

Results: North American Sprint CW — February 2010

The 66th North American CW Sprint took place February 7, 2010 (UTC). If we had held one per year, the first contest would have to have taken place before the end of World War II. Before talking too much about it, however, I want to pose a trivia question. *Ready?* Put on your thinking cap: What well-known CW Sprint operator has placed in every spot in the Top 10 — *except* for the top spot? Okay, chew on that one for awhile.

This event saw slightly fewer than 300 stations active, with 180 submitting logs. How do we know that many stations were active? One step during log checking is to create a database of stations that show up in at least two different logs. So, if someone gets on the air for the event and that call sign appears in at least *two* submitted logs, the station is considered “active.” In this contest, well over half of the active stations submitted logs. Most contest sponsors would be happy to see a quarter of active stations send in a log.

No, it isn't N2NT or K5ZD. Both have won this contest.

Conditions were pretty good across the country this time. Twenty meters was not the best for the East Coast stations at the start, but it was good enough for NN1N to make 90 QSOs there before moving to 40 meters. There seemed to be a small number of stations who were loud on 20 meters, but the next layer was some 50 dB weaker, making it tough to work those weak signals while the loud ones were still on the band. This was a good test of your receiver's dynamic range. (It also was a good time to note which stations have key clicks.) Both 40 and 80 meters were in great shape, however, with some stations making more than 300 QSOs on those two bands combined!

Nope! It's not N5RZ. He won last year, remember? K1K1 also won back in 1981 and 1999.

While scores from the Southwest dominated the top-score boxes, a few stations from the Northeast managed to break into the Top 10 in both the High Power and Low Power categories. For most of the country, two bands were available during most of the contest, enabling two-radio stations to stand out among the top scorers. We did not see a single-radio score in the High Power Top 10 this year, however.

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
N5KO	16,555	123	4	104	91	96	94
W6YI	16,422	149	4	112	100	94	85
N2NT	15,480	162	2	101	91	96	72
N6TV	15,414	42	1	105	96	84	82
N3BB	15,372	146	4	103	82	97	84
N2IC	15,330	144	1	116	83	93	73
N6TR	15,211	92	4	92	104	87	88
K5ZD	14,792	44	0	90	87	94	73
N4OGW	14,491	165	7	104	85	85	63
W9RE	14,362	56	7	91	87	85	71

Top Single-Radio Band Changes

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K6NA	14,276	2	2	86	82	72	92
K6XX	14,104	6	7	85	80	80	83
NR5M	13,889	8	0	89	84	70	80
K5MR	13,803	7	0	84	77	81	79
N5RZ	13,416	2	5	71	87	77	77
NN1N	13,230	5	3	79	70	84	82
K1EA	12,936	12	10	84	83	82	59
K5TR	12,880	8	2	80	91	80	71
K4BAI	12,814	2	2	82	81	59	76
W6YX	12,760	2	3	83	81	78	77

CW Sprint with Just a Vertical

One operator who normally makes the Top 10 without breaking a sweat was missing from the list this time around. Ralph, N5RZ, decided to operate from his new location, where he had just built his new home. Instead of driving to K5TR's station he decided to operate from home with whatever antennas he could throw up. This was the first time in seven years that he had operated his own station.

He fished out his Butternut all-band vertical and put it up with four long radials. He tweaked the adjustments to get the SWR below 2:1 on the three bands. He then hooked up his new K3 and Alpha 87A, both of which came from the K5KA estate. After downloading the latest version of *N1MM* and getting the keying interface and radio control working, he was ready to roll. This was the first time he had used *N1MM*, and he experienced a bit of a learning curve. Having operated with “The Gator” on the same band from HC8, I can say I am happy no small children were within earshot.

The start of the contest did not go very well. Twenty meters was long, and one of his messages was programmed wrong, requiring Ralph to send most of his exchanges manually. He also learned that you needed to log a contact before turning the VFO knob, or the information goes away. After enduring the first hour on 20 meters with only 73 contacts in the log, the first of two band changes took place, and things started to improve. Conditions were much better for Ralph, and he was able to establish his rhythm some and put 88 QSOs in the log during the second hour. The third hour was also strong, with another 80 QSOs going into the log and half of the hour spent on 80 meters. The final hour clocked in at 78 QSOs, and the last number handed out was 317. All of the multipliers Ralph heard were put in the log, and he ended up with a very competitive total of 43 multipliers.

