

2007 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

Phone band expansion brings new breathing room

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The 2007 ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes will be remembered by many participants as perhaps the most challenging Sweepstakes in modern memory. The dearth of sunspots pushed competitors to the lower frequency bands earlier, and kept them on those bands for long periods of time. Even this was not enough to avoid long skip conditions on 75 meters during most of the nighttime hours. Many eastern participants commented on having their CQ's answered by Europeans, while being unable to work stations within 500 miles of their QTH. The United States phone band expansion came just in time to accommodate the hoards retreating to 75 meters. Participants were certainly thankful for the "extra" 150 kHz of breathing room. Unfortunately for SS aficionados, the phone band expansion did not include 20 meters. With the lack of sunspots keeping the daytime MUF suppressed, 20 meters was the only game in town during daylight hours for most stations in the eastern and central USA. The result was a very crowded band...and that's putting it mildly!

Despite the challenging conditions, **1571** entries were submitted, an increase of 30 entries over 2006. Even more impressive is that **32** new section records were set, along with **6** new division records. Sweepstakes isn't just about setting new records. For many participants, it's a contest-within-a-contest, with the yearly quest for the "clean sweep" (working at least one station in each of the 80 ARRL sections) being the ultimate goal. There were two major challenges this year for earning a clean sweep. There are always some sections which have a limited amount of activity, making QSOs with those sections very coveted. This year, the long skip conditions added the challenge of working "common" close-in sections. Many stations, especially in the northeast USA, were surprised to discover they still need neighboring sections late in the contest. Despite these challenges, **215** stations made the grade for a clean sweep. For W4RK, W5CPT, N9SJ, WC4V, K3UD, K5LAD, N4FR, NR6S and others, it was their first sweep ever! KOHW was thrilled to make a clean sweep this year on both CW and Phone SS, for the first time!

Many new and many long-time hams joined in the Phone SS fun for the first time. For N4JF, it was his first Phone SS in over 50 years, after doing CW SS nearly every year.

The Elusive Clean Sweep

While 215 participants earned clean sweeps (See "Clean Sweep Winners" sidebar for the complete list), another 97 participants came so close, missing only 1 section. What section did they miss? 22 missed the Northern Territories, despite activity from VY1JA, VY1MB, VY1EI, VE8EV, VE8DAV, VE8DW and VE8NSD. 18 missed Newfoundland/Labrador, which was represented by VO1TA, VO1HE, VO1BQ, VO1JNS, VO1MX and VO1MP. Many thanks to these ops for making their rare sections available. Surprisingly, a few participants missed the sweep by not working more common sections, such as Kentucky, Orange, and even South Florida! See the sidebar "Clean Sweep Minus One" for a complete breakdown of what sections were missed by those who worked 79 sections.

High Power Category

The high power, top-10 winners came from all parts of the USA and Canada.

Rich Boyd, KE3Q, completed his streak of 10 consecutive victories from the WP3R superstation in Puerto Rico with 2432 QSOs. In all likelihood, this will be Rich's last operation from WP3R, leaving the field open to a new winner in 2008.

Within the continental USA/Canada, George Fremin, K5TR, operating from central Texas, easily swept the field with 2008 QSOs. Congratulations to George on his 3rd consecutive continental USA/Canada victory! In 3rd place, from the Seattle area, with 1897 QSOs was Dan Honda, W7WA. Very impressive, considering the propagation challenges from the Pacific Northwest.

There was a heated battle for 4th and 5th places, between two South Dakota competitors. When the dust settled, Todd Dravland, WD0T, operating from KD0S, edged out Joe Brown, W0DB, operating from W0SD, by 23 QSOs.

Using only a low beam on 15 meters, and dipoles on 20, 40 and 75 meters, Scott Davis, K5TA, took advantage of his New Mexico QTH for 6th place.

In a rare domestic contest appearance, Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, piloted his Prince Edward Island contest station to a 7th place finish and a new Canadian division record.

8th and 9th places were battled between two California stations. Dean Straw, N6BV out maneuvered Craig Gullickson, N6ED, operating at K6NA. Craig actually had 15 more QSOs, but missed Northern Territories for the clean sweep.

Stan Barczak, K8MJZ, traveled to warm St. Croix, piloting WP2Z to a 10th place finish.

Low Power Category

The "A" precedence is clearly the most popular category for SS participants. This year there were 724 submitted logs in the low power category, more than twice as many as any other category.

Congratulations to Bruce Draper, AA5B (operating from NN5K), for being the winner in the hotly-contested, low power category with 1473 QSOs. This was Bruce's first SS victory since 1988. Not only did he win, but he did it with style by having the lowest busted exchange percentage in the low power top-10. Paul Newberry, N4PN, in his 54th year as a ham, proved he still has what it takes, with a 2nd place, 1398 QSO finish from his Georgia QTH.

John Bayne, KK9A, using the W4AAA callsign, finished 3rd with 1338 QSOs. John is still in the station-building mode from his North Carolina QTH. He is better known by his Aruba, DX contest call, P40A. Showing that you CAN do well from the Midwest black hole, Mike Kasrich, AJ9C, placed 4th with 1217 QSOs. Struggling with New England propagation, Art Hambleton, K1BX, placed 5th.

Two Pacific Northwest stations battled for 6th and 7th places. With a clean sweep, Brad Wallingford, K7ZSD bettered Gene Shea, KB7Q. Gene missed Newfoundland, and bordering sections Saskatchewan and Wyoming. Ouch!

Long-time SS competitor Tom Behman, N6NF, used his ridge-top, Bay Area QTH for 1045 QSOs and 8th place.

Rich Zwirko, K1HTV, fought the long-skip conditions by making 97 topband QSOs on his way to a 9th place finish from Maryland.

Rounding out the top-10 was Bill Lippert, AC0W, from Minnesota. Bill is mooing with satisfaction over his 972 QSOs.

QRP Category

In the best of years, doing QRP in Phone SS is a challenge that tries your patience. With this year's conditions, only the most determined operators stuck it out in this category.

Al Sinopoli, KC5R took advantage of good north-south propagation on 15 and 20 meters for 695 QSOs and a clean sweep on his way to a repeat victory. This is an increase of 65 QSOs over his win last year. Imagine how Al will do with some sunspots?

Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, came in 2nd place from the Indiana black hole. 661 QSOs and a clean sweep is none too shabby with QRP.

After a 50 year hiatus from Phone SS, Jerry Fiore, N4JF returned to “do it right” with a 3rd place finish, a clean sweep, and a new section record from Alabama! Over half his QSOs were made on the difficult 75 meter band. How's that for making a silk purse from a sow's ear?

Jeff Keller, NX9T was happy when the contest was over. Despite missing 4 hours of operating time, he still came in 4th with 519 QSOs.

