or 14 QSOs, separated fourth-place WDØT from the co-winners. In third-place, Dan, K1TO, actually finished with more QSOs than Pat and Mark, but with one less section. Missing Puerto Rico cost him the victory – a more difficult QSO from Florida than expected this year.

"This was not going to be a full effort! I would never intend to do 24 hours in Sweepstakes without SO2R [*Single-operator, Two Radio capability – Ed.*]. But it held my interest (and as the Contest Manager, I felt a bit of an obligation to make a big splash), so I hung in there," Dan writes. "I hope I'm listed as 3rd and not 2nd as I did finish behind both those guys (and both are good friends)."

### **Record that Record!**

Even at the bottom of the solar cycle, Sweepstakes records can fall and do with surprising frequency – 63 in 2010 – a testament to the enduring popularity of the contest and the fact that all stations can play well in a domestic contest. The table lists all records set in 2010 – congratulations to the winners! You can see from the figure that a record more than 20 years old is really something.

One All-Time record was set in 2010 in the School Club category by N7MH operating at W6YX, the Stanford Amateur Radio Club station in the Palo Alto hills above Silicon Valley. The oldest All-Time record still standing is K7JA's Low Power record from NP4A in 1993. Eleven Division records and a surprising 51 Section records fell this year!



The oldest remaining records of all are a pair from out west. One is the Pacific Section's 1974 bellwether in the Multioperator category set by the Maui Radio Club, KH6RS. That must have been a good year for the Pacific Division because K6BB piloted W6NUT to the record-setting High Power victory in the San Francisco Section. It's pretty amazing that those records still stand – I worked both stations in only my third Sweepstakes 37 years ago. There are only 18 records still standing since before 1990.

Another surprising number is the 53 unclaimed records in the School Club and Unlimited categories. Although 2009 set the record for record-setting at 71 new peaks, with the new Low Power entry category for Multioperator and Unlimited operation, you can bet the land rush for records will be on starting at 2100Z on that first November Saturday of 2011.

### Claimed Scores and Soapbox

In discussions of claimed scores, you may see references to “3830”. They refer to the 3830 email reflector ([www.hornucopia.com/3830score](http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score)) that is used for posting post-contest scores, band-by-band breakdowns, and general text-only comments or “soapbox”. There is a searchable archive for the reflector at [lists.contesting.com/3830](http://lists.contesting.com/3830), too. The ARRL also maintains a special contest “Soapbox” web page at [www.arrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/soapbox) that not only includes personal remarks but uploaded photos from all ARRL contests. Multiply your contest enjoyment by posting your score to 3830 and then a photo or story to the ARRL Soapbox page!

| Records Set in 2010 |         |     |         |                |                         |         |     |         |                |
|---------------------|---------|-----|---------|----------------|-------------------------|---------|-----|---------|----------------|
| Call                | Score   | Cat | Section | Division       | Call                    | Score   | Cat | Section | Division       |
| All-Time Record     |         |     |         |                | Section Records (cont.) |         |     |         |                |
| W6YX<br>(N7MH,op)   | 203,200 | S   | SCV     | Pacific        | N4ZZ                    | 195,040 | U   | TN      | Delta          |
| Division Records    |         |     |         |                | K1TO                    | 231,628 | B   | WCF     | Southeastern   |
| N8SS                | 171,746 | A   | MI      | Great Lakes    | N4OGW                   | 192,480 | A   | MS      | Delta          |
| K7BG                | 196,552 | A   | MT      | Northwestern   | N5NA                    | 85,004  | Q   | WTX     | West Gulf      |
| KØEU                | 201,120 | A   | CO      | Rocky Mountain | N6RO                    | 207,680 | U   | EB      | Pacific        |
| N9RV                | 232,480 | B   | MT      | Northwestern   | KF6I                    | 105,920 | U   | ORG     | Southwestern   |
| K8MM                | 157,120 | Q   | MI      | Great Lakes    | K6XX                    | 211,200 | B   | SCV     | Pacific        |
| W6YX<br>(N7MH,op)   | 203,200 | S   | SCV     | Pacific        | W6YX<br>(N7MH,op)       | 203,200 | S   | SCV     | Pacific        |
| W4UAL               | 73,440  | S   | AL      | Southeastern   | N6ZFO                   | 165,600 | A   | SF      | Pacific        |
| N4ZZ                | 195,040 | U   | TN      | Delta          | K6SRZ                   | 183,200 | U   | SF      | Pacific        |
| W1UJ                | 177,120 | U   | WMA     | New England    | KL7RA<br>(N6TR,op)      | 224,202 | B   | AK      | Northwestern   |
| WØZA                | 181,120 | U   | CO      | Rocky Mountain | K7BG                    | 196,552 | A   | MT      | Northwestern   |
| N4BP                | 204,480 | U   | SFL     | Southeastern   | N9RV                    | 232,480 | B   | MT      | Northwestern   |
| Section Records     |         |     |         |                | K4XU                    | 174,240 | A   | OR      | Northwestern   |
| K1LZ                | 181,858 | B   | EMA     | New England    | K7GT                    | 144,640 | M   | OR      | Northwestern   |
| W1KX                | 61,932  | Q   | ME      | New England    | NC7J                    | 187,040 | M   | UT      | Rocky Mountain |
| K1RX                | 205,280 | B   | NH      | New England    | N8SS                    | 171,746 | A   | MI      | Great Lakes    |
| W1SJ                | 158,158 | U   | VT      | New England    | K8MM                    | 157,120 | Q   | MI      | Great Lakes    |
| W1UJ                | 177,120 | U   | WMA     | New England    | W1NN                    | 165,742 | A   | OH      | Great Lakes    |
| W2VQ                | 106,400 | U   | NNJ     | Hudson         | K9ZO                    | 101,400 | Q   | IL      | Central        |
| K2NNY               | 201,280 | M   | NNY     | Atlantic       | N9CK                    | 170,482 | A   | WI      | Central        |
| N2MM                | 169,760 | U   | SNJ     | Atlantic       | KØEU                    | 201,120 | A   | CO      | Rocky Mountain |
| N8NA                | 138,528 | A   | DE      | Atlantic       | WØZA                    | 181,120 | U   | CO      | Rocky Mountain |
| AA3B                | 205,120 | B   | EPA     | Atlantic       | NØXR                    | 164,960 | U   | IA      | Midwest        |
| NY3A                | 180,960 | U   | EPA     | Atlantic       | ABØS                    | 189,916 | M   | KS      | Midwest        |
| NO3M                | 152,786 | A   | WPA     | Atlantic       | KØSR                    | 206,348 | B   | MN      | Dakota         |
| W3WC                | 116,640 | U   | WPA     | Atlantic       | NC7W                    | 110,126 | Q   | MO      | Midwest        |
| W4UAL               | 73,440  | S   | AL      | Southeastern   | K5KG                    | 154,560 | A   | ND      | Dakota         |
| K4FXN               | 145,760 | U   | KY      | Great Lakes    | VE1OP                   | 160,800 | U   | MAR     | Canada         |
| N4UU                | 166,400 | M   | NFL     | Southeastern   | VO1BZM                  | 44,200  | M   | NL      | Canada         |
| N4EEB               | 133,920 | U   | NFL     | Southeastern   | VE5ZX                   | 166,720 | A   | SK      | Canada         |
| N4BP                | 204,480 | U   | SFL     | Southeastern   | VE7XF                   | 163,360 | U   | BC      | Canada         |
|                     |         |     |         |                | VY1EI                   | 75,696  | U   | NT      | Canada         |

