

The 53rd running of the CW Sprint—wow! That's a lot of sprints. That must mean they have been running for more than 25 years now. Did you ever wonder how this whole thing got started? Don't miss the article submitted by the father of the Sprint, Rusty Epps, W6OAT, elsewhere in this issue.

During the past few years, several of us have used e-mail and even post cards to drum up activity in the CW Sprint. One aspect of the Sprint is that it has a provision for 10 person teams. The approach of "Can I put you on my team?" is a particularly effective recruitment tool, and has been responsible for an increase in Sprint participation.

Since moving to New Mexico a few years ago, Phil Goetz, N6ZZ, started organizing groups of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma operators into teams that are called the Azenmokers. Some of the operators get on for the full four hours and others for just long enough to make a few contacts. Code speeds from 20 to 45 WPM are welcome; power levels from 4 to 1500 W have been used; and antennas from stacked Yagis to attic wires have been in the mix.

Phil's recruitment activities for the September Sprint included e-mail to Jan Harden, N0QT. Phil had worked Jan in a few NAQPs, but had never met her. She replied that she had shattered her ankle a few weeks earlier, and was currently cruising around the house in a wheelchair, which wouldn't fit through the door of the radio room. Despite these challenges, she indicated a willingness to get on for a few contacts. This would be Jan's first Sprint. As if she didn't already have enough of a handicap, she runs only 4 watts to a vertical. This is her story as told to her teammates after the contest:

Yeesh, what I go through for my friends!

Managed to get down the hallway to the radio room. Screamed for Paul to come fold up the wheelchair so he could shove it through the door. Then back in the wheelchair. Couldn't get it in the room because all of the stuff from the closet was sitting out in the middle of the room still. (Our hot water heater is in the closet and the wind blew the pilot light out a couple of days ago.)

So, struggled to get everything put back in place and managed that.

Roll on over to the radio desk, can't get in the allotted space with this darn wheelchair. So sort of angled myself (mangled myself is

more like it) in there and had to crunch up my legs under the chair. Great, getting set to go.

Turn on the station—no computer—completely dead. Rats (more about those in a minute). Screamed for Paul again. Rolled back over to the doorway and pointed him towards the backroom-from-hell door. He cringed, but opened the door.

I pointed out my other notebook computer ... on the stack near the ceiling, with about 20 other boxes in front of it. After a few breath-taking moments, he brought me the other computer.

Tear down the old one—hmmm little mouse presents all over the back of the desk—screamed for Paul to bring the Clorox wipes so I could clean that all up. Okay, going good.

Got the other computer set up, plugged in and turned on. Darn, forgot that I'd taken all the radio software off of it to put on the now dead computer. Rolled back over to the doorway and screamed for Paul.

Folded up the chair, back into the hallway and out to the kitchen where my other computer is. Got the latest edition of TR-Log off the computer onto a disk and headed back down the hall —screamed for Paul—anyway, back into the radio room.

Installed the software on the notebook computer and fired it up. Darn, everything is all scrunched together and I can't make heads or tails of it.

Restart the computer several times, holding down the delete key, trying to get into the configuration screen. No luck. Dig the manual out of the box. Ha, get into set up and set screen to "expanded" mode.

Fire it all up again—hey! It's working! I've got sound, lights and everything—except my Bencher paddles aren't working—Remember the little "presents"? Yep, that little creature had gnawed through the cord on the Bencher.

Screamed for Paul—in the closet that I'd so neatly put back in place, in the second box from the bottom of course, was my other set of paddles!

Fired everything up again—I got sound, I got lights, I got dits and dahs! Perfect!

Tune up and dial in a frequency—holy cow! Who are these people with the 600 wpm? I've never done the sprint before. Okay,

searching for somebody around 25-30 wpm. Of course, even at 600 wpm I recognize N6TR's call but never did work him.

Okay, we're smoking now—we got lights, we got action, we got lots of stations on the air, we got—thunder and lightning! Crossing my fingers and hoping that the old Butternut doesn't get zapped—again!