5th place went to Dan Shepherd, N8IE. Another QRP clean sweep! Dan is becoming a regular in the QRP top-10.

Jim Lageson, N0UR, made 6th place from Minnesota.

A part time effort brought Ralph Bellas, K9ZO a 7th place finish.

Chris, KA1LMR, Joe, N3JW and Doug, VA3DF rounded out the top-10.

Unlimited Category

The unlimited category has become as popular as the high power category, with stiff competition for the top slots.

For the past few years, there has been a three-way battle for top dog between Mitch Mason, K7RL, Tom McAlee, NI1N, and Dave Hachedorian, K6LL. This year, Mitch and his Seattle-area station emerged victorious with a 33 QSO margin over Dave. Tom's 3rd place finish takes top east-coast honors with 1674 QSOs. Tom's great 75 meter signal from Virginia really paid off on Saturday night, but wasn't enough to overcome the west coast daytime high-band domination.

Matt Thomas, WX5S, piloted W7RN to a 4th place finish.

Mitch Stern, WB1GQR made Vermont an easy catch, with a 5th place, 1511 QSO finish.

Close behind were fine 6th and 7th place efforts from the opposite coasts by Bob Wolbert, K6XX and Ty Stewart, K3MM.

The 8th and 9th places went to mid-westerners Craig Thompson, K9CT and Ken Meier, W8MJ. Rounding out the top 10 was Curt Kolovson, W6RQ.

Multioperator Category

Doing a multi-op with a bunch of friends is a great way to build up your contest skills, learn a few new tricks, and enjoy some pizza!

Thanks to a good 15 meter opening, and the team's impressively low error rate, team San Diego, W6YI, operated by Jim, W6YI, Dan, N6MJ, John, K6AM, John, N2NC and Dennis, N6KI took home the 1st place honors.

The Central Texas team at K5NA came in 2nd place. Station owner Richard, K5NA was happy to have Colin, KU5B for doing 99% of the running!

In 3rd place, only 6 QSOs behind was the K9NS team from north of Chicago, operated by KO9A, K9HMB, K9PW and K9XW. A great job from the midwest!

The West Texas team at N5DO, operated by N5DO, KE5OG and K5FD, placed 4th, narrowly missing a new record.

Despite computer troubles, Team SteppIR, K7IR, came in 5th, operated by K7XH, K7IR, K7PU, and K7XS.

Only 6 QSOs down in 6th place was the W0NO team from Kansas, operated by W0NO, AB0S and K0WA. Ed, K1EP, and Doug, K1DG, operated at Doug's Maine vacation home, taking 7th place. The high bands were so bad from there that they made more QSOs on 160 meters than 15 meters!

The Iowa N0NI team of N0NI, N0AC, KE0WO and K0WHV placed 8th over the Ohio team of N8HR by a mere 2 QSOs.

The last-minute antenna work of the NC team at KA1ARB paid-off, with the team finishing out the multi-op top-10

School Club Category

The Hesston College Amateur Radio Club, K0HC, operated by Bob, W0BH, Eric, N0LQU and Nelson, N0LRA won the school club category with 1390 QSOs. This is exactly the same score they had last year, in their winning effort. Great job!

The University of Chicago ARC, N9UC operated by Jon, WO9S, place 2nd, as they did in 2006. The 3rd and 5th places were battled between Big Ten giants, the University of Michigan, W8UM, operated by KA8WFC, K8QKY, K8KS, and KB5AW, and Michigan State University, W8SH, operated by K8MAS and W2NRL. In the end, U-of-M was victorious. Go Blue!

In their first-ever Phone SS, the University of Mississippi ARC, operated by W5MPC, placed 4th. The Virginia Tech ARC, K4KDJ, operated by N4CV, KI4OSL and KF4YLM came in 6th.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln place 7th, operated by WD0BGZ and N0KIS, while Florida Atlantic University, K4FAU, operated by KI4WFJ and W4RIS placed 8th.

Rounding out the top-10 were the University of Pennsylvania ARC, W3ABT, and the Nacogdoches School District ARC, KD5VVI.

Which school is going to oust perennial winners K0HC and N9UC in 2008?

Club Competition

Many thanks to all of the clubs who bang-the-drums to get their members on for Sweepstakes. Considering all the major contests taking place in the 5-week period beginning at the end of October, this is no easy task! I personally have a great appreciation for the positive impact that the club competition has on Sweepstakes participation.

This year, the titans of the west and east coasts, the Northern California Contest Club and the Potomac Valley Radio Club again battled it out for dominance in the Unlimited Club category. When the dust settled, the W6's came out victorious, aided by their 32 entry margin over the capitol-area gang. The Medium Club category featured a very tight race between the 41 entries of midwestern Mad River Radio Club and the 40 entries Southern California Contest Club. The Mad River group came out the winners, by the slimmest of margins. One more semi-serious entry by the Southern California crew would have reversed the standings ! The was also an even tighter race between the 3rd place South East Contest Club and the 4th place Central Texas DX and Contest Club.

In the Local Club category, the seven entries of the New Mexico Big River Contesters narrowly beat the Montana-based Northern Rockies DX Association.

Close Races

For many participants, SS is about bringing home the coveted "section winner" certificate. Often, there is a cross-town, or cross-section rivalry involved with a close friend. There may even be a culinary award for the winner, courtesy of the runner-up - a slice of hot, sizzling, pizza downed with a cold beverage!

This year, there were a number of particularly close section races, detailed in the sidebar "Close Races". The most exciting close race was QRP in Colorado, where two Pikes Peak area contesters battled it out. In the end, Larry, K0RI edged-out Robb, N0RU by 2 QSOs. It's interesting that Larry and Robb operated almost the same number of hours (10 hours), and had the same number of sections (70).

Only 3 QSOs separated Greg, AB7R and Tom, N7WI in the low power race in Western Washington! In the Alabama, low-power category, K4HAL edged out KC4HW by only 5 QSOs, and N4KH by 10 QSOs. That's competition!

Another very close race was in the Sacramento Valley, Unlimited category. Dave, WJ6O, edged out Ira, K2RD, operating at K6IDX, by 11 QSOs, out of a total of over 1200 QSOs. This was a full-time effort by these fine operators.

Accuracy

Thanks to the hard work of Tree, N6TR, over many years, Sweepstakes is arguably, the most accurately adjudicated of all contests. When the submitted scores of potential section, division and category winners are only a few QSOs apart, it's obvious that the operator who is best at accurately copying the SS information should be rewarded. This year there was a very small group of exceptional operators whose accuracy stands out from the rest with their nearly "golden logs". The "Accuracy Honor Roll" lists those operators who made at least 500 QSOs, with an error rate of less than 1.0 %. When you consider the complexity of the SS exchange, this is truly awesome!