## Regional Competition

One of the realities of any contest is that some parts of the world — or of the continent, in the case of Sweepstakes — have big advantages over others. Talk to a variety of East Coast operators and they'll tell you that it's easy to jump into the lead at the start, but as Sunday rolls around, "score compression" (as High Power co-winner Pat, N9RV, calls it) begins. Once that happens, the lead built up on the low bands by many East Coasters disappears. It's a key reason why Sweepstakes has not been won by a W1 in a long time.

Talk to anyone who wins High Power from anywhere other than Puerto Rico and invariably they will thank their lucky stars there wasn't a competitive effort from that U.S. possession. So for many operators, either because of geography or the reality of a just-average station, the ability to win their region or their division is an important achievement.

Earl, N8SS, says his goals for 2010 were to finish Top 10 (achieved), win the Great Lakes Division (achieved) and set the Michigan state record (achieved). On a regional basis, he came out on top of some top-notch operators, too. Steve, N9CK missed snatching Earl's Central Region crown by a mere 14 QSOs. Also hot on Earl's and Steve's tails was Hal, W1NN, who is showing up more and more, it seems, from his Ohio QTH than from his adopted country of Japan.

“Next year will probably be different as now that I have a Top 10 finish I may have to slide my goals up a little higher. And since the overall (win) is very elusive, I may have to have a more realistic goal of a (top) Regional finish,” Earl writes. “I always look at the regional score charts for Sweepstakes. It’s a good way to gauge how you do with others in your region,” said Steve, N9CK. In many ways, Steve’s approach is a healthy approach to a contest when your geography might preclude an overall win.

From my own experience in VE4, having a good hop into the most heavily populated areas of the U.S. (from Michigan to the eastern seaboard) is a huge competitive advantage. Being located within that area can be a disadvantage.

Some of the most interesting regional and divisional victories include: Art, K1BX, who squeaked out a victory over WY3A in three QSOs in Northeast Region Low Power by only NY3A eked out a tight victory in the WIUJ in the Unlimited category over the mere 24 QSOs. In Northeast Region, a High Power, also in the N2NT (operated by John, N2NC) beat Jeff, K1ZM, operating from his Prince Edward Island, Canada location as VY2ZM, by 91 QSOs.



The border between MN (WØ) and MB (VE4) is about 200 yards south of the motel where KEØZ/VE4 operated. Canada is on the right and the extreme NW corner of Minnesota and NE corner of ND on the left. The trees are along the Red River. (Photo by KEØZ)

the eastern seaboard) is advantage. Being can be a disadvantage. most interesting victories include: squeaked out a over WY3A in three QSOs. victory in the WIUJ in the mere 24 QSOs. In Northeast Region, John, N2NC) beat from his Prince location as

Not surprisingly, some of the tightest regional battles involved those who won their categories. Ken, N6RO, edged perennial Unlimited favorite Dave, K6LL by only three QSOs – not only overall but also in the West Coast Region. Pat, N9RV, the overall co-winner in High Power, beat his West Coast rival Tree, N6TR, operating at KL7RA, by only 34 QSOs and one section. Kirk, NØKK, operating at NØAT, beat Syl, VE5ZX for the Number 2 spot in the Low Power category for the Midwest Region by eight QSOs.

