

# 2010 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes Results

There's a first time for everything!

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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 the single-op categories, 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 cowinners of the contest.

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."

Only 2200 points, or 14 QSOs, separated fourth-place WDØT from the cowinners. In third place, Dan, K1TO, actually finished with more QSOs than Pat and Mark, but with one fewer section. Missing Puerto Rico cost him the victory.

## 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 cowinner 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 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 US 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 location 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.

Some of the most interesting regional and divisional victories: Art, K1BX, who squeaked out a win in the Northeast Region over WY3A in Low Power by only three QSOs. NY3A eked out a tight victory in the Unlimited category over W1UJ in the Northeast Region by a mere 24 QSOs. In High Power, also in the Northeast Region, N2NT (operated by John, N2NC) beat Jeff, K1ZM, (operating from his Prince Edward Island, Canada location as VY2ZM, by 91 QSOs.

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 cowinner 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 second spot in the Low Power category for the Midwest Region by eight QSOs.

## 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



## 2010 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW

Single Operator, High Power		Single Operator, Unlimited	
T/E: N9RV, NØNI			
(AG9A, op)	232,480	N6RO	207,680
K1TO	231,628	K6LL	207,360
WDØT	230,240	N4BP	204,480
KL7RA		KB7Q	195,840
(N6TR, op)	224,202	N4ZZ	195,040
N2NT		KY7M	190,240
(N2NC, op)	223,360	W4MR	
W5KFT		(AA4NC, op)	189,440
(K5PI, op)	222,560	K6TA	
WXØB		(N6BV, op)	187,704
(K5GA, op)	222,306	W6RK	187,360
K5GO	222,080	N6DE	
K6LA	218,720	(@ K6IDX)	185,440
Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator	
KØEU	201,120	W6Y1	222,880
K7BG	196,552	KP2M	214,400
N4OGW	192,480	W2FU	209,120
K4XU	174,240	K5CM	202,720
N8SS	171,746	K2NNY	201,280
N9CK	170,482	W1AW	200,000
NØAT		W2RE	197,440
(NØKK, op)	168,640	ABØS	189,916
VE5ZX	166,720	NC7J	187,040
W1NN	165,742	W4RM	183,280
N6ZFO	165,600	School Club	
Single Operator, QRP		W6YX	
K8MM	157,120	(N7MH, op)	203,200
K4FO	133,600	KØHC	
KØAV	117,552	(WØBH, op)	175,360
KR2Q	113,256	W1MX	
NIN7SS		(KBØVVT, op)	131,840
(K6UFO, op)	112,654	W4UAL	73,440
NC7W	110,126	N9UC	
NØUR	109,810	(WØ9S, op)	60,060
N7IR	105,456	N5XU	
W7YAQ	102,226	(A5BT, op)	16,016
K9ZO	101,400	W8SH	
		(WB8LZG, op)	8,232
		W2DSC	
		(WB2NVR, op)	1,664