The error rates in each category are shown in the table below. It's interesting to observe that the overall error rate statistics are remarkably consistent across all four of the single-operator categories. It's also not surprising that the top-10 in each category exhibited significantly better error rates than the average for the entire category. Download your Log Checking Report (LCR) and see how you compared and how you can improve next year!

| Accuracy Honor Roll | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Call | # QSO's | Category | Error Rate (%) |
| K4CZ | 846 | U | 0.4 |
| W6EU | 826 | U | 0.6 |
| K1PY | 568 | A | 0.7 |
| K3AN | 566 | A | 0.9 |
| N9KT | 671 | Q | 0.9 |
| NN5K | 1496 | A | 0.9 |

| Error Rates by Category – Stations Making Over 100 QSO's | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |

| Category | Average | Best | Worst |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| High-Power | 5.0 | 0.0 | 18.6 |
| (top-10 only) | 2.6 | 1.5 | 3.9 |
| | | | |
| Low-Power | 5.0 | 0.0 | 97.0 |
| (top-10 only) | 2.3 | 0.9 | 3.4 |
| | | | |
| QRP | 3.9 | 0.0 | 11.1 |
| (top-10 only) | 3.2 | 0.5 | 9.4 |
| | | | |
| Unlimited | 3.7 | 0.0 | 17.5 |
| (top-10 only) | 2.1 | 1.1 | 3.7 |
| | | | |
| Multi-Operator | 5.9 | 0.0 | 37.1 |
| (top-10 only) | 4.3 | 2.0 | 8.0 |
| | | | |
| School | 6.4 | 1.1 | 15.9 |

Top Ten

Single Operator, QRP

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| KC5R | 111,040 |
| N9KT | 105,760 |
| N4JF | 87,520 |
| NX9T | 78,888 |
| N8IE | 65,280 |
| N0UR | 50,920 |
| K9ZO | 43,928 |
| KA1LMR | 43,168 |
| N3JW (W5JBV, op) | 39,600 |
| VA3DF | 38,332 |

Single Operator, Low Power

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| NN5K (AA5B, op) | 232,734 |
| N4PN | 223,680 |
| W4AAA (KK9A, op) | 214,080 |
| AJ9C | 194,720 |
| K1BX | 177,280 |
| K7ZSD | 172,480 |
| KB7Q | 170,170 |
| N6NF | 167,200 |
| K1HTV | 163,360 |
| AC0W | 153,576 |

Single Operator, High Power

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| WP3R | 389,120 |
| K5TR | 321,280 |
| W7WA | 299,726 |
| KD0S (WD0T, op) | 290,560 |
| W0SD (W0DB, op) | 286,880 |
| K5TA | 280,960 |
| VY2ZM (K1ZM, op) | 280,640 |
| N6BV | 277,440 |
| K6NA (N6ED, op) | 276,342 |
| WP2Z (K8MJZ, op) | 269,548 |

Single Operator, Unlimited

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| K7RL | 289,920 |
| K6LL | 284,640 |
| NI1N | 267,840 |
| W7RN (WX5S, op) | 243,520 |
| WB1GQR (W1SJ, | 241,760 |
| K6XX | 240,000 |
| K3MM | 237,280 |
| K9CT | 237,120 |
| W8MJ | 225,120 |
| W6RQ (N7MH, op) (| 222,560 |

Multi-Operator

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| W6YI | 310,560 |
| K5NA | 303,200 |
| K9NS (@K9HMB) | 302,240 |
| N5DO | 258,080 |
| K7IR | 240,792 |
| W0NO | 240,000 |
| N1LI | 236,640 |
| N0NI | 226,880 |
| N8HR | 226,560 |
| KA1ARB | 219,840 |

School Club

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| K0HC | 222,400 |
| N9UC (W09S, | 124,480 |
| W8UM | 93,378 |
| W5UMS | 83,266 |
| W8SH | 60,040 |
| K4KDJ | 48,640 |
| N0UNL | 46,900 |
| K4FAU | 41,720 |
| W3ABT | 41,464 |
| KD5VI | 37,224 |

2007 SS Phone Plaque Winners

November SSB Sweepstakes Results Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs, individuals and Icom — the principal awards sponsor for the 2007 ARRL November Sweepstakes — we are pleased to announce that the Overall and Division leaders in each category receives a sponsored Sweepstakes plaque. The ARRL wishes to thank the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible.

