

# February 2003 CW Sprint Results

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The 1952 Olympics were held in the same city as the WRTC-2002 event—Helsinki. The Duke of Edinburgh arranged his schedule so he could be there for what was sure to be a historic moment—the running of the 1500-meter race (the metric mile). One of his countrymen was the favorite for that race and he wanted to be there to see the Union Jack raised. However, it was not to be. The English runner was jostled during the race and never got into contention. He finished fourth, a major disappointment. Three years later, this runner would retire from the sport and never run again in competition. He would go on to finish his degree at Oxford and live a long life. His name? Roger Bannister.

After this setback, John Landy (not to be confused with John Laney, K4BAI), became the favorite to run the world's first four-minute mile. He had a number of runs that came close, but could never get below 4:01:30. Every time he ran in competition, everyone wondered if this would be the time he put everything together and went below 4 minutes. It was an exciting time in the sport.

## Guest Operator List

K7RI (K7SS at K7RI)  
K9SD (KA0GGI)  
KL7WV (W3YQ)  
N2RM (N2NC)  
N4AO (WC4E)  
N6MJ (N6MJ at W6KP)  
NT5TU (UA0OFF)  
W4CAT (W4PA)  
W5KFT (K5PI)  
W6EEN (N6RT)  
W6JPL (W4EF)  
W6YL (W6CT)  
W7TTT (K5RC)  
W7UQ (KL9A)  
W8KW (W8UE)  
WO4G (K9VV)  
WR3O (K4RO)  
WW4R (K4WX)  
XF1K (N6VR)  
ZF1DZ (VE3DZ)

## The March to 400 QSOs Record Holders Over the Years

N6BT-231-September 1977  
K3UA-285-July 1978  
N6BT-286-September 1978  
N2NT-304-February 1979  
N2NT-327-September 1979  
N2NT-330-February 1981  
K5ZD-331-September 1981  
K5ZD-345-February 1982  
K5ZD-350-September 1982  
N5TJ-358-February 1991  
N5TJ-375-February 1992  
N5TJ-381-February 2000  
N6TR-393-February 2001  
N6TR-396-February 2002  
W4AN-402-February 2003

On the morning of May 6, 1954, Roger Bannister wasn't sure this was going to be a good day. There was a bad crosswind, 15 MPH, with 25 MPH gusts and he figured nothing special would happen that day. It was the annual race where the Athletic Association competed against the university at Oxford. He had a casual lunch with friends. However, he knew he had to show up since everyone was expecting him.

Shortly before the race, the wind seemed to calm down some. It was a good sign. His two friends, Chris Chataway and Chris Brasher, were there. They had been training with him throughout the winter and were integral pieces of the puzzle. Brasher took the lead for the first half of the race, and then Chataway set the pace for the 3rd and 4th laps. With about 300 meters left, Roger kicked it into high gear and pulled away. He nearly collapsed at the finish line and a hush fell over the stadium. Had he done it? Had he run the first 4-minute mile?

The judges huddled and confirmed that the three times taken agreed and then the PA announcer only had to utter the single word "three" for pandemonium to break out.

Roger Bannister had earned himself a place in history. John Landy would quickly run a faster mile, and by 1957, a number of runners had eclipsed the mark. But Roger was the first.

Fast forward to the 52nd running of the NCJ CW Sprint, and another historic run occurred. Ending years of speculation as to if it was even possible, Bill Fisher, W4AN, became the first person to finish with 400 or more QSOs in the CW Sprint. He also claimed his fourth sprint victory, his second in succession and set a new score record.

Bill started out the contest on fire, with a first hour of 122 QSOs, the most QSOs ever seen in a CW Sprint for one hour. His final score also set a new record, beating out the N5TJ score from February 2000. Now that the mental barrier of 400 QSOs has been broken, who will be the next one to use page 9?