Doing okay, up to 20 Qs—take a little breather—uh oh, ankle starts hurting. Looked down, my knee was the size of a watermelon from having my legs scrunched up underneath the chair. Rats again!

Managed to eek out 5 more Q's for a total of 25 QSOs and 19 mults. A whopping score of 475! Gads. Better go get this leg up in the air before it gets worse. Shut everything off—screamed for Paul.

Hope I've earned my keep just from the heroic effort.

QRP Power Top Ten

Jan's score was enough to make the Top Ten QRP box at #9. We had 11 QRP entries this time, so AE5P is the first person to submit a QRP log and not make the QRP box in CW Sprint history. Pat Collins, N8VW, had the top QRP score with an impressive total of 180 QSOs. One of Jan's teammates, WD7Z, came in second, with another teammate, K5IID, coming in third. Not sure how someone in West Virginia ended up on that team. NB1B, W7TM, W5KDJ, N6WG, N4BP and K10II also made the box. It is great to see the growth in QRP activity in this contest.

Low Power Top Ten

Competition was fierce in the low power category with 10 excellent scores from highly respected operators. The top two low power stations once again fought it out for the top score, and unlike February, Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, finished ahead of Danny, K7SS, operating at K7RI. Close on their heels were K1HT and K9PG operating at K9AA. NA0N, K7NZ, N6MJ, K4AMC, N0AX and ex-QRP sprint champion KG5U combined to create the most competitive top ten box ever.

High Power Top Ten

Think making 400 plus QSOs was a one-time event? Bill Fisher, W4AN at K4AAA, pushed his QSO record up from 402 to 404 QSOs to claim his third consecutive CW Sprint victory with a new record score to boot. It seems that Bill has figured this contest out and the in-

creased activity is playing right into his hand. Second place went to Pat, N9RV, who was chased by Scott, W4PA. In the next group of finishers we find AG9A, N6TR and N5RZ operating at the growing K5TR super station, K5GN operating at W5KU and even a couple of northeastern stations snuck in: K1KI and N2NT followed by N6RT operating at W6EEN. N2NT had a very impressive QSO total of 394 QSOs, but his dismal multiplier total nearly cost him a top ten finish. It would appear that all of the stations in the top ten used two radios except K1KI, who only had two band changes.

Golden Logs

Thanks to all who submitted "golden logs"—no score reductions. Note that Randy, K5ZD, was at the top of the golden log heap with 370 QSOs—but ironically he just missed the Top Ten Scores listing.

Team Competition

The Dead Lizards walked away with the top team score followed closely by Southern Sprint Coalition #1. Four "traditional" clubs followed, the YCCC, the NCCC, the SCCC and the NCC. All in all, there were 26 teams registered. We all owe those who worked to put together these teams a big *thank you* since this really helps to increase activity.

Records

Despite the new 7-day log submission deadline, we had a record of 209 logs received. This eclipsed the mark established last February. As previously mentioned, W4AN set a new QSO record with 404 QSOs and a new score record. K1KI broke his own record for CT, and K1EA traveled to Vermont to set a new record there from the station of KK1L. N4AF, W4OC and W4PA all pushed up

their previous records for North and South Carolina and Tennessee. K3LR beat out N5OT's Oklahoma record from last February and AG9A and N9RV improved their records for Illinois and Indiana. Bill Straw, WB0O, traveled a few miles north to set a new VE4 record.

A new record was set with 17 golden logs. Congratulations to those of you who ended up with no score reductions during the log checking process. Once again, all logs were fully checked for

Top 10	Scores	Band Changes	QSOs				
			Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z 03Z	
K4AAA	21816	232	4	115	95	95	99
N9RV	20617	191	2	112	89	85	103
W4PA	20043	154	1	118	89	89	97
AG9A	18980	119	1	94	83	82	106
N6TR	18950	85	3	104	92	85	98
K5TR	18615	142	3	105	89	83	88
K5GN	18497	96	2	99	81	76	93
K1KI	18450	2	6	95	85	94	95
N2NT	18124	168	3	121	89	84	101
W6EEN	17800	66	3	93	88	85	90

Records Updated for September 2003.