| Division/Plaque Category | Winner | Plaque Sponsor |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Overall | | |
| Single Operator High Power | WP3R | Mike Fatchett, W0MU |
| Single Operator Low Power | NN5K (AA5B, op) | Ken Adams, K5KA |
| Single Operator QRP | KC5R | QRP Amateur Radio Club International |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K7RL | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | W6YI | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | K0HC | Icom America, Inc. |
| Atlantic | | |
| Single Operator High Power | KD4D | North Coast Contesters |
| Single Operator Low Power | K1HTV | Potomac Valley Radio Club |
| Single Operator QRP | K3TW | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K3MM | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | K2NNY | Mark Sickmeyer, KB3GJ Memorial |
| School Club | W3ABT | Icom America, Inc. |
| Central | | |
| Single Operator High Power | WB9Z | Society Of Midwest Contesters |
| Single Operator Low Power | AJ9C | Society Of Midwest Contesters |
| Single Operator QRP | N9KT | Sean Kutzko, KX9X |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K9CT | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | K9NS (@K9MHB) | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | N9UC (W09S, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Dakota | | |
| Single Operator High Power | KD0S (WD0T, op) | Minnesota Wireless Association |
| Single Operator Low Power | AC0W | Minnesota Wireless Association |
| Single Operator QRP | N0UR | Tod Olson, K0TO |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K0HW | Minnesota Wireless Association |
| Multioperator | KT0R | In Memory of Jim Dokmo, K0FVF |
| School Club | K0VYV | Minnesota Wireless Association Icom America, Inc. |
| Delta | | |
| Single Operator High Power | W5WMU | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | NA4K | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | KC5R | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | KN5O | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | AE5T (N5OZB, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | W5UMS | Icom America, Inc. |
| Great Lakes | | |
| Single Operator High Power | N8VW | North Coast Contesters |
| Single Operator Low Power | KB4AMA | Mad River Radio Club |
| Single Operator QRP | N8IE | Mad River Radio Club |
| Single Operator Unlimited | W8MJ | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | N8HR | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | W8UM | Icom America, Inc. |
| Hudson | | |
| Single Operator High Power | N2SQW | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | K2UF | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | KR2Q | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | W2GDJ | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | N2PL | Icom America, Inc. |
| Midwest | | |
| Single Operator High Power | K0DEQ | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | K0RH | Society Of Midwest Contesters |
| Single Operator QRP | N0SS | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K0OU | Icom America, Inc. |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Multioperator | W0NO | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | K0HC | Icom America, Inc. |
| New England | | |
| Single Operator High Power | W1XX | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | K1BX | CTRI Contest Group |
| Single Operator QRP | KA1LMR | QRP Club of New England |
| Single Operator Unlimited | WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | N1LI | Icom America, Inc. |
| Northwestern | | |
| Single Operator High Power | W7WA | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | K7ZSD | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | WA7PVE | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K7RL | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | K7IR | Icom America, Inc. |
| Pacific | | |
| Single Operator High Power | N6BV | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | N6NF | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | N6WG | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | W7RN (WX5S, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | W6YX | Icom America, Inc. |
| Roanoke | | |
| Single Operator High Power | NN3W (@N4RV) | Potomac Valley Radio Club |
| Single Operator Low Power | W4AAA (KK9A, op) | Raleigh Amateur Radio Society - W4DW |
| Single Operator QRP | NX9T | NoVa QRP Group |
| Single Operator Unlimited | N11N | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | KA1ARB | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | K4KDJ | Icom America, Inc. |
| Rocky Mountain | | |
| Single Operator High Power | K5TA | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | NN5K (AA5B, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | K0RI | Colorado QRP Club |
| Single Operator Unlimited | W0MU | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | K07X | Icom America, Inc. |
| Southeastern | | |
| Single Operator High Power | WP3R | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | N4PN | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | N4JF | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | NF4A | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | W8JI | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | K4FAU | Icom America, Inc. |
| Southwestern | | |
| Single Operator High Power | K6NA (N6ED, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | WA0KDS | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | N7JXS | N6HE and W6DLD |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K6LL | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | W6YI | Inland Empire ARC |
| West Gulf | | |
| Single Operator High Power | K5TR | Ken Adams, K5KA |
| Single Operator Low Power | K5KA | Ralph "Gator" Bowen, N5RZ |
| Single Operator QRP | WA8ZBT | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Unlimited | K5LAD | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | K5NA | Icom America, Inc. |
| School Club | KD5VVI | Icom America, Inc. |
| Canada | | |
| Single Operator High Power | VY2ZM (K1ZM, op) | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator Low Power | VE5ZX | Icom America, Inc. |
| Single Operator QRP | VA3DF | Frank Merceret, NA4CW |
| Single Operator Unlimited | VE7FO | Icom America, Inc. |
| Multioperator | VE6EX | Icom America, Inc. |

If you wish 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. The cost for duplicate plaques is \$67 (includes shipping).

2007 SS Phone Region Box

Top Five - PH

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

Northeast Region

**(New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions;
Maritime and Quebec Sections)**

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| VY2ZM (K1ZM, op) | 280,640 | B |
| KD4D | 206,080 | B |
| W1XX | 201,134 | B |
| W3IDT | 199,520 | B |
| K3MIM | 193,392 | B |
| K1BX | 177,280 | A |
| K1HTV | 163,360 | A |
| W3LL | 125,920 | A |
| K2UF | 97,644 | A |
| K1PY (@W2TZ) | 85,880 | A |
| KA1LMR | 43,168 | Q |
| K3TW | 29,680 | Q |
| W1ZRO | 25,074 | Q |
| KR2Q | 23,640 | Q |
| N1URA | 17,472 | Q |
| WB1GQR (W1SJ, op) | 241,760 | U |
| K3MM | 237,280 | U |
| N3KS | 219,200 | U |
| Wx3B | 212,474 | U |
| NJ1F | 204,160 | U |
| N1LI | 236,640 | M |
| K2NNY | 212,480 | M |
| N3OC | 208,160 | M |
| N2PL | 182,174 | M |
| W1AW | 179,200 | M |

Southeast Region

(Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| WP3R | 389,120 | B |
| WP2Z (K8MJZ, op) | 269,548 | B |
| K4SSU (NA4BW, op) | 258,400 | B |
| W5WMU | 256,800 | B |
| KP2TM (K9TM, op) | 234,880 | B |
| N4PN | 223,680 | A |
| W4AAA (KK9A, op) | 214,080 | A |
| K4LY | 134,560 | A |
| NA4K | 127,680 | A |
| KZ2I | 117,760 | A |
| KC5R | 111,040 | Q |
| N4JF | 87,520 | Q |
| NX9T | 78,888 | Q |
| N3JW (W5JBV, op) | 39,600 | Q |
| KI3O | 29,376 | Q |
| NI1N | 267,840 | U |
| KN5O | 210,400 | U |
| K2WK | 187,520 | U |
| W4NF | 183,520 | U |
| W4MYA | 179,520 | U |
| KA1ARB | 219,840 | M |
| AE5T (N5OZB, op) | 182,560 | M |
| W5JJ | 174,880 | M |
| W8JI | 166,058 | M |
| KG5VK | 165,440 | M |

Central Region

(Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---|
| WB9Z | 254,400 | B |
| K9GX | 236,480 | B |
| K9BGL | 220,160 | B |
| N0IJ | 219,680 | B |
| N8VW | 176,000 | B |
| AJ9C | 194,720 | A |
| WX9U | 142,896 | A |
| N9AX | 118,880 | A |
| KB4AMA | 106,080 | A |
| K0PJ | 91,416 | A |
| N9KT | 105,760 | Q |
| N8IE | 65,280 | Q |
| K9ZO | 43,928 | Q |
| VA3DF | 38,332 | Q |
| KT8K | 33,460 | Q |
| K9CT | 237,120 | U |
| W8MJ | 225,120 | U |
| W9IU | 181,600 | U |
| N2BJ | 177,120 | U |
| N8TR | 156,320 | U |
| K9NS (@K9HMB) | 302,240 | M |
| N8HR | 226,560 | M |
| NT8V | 142,720 | M |
| N9SJ | 136,320 | M |
| W9YV | 112,970 | M |

Midwest Region

(Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)

| | | |
|------------------|---------|---|
| K5TR | 321,280 | B |
| KD0S (WDOT, op) | 290,560 | B |
| W0SD (W0DB, op) | 286,880 | B |
| K5TA | 280,960 | B |
| W5KFT (WM5R, op) | 265,512 | B |
| | | |
| NN5K (AA5B, op) | 232,734 | A |
| AC0W | 153,576 | A |
| K0RH | 150,384 | A |
| VE5ZX | 144,320 | A |
| VE5SF | 116,640 | A |
| | | |
| N0UR | 50,920 | Q |
| ND0C | 32,900 | Q |
| K0RI | 31,080 | Q |
| N0RU | 30,800 | Q |
| WA8ZBT | 30,756 | Q |
| | | |
| K0OU | 183,680 | U |
| W0MU | 180,800 | U |
| K0HW | 128,160 | U |
| W7UT | 84,160 | U |
| W0TT | 75,360 | U |
| | | |
| K5NA | 303,200 | M |
| N5DO | 258,080 | M |
| W0NO | 240,000 | M |
| N0NI | 226,880 | M |
| K0GND | 217,440 | M |