It is often a fool’s gambit to enter a contest such as Sweepstakes and consider it a failure to not win the whole thing. So many variables can influence who wins and who doesn’t that it often is not a fair indication of the quality of any operator’s operation. Do as well as you can, but the better indication of success is often how well you did against yourself (did you increase your score from the previous year) and against those who have propagation that is very similar to yours. Sweepstakes gives you that analysis easily, with both Division leaders and Regional leaders broken out into their own standings.

## Regional Leaders

Q = Single-Op QRP, A = Single-Op, Low Power, B = Single-Op High Power, U = Single-Op Unlimited, M = Multioperator

| Northeast Region   |         |     | Southeast Region                          |         |     | Central Region                                     |         |     | Great Plains Region   |         |     | West Coast Region  |         |     |
|--|---------|-----|---|---------|-----|--|---------|-----|---|---------|-----|--|---------|-----|
| New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections |         |     | Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions |         |     | Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section |         |     | Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections |         |     | Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections |         |     |
| Call   | Score   | Cat | Call                                      | Score   | Cat | Call   | Score   | Cat | Call  | Score   | Cat | Call   | Score   | Cat |
| N2NT (N2NC, op)  | 223,360 | B   | K1TO                                      | 231,628 | B   | W9RE   | 214,560 | B   | NØNI (AG9A, op)   | 232,480 | B   | N9RV   | 232,480 | B   |
| VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)   | 208,800 | B   | K5GO                                      | 222,080 | B   | K9CT   | 190,400 | B   | WDØT  | 230,240 | B   | KL7RA (N6TR, op)   | 224,202 | B   |
| K1RX   | 205,280 | B   | N4AF                                      | 206,880 | B   | W5MX   | 183,040 | B   | W5KFT (K5PI, op)  | 222,560 | B   | K6LA   | 218,720 | B   |
| AA3B   | 205,120 | B   | NP2X                                      | 195,200 | B   | K9BGL  | 173,484 | B   | WXØB (K5GA, op)   | 222,306 | B   | K6XX   | 211,200 | B   |
| K5ZD   | 198,240 | B   | WO4O                                      | 166,690 | B   | KE9I   | 171,040 | B   | N5RZ  | 218,040 | B   | N6TV   | 210,720 | B   |
| K1BX   | 154,524 | A   | N4OGW                                     | 192,480 | A   | N8SS   | 171,746 | A   | KØEU  | 201,120 | A   | K7BG   | 196,552 | A   |
| WY3A   | 154,050 | A   | N4WW (KØLUZ, op)                          | 163,040 | A   | N9CK   | 170,482 | A   | NØAT (NØKK, op)   | 168,640 | A   | K4XU   | 174,240 | A   |
| NO3M   | 152,786 | A   | N4PN                                      | 159,840 | A   | W1NN   | 165,742 | A   | VE5ZX   | 166,720 | A   | N6ZFO  | 165,600 | A   |
| W2LK   | 140,778 | A   | W4IX                                      | 155,520 | A   | AJ9C   | 160,640 | A   | KØAD  | 163,840 | A   | K8IA   | 153,892 | A   |
| N8NA   | 138,528 | A   | NA4K                                      | 148,160 | A   | W8CAR  | 154,524 | A   | NAØN  | 162,008 | A   | N7CW   | 151,840 | A   |
| KR2Q   | 113,256 | Q   | K4RO                                      | 133,600 | Q   | K8MM   | 157,120 | Q   | KØAV  | 117,552 | Q   | NN7SS (K6UFO, op)  | 112,654 | Q   |
| W1ECH  | 73,280  | Q   | W7IY                                      | 97,636  | Q   | K9ZO   | 101,400 | Q   | NC7W  | 110,126 | Q   | N7IR   | 105,456 | Q   |
| W1QK   | 69,300  | Q   | K4QPL                                     | 77,376  | Q   | N9NE   | 91,416  | Q   | NØUR  | 109,810 | Q   | W7YAQ  | 102,226 | Q   |
| K2ZR   | 63,602  | Q   | N4JF                                      | 76,314  | Q   | KT8K   | 78,468  | Q   | KØPC  | 99,698  | Q   | W6JTI  | 94,800  | Q   |
| AA1CA  | 63,294  | Q   | N4UW                                      | 75,660  | Q   | VA3SB  | 77,600  | Q   | N5NA  | 85,004  | Q   | N6KV   | 74,256  | Q   |
| NY3A   | 180,960 | U   | N4BP                                      | 204,480 | U   | NE9U   | 159,680 | U   | WØZA  | 181,120 | U   | N6RO   | 207,680 | U   |
| W1UJ   | 177,120 | U   | N4ZZ                                      | 195,040 | U   | K3WA   | 151,520 | U   | K1KD  | 171,840 | U   | K6LL   | 207,360 | U   |
| K3MM   | 170,240 | U   | W4MR (AA4NC, op)                          | 189,440 | U   | K4FXN  | 145,760 | U   | KØ7X  | 168,000 | U   | KB7Q   | 195,840 | U   |
| N2MM   | 169,760 | U   | W4MYA                                     | 180,960 | U   | K9NW   | 134,720 | U   | NØXR  | 164,960 | U   | KY7M   | 190,240 | U   |
| VE1OP  | 160,800 | U   | N5WR (@ AB4GG)                            | 179,520 | U   | WE9V   | 131,200 | U   | KØOU  | 155,680 | U   | K6TA (N6BV, op)  | 187,704 | U   |
| W2FU   | 209,120 | M   | KP2M                                      | 214,400 | M   | W8EDU  | 132,160 | M   | K5CM  | 202,720 | M   | W6YI   | 222,880 | M   |
| K2NNY  | 201,280 | M   | W4RM                                      | 183,280 | M   | K8DV   | 45,030  | M   | ABØS  | 189,916 | M   | VE6EX  | 166,216 | M   |
| W1AW   | 200,000 | M   | W5RU                                      | 173,920 | M   | VE3CWU   | 11,252  | M   | NC7J  | 187,040 | M   | K7OX   | 154,560 | M   |
| W2RE   | 197,440 | M   | N4UU                                      | 166,400 | M   | W9UX   | 5,368   | M   | KØHB  | 127,032 | M   | K7GT   | 144,640 | M   |
| W3NX   | 156,960 | M   | AC8Y                                      | 109,440 | M   |  |         |     | KØVXU   | 82,536  | M   | K6SU   | 126,280 | M   |