## QRP Top Ten

If you think "nobody ever heard me" and you have not operated QRP in this contest, then you should try it sometime. Six brave souls jumped into battle this

## Top 10 Golden Logs

W6EEN 378  
N6AN 334  
N8EA 331  
NA0N 253  
K4MX 208  
VE3IAY 168  
K9TM 149  
K8JM 125  
VE3SMA 101  
K4BAI 90

## Top 10 Band Changes

K4AAA 213  
W4CAT 164  
N2IC 150  
N9RV 147  
AG9A 142  
N2NT 126  
K9PG 112  
K5GN 111  
K3WW 110  
W6EEN 108

## Top 10 Scores

Call sign	Score	Band	QSOs	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
	Changes	Lost					
K4AAA	21306	213	6	122	99	86	97
N6TR	20436	106	1	111	101	93	88
W6EEN	20412	108	0	107	96	82	93
N2IC	20228	150	2	108	92	86	103
K5ZD	19710	38	2	94	97	88	86
N2NL	19635	97	6	101	85	89	83
N5RZ	19451	96	9	107	90	82	89
N2NT	19380	126	2	119	89	84	89
K5GN	19084	111	2	98	93	80	97
W4CAT	19000	164	4	107	100	80	94

## Top 10 QSOs

K4AAA 402  
N6TR 393  
N2IC 389  
W4CAT 380  
N2NT 380  
W6EEN 378  
N5RZ 367  
K5GN 367  
N9RV 366  
K5ZD 365

## Top 10 Multipliers

N2NL 55  
W6EEN 54  
K5ZD 54  
N6RO 54  
K9ZO 54  
K4AAA 53  
N5RZ 53  
K6LA 53  
N6AN 53  
N2RM 53  
K7RI 53  
NT1N 53

## Top 10 Low Power

K7RI 15741  
K7SV 15600  
W4OC 14750  
K1HT 14600  
N0AX 14500  
W6OAT 14455  
K4XU 13019  
W7UQ 13018  
N8AA 12985  
KJ9C 12576

## Top 10 QRP

NC7J 10575  
KG5U 7480  
W8TM 4756  
KC5R 3850  
WC7S 990  
AB1AV 4

time, armed with less than 5 W of RF energy. Dave Fischer, W7FG, piloted NC7J to victory with an awesome 235 QSOs in the log, just missing the QRP record by small margin. One wonders if being in Utah helps us pull him out of the noise. Sprint QRP veteran Dale Martin, KG5U, came in second with 187 QSOs.

### Low Power Top Ten

There was a close race for the top low power score between two people who automatically start spelling their last names when asked for them. Danny Eskenazi, K7SS, piloted K7RI to a first place showing and a new low power record. He erased the previous record of 15,272 points set by N5TJ back in September 1998 and now holds both the QRP and low power score records. Close on Danny's heels was Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, who did finish with 300 QSOs (3 more than Danny), but was one multiplier down. Your South Carolina multiplier, W4OC, came in fourth, edging out strong efforts from K1HT, N0AX and W6OAT. K4XU and KL9A had nearly the same scores for 7th and 8th place. N8AA and KJ9C rounded out the top ten—with very impressive scores over 12,500 points.

### High Power Top Ten

Bill Fisher, W4AN, piloted the K4AAA station to his second consecutive victory, and 4th overall. Coming in second was Tree, N6TR with 395 QSOs. Bill was ahead of Tree by 11 QSOs after the first hour, but Tree caught up with 50 minutes to go before Bill sprinted to the finish. Less than a QSO behind Tree, Doug Brandon, N6RT, operating at W6EEN finished with "only" 378 QSOs, but 54 multipliers. Operating his last CW Sprint from Colorado, Steve London, N2IC, had 389 QSOs. All four of these scores beat the previous record score.

Randy, K5ZD, once again demonstrated that it is possible to make the top ten from the Northeast and came in fifth, followed by Dave, N2NL, who has now made three consecutive top ten showings, improving his position each time. Sprint veterans N5RZ, N2NT, K5GN and W4PA operating as W4CAT round out the top ten.

All of the stations in the top ten appeared to be using two radios, although K5ZD only had 38 band changes.

### Team Competition

Twenty-one teams were registered this time around. A team is any group of up to ten stations that compete with other teams. Think of them as one time virtual clubs. Sprint teams are registered before the contest on the NCJ Web page ([www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)). The Southern California Contest Club recovered from