This is an outstanding effort by one of the top CW Sprint operators. It demonstrates how operator ability can help overcome a less-than-booming signal, and it sets a high bar for other operators with similar stations to try to overcome.

A record number of "Kens" were active this time around — some 35 of them. This was a tribute to one Ken Adams, K5KA, who became a Silent Key during the Phone SS in November. Oklahoma now becomes a little tougher to work, and there will be one less big signal in our passbands as a result of K5KA's QSY to zone 41. Ken had become a supporter of this contest by making sure the winner received an appropriate award. This tradition will be continued. *Rest in peace, my good friend.*

QRP

We received four logs from stations who charged into battle while running five watts or less. Scott, KA9FOX, proved once again that having a long call sign can be an advantage if you are weak; he came out on top with 216 QSOs. Occasionally, a pile of loud four-letter calls will QRM each other, and afterward, a very clear (and weak) "FOX" can be heard in the noise. Second place went to Brian, NA4BW, with 126 QSOs, followed by Paul, AA4XX, with 117 contacts. N2ZN, a *real* Ken, ended up with 13 QSOs and fourth place.

Low Power

Steve, N9CK, won the Low Power category for the fifth consecutive time. Colin, KU5B, came in second, just ahead of longtime Low Power Sprint veteran Dave, K1HT. Ray, WQ5L, placed fourth, while Steve, NA4K, came in fifth, edging out Joe, N8EA, by less than one QSO. Jeff, KU8E, hit 10,000 points on the nose for seventh place, followed closely two Pauls — K9AA and N4PN. Karl, N8NA, provided the Delaware multiplier for most stations and finished in 10th place.

High Power

Two California operators battled it out for the top spot this time around. Their submitted scores were too close to declare a victory until log-checking was completed. In the end, both operators lost the same number of QSOs, and Trey, N5KO, edged out Dan, N6MJ, for first place. *Trey also is the answer to the trivia question!* He now has placed at least once in *all* positions of the High Power Top 10.

Trey operated the contest at the W6NL hilltop, while Dan operated from the W6YI hilltop. Coming in third was Andy, N2NT, followed by Bob, N6TV. Andy's QTH is only 120 feet above sea level, and, while Bob can see the W6NL hilltop from his location, his elevation is similar to Andy's. Jim, N3BB, just edged out Steve, N2IC, for fifth place, and Tree, N6TR, made it back into the Top 10 at seventh place. Randy, K5ZD, came in eighth place, marking his 35th showing in the Top 10. Tor, N4OGW, placed ninth. A 10th place finish from Mike, W9RE, demonstrated that it is possible to make the Top 10 from the "Black Hole."

Team Scores

1. Austin Ditters		2. Northern California Contest Club #1		3. Southern California Contest Club #1		4. Northern California Contest Club #2	
N3BB	15,372	N5KO	16,555	W6YI	16,422	N6DE	11,562
N2IC	15,330	N6TV	15,414	K6NA	14,276	W6EU	11,280
N4OGW	14,491	K6XX	14,104	N6AN	12,600	AJ6V	11,271
NR5M	13,889	AE6Y	12,936	N6AA	12,546	W6SX	11,193
K5MR	13,803	W6YX	12,760	K6LA	12,306	K6SRZ	10,760
N4AF	13,760	W0YK	12,013	N6RT	11,320	K9YC	10,600
K5TR	12,880	N6XI	11,720	AC6T	10,000	N3ZZ	10,560
W0BH	11,172	W6OAT	10,920	K6ZH	9760	NI6T	9880
WQ5L	10,373	K6AW	10,062	NE6I	5066	W6RGG	9720
N5QQ	9000	W7RN	9321	W4EF	2871	N6PN	7632
Total	130,070	Total	125,805	Total	107,167	Total	104,458