West Coast Region

**(Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions;
Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)**

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---|
| W7WA | 299,726 | B |
| N6BV | 277,440 | B |
| K6NA (N6ED, op) | 276,342 | B |
| KH7X (KH6ND, op) | 261,440 | B |
| WC6H | 260,960 | B |
| K7ZSD | 172,480 | A |
| KB7Q | 170,170 | A |
| N6NF | 167,200 | A |
| WA0KDS | 117,936 | A |
| VE6CNU | 100,646 | A |
| N6WG | 28,408 | Q |
| WA7PVE | 26,600 | Q |
| KD4HXT | 22,494 | Q |
| W7PT | 13,920 | Q |
| K6XM | 8,730 | Q |
| K7RL | 289,920 | U |
| K6LL | 284,640 | U |
| W7RN (WX5S, op) | 243,520 | U |
| K6XX | 240,000 | U |
| W6RQ (N7MH, op) (@W6YX | 222,560 | U |
| W6YI | 310,560 | M |
| K7IR | 240,792 | M |
| NN7SS | 203,360 | M |
| VE6EX | 196,640 | M |
| W6YX | 178,698 | M |

2007 SS Phone Affiliated Club Competition

Affiliated Club Competition

| | Score | Entries | | Score | Entries |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Unlimited Category | | | | | |
| Northern California Contest Club | 19,130,144 | 273 | Radio Club of Tacoma | 123,780 | 4 |
| Potomac Valley Radio Club | 18,012,122 | 241 | Redmond Top Key Contest Club | 113,520 | 4 |
| Society of Midwest Contesters | 10,448,258 | 173 | Sterling Park ARC | 110,748 | 6 |
| Minnesota Wireless Assn | 5,967,490 | 95 | Low Country Contest Club | 100,866 | 6 |
| Yankee Clipper Contest Club | 5,898,360 | 92 | Fauquier ARA | 87,210 | 3 |
| Medium Category | | | | | |
| Mad River Radio Club | 3,573,384 | 41 | West Allis RAC | 82,900 | 4 |
| Southern California Contest Club | 3,403,560 | 40 | Bergen ARA | 81,998 | 9 |
| South East Contest Club | 2,823,020 | 33 | Florida Contest Club | 79,220 | 3 |
| Central Texas DX and Contest Club | 2,815,172 | 24 | Michigan State University ARC | 70,860 | 4 |
| Florida Contest Group | 2,546,902 | 45 | Central Michigan ARC | 54,500 | 4 |
| Western Washington DX Club | 2,182,682 | 26 | Hazel Park ARC | 50,392 | 3 |
| Tennessee Contest Group | 2,169,706 | 36 | Orange County Radio Amateurs | 30,438 | 3 |
| Frankford Radio Club | 1,825,040 | 36 | Portage County Amateur Radio | 25,896 | 4 |
| Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado | 1,702,102 | 22 | Tri-Town Radio Amatur Club | 17,836 | 3 |
| Alabama Contest Group | 1,487,262 | 21 | Northern Lights Radio Society | 16,136 | 4 |
| Contest Club Ontario | 1,437,768 | 37 | | | |
| North Texas Contest Club | 1,314,092 | 15 | | | |
| Northern Rockies DX Association | 909,928 | 10 | | | |
| Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers | 893,134 | 20 | | | |
| Kentucky Contest Group | 770,438 | 17 | | | |
| Central Arizona DX Assn | 764,098 | 11 | | | |
| Saskatchewan Contest Club | 744,632 | 7 | | | |
| Utah DX Assn | 721,998 | 8 | | | |
| Willamette Valley DX Club | 649,980 | 14 | | | |
| BC DX Club | 616,948 | 9 | | | |
| Motor City Radio Club | 592,866 | 19 | | | |
| Alberta Clippers | 580,772 | 4 | | | |
| Oklahoma DX Assn | 545,266 | 8 | | | |
| Rochester (NY) DX Assn | 529,984 | 7 | | | |
| Carolina DX Assn | 521,938 | 9 | | | |
| Order of Boiled Owls of New York | 364,904 | 6 | | | |
| South Jersey Radio Assn | 352,672 | 5 | | | |
| North Coast Contesters | 269,846 | 4 | | | |
| Western New York DX Assn | 242,756 | 5 | | | |
| East Coast Canada Contest Club | 229,074 | 4 | | | |
| West Park Radiops | 206,746 | 14 | | | |
| Contest Club Du Quebec | 102,896 | 3 | | | |
| Magnolia DX Assn | 83,924 | 3 | | | |
| Texas DX Society | 60,920 | 4 | | | |
| Woodbridge Wireless | 49,714 | 3 | | | |
| Local Category | | | | | |
| New Mexico Big River Contesters | 1,006,474 | 7 | | | |
| Spokane DX Association | 537,230 | 7 | | | |
| Ozark Contest Club | 419,064 | 3 | | | |
| Kansas City DX Club | 361,622 | 3 | | | |

Affiliated Club Competition

| | Score | Entries |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| CTRI Contest Group | 360,372 | 8 |
| Maritime Contest Club | 339,822 | 6 |
| Lincoln ARC | 284,288 | 4 |
| Dominion DX Group | 229,596 | 8 |
| Sussex County ARC | 182,496 | 6 |
| Northern Arizona DX Assn | 177,690 | 4 |
| Salt City DX Assn | 153,712 | 3 |
| North Hills Amateur Radio Contest | 150,708 | 4 |
| Medina 2 Meter Group | 139,004 | 4 |
| Southwest Ohio DX Assn | 127,952 | 4 |

Clean Sweep Winners

| | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| AA0BA | KC5R | NN7ZZ |
| AB4GG | KD0S | NT4Q |
| AC4PY | KD4D | NT8V |
| AC8E | KD5LNO | NW5U |
| AD2P | KE2DX | NY4A |
| AE5T | KE5K | VA3IC |
| AJ3G | KF6T | VE3CR |
| AJ9C | KG4W | VE5CPU |
| K0DEQ | KG5VK | VE5SF |
| K0FVF | KH7X | VE5ZX |
| K0GND | KH7Y | VE6EX |
| K0HC | KI0Y | VE7FO |
| K0HW | KI9A | VY2ZM |
| K0OU | KJ6RA | W0BR |
| K0TO | KM9M | W0ISU |
| K1BX | KN4KL | W0MU |
| K1HTV | KN5O | W0NO |
| K1OU | KO7X | W0SD |
| K2AX | KP2TM | W0TT |
| K2NNY | KT0R | W1AW |
| K2PLF | KU8E | W1NG |