## QRP (Q) Category

You would think that in a contest with as complicated an exchange as SS, a category limited to less power than lights the dial face on a Ham-IV rotator control box would be a tough sell. Yet, QRP is the fourth-most popular category for CW Sweepstakes with 143 logs. (Low Power – 649 logs, Unlimited – 356 logs, High Power – 256 logs, QRP – 143 logs, Multioperator – 57 logs, and School Club – 8 logs was the order of popularity.)



Ian, K8MM, leads the way with 982 QSOs, 80 sections and 157,120 points. On his heels is Kirk, K4RO; Alan, KØAV; Doug, KR2Q; Mark, K6UFO (@NN7SS); NC7W (a club station that did not specify an operator); Jim, NØUR; Gary, N7IR; Bob, W7YAQ and Ralph, K9ZO.

| Top Ten              |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Single-Operator, QRP |         |
| K8MM                 | 157,120 |
| K4RO                 | 133,600 |
| KØAV                 | 117,552 |
| KR2Q                 | 113,256 |
| NN7SS (K6UFO, op)    | 112,654 |
| NC7W                 | 110,126 |
| NØUR                 | 109,810 |
| N7IR                 | 105,456 |
| W7YAQ                | 102,226 |
| K9ZO                 | 101,400 |

K2QO piloted this compact station to a QRP Clean Sweep after 15 years of trying for the coveted broom!

## Low Power (A) Category

The very busy A category, with some 649 logs, was won by Randy, KØEU, with Matt, K7BG, right behind. Randy has won four out of the last five CW Sweepstakes in Low Power, surrendering first place last year to N5AW. It's shaping up to be quite the friendly rivalry between Randy and Matt. "Luck has a little to do with winning," Randy concedes. "Sometimes, there will be one or two mults that you never find calling CQ and that somehow miss you."

"Another thing you have to avoid," he jokes, "is the random appearance of world-class operators such as N5TJ or N6TR slumming in the Low Power category! A few years back, Tree (N6TR) went to W5WMU and decided the amps weren't reliable enough for 'B' operation and he smoked all of us in the 'A' category."

For his part, Matt, having had his tenth straight year in the Top 5, says he needs to improve his accuracy after developing some skills at two-radio contesting (SO2R). "I have stayed in the Top 5 by continually working on antennas that allow me to aim in different directions at once," he writes. "I visited Randy and met him for the first time this past summer and seeing his nice setup and towers motivated me to get some work done on my station prior to SS this year. To put me over the top, I will have to get smarter and work on getting my accuracy back up to where it was a few years ago."

Tor, N4OGW continues to bear Mississippi's flag well, placing third and only about 4,000 points behind Matt. Because Matt lost one section to log checking, Tor's sweep means he needed just 28 more QSOs to claim Number 2. Once again, it's crowded at the top.

From there, the gap widens. Fourth place went to Dick, K4XU in Oregon while Earl, N8SS and Steve, N9CK battled for fifth place, separated by just eight QSOs. You can read more about Steve and Earl in the Regional Competition section.

| Top Ten                    |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Single-Operator, Low Power |         |
| KØEU                       | 201,120 |
| K7BG                       | 196,552 |
| N4OGW                      | 192,480 |
| K4XU                       | 174,240 |
| N8SS                       | 171,746 |
| N9CK                       | 170,482 |
| NØAT (NØKK, op)            | 168,640 |
| VE5ZX                      | 166,720 |
| W1NN                       | 165,742 |
| N6ZFO                      | 165,600 |

Kirk, NØKK, rode NØAT to seventh place while Syl, VE5ZX, Hal, W1NN, and Bill, N6ZFO fought for the last three Top 10 positions. Just squeezing by Bill, Hal actually beat Syl's 1,042 QSOs by seven but Syl's sweep made the difference to Hal's 79 sections.