### Team Scores

SCCC #1		SMC-Cat #1		SSB #1		NCCC #1	
W6EEN	20412	AG9A	18304	K4AAA	21306	N6TV	18258
K6LA	18338	N9RV	17934	N2NL	19635	N6RO	17388
N6MJ	17850	K9PG	17732	W4CAT	19000	AE6Y	14739
N6AN	17702	K9NW	17628	K1TO	16692	K6XX	14448
K6LL	16032	WD0T	16309	WR3O	14798	N16T	13566
K6NA	15963	NT1N	16165	KT3Y	14790	K7NV	13377
N6AA	15827	W9RE	15400	N4AO	13872	W6RGG	12852
AC6T	15300	N9CK	14112	K3MM	13662	N6PN	10622
W6JPL	14357	KA9FOX	13780	W9WI	9744	N6ZFO	10125
W6TK	11592	WB0O	13500	<b>143499</b>		KU6J	8358
	<b>163373</b>		<b>160864</b>				<b>133733</b>

  

5. CPC (N6TR, K7RI, K5NZ, W7WA, N0AX, W7UQ, N7LOX, KL2A, N7WA) .....	123969
6. FRC Domestic (N2NT, N2RM, AA3B, K3WW, N3RD, K3MD, N8NA) .....	103772
7. SSC #2 (K7SV, W4OC, K4NO, N4OGW, K4FXN, KU8E, W4AU, K4MA) .....	101027
8. NCCC #2 (N6XI, W6OAT, AD6E, K2KW, K6CTA, K6LRN, W0YK, W6EU, W6IXP, K6DGW) .....	92746
9. Austin Powers (N5RZ, N3BB, W5KFT, K5WA, N5DO, KG5U, NT5TU) .....	85629
10. Azenmokers (N6ZZ, N5OT, K5KA, KY7M, K5YAA, WD7Z) .....	85082
11. YCCC #1 (K5ZD, K1KI, K1DG, K1HT, KT1V, N1XS, N2MG) .....	82905
12. SMC-Cat #2 (K9ZO, WT9U, K9MMS, KG9X, WI9WI, WA9IRV, WX9U) .....	80718
13. SSB #3 (W04G, W4NZ, AA4GA, W4AA, ND4AA, N4ZR, K4LW) .....	54308
14. SMC-Cat #3 (K9BGL, KJ9C, N9JF, W0UY, N0AV) .....	45758
15. YCCC #2 (KM3T, K2KQ, K1PQS, NY1S, K1EBY, K1GU) .....	44626
16. MRRRC (N8EA, K8MR, K9TM, K8JM) .....	43567
17. GMCC (N2IC, W0ETT, K0BJ) .....	37189
18. SCCC #2 (W6MVW, XF1K, NE6I, K6EY) .....	24564
19. YCCC #3 (N2GC, K1EA, K1AR, KA1EZE) .....	21148
20. NCCC #3 (AD6TF, ND2T, W6YL) .....	11988
21. SSC #4 (N4GI, K4BAI) .....	6642

their 3rd place showing in September to take first place with an impressive score of 163,373 points and new team score record.

### Records

With increased activity, more multipliers and good conditions, many new records were established. In the "improved their own record from before" category, we have K5ZD (MA), K1KI (CT), K1DG (NH), N2NT (NJ), K4AAA/W4AN (GA), N6ZZ (NM), W6EEN/N6RT (CA), N6TR (OR), K7RI/K7SS (WA), W7UQ/KL9A (ID), N8EA (MI), K8MR (OH), N2IC (CO) and WD0T (SD). It is interesting to note that the Washington record set by K7RI (K7SS) was with low power, eclipsing his previous state record set with high power. AA3B beat out K3WW's three-year-old record in Pennsylvania. The new kid N2NL beat out Contest Hall of Famer K1TO's Florida mark from September 1999. Larry, K7SV, beat a 14-year-old record from KT3Y in Virginia. The new noise from Oklahoma, Mark, N5OT, made his first 300 QSO showing to erase K3LR's record from just last September. Larry, KOSR, beat last year's Minnesota record from N0AT. VE5SF took VE5MX's four-year-old record away from him and LU1FAM set a new record in Argentina, previously held by LW9EUJ from September 2000.

The Southern California Contest Club set a new team record, beating out the February 2002 record from the Southern Sprint Coalition. K4AAA (W4AN) set a new score record, previous set by N5TJ three years ago. He also established a new QSO record, beating out N6TR's record from last year. The total of logs received was 202—a new record and we had 52 logs with 300 or more QSOs in them this time. The previous record was 38 from three years ago.