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| K2WK | KW3W | W1QK |
| K3DI | KZ2I | W1WEF |
| K3DNE | N0AT | W2GDJ |
| K3MM | N0IJ | W2VQ |
| K3WW | N0MA | W3IDT |
| K3ZQ | N0NI | W3KB |
| K4CZ | N0PKX | W3LL |
| K4EU | N1LI | W3TMZ |
| K4FPF | N1LN | W4AAA |
| K4IU | N1WR | W4MYA |
| K4IX | N2BJ | W4MY |
| K4LY | N2MF | W4NF |
| K4PV | N2NHN | W4SPA |
| K4SSU | N3II | W5CPT |
| K4TS | N3KS | W5IF |
| K4WX | N3OC | W5JJ |
| K5ER | N3RM | W5MX |
| K5NA | N4FR | W5WMU |
| K5QQ | N4FX | W5WW |
| K5TA | N4JF | W6AFA |
| K5TQ | N4PN | W6DRX |
| K5TR | N5DO | W6EU |

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| K5XR | N5JB | W6KC |
| K6HNZ | N6BV | W6OAT |
| K6IDX | N6DE | W6RQ |
| K6LA | N6HC | W6SR |
| K6LL | N6KI | W6TK |
| K6LRN | N6NF | W6XU |
| K6MM | N6NZ | W6YI |
| K6NR | N6RK | W7RN |
| K6RB | N6TU | W7UT |
| K6RIM | N6XI | W7ZR |
| K6ST | N7WI | W8MJ |
| K6SV | N8HR | W9IU |
| K6VVA | N8IE | W9QL |
| K6XX | N8KAM | W9YK |
| K6YT | N8TR | WA2JQK |
| K7BG | N8VV | WA6O |
| K7MM | N8VW | WB1GQR |
| K7NV | N9AX | WB6JJJ |
| K7RL | N9FC | WB9Z |
| K7XC | N9IO | WC6H |
| K7ZSD | N9KT | WJ6O |
| K9BGL | N9SJ | WK4P |

| | | |
|--------|-------|------|
| K9CT | N9UC | WK6I |
| K9DA | NA4K | WN0G |
| K9GX | NI1N | WP3R |
| K9NS | NI6T | WR4F |
| KA1ARB | NJ1F | WT9U |
| KB0HH | NN7SS | WW9R |
| | | WX7P |
| | | WZ8T |

Clean Sweep Minus One

| Section | Number Missed |
|---------|---------------|
| NT | 22 |
| NL | 18 |
| Qc | 12 |
| Mb | 10 |
| Ak | 6 |
| ND | 4 |
| Sk | 4 |
| Me | 3 |
| SC | 2 |
| WCF | 2 |
| WTx | 2 |

| | |
|-----|---|
| BC | 1 |
| EW | 1 |
| Id | 1 |
| Ky | 1 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Org | 1 |
| PR | 1 |
| RI | 1 |
| SFl | 1 |
| VI | 1 |
| Wy | 1 |

Most Worked Sections

Least Worked Sections

Close Races

| Winner | Runner-Ups | Section | Category | Margin of Victory (#QSO's) | Notes |
|--------|------------|---------|----------|----------------------------|---|
| KD0S | W0SD | SD | B | 23 | #4, #5 placings, much more spread in high claimed. KD0S error rate brought it closer together |
| WX3B | KD4D | Md | B | 40 | Would have been more spread, but WX3B only had 78 mults. Several others within 100 QSO's. |
| N6XI | KI6CG | Sv | B | 29 | |

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|-----|---|-------|--|
| K4HAL | KC4HW, N4KH | Al | A | 5, 10 | |
| WA0WWW | WS7V | Ewa | A | 25 | |
| N5YE | N5II | La | A | 10 | |
| KX1E | KA1C | Me | A | 6 | |
| WZ8T | K8NWD | Mi | A | 19 | |
| WD5JNC | KJ5RC | Ms | A | 14 | |
| AB7R | N7WI | Wwa | A | 3 | |
| K0RI | N0RU | Co | Q | 2 | |
| W2GDJ | KE2DX | Eny | U | 15 | |
| WJ6O | K6IDX | Sv | U | 11 | |

New Section and Division Records

| Call | Category | Section | Score | Division Record |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| N4PN | A | Ga | 223680 | |
| W4AAA | A | NC | 214080 | |
| VY2ZM | B | Mar | 280640 | |
| W1XX | B | RI | 201134 | |
| N4JF | Q | Al | 87520 | |
| N6WG | Q | EB | 28408 | |
| N9KT | Q | In | 105760 | |
| KC5R | Q | La | 111040 | * |
| VE9QRP | Q | Mar | 2842 | |

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|--------|---|
| NX9T | Q | NC | 78888 | |
| W3TZ | U | Ar | 92352 | |
| VE7FO | U | BC | 48640 | |
| K9CT | U | Il | 237120 | * |
| KN5O | U | La | 210400 | * |
| K7BG | U | Mt | 130400 | |
| N8TR | U | Oh | 156320 | |
| N6WK | U | Org | 39974 | |
| W6TK | U | SB | 158560 | |
| NS4SC | U | SC | 63516 | |
| N6NZ | U | SJV | 212320 | |
| NI1N | U | Va | 267840 | * |
| K7RL | U | Wwa | 289920 | * |
| NJ1F | U | Wma | 204160 | |
| N0NI | M | Ia | 226880 | |
| N1LI | M | Me | 236640 | |
| W6YI | M | Sdg | 310560 | |
| K5NA | M | Stx | 303200 | |
| W8UM | S | Mi | 93378 | * |
| W5UMS | S | Ms | 83266 | |
| N0UNL | S | Ne | 46900 | |
| K0VVY | S | SD | 18908 | |

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|-------|--|
| K4FAU | S | Sfl | 41720 | |
|-------|---|-----|-------|--|