### High Power (B) Category

Montana seems like an unlikely place from which to win Sweepstakes but according to co-winner Pat, N9RV "It's actually pretty easy from here. You have pretty big pileups calling at times during the first few hours, so you can get an early lead. It's just like Indiana (his former QTH) in that Sunday is the day of score compression where the big leaders fall back and the others come up."

Mark, AG9A (co-winner at NØNI) says Iowa presents some unique challenges for SS. "The highest bands (10 and 15 meters) are not very useful as the coasts end up mainly working each other while we listen in," he writes. Twenty and 40 aren't a lot better. "Eighty meters has always been the money band except when QRN from Midwestern storms really make things difficult. This year, it was just right."

There is no tiebreaker in the rules for SS if for no other reason than there's never been a need for one. But if there were, about the only metric that would have made any difference is minutes operated. Both Mark and Pat had the same number of QSOs (1,453) and the same number of sections (80). The only thing separating the two was minutes operated. Mark achieved his score operating 1,436 minutes to Pat's 1,438.

Like Low Power, High Power is also crowded at the top, with fewer than 100 QSOs spread across the Top 10. After the co-winners are Dan, K1TO, with Todd, WDØT right behind. Because of Dan's 79 sections to Todd's sweep, Todd would have needed just seven more QSOs to take second (or third, however you look at it) place.

Tree, N6TR, traveled to KL7RA for fifth place, followed by John, N2NC (operating at N2NT); Robert, K5PI (operating at W5KFT); Bill, K5GA (operating WXØB); Stan, K5GO and Ken, K6LA.

| Top Ten                     |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Single-Operator, High Power |         |
| N9RV                        | 232,480 |
| NØNI (AG9A, op)             | 232,480 |
| K1TO                        | 231,628 |
| WDØT                        | 230,240 |
| KL7RA (N6TR, op)            | 224,202 |
| N2NT (N2NC, op)             | 223,360 |
| W5KFT (K5PI, op)            | 222,560 |
| WXØB (K5GA, op)             | 222,306 |
| K5GO                        | 222,080 |
| K6LA                        | 218,720 |

### Unlimited (U) Category

Dave, K6LL, who regularly appears at or near the top of Unlimited, once put it best why the category is popular, "Who wants to be 'Limited'?" So it's no surprise that U is the second-most popular category after A. Because it allows for the use of spotting networks, rare is the U op who doesn't get a sweep and that's certainly true for the Unlimited Top 10, where none of the ops missed a section.

Ken, N6RO, won Unlimited, beating K6LL by only three QSOs. If there's an award for the most years operating CW Sweepstakes by a category winner, it would likely go to Ken. "In 58 years of contesting, I've done 57 CW SS contests," he writes. "I missed one while in USAF pilot training. It was my first contest entry in 1953 as a Novice, though I had been on two Field Days before getting my ticket. Since then, it's been fun logging the same old contesting friends and the newer generations of contesters."

Ken's station is a multi-multi powerhouse, with towers for 40, 20, 15 and 10, loops and four-squares for 80 and a four-square for 160. As such, it's actually suited well to two-radio (SO2R) contesting, with lots of separation between towers to cut down on interference.

| Top Ten                    |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Single-Operator, Unlimited |         |
| N6RO                       | 207,680 |
| K6LL                       | 207,360 |
| N4BP                       | 204,480 |
| KB7Q                       | 195,840 |
| N4ZZ                       | 195,040 |
| KY7M                       | 190,240 |
| W4MR (AA4NC, op)           | 189,440 |
| K6TA (N6BV, op)            | 187,704 |
| W6RK                       | 187,360 |
| N6DE (@ K6IDX)             | 185,440 |

Only 18 QSOs behind K6LL was Bob, N4BP. Rounding out the heavily western Top 10 were Gene, KB7Q; Don, N4ZZ; Lee, KY7M; W4MR, operated by Will, AA4NC; K6TA, operated by Dean, N6BV; Risto, W6RK and Dean, N6DE operating at K6IDX. All told, seven of those stations were from the west, from Montana to East Bay to Sacramento Valley and Arizona.

### Multioperator (M) Category

A short contest such as SS doesn't cry out for a multioperator category the way a 48-hour contest might, yet it remains a popular entry category with 57 logs submitted for 2010.

If you listen to Jim, W6YI, whose crew won the M category for 2010, a large part of the attraction is camaraderie.



“Our secret is complete dedication to the team and doing the best we can in the contest,” Jim writes. “We worked together in the both the SS and other tests to improve our skills. We keep the same core group of operators who have been together for years.”

| Top Ten        |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Multi-Operator |         |
| W6YI           | 222,880 |
| KP2M           | 214,400 |
| W2FU           | 209,120 |
| K5CM           | 202,720 |
| K2NNY          | 201,280 |
| W1AW           | 200,000 |
| W2RE           | 197,440 |
| ABØS           | 189,916 |
| NC7J           | 187,040 |
| W4RM           | 183,280 |

Sean KX9X (left), Ward NØAX, and Mike W5MPC (right) piloted W1AW to an even 200,000 points and the New England Multioperator title under the ever-watchful gaze of ARRL Founder, Hiram Percy Maxim, the original W1AW. (Photo by W5MPC)

Marko, N5ZO, joined the W6YI crew this year “and did an outstanding job.” Of course, after a battle such as a radio contest, some relaxation time is indeed in order. “Our traditional BBQ steak dinner Sunday evening is our final act after each contest,” Jim writes.