5. SMC #1 (W9RE, WE9V, N9CK, WI9WI, K9AA, K9AY, K9MMS, KA9FOX, N9FC)	88,245
6. AOCC #1 (K07AA, K6LL, N6VR, N5LZ, W2LC, N4DW, N7CW, K7HP, K7WP)	87,518
7. YCCC (K5ZD, K1EA, K1HT, N2GC, W1UJ, K1XM, K2KQ, W1JQ, KB1NRB)	84,798
8. SSC #1 (K4BAI, W4MR, W4NZ, NA4K, KU8E, N4PN, K1ZZI, NA4BW, N5VI)	84,326
9. FRC (N2NT, AA3B, N2NC, K3WW, W2RQ, W3KB, WW2Y)	76,289
10. Dashers (N5RZ, N1LN, K5WA, KU5B, N5DO, K1TN, NO5W, W5OV)	72,653
11. MRRCC/NCC (KW8N, K8MM, N8EA, K8MR, K8NZ, N8SS, K9NW)	67,378
12. Forest (N6TR, K7ZSD, K4XU, WS7L, K17Y, K7ZS, W2VJN, NE7D, N6TW, N7VS)	62,923
13. NCCC #3 (N6ML, N6ZFO, AD6E, K6MM, K6DGW, N6WM, K6NV, W6NF, K6CSL)	47,728
14. Snowshoe (K0EU, W0ETT, K07X, AC0DS, K6XT, K0UK)	41,593
15. TCG (K4RO, N4ZZ, WF7T)	30,343
16. CCO (VE3EJ, VE3EY, VE3FU, VE3MM, VE3RCN)	29,244
17. SSC #2 (W4AU, K4NO, N4JIK)	18,307
18. NCCC #4 (KZ2V, W6CT, WE6Z, KA3DRR)	5106
19. SMC #2 (WWW9R, K9GY, K9ZT)	4138
20. SCCC #2 (KQ6ES)	3379
21. AOCC #2 (KN5H)	308

Guest Ops

AC6T	@W6RFU	K9AA	K9PG	N6DE	@K6TD	W6YI	N6MJ
K5TR	K5OT	KZ2V	@W6TQG	N6ML	@N6RO	W6YX	N7MH
K6AW	@W6NV	N4AO	WC4E	NR5M	K5GA	W7CT	NG7M
K7ZSD	K7GK	N5KO	@W6NL	W4MR	AA4NC	W7RN	K7NV

Team Competition

In team competition, the Austin Ditters finished in first place with an average score of just over 13,000 points per entry. Second place went to the Northern California Contest Club, followed by their long time rival, the Southern California Contest Club. All three teams contributed at least one score to the Top 10. The second team from the NCCC came in fourth place, which marks one of the few times the second string has finished among the top four. The only other team that managed to have 10 entries was the Tree and the Forest team from Oregon. Many thanks to those who organized the 14 teams. This is the best way to improve participation in the contest.

Golden Logs

It is nearly impossible to escape the red pen of the log checkers, but 20 logs got an A+ and a happy face this time around. Three operators managed to do this with more than 300 QSOs in their logs: K5ZD, K5GA (operating at NR5M) and K5MR. Those K5s sure can copy the code! Seven stations made the list with more than 200 QSOs. If you are interested in seeing how

your log was scored, you can get a copy of your log check report by sending a request to tree@kkn.net. Reports are available for the past few years as well.

Records

W1WB set a new record from Rhode Island in the Low Power category breaking the six-year-old record of AJ1M. N2ZN established the first QRP record for New York. AA4XX more than doubled the QRP record for North Carolina that he set last September. N0AX returned to his home state of Missouri to set a new Low Power record there, just edging out the score set by KA0GGI in 2002.

Next Time

The next CW Sprint will be held September 12 UTC (Saturday, September 11, local time in North America). The starting time is 0000 UTC, and you may operate from 0000 to 0359 inclusive.

For team registration, use the NCJ Web page, www.ncjweb.com. You may submit logs via e-mail to cwsprint@kkn.net or by using the log submission form on the NCJ Web site. *Logs are due seven days after the*

contest! Final scores are typically posted within two weeks of the contest and are announced on the CQ-Contest reflector as well as on the NCJWeb site.

Check out the Web resources at <http://n6tr.jzap.com/sprint.html> as well as rules, records and previous results on the NCJ site, www.ncjweb.com. The CQ-Contest reflector also is a great place to ask questions about this contest; see <http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/CQ-Contest> for additional details about this resource.