QSOs per Hour

| HOUR | 160 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 10 | TOTAL |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 2100 | 4 | 10 | 4368 | 19829 | 8008 | 0 | 32219 |
| 2200 | 0 | 1723 | 5436 | 19941 | 3095 | 0 | 30195 |
| 2300 | 0 | 5726 | 4910 | 14431 | 35 | 0 | 25102 |
| 0 | 9 | 8060 | 8733 | 4495 | 11 | 0 | 21308 |
| 100 | 129 | 9533 | 9905 | 333 | 0 | 0 | 19900 |
| 200 | 608 | 10768 | 9243 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 20674 |
| 300 | 578 | 13003 | 6137 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19718 |
| 400 | 635 | 13535 | 4843 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 19014 |
| 500 | 501 | 13983 | 4672 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 19158 |
| 600 | 73 | 11680 | 4518 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 16280 |
| 700 | 8 | 10174 | 2540 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 12741 |
| 800 | 0 | 6518 | 1267 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7785 |
| 900 | 0 | 3448 | 294 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3743 |
| 1000 | 0 | 2209 | 263 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 2483 |
| 1100 | 0 | 3661 | 656 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4321 |
| 1200 | 0 | 6293 | 3065 | 113 | 1 | 0 | 9472 |
| 1300 | 0 | 4707 | 6482 | 2433 | 4 | 0 | 13626 |
| 1400 | 1 | 978 | 7631 | 9118 | 61 | 0 | 17789 |
| 1500 | 0 | 79 | 7787 | 11579 | 1118 | 0 | 20563 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| 1600 | 15 | 29 | 6071 | 11839 | 5070 | 0 | 23024 |
| 1700 | 15 | 5 | 4969 | 11143 | 7841 | 0 | 23973 |
| 1800 | 4 | 5 | 4165 | 12020 | 6603 | 0 | 22797 |
| 1900 | 0 | 15 | 4534 | 10925 | 5841 | 2 | 21317 |
| 2000 | 1 | 23 | 5691 | 12126 | 4520 | 3 | 22364 |
| 2100 | 0 | 917 | 6347 | 12852 | 951 | 1 | 21068 |
| 2200 | 0 | 4444 | 5104 | 10842 | 15 | 1 | 20406 |
| 2300 | 14 | 7041 | 5303 | 5325 | 0 | 0 | 17683 |
| 0 | 52 | 7388 | 6560 | 680 | 0 | 0 | 14680 |
| 100 | 629 | 9629 | 2782 | 60 | 1 | 2 | 13103 |
| 200 | 553 | 7888 | 1432 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 9887 |
| Total | 3829 | 163472 | 145708 | 170200 | 43175 | 9 | 526393 |

Entries per Category

| Category | # Clean Sweeps | Total Entries |
|----------|----------------|---------------|
| Q | 4 | 71 |
| A | 28 | 724 |
| B | 53 | 301 |
| M | 43 | 160 |
| U | 85 | 300 |
| S | 2 | 15 |
| | 215 | 1571 |

2007 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

Confessions of a New Ham and Contester

K4XD



It's my second year of hamming and second SS, and this contest is growing on me! It's the right length to feel like you've really done something but not so long that you start thinking about cleaning the garage. You can get a decent run going without a ton of aluminum in the backyard. It stretches you enough to feel that you're a slightly better operator than when you started and you can spend most of Saturday tinkering with your rig so it will break unexpectedly during the test and keep you from getting bored.

And SS is not above throwing a sucker punch now and then to keep you on your toes - like the band conditions Saturday night. I confess, prior to Saturday night I wouldn't have thought of 80M as the best band for a schedule with my friends in CA, but it sure was on Saturday. Or did half the hams in CA get together and build 4 element 80M yagis for October's club construction project? I worked one S9+ SV / SCV / SF station after another, but the guys "up the street" in VA and MD sounded like they were calling from a rock in the South China Sea.

My goal was to break 100K points. In retrospect, that may have been too modest of a goal, but it seemed like the logical "next target" after last year's performance. My other goal was to work the full 24 hours, which I almost did. I got confused toward the end and took off 30 minutes more than I should have. Had a nice dinner though!

In my extensive experience of four Sweepstakes, MB and NT have been the nail-biter sections to get, so I was quite pleased to work both in the first hour. The two holdouts were ND and, of all things, SB. A ND guy called me during my run on 20M (thanks!) and relieved that pressure, and then I saw a spot for SB, called him, and thanked him for the sweep. Note to the endless parade of SV/SCV/SF guys - if you want a bigger pileup next year, take one of those 4 element yagis to SB.

If you use any kind of digital voice keyer, I recommend plugging your transceiver into a dummy load and listening on a second receiver. Nothing works as well to let you know how you'll sound on the air as you fiddle with audio levels, compression, and filter settings.

But the DVK felt a bit sterile, and during the contest, I ended up using "live audio" for most of the exchanges. It just kept me more involved. Despite living in the South for almost 30 years, my native New Yorker background lets me talk fast on demand. Somehow, the momentum of the run seems broken when you hit a key and wait in silence for 10 seconds while the computer does the work. I did use the DVK to give my voice a rest when it started getting a little hoarse. I was glad it was there at those moments.

On to the event itself. By 2030Z the bands were starting to fill with SS warm-up traffic and the excitement was palpable. Kind of like the buzz in the stadium before the team takes the field. Then at 2100 UTC, pandemonium. Even though CQ WW SSB was only a few weeks earlier, I wasn't quite prepared for the signal density on 20M at 2100:01. I tried running but could barely hear the people who answered me through the splatter. I hereby (hearby?) christen those who run at 125/hour or better in the first four hours

of Sweeps as having "Ears of Steel". My hat is off to you gents. Can I borrow your ears next time? Or at least your receiving antennas?

My pre-game mental image of finding a nice quiet 3 kHz wide spot, setting up shop and confidently answering a 150/hr run quickly degenerated into a mad rush to try to get through any pileups in a frenzy of increasingly erratic S&P. Minutes ticked by and the Q's did not mount up according to my well-conceived plan. As Mike Tyson once said, "everyone has a strategy until they get hit". It was positively depressing to give my exchange "W6XYZ, please copy number 33U K4XD 06 NC" after hearing "K4XD, please copy 225A W6XYZ 58 SV." After a couple hours of increasingly desperate S&P I went to 40M, remembering my semi-decent runs from SS CW only two weeks back. OK, this has to get better. Not. I managed to follow up two 26 hours on 20M with a 22 Q run on 40M that took 90 minutes. I literally kept checking my antenna switch to make sure I wasn't still plugged into the dummy load. "Hello, hello, is this thing turned on?"

At this point I remembered all the talk on the reflector about 80M being the "SS money band" OK, I needed some cash, fast. I went down to 80M and the Left Coast was booming in there too. Only problem was the East Coast was not. So I S&P'd on 80M for a couple of hours, with my rate still hovering in the mid-30's. At this point I compared my rate to that of SS CW from a couple weeks ago and it was actually lower. I almost bagged it in disgust, but just like in the movies, I said to myself, "Don't stop now, you're not a quitter!" and soldiered on with images of glory in my mind. And things started to improve - I found a spot in the Extra band that had almost 2 kHz of splatter-free spectrum and parked there, enjoying, at last, a couple hours of slowly improving rates. Still nothing to get excited about, but the needle was starting to move in the right direction, with some bursts up to 100/hour.

At 3:30AM local time, things started to slow down, including my brain, so I figured it was a good time for Break Number One. Although I read that I should sleep in multiples of 90 minutes, when the alarm went off at 6:30AM local I reasoned that 40 would be open to W1 and W2 land for at least a couple of hours past sunrise so I hit the snooze button and got 30 more minutes of blissful shut-eye.