Like most stations, W6YI is always looking to improve. For 2010, they added a new 15 meter beam and Elecraft K3 transceivers. Jim says operating from California is a challenge without the natural 80 meter cluster of stations that stations further east might enjoy. “We have both lost and won by small margins (as little as one QSO),” he writes.

KP2M, operated by Dave, N3XF and Bob, W1EQ, took second, followed by W2FU (watch those phonetics on SSB, okay?), K5CM and K2NNY round out the Top 5.

The most famous station in history, W1AW, took sixth place, piloted by ARRL Contest Branch manager Sean, KX9X, regular *QST* contributor Ward, NØAX and Mike, W5MPC. W2RE, ABØS, NC7J and W4RM rounded out the Top 10.

### School Club (S) Category

One thing that's proven true year after year is that everybody makes Top 10 in School Club. And that's a shame, because it means there are usually fewer than 10 logs submitted. Rule changes that opened up the category to allow alumni to “Elmer” students and staff should help boost some interest in the category, so get the word out. [*Plus, there are a LOT of records to be set in the School Club category – Ed.*]

For the first time in a long time, KØHC, operated by Bob, WØBH, is not Number 1. That honor belongs to Mike, N7MH, who drove W6YX at the Stanford Amateur Radio Club to a very respectable 1,270 QSOs and 80 sections for 203,200 points. It isn't often that the School Club winner has scores above the leading Low Power category score.



Bob, WØBH, is Number 2 at 1,096 QSOs and is followed by another respectable score put in by Rebecca, KBØVVT operating at W1MX, the club station of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Radio Society and, according to MIT, the oldest college station in America.

The University Amateur Radio Club in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, W4UAL, took 4th while Jon, WO9S, operating at the University of Chicago Amateur Radio Society's N9UC, was 5th. Derek, AA5BT operating at N5XU, the Amateur Radio Club of Texas was 6th; Gregg, WB8LZG, at the Michigan State University's W8SH was 7th and the 8th spot went to Robert, WB2NVR, who operated NYU Amateur Radio Club W2DSC.

| <b>Top Ten School Club</b> |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| W6YX (N7MH, op)            | 203,200 |
| KØHC (WØBH, op)            | 175,360 |
| W1MX (KBØVVT,              | 131,840 |
| W4UAL                      | 73,440  |
| N9UC (WO9S, op)            | 60,060  |
| N5XU (AA5BT, op)           | 16,016  |
| W8SH (WB8LZG, op)          | 8,232   |
| W2DSC (WB2NVR,             | 1,664   |

W6YX, the Stanford Radio Club station, is located on a beautiful hilltop with a multi-tower antenna farm overlooking the famed Silicon Valley, San Francisco Bay, and Oakland Hills to the east. Mike, N7MH, operated from this classic station and took home top prize in the School Club category for 2010. (Photo by NØAX)