Soapbox

Only got in nine minutes but couldn't miss a CW sprint. — *K0OU*

Chest cold with headache, typical flu stuff but had fun. — *K0UK*

A nice way to spend Saturday evening during the "Blizzard of 2010." — *K1TN*

1. Arrived home from business trip one hour before start. 2. Sat down five minutes before start and couldn't turn 20/40 beam. 3. Contest starts. Finally get beam to point west. 4. Keep getting beat out on 20. Almost quit. 5. Somehow get 90+ in first hour. Decide to keep going. Ended much better than I ever would have expected after such a poor start. Conditions on 40 and 80 were good. We need more activity east of the Mississippi to help us out on the low bands. — *K5ZD*

Lost remote station power before the end of the Sprint. — *K6VVA*

Probably my highest QSO total, but mults way down from previous years. I really enjoy the "rhythm" of this contest, even when I'll sometimes sit on the sidelines waiting to get "my turn" at working someone on a given frequency. — *K6ZH*

My best score yet. Thanks to K8CC for the use of his station. — *K8MM*

Weather meant staying home this time. Forty meter dipole at 25 feet used on all bands. — *K9NW*

Fun and frustrating as usual. See you next

time. — *KW8N*

My second serious sprint. Improved by about 20 percent. — *N0AC*

Got all confused and thought I was an hour late. This time zone thing is weird. This contest is really hard work with a low wire (105 foot dipole) and low power, but when you get done you definitely know you've done something! — *N0AX*

Four fun hours after spending most of the day chasing mobiles in the Minnesota QSO Party. Thanks to NCJ! — *N4PN*

That was fun! I listened for Ken, K5KA, at 0359Z. I used *N1MM* in a Sprint for the first time. A bit fumbly until I got one message programmed correctly, then things started to click. Either the bands were in much better shape than last time or my K3 really made a difference on all bands. I was glad to crack the 300 QSO ceiling after a long dry spell. — *N6AN*

Conditions seemed to favor the West Coast. Congrats to W6YI and N5KO; very tough competition here in CA. Missed SC for that 43rd mult. — *N6TV*

Great to hear all of the stations honoring Ken, K5KA, and to be reminded of the camaraderie of radiosport. — *N05W*

Good condx on all bands, with 40 being the best. Missed VE provinces except for Ontario. Missed only ND and AK for states west of the Mississippi. — *W0TT*

First time over 200! — *W1JQ*

No doubt the fastest four hours of contesting I've been a part of. It was certainly fun and my hat is off to those with "Golden Logs." The practice with NS on Thursday nights has been a great intro to this unique contest form. I highly recommend it to newcomers. Great to work many NS regulars in this Sprint. Twenty was certainly open, but primarily to W6-land. Moved to 40 due to lack of mults. Low bands worked well but not many Midwest/Plains States mults here. Enjoyed providing the RI mult. — *W1WBB*

Best conditions in several years. Mults a little scarce. — *W9RE*

My best CW Sprint ever. Well, make that my second best CW sprint ever in 23 years. Last one was six years ago. — *WE9V*

Probably my best job ever in this contest.

Top 10 QSOS

W6YI	391
N5KO	385
N6TR	371
N6TV	367
N3BB	366
N2IC	365
N2NT	360
N9RV	355
K5ZD	344
N4OGW	337

Golden Logs

K5ZD	344
NR5M	323
K5MR	321
N9CK	287
K3WW	282
K9BGL	281
K7ZSD	280
N2GC	253
WQ5L	253
NA0N	249
K8MR	244

Top 10 Low Power

N9CK	12,054
KU5B	10,920
K1HT	10,600
WQ5L	10,373
NA4K	10,290
N8EA	10,277
KU8E	10,000
K9AA	9922
N4PN	9847
N8NA	9800

Top 10 Band Changes

N4OGW	165
N2NT	162
W6YI	149
N3BB	146
N2IC	144
N5KO	123
AA3B	102
K4RO	98
N6TR	92
N9RV	92

Top QRP

KA9FOX	7992
NA4BW	4662
AA4XX	3861
N2ZN	130

Fewer lapses of concentration led to highest QSO total ever. Still multiplier poor, so not my best score ever. No frequency readout due to inability to get *WriteLog* to quit putting both radios on the same frequency, despite spending an hour before the contest trying to set it up. I finally had to disable *both* radio control boxes to keep the radios on separate bands. — *W1W9W*