I spent a little time on 80M and finally, the East Coast was LOUD. Yay! Life was normal again. Up to 40M at 1300 and things really started flowing. Nothing like seeing the QSO rate meter hitting 130/hr! I know, for many of you that's when you look to see if you accidentally switched in the dummy load, but for me it is Big Fun. No 130 Q hours, just a nice peak rate there and many minutes of rate above 60. My best hour was 80 Q's on 40M at 1500. Things started slowing down quite a bit after that and I spent the rest of the afternoon alternating 30 minute breaks with 30 min S&P's and piddly runs on 20M.

At 2100Z I found a nice slot at 14.205 and spent the next two hours generating 105 Q's there. Still not a neck-snapping pace by any stretch, but some good stretches with back-to-back Q's and two or three callers at a time.

A nice "beginner's pileup." Thanks!

At 2126 I saw a spot for SB and hopped up to 14.269 to work W6TK for the sweep. Thanks OM. I'm not sure what made me happier, getting the sweep or finding my run frequency still available when I came back. I know I'm not supposed to chase mults during SS, but hey, I'm compulsive and staring at the white dots in WriteLog's multiplier window just eats at me.

Where do you go after 20M slows down? 40M of course. Well, after 20 minutes and 4 Q's on 40M, I had second thoughts so back to 80 we go for the rest of the night. I ran for 90 minutes on 3.824 and 3.864, and then things started slowing down and the splatter from people with the same idea started getting in the way of Q's with the weaker stations. I recalled all that nice spectrum below 3.8 and decided to play there for the last 30 minutes. Fifteen minutes from the end stations started coming out of the woodwork and kept me busy until the final buzzer sounded. I didn't see myself spotted, and I really thought the rate would be higher in the General end of the band, but maybe a lot of others were avoiding the QRM too.

Even more random thoughts:

- An amplifier is a good thing.
- I'm really glad I hooked up my AL-80B as a switchable alternate amp to my THP solid state amp. The AL-80B laughs at SWR that shuts the THP down. It runs like a tank for hours. The THP gets tired (OK, hot) and starts cranking back power after CQ'ing every 3 seconds for a while. But the THP rocks for S&P.
- My score would probably double if I could get points for all the cheap PC speakers in the neighborhood I "contacted."
- I wish I had the antennas of the Q precedence stations with the S9 signals

- Even though for much of the contest my rate was mediocre, thanks to BIC I'm happy with the result
- I'm too new at this to feel bad about a score under 250K
- I'm in awe of people with Ears of Steel
- I'm in awe of the people who racked up my score or better in 5 hours
- I tried my new K9AY loop a couple of times but it was easier to just shout "your number, AGAIN AGAIN!" until I was hearing it in my sleep
- Hams are by and large very patient people. When I shouted, "your number, AGAIN AGAIN," they all calmly repeated their numbers. Thanks!
- S&P is OK but Running IS

For next year: Figure out how to run more. Improve my receiving antennas. Record even shorter DVK messages.

I know it's popular to say "ham radio is dying" but SS proves to me there are a lot of operators and a lot of good stations out there, still waiting for the right stimulus to come along and activate them. Contesting, and SS in particular, is clearly a powerful stimulus. So are big DXpeditions. It wouldn't hurt for us to dream up some more.

2007 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

A Sweepstakes That Dave Would Be Proud Of

A Tribute to Dave Ranney, KT0R

It was a difficult fall losing Dave, KT0R, to cancer in September at the age of 42. I couldn't have been any prouder to be part of the Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) this fall with the show of support the group gave Dave and his family. After operating this weekend at the mighty KT0R station I once again am very happy to be part of such a fine group. I spent the weekend with a great group of guys and the many on the air comments of support from all over North America were incredible. We put together a little club to take Dave's call and protect it in hopes that one day one of his young sons would want it. In the meantime we want to make the call active when possible. It took a lot of work on the part of Jim, KE0L, to get the club set up. Dave's wife Adrienne really encouraged us to do SS from the house so we wanted to put in a good showing.

The work started a week before SS when Bob, Jim, and I went Dave's shack to set up the computers and get everything ready. Dave always took care of this for us so it took several hours to understand it all. Contest day arrived and Rich and I started the contest off with a bang. Rich, one of the MWA's premier phone ops, took the big run chair on 20 and got us off to a flying start. Things were right on pace with previous years until Murphy visited us at 23:45 when we ran into a computer problem. We took a 40 minute break and lost some prime run time on 40 meters while fixing it. Shortly after we had things going again 40 seemed to go very long so we were forced to run on 80. Jim arrived with pizza for the whole house and soon Neil joined us. After some M/S SS and TR training Jim and Neil took the late night shift. They even picked up 30 plus Q's on 160 with things so bad on 40.

The rest of our off time was taken in one chunk and I started things again Sunday morning at 13:50. This was the most difficult part of the contest for me. All these years I would show back up Sunday morning after staying until late Saturday night. Dave would be waiting for me and have things ready to go in the shack. It was so odd to walk in the shack alone and start running. Part of me just expected Dave to be waiting there for me again. Maybe he was. I would like to think so.

Al and Bob joined me at 16:00 and we suffered together through the pain of SS Sunday afternoon. It really wasn't painful because of the good company. One of the things I have always enjoyed about SS at Dave's was Dave, Al, and I chatting with each other on Sunday about a wide range of subjects. I enjoyed the same with Al and Bob. Jim showed back up for awhile which gave us time to take a break upstairs with Adrienne and the boys for leftover pizza. Later that afternoon Adrienne showed up in the shack with home made banana bread. How's that for a contest snack!

Rich and I took the last three hours to finish out the contest. Once again 40 went long early and we were forced to 80 meters. To my surprise there was activity on 160 and I managed to work 30 Q's there. In all the years of SS at Dave's we have rarely made a 160 Q. This year our 160 total is greater then our 15 total! The last couple hours of SS are painful as one pleads for more Q's while endlessly CQ'ing but, Dave would always be cheering us on to get the most Q's possible. I kept remembering him doing this and that made it a little easier to finish.

We did our best to come up with a respectable showing for KT0R. With half the crew new to SS at KT0R there was a learning curve and our computer glitch cost us a little but, I think Dave would have been proud of our effort. One of the most gratifying parts of the weekend was the many comments we got from contesters all over the country... words of encouragement for us and condolences for the family. It seems my email to the CQ-Contest list got the word out. The most amazing was when we worked N4OX on 40 meters. He had a great run frequency yet, he took a minute of silence to honor Dave and then came back on saying "73 Dave". Contesters truly are a great group and I am so glad to be part of it!

73,

Greg -- K00B