### Division Leaders

| Q = Single-Op QRP, A = Single-Op, Low Power, B = Single-Op High Power, U = Single-Op Unlimited, M = Multioperator, S = School |                    |         |     |                |                   |         |     |
|---|--------------------|---------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------|-----|
| Division  | Call               | Score   | Cat | Division       | Call              | Score   | Cat |
| Atlantic  | AA3B               | 205,120 | B   | Northwestern   | K7BG              | 196,552 | A   |
| Atlantic  | WY3A               | 154,050 | A   | Northwestern   | NN7SS (K6UFO, op) | 112,654 | Q   |
| Atlantic  | NY3A               | 180,960 | U   | Northwestern   | KB7Q              | 195,840 | U   |
| Atlantic  | K2ZR               | 63,602  | Q   | Northwestern   | N9RV              | 232,480 | B   |
| Atlantic  | W2FU               | 209,120 | M   | Northwestern   | K7OX              | 154,560 | M   |
| Central   | W9RE               | 214,560 | B   | Pacific        | K6SU              | 126,280 | M   |
| Central   | W9UX               | 5,368   | M   | Pacific        | W6JTI             | 94,800  | Q   |
| Central   | K9ZO               | 101,400 | Q   | Pacific        | N6RO              | 207,680 | U   |
| Central   | N9UC (WO9S, op)    | 60,060  | S   | Pacific        | K6XX              | 211,200 | B   |
| Central   | NE9U               | 159,680 | U   | Pacific        | N6ZFO             | 165,600 | A   |
| Central   | N9CK               | 170,482 | A   | Pacific        | W6YX (N7MH, op)   | 203,200 | S   |
| Dakota  | WDØT               | 230,240 | B   | Roanoke        | W4MR (AA4NC, op)  | 189,440 | U   |
| Dakota  | KØHB               | 127,032 | M   | Roanoke        | W7IY              | 97,636  | Q   |
| Dakota  | K1KD               | 171,840 | U   | Roanoke        | W4RM              | 183,280 | M   |
| Dakota  | NØAT (NØKK, op)    | 168,640 | A   | Roanoke        | W4IX              | 155,520 | A   |
| Dakota  | NØUR               | 109,810 | Q   | Roanoke        | N4AF              | 206,880 | B   |
| Delta   | N4ZZ               | 195,040 | U   | Rocky Mountain | KØEU              | 201,120 | A   |
| Delta   | K4RO               | 133,600 | Q   | Rocky Mountain | WØZA              | 181,120 | U   |
| Delta   | W5RU               | 173,920 | M   | Rocky Mountain | KØAV              | 117,552 | Q   |
| Delta   | N4OGW              | 192,480 | A   | Rocky Mountain | WØUA              | 215,680 | B   |
| Delta   | K5GO               | 222,080 | B   | Rocky Mountain | NC7J              | 187,040 | M   |
| Great Lakes   | W5MX               | 183,040 | B   | Southeastern   | N4WW (KØLUZ, op)  | 163,040 | A   |
| Great Lakes   | K4FXN              | 145,760 | U   | Southeastern   | N4BP              | 204,480 | U   |
| Great Lakes   | W8SH (WB8LZG, op)  | 8,232   | S   | Southeastern   | W4UAL             | 73,440  | S   |
| Great Lakes   | W8EDU              | 132,160 | M   | Southeastern   | N4JF              | 76,314  | Q   |
| Great Lakes   | N8SS               | 171,746 | A   | Southeastern   | K1TO              | 231,628 | B   |
| Great Lakes   | K8MM               | 157,120 | Q   | Southeastern   | KP2M              | 214,400 | M   |
| Hudson  | W2LK               | 140,778 | A   | Southwestern   | N7IR              | 105,456 | Q   |
| Hudson  | N2NT (N2NC, op)    | 223,360 | B   | Southwestern   | K6LL              | 207,360 | U   |
| Hudson  | WT4Q               | 22,344  | M   | Southwestern   | K8IA              | 153,892 | A   |
| Hudson  | KR2Q               | 113,256 | Q   | Southwestern   | K6LA              | 218,720 | B   |
| Hudson  | W2DSC (WB2NVR, op) | 1,664   | S   | Southwestern   | W6YI              | 222,880 | M   |
| Hudson  | K2QMF              | 109,760 | U   | West Gulf      | W5KFT (K5PI, op)  | 222,560 | B   |
| Midwest   | KØHC (WØBH, op)    | 175,360 | S   | West Gulf      | N5DO              | 161,600 | A   |
| Midwest   | ABØS               | 189,916 | M   | West Gulf      | K5CM              | 202,720 | M   |
| Midwest   | NØNI (AG9A, op)    | 232,480 | B   | West Gulf      | N5NA              | 85,004  | Q   |
| Midwest   | NC7W               | 110,126 | Q   | West Gulf      | N5XU (AA5BT, op)  | 16,016  | S   |
| Midwest   | NØXR               | 164,960 | U   | West Gulf      | N5JB              | 126,400 | U   |
| Midwest   | KØVBU              | 132,404 | A   | Canada         | VE5ZX             | 166,720 | A   |
| New England   | K1BX               | 154,524 | A   | Canada         | VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)  | 208,800 | B   |
| New England   | K1RX               | 205,280 | B   | Canada         | VE6EX             | 166,216 | M   |
| New England   | W1AW               | 200,000 | M   | Canada         | VE7XF             | 163,360 | U   |
| New England   | W1ECH              | 73,280  | Q   | Canada         | VA3SB             | 77,600  | Q   |