Another interesting record was set. The scores from this contest were published on the NCJ Web page the same week as the log submission deadline. This was made possible by the high percentage of logs that were submitted electronically. Another first is the Web entry log form that can be used if you kept a paper log. This form can be found on the Web page and will format your log into Cabrillo and submit it. Many thanks go to Bruce, WA7BNM, for his software work and another example of how the Sprint is helping lead the way towards improved contest reporting (improved in both timeliness and accuracy—Ed).

In order to decrease the time between the contest and the scores being published, we have decided to reduce the log submission time for the sprints. Starting in September, the deadline will be seven days after the contest. Our goal will be to have the results up on

the Web page within a couple of days after the deadline.

The updated records listing can be found elsewhere in this write-up, or on the Sprint Web page at [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com). Remember to check out the helpful Sprint Web pages at [n6tr.jzap.com/Sprint.html](http://n6tr.jzap.com/Sprint.html) and [www.contesting.com/articles/198](http://www.contesting.com/articles/198). Both of these Web pages have great information for both newcomers and Sprint veterans.

### Friends and Loved Ones Remembered

One of the traditions of the CW Sprint is to remember those who have recently departed. Cat was the nickname for Cathy Obermann (the wife of Mark, AG9A) who passed away at a young age. Many of you who were at WRTC-2002 probably met Cathy. Shortly after that trip, she started down a terrible and short road. As you can see from all of the Cats in the scores listing, she touched many of us. Also remembered was Jim Maxwell, W6CF, who had operated a number of Sprints in the earlier years. As you probably know, Jim was a director for the ARRL and a reflector of many limericks. Finally, Sandy Lynch, W7BX, passed away very suddenly just before the Sprint. Many of you worked Sandy in the January NAQP CW contest. Hopefully, we can go another few years before having to remember anyone else.

### Wrap Up

Once again, all logs were fully checked for accuracy. A report on how your log was scored can be received via return e-mail to [tree@kkn.net](mailto:tree@kkn.net). Congratulations to 14 of you who produced a golden log with no errors.

Mark your calendars now for the next CW Sprint on September 7 UTC from 0000:00.00Z to 0400:00.00Z. Remember the new log deadline—7 days.

### Soapbox

Hoped to start my first Sprint slowly on 80 meters, but found almost nobody until the floodgates opened around 0230Z—then (to mix metaphors) I felt like I was out on the freeway on a tricycle. Only two contacts, but good experience!—Bill, AB1AV

First attempt at SO2R in the Sprint. Unfortunately, the second radio died about 1 hour into the contest. It slowed me down on 20m at first, but I think the benefits might have outweighed the distraction by the end of the contest had it continued to work.—AC6T

Thank you for the remarkable tribute paid to my wife Cathy who passed away at much too young an age. I love you CAT!—AG9A

My second Sprint. Operated an ICOM 706 on a G5RV from home at 100 watts. Added about 20 Qs to the last Sprint. I had a ball, am forever hooked—AK5E

My first CW Sprint. Had to do two major log program mods during the test due to inattention.—K0BJ

The start on 20 is always fun with my tiny signal. Also, takes me a bit to figure out which keys to push. Switching from the WPX RTTY contest got me all confused. Now back to RTTY—anything to avoid phone.—K1GU

A new personal best, thanks to my best multiplier total and to good conditions on 80.—K1HT

Very touching tributes by all those using CAT, JIM and SANDY. Oddly, I never heard a single NA DX station, despite activity from XE, ZF, XF, HI3, CO and HR. SO1R here. Note to self: check software *ahead* of contest next time. Oh, and congrats to Fisher for breaking the 4-minute mile-or something like that—K1TO