## 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.

Division/Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor	Division/Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
<b>Overall</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	TIE: N9RV and N0NI (AG9A, op)	Trey Garlough, N5KO	<b>Northwestern</b>		
Single Operator Low Power CW	K0EU	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	Single Operator High Power CW	N9RV	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	K8MM	QRP Amateur Radio Club International	Single Operator Low Power CW	K7BG	Paul Beringer, NG7Z — Western Washington DX Club
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N6RO	Joe, K04RR and Victoria, N4WV	Single Operator QRP CW	NN7SS (K6UFO, op)	Phil Yasson, AB7RW
Multipoperator CW	W6YI	In Memory of Jerry Grokowsky, WA9HCZ	Single Operator Unlimited CW	KB7Q	ICOM America
School Club CW	W6YX (N7MH, op)	Straight Key Contest Club	Multipoperator CW	K7OX	ICOM America
<b>Atlantic</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	AA3B	North Coast Contesters	School Club CW	No Entrant	
Single Operator Low Power CW	WY3A	Potomac Valley Radio Club	<b>Pacific</b>		
Single Operator QRP CW	K2ZR	Milt Coleman, K4OSO	Single Operator High Power CW	K6XX	The Carroll Dean Jensen Memorial (K6CDJ)
Single Operator Unlimited CW	NY3A	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	N6ZFO	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
Multipoperator CW	W2FU	North Coast Contesters	Single Operator QRP CW	W6JTI	Jim Davis, NN6EE
School Club CW	No Entrant		Single Operator Unlimited CW	N6RO	ICOM America
<b>Central</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	W9RE	Society of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator CW	K6SU	Straight Key Contest Club
Single Operator Low Power CW	N9CK	Society of Midwest Contesters	School Club CW	W6YX (N7MH, op)	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	K9ZO	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	<b>Roanoke</b>		
Single Operator Unlimited CW	NE9U	Straight Key Contest Club	Single Operator High Power CW	N4AF	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Multipoperator CW	W9UX	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	W4IX	ICOM America
School Club CW	N9UC (WO9S, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	W7IY	ICOM America
<b>Dakota</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	WD0T	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Unlimited CW	W4MR (AA4NC, op)	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	N0AT (N0KK, op)	Minnesota Wireless Association	School Club CW	W4RM	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	N0UR	Tod Olson, K0TO	<b>Rocky Mountain</b>		
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K1KD	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator High Power CW	W0UA	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado
Multipoperator CW	K0HB	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Low Power CW	K0EU	ICOM America
School Club CW	No Entrant		Single Operator QRP CW	K0AV	Colorado QRP Club
<b>Delta</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	K5GO	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	W0ZA	ICOM America
Single Operator Low Power CW	N4OGW	ICOM America	Multipoperator CW	NC7J	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	K4RO	ICOM America	School Club CW	No Entrant	
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N4ZZ	ICOM America	<b>Southeastern</b>		
Multipoperator CW	W5RU	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	K1TO	Tom Alderman, W4BQF
School Club CW	No Entrant		Single Operator Low Power CW	N4WW (K0LUZ, op)	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
<b>Great Lakes</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	W5MX	North Coast Contesters	Single Operator QRP CW	N4JF	Straight Key Contest Club
Single Operator Low Power CW	N8SS	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N4BP	Charlie Wooten, NF4A
Single Operator QRP CW	K8MM	Mad River Radio Club	Multipoperator CW	KP2M	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K4FXN	KD8LL and K4EQ — N8CVH Memorial	School Club CW	W4UAL	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
Multipoperator CW	W8EDU	ICOM America	<b>Southwestern</b>		
School Club CW	W8SH (WB8LZG, op)	In memory of Raleigh Wert, W8QOI	Single Operator High Power CW	K6LA	ICOM America
<b>Hudson</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	N2NT (N2NC, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator Low Power CW	K8IA	Larry Serra, N6NC
Single Operator Low Power CW	W2LK	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	N7IR	N6HE and W6DLD
Single Operator QRP CW	KR2Q	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	K6LL	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	K2QMF	ICOM America	Multipoperator CW	W6YI	ICOM America
Multipoperator CW	WT4Q	Stuart Silverstein, K3UEI, Memorial	School Club CW	No Entrant	
School Club CW	W2DSC (WB2NVR, op)	ICOM America	<b>West Gulf</b>		
<b>Midwest</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	N0NI (AG9A, op)	ICOM America	Single Operator High Power CW	W5KFT (K5PI, op)	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
Single Operator Low Power CW	K0VBU	Society of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Low Power CW	N5DO	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
Single Operator QRP CW	NC7W	ICOM America	Single Operator QRP CW	N5NA	In Memory of Mick Lange, WB5R5S
Single Operator Unlimited CW	N0XR	ICOM America	Single Operator Unlimited CW	N5JB	ICOM America
Multipoperator CW	AB0S	ICOM America	Multipoperator CW	K5CM	ICOM America
School Club CW	K0HC (W0BH, op)	ICOM America	School Club CW	N5XU (AA5BT, op)	David Brandenburg, K5RQ
<b>New England</b>					
Single Operator High Power CW	K1RX	Mark Olsen, KF1V	<b>Canada</b>		
Single Operator Low Power CW	K1BX	Michael McKaughan, K1DM	Single Operator High Power CW	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	ICOM America
Single Operator QRP CW	W1ECH	Mark Olsen, KF1V	Single Operator Low Power CW	VE5ZX	ICOM America
Single Operator Unlimited CW	W1UJ	Mark Olsen, KF1V	Single Operator QRP CW	VA3SB	QRP Amateur Radio Club International
Multipoperator CW	W1AW	Mark Olsen, KF1V	Single Operator Unlimited CW	VE7XF	ICOM America
School Club CW	W1MX (KB0VVT, op)	Mark Olsen, KF1V	Multipoperator CW	VE6EX	Straight Key Contest Club
			School Club CW	No Entrant	



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, Multipoperator — 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 are Kirk, K4RO; Alan, K0AV; Doug, KR2Q; Mark, K6UFO (@NN7SS); Dave, W7FB operating NC7W; Jim, N0UR; Gary, N7IR; Bob, W7YAQ, and Ralph, K9ZO.