## Sponsored Plaque Winners for CW Sweepstakes

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

| <b>Division/Plaque Category</b> | <b>Winner</b>                 | <b>Plaque Sponsor</b>                | <b>Division/Plaque Category</b> | <b>Winner</b>                 | <b>Plaque Sponsor</b>                            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Overall</b>                  |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | TIE: N9RV and N0NI (AG9A, op) | Trey Garlough, N5KO                  | <b>Northwestern</b>             | Single Operator High Power CW | N9RV   |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | K0EU                          | Sean Kutzko, KX9X                    | Single Operator Low Power CW    | K7BG                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | K8MM                          | QRP Amateur Radio Club International | Single Operator QRP CW          | NN7SS (K6UFO, op)             | Paul Beringer, NG7Z — Western Washington DX Club |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N6RO                          | Joe, K04RR and Victoria, N4WV        | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | KB7Q                          | Phil Yasson, AB7RW                               |
| Multioperator CW                | W6YI                          | In Memory of Jerry Grokowsky, WA9HCZ | Multioperator CW                | K7OX                          | ICOM America                                     |
| School Club CW                  | W6YX (N7MH, op)               | Straight Key Contest Club            | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    | ICOM America                                     |
| <b>Atlantic</b>                 |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | AA3B                          | North Coast Contesters               | <b>Pacific</b>                  | Single Operator High Power CW | K6XX (K6CDJ)                                     |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | WY3A                          | Potomac Valley Radio Club            | Single Operator Low Power CW    | N6ZFO                         | The Carroll Dean Jensen Memorial                 |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | K2ZR                          | Milt Coleman, K4OSO                  | Single Operator QRP CW          | W6JTI                         | Robert A. Wilson, N6TV                           |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | NY3A                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N6RO                          | Jim Davis, NN6EE                                 |
| Multioperator CW                | W2FU                          | North Coast Contesters               | Multioperator CW                | K6SU                          | ICOM America                                     |
| School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |                                      | School Club CW                  | W6YX (N7MH, op)               | Straight Key Contest Club                        |
| <b>Central</b>                  |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | W9RE                          | Society of Midwest Contesters        | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | W4MR (AA4NC, op)              | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | N9CK                          | Society of Midwest Contesters        | Multioperator CW                | W4RM                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | K9ZO                          | Sean Kutzko, KX9X                    | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |  |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | NE9U                          | Straight Key Contest Club            | <b>Roanoke</b>                  |                               |  |
| Multioperator CW                | W9UX                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator High Power CW   | N4AF                          | Potomac Valley Radio Club                        |
| School Club CW                  | N9UC (WO9S, op)               | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Low Power CW    | W4IX                          | ICOM America                                     |
| <b>Dakota</b>                   |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | WD0T                          | Minnesota Wireless Association       | Single Operator QRP CW          | W7IY                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | N0AT (N0KK, op)               | Minnesota Wireless Association       | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | W4MR (AA4NC, op)              | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | N0UR                          | Tod Olson, K0TO                      | Multioperator CW                | W4RM                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | K1KD                          | Minnesota Wireless Association       | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |  |
| Multioperator CW                | K0HB                          | Minnesota Wireless Association       | <b>Rocky Mountain</b>           |                               |  |
| School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |                                      | Single Operator High Power CW   | W0UA                          | Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado                |
| <b>Delta</b>                    |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | K5GO                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Low Power CW    | K0EU                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | N4OGW                         | ICOM America                         | Single Operator QRP CW          | K0AV                          | Colorado QRP Club                                |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | K4RO                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | W0ZA                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N4ZZ                          | ICOM America                         | Multioperator CW                | NC7J                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Multioperator CW                | W5RU                          | ICOM America                         | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |  |
| School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |                                      | <b>Southeastern</b>             |                               |  |
| <b>Great Lakes</b>              |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | W5MX                          | North Coast Contesters               | Single Operator High Power CW   | K1TO                          | Tom Alderman, W4BQF                              |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | N8SS                          | Mad River Radio Club                 | Single Operator Low Power CW    | N4WW (K0LUZ, op)              | David Brandenburg, K5RQ                          |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | K8MM                          | Mad River Radio Club                 | Single Operator QRP CW          | N4JF                          | Straight Key Contest Club                        |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | K4FXN                         | KD8LL and K4EQ — N8CVH Memorial      | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N4BP                          | Charlie Wooten, NF4A                             |
| Multioperator CW                | W8EDU                         | ICOM America                         | Multioperator CW                | KP2M                          | ICOM America                                     |
| School Club CW                  | W8SH (WB8LZG, op)             | In memory of Raleigh Wert, W8QOI     | School Club CW                  | W4UAL                         | David Brandenburg, K5RQ                          |
| <b>Hudson</b>                   |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | N2NT (N2NC, op)               | ICOM America                         | <b>Southwestern</b>             |                               |  |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | W2LK                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator High Power CW   | K6LA                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | KR2Q                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Low Power CW    | K8IA                          | Larry Serra, N6NC                                |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | K2QMF                         | ICOM America                         | Single Operator QRP CW          | N7IR                          | N6HE and W6DLD                                   |
| Multioperator CW                | WT4Q                          | Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial  | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | K6LL                          | ICOM America                                     |
| School Club CW                  | W2DSC (WB2NVR, op)            | ICOM America                         | Multioperator CW                | W6YI                          | ICOM America                                     |
| <b>Midwest</b>                  |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | N0NI (AG9A, op)               | ICOM America                         | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |  |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | K0VBU                         | Society of Midwest Contesters        | <b>West Gulf</b>                |                               |  |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | NC7W                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator High Power CW   | W5KFT (K5PI, op)              | David Brandenburg, K5RQ                          |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N0XR                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Low Power CW    | N5DO                          | David Brandenburg, K5RQ                          |
| Multioperator CW                | AB0S                          | ICOM America                         | Single Operator QRP CW          | N5NA                          | In Memory of Mick Lange, WB5RSS                  |
| School Club CW                  | K0HC (W0BH, op)               | ICOM America                         | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | N5JB                          | ICOM America                                     |
| <b>New England</b>              |                               |                                      |                                 |                               |  |
| Single Operator High Power CW   | K1RX                          | Mark Olsen, KF1V                     | Multioperator CW                | K5CM                          | ICOM America                                     |
| Single Operator Low Power CW    | K1BX                          | Michael McKaughan, K1DM              | School Club CW                  | N5XU (AA5BT, op)              | David Brandenburg, K5RQ                          |
| Single Operator QRP CW          | W1ECH                         | Mark Olsen, KF1V                     | <b>Canada</b>                   |                               |  |
| Single Operator Unlimited CW    | W1UJ                          | Mark Olsen, KF1V                     | Single Operator High Power CW   | YY2ZM (K1ZM, op)              | ICOM America                                     |
| Multioperator CW                | W1AW                          | Mark Olsen, KF1V                     | Single Operator Low Power CW    | VE5ZX                         | ICOM America                                     |
| School Club CW                  | W1MX                          | Mark Olsen, KF1V                     | Single Operator QRP CW          | VA3SB                         | QRP Amateur Radio Club International             |
|                                 | (KB0VVT, op)                  |                                      | Single Operator Unlimited CW    | VE7XF                         | ICOM America                                     |
|                                 |                               |                                      | Multioperator CW                | VE6EX                         | Straight Key Contest Club                        |
|                                 |                               |                                      | School Club CW                  | No Entrant                    |  |