Turned on the radios to listen to 40 CW about 0315Z Saturday night. Hmm...what's all the activity? Oh! It's the Sprint! Haven't been in one in 20 years. Definitely not the contest for paper logs, nonmemory keyer and no transceive. Hey, what the heck. I still know the code, and Sprint used to be fun. Let's see...here's a blank SS Log page; that'll do. Tune up. Find a CQer. Zero beat him—fast, now! He won't wait. Dump in my call. Yes! Copy. Send...uh, what do they say on the reflector? Oh, yeah...send my call last if I own the frequency now. K5GN NR 1 ART MD K3KU. DIT. NA K3KU. Wheel! Off we go. Eight QSOs in about 15 minutes; lousy luck with CQs. What happened to being fresh meat? Hey, all I'm hearing are West Coast stations. Where did everybody go? Oh, they went to 80. I'm really weak there. Gotta try. Switch the receiver band switch, transmatch bandswitch, and transmitter band switch. Ah, the efficiency of having only one antenna. Set transmatch knobs to numbers on chart. Peak receiver preselector. Hit spotting footswitch. Peak transmitter driver tuning for loudest sig. Let up on footswitch; flip transmitter to **TUNE**. Bring up the drive a little. Adjust plate tuning and loading. Run up the drive. Check reflected power on transmatch to make sure the settings are right. All set! Man, this 30-year-old gear is great. I'll bet that took less than two minutes. Let's go! Find a CQer. Zero beat him—fast, now! He won't wait. Dump in my call. Arrgh! Didn't get him. I am *really* weak on 80. CQs are fruitless. Five QSOs in about 12 minutes. That's all. Brief, but fun. Definitely not the contest for paper logs, non-memory keyer, and no transceive. When I worked Tree (aka Cat), I wrote his call as N7TR, and sat there staring at it, knowing that it was wrong, but unable to make my brain figure out what I had done until I tried to dupe him a few minutes later. And why did I write above "about 15 minutes," instead of being exact? Because I forgot to log the times! Definitely not the contest for stumbling into after a 20-year absence. Thanks to all of you for the QSOs.—K3KU

Personal best score! Excellent CW operators in this contest!—K3MD

Team: Southern Sprint Coalition #4—K4BAI

Twenty was tough from here on the grayline. My personal best! Missed Kentucky as usual!—K4FXN

Wow, wow and more wow. Personal record, but may not make the Top Ten. This contest really tests the station and the op.—K5GN

Personal best score. Great activity and

multipliers.—K5ZD

Very difficult this year. A recurring local noise that sounds on the radio like an arc welder returned Friday night. It peaks around 40, but pretty much destroys 80 and 20. Played havoc with the WPX RTTY contest too. However, the sprint format makes it nearly impossible to recover info through it. Hope my error Rate isn't too high! Maybe better this summer, since the noise had disappeared for nearly a year.—K6DGW

Thank you for patience and repeats—K6EY

This humble score dedicated to the memory of my friends, W6CF and W7BX.—K6XX

Cat!—K9PG

Awful lot of CATs around, eh?—KC5R

This one was for Cathy (AG9A's wife). Sure were a lot of "Cats". Great!—KJ9C

Low power with hobo antennas is painful. Don't try this at home, kids. But, still lots of fun!—KM3T

Had fun for a couple hours. Some great operators out there!—KTOR

My goal was to make 20 QSOs per band. Mission accomplished.—NOAC

Someday I will get this down. Great contest and thanks for the QSOs. Thanks to Dick for the use of the station.—N1XS

This was my very first Sprint. Not knowing the contest, I set a goal of 200 Qs. I was surprised when I exceeded 300! I had a lot of fun, and will be back again.—N3RD

Wow, two VE5s and VE4s. Usual lack of VE1. Tried some SO2R, but found it tough to do. Worked two Kls in a row—both WA!—N4AF

First time ever over 300 QSOs—N5OT

The CW Sprint rules! Great to hear ever-increasing activity for a supposedly dying mode. Thanks to all for the QSOs and mults contributing to my personal best score.—N5RZ

My first time over 300 Qs in any sprint. My first time over 15k—*ever!* What a thrill to be part of a record setting team, SCCC #1. The Caltech station, W6UE, played well. I kept things simple; one radio, one amp, 4 antennas. Too bad 80 meters wasn't very good. My condolences to the families and friends of CAT, JIM and SANDY. The Sprint tribute to them was a wonderful gesture.—N6AN

Personal best score. Great to see the gang honoring Cat and Jim.—N6RO

Heard two mults that got away. Eighty meters was not good this time. Congrats to W4AN for breaking the sound barrier!—N6TR

I started on 40 meters, but my log started on 20 meters. Oops! SO2R has its disadvantages.—N6TV

Operated SO1R from old station in the Valley with lousy 80-meter dipole, K2/100 and ACOM 1000. Finally broke 300 Qs and probably made a personal best score despite missing three mults that I heard out of phase and couldn't snare. It was good to hear some Sprint newcomers. The next crop has been planted!—N6XI

Had a problem with the offset and slope on radio 2; abandoned SO2R. Ended up with about 6 band changes as opposed to 108 in the September Sprint!—N6ZZ

Great conditions, a big crowd and lots of fun—N8NA