The fastest four hours of contesting! Thanks for all the fun. — *WW9R*

Scoring Summary

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mult	Score	Team	Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mult	Score	Team
K5ZD	RANDY	MA	82	149	113	344	43	14,792	YCCC	K4RO	KIRK	TN	80	120	121	321	43	13,803	TCG
NN1N	KEN	CT	90	125	100	315	42	13,230		N4AF	KEN	NC	73	133	114	320	43	13,760	Ditters
K1EA	KEN	MA	78	125	105	308	42	12,936	YCCC	K4BAI	JOHN	GA	58	141	99	298	43	12,814	SSC #1
K1DG	KEN	NH	75	117	115	307	41	12,587		N4ZZ	DON	TN	56	120	121	297	42	12,474	TCG
K1AR	KEN	NH	43	132	102	277	43	11,911		W4MR	WILL	NC	53	123	103	279	43	11,997	SSC #1
K1HT	*DAVE	MA	65	117	83	265	40	10,600	YCCC	N1LN	BRUCE	NC	67	116	97	280	42	11,760	Dashers
W1UJ	JAY	MA	60	94	105	259	40	10,360	YCCC	W4NZ	TED	TN	47	119	111	277	42	11,634	SSC #1
K1XM	*PAUL	MA	32	108	61	201	40	8040	YCCC	NA4K	*STEVE	TN	29	105	111	245	42	10,290	SSC #1
W1JQ	*MIKE	CT	37	81	83	201	36	7236	YCCC	N4CW	RENE	NC	56	99	89	244	42	10,248	
W1WBB	*BILL	RI	41	48	40	129	33	4257		KU8E	*JEFF	GA	58	103	89	250	40	10,000	SSC #1
KB1NRB	AL	CT	3	37	51	91	31	2821	YCCC	N4PN	*PAUL	GA	58	86	85	229	43	9847	SSC #1
										N4DW	DAVE	TN	21	108	105	234	40	9360	AOCC #1
										K8NZ	*RON	FL	28	113	78	219	41	8979	MRRC/
N2NT	KEN	NJ	78	161	121	360	43	15,480	FRC	NCC									
N2NC	KEN	NJ	73	124	102	299	41	12,259	FRC	K1ZZI	RALPH	GA	11	114	83	208	41	8528	SSC #1
W2RQ	KEN	NJ	40	109	124	273	43	11,739	FRC	W4AU	JOHN	VA	43	85	94	222	37	8214	SSC #2
N2GC	MIKE	NY	51	104	98	253	41	10,373	YCCC	K4NO	*GREG	AL	26	97	76	199	40	7960	SSC #2
W2LC	SCOTT	NY	59	98	79	236	41	9676	AOCC #1	KY4F	*DOUG	AL	1	72	91	164	39	6396	
K2KQ	*DON	NY	43	76	72	191	40	7640	YCCC	K1GU	NED	TN	0	65	78	143	38	5434	
K1TN	*JIM	NJ	15	87	61	163	40	6520	Dashers	NA4BW	**BRIAN	GA	19	37	70	126	37	4662	SSC #1
W2LE	PAUL	NJ	1	56	29	86	31	2666		N5VI	*VAN	GA	28	58	52	138	33	4554	SSC #1
N2ZN	**KEN	NY	0	2	11	13	10	130		WF7T	*BRAD	TN	2	62	43	107	38	4066	TCG
										AA4XX	**PAUL	NC	28	25	64	117	33	3861	
AA3B	BUD	PA	75	127	108	310	40	12,400	FRC	AD4EB	JIM	TN	59	36	4	99	31	3069	
K3WW	CHAS	PA	52	121	109	282	43	12,126	FRC	N4LF	*LEX	FL	3	32	18	53	21	1113	
N8NA	*KARL	DE	52	113	80	245	40	9800		N4AO	*JEFF	FL	0	35	0	35	22	770	
K3TN	*JOHN	MD	16	112	113	241	40	9640											
NO3M	*TY	PA	18	88	105	211	41	8651		N3BB	JIM	TX	98	151	117	366	42	15,372	Ditters
W3KB	*KEITH	PA	39	95	46	180	38	6840	FRC	N2IC	KEN	NM	99	157	109	365	42	15,330	Ditters
K3UA	*KEN	PA	3	6	67	76	33	2508											
K3RWN	*RICH	PA	0	20	0	20	10	200											