## Low Power (A) Category

The very busy A category, with some 649 logs, was won by Randy, K0EU, with Matt, K7BG, right behind. Randy has won four out of the last five CW Sweepstakes in Low Power, surrendering first place in 2009 to N5AW. It's shaping up to be quite the friendly rivalry between Randy and Matt. For his part, Matt, having had his 10<sup>th</sup> straight year in the Top 5, says he needs to improve his accuracy after developing some skills at two-radio contesting (SO2R). Tor, N4OGW, continues to bear Mississippi's flag well, placing third and only

about 4000 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.

Kirk, N0KK, rode N0AT to seventh place while Syl, VE5ZX, Hal, W1NN, and Bill, N6ZFO fought for the last three Top 10 posi-

tions. 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

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. Cowinners Mark, AG9A (operating from NØNI), and Pat, N9RV, had the same number of QSOs (1453) and the same number of sections (80). The only thing separating the two was minutes operated. Mark achieved his score operating 1436 minutes to Pat's 1438.

Like Low Power, High Power is also crowded at the top, with fewer than 100 QSOs spread across the Top 10. After the cowinners 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, depending on how 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.

## 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 operator who doesn't get a sweep and that's certainly true for the Unlimited Top 10, where none of the operators missed a section.

Ken, N6RO, won Unlimited, beating K6LL by only three QSOs. 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.

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.

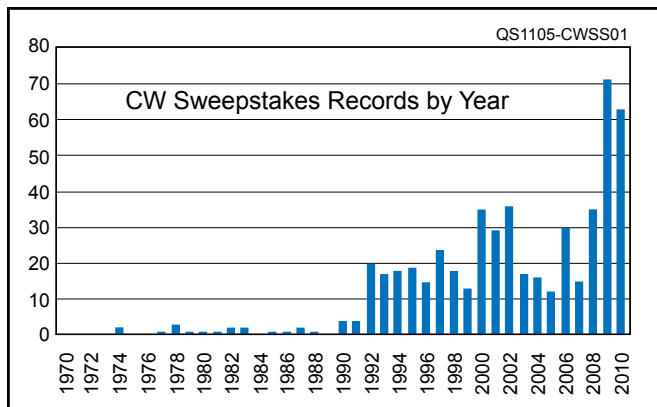
## Category Winners

Category	Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Section
Single Operator High Power — TIE!	N9RV	232,480	1,453	80	MT
Single Operator High Power — TIE!	NØNI (AG9A, op)	232,480	1,453	80	IA
Single Operator Low Power	KØEU	201,120	1,257	80	CO
Single Operator QRP	K8MM	157,120	982	80	MI
Single Operator Unlimited	N6RO	207,680	1,299	80	EB
Multioperator	W6YI	222,880	1,393	80	SDG
School Club	W6YX (N7MH, op)	203,200	1,270	80	SCV

COURTESY GEORGE WAGNER, K5KG



**George Wagner, K5KG, traveled to Dickinson, North Dakota to break that section's Single Operator, Low Power record set back in 1992 by long-time North Dakota mult WBØO. With 966 QSOs and a Sweep from the NØUD club station, George walked away with the new record!**



**Figure 1 — A histogram showing the number of records set in each year of CW Sweepstakes since 1970. The oldest current records are a pair from 1974. There are only 18 records still standing from before 1990. Seventy-one records were set in 2009 and 63 in 2010.**

## 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. Like most stations, the Multioperator winner W6YI team is always looking to improve. For 2010, they added a new 15 meter beam and Elecraft K3 transceivers. Jim, W6YI, says operating from California is a challenge without the natural 80 meter cluster of stations that stations farther 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 ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager 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.

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 1270 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 1096 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.

The University Amateur Radio Club in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, W4UAL, took fourth while Jon, WO9S, operating at the University of Chicago Amateur Radio Society's N9UC, was fifth. Derek, AA5BT, operating at N5XU, the

Amateur Radio Club of Texas was sixth; Gregg, WB8LZG, at the Michigan State University's W8SH was seventh and the eighth spot went to Robert, WB2NVR, who operated NYU Amateur Radio Club W2DSC.

## Online Extended Version

For more about the contest including conversations with the leaders, please log onto the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles). You'll find photos and comments from the contest entrants on the ARRL Soapbox page at [www.arrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/soapbox).