QTH	Date	Call	QSO	Mult	Score	QTH	Date	Call	QSO	Mult	Score
CO	Feb-2003	N2IC	389	52	20,228	IL	Sep-2003	AG9A	362	52	18,980
IA	Sep-2000	N0NI (AG9A)	331	43	15,093	IN	Sep-2003	N9RV	389	53	20,617
KS	Sep-1982	K0VBU	231	42	9,702	WI	Feb-2000	K9AA (K9PG)	302	55	16,610
MN	Feb-2003	K0SR	308	50	15,400	VE1	Sep-2000	VE9DX (K5NZ)	183	40	7,320
MO	Sep-1996	K4VX/0 (WX3N)	332	46	15,272	VE2	Sep-1988	VE2ZP	214	41	8,774
ND	Feb-2002	WB0O	318	47	14,946	VE3	Feb-2000	VE3EJ	270	50	13,500
NE	Feb-1991	KV0I	204	34	6,936	VE4	Sep-2003	VE4/WB0O	266	45	11,970
SD	Feb-2003	WD0T	347	47	16,309	VE5	Feb-2003	VE5SF	237	49	11,613
CT	Sep-2003	K1KI	369	50	18,450	VE6	Feb-2000	VE6EX	228	43	9,804
MA	Feb-2003	K5ZD	365	54	19,710	VE7	Feb-2000	VA7RR	316	48	15,168
ME	Sep-1988	K1KI	218	41	8,938	VE8	Feb-2000	VY1JA	36	22	792
NH	Feb-2003	K1DG	331	50	16,550	4U1	Feb-1985	4U1UN (W2TO)	70	23	1,610
RI	Feb-2002	K1IG	310	47	14,570	8P	Sep-2002	8P9JG (N5KO)	277	42	11,634
VT	Sep-2003	K1EA	271	46	12,466	C6	Feb-1999	C6AKP	21	14	294
NJ	Feb-2003	N2NT	380	51	19,380	HH	Sep-1996	HH2AW	139	33	4,587
NY	Feb-2002	K2UA	321	50	16,050	HI	Feb-1991	HI8DMX	40	19	2,430
DE	Sep-1989	KN5H/3	272	46	12,512	HP	Feb-2000	HP1AC	64	30	1,920
MD	Sep-1989	W3LPL	310	47	14,570	KP4	Feb-2002	NP4Z	106	37	3,922
PA	Feb-2003	AA3B	320	50	16,000	TG	Sep-2001	TG9/N5KO	150	42	6,300
AL	Feb-2000	K4NO	273	47	12,831	V4	Feb-1996	V40Z (AA7VB)	54	23	1,242
FL	Feb-2003	N2NL	357	55	19,635	VP2E	Feb-1996	VP2E/KJ4HN	68	30	2,040
GA	Sep-2003	K4AAA (W4AN)	404	54	21,816	VP9	Feb-1985	W6OAT/VP9	202	31	6,262
KY	Sep-1998	K4LT	281	44	12,364	XE	Sep-1990	XE2XA (WN4KKN)	305	47	14,335
NC	Sep-2003	N4AF	342	49	16,758	ZF	Sep-1992	ZF2KI (K1KI)	251	49	12,299
SC	Sep-2003	W4OC	298	46	13,708	9A	Sep-2000	9A6XX	29	19	551
TN	Sep-2003	W4PA	393	51	20,043	CT	Sep-1998	CT1BOH	225	40	9,000
VA	Sep-1989	K7SV	300	52	15,600	EA8	Feb-1994	EA1AK/EA8	36	21	756
AR	Feb-2000	K5GO	278	50	13,900	F	Sep-1990	F/N6TR	196	38	7,448
LA	Feb-1995	W5WMU (K5GA)	306	48	14,688	G	Feb-2002	G4BUO	160	40	6,400
MS	Feb-2000	WQ5L	317	49	15,533	HC8	Feb-2000	HC8N (N5KO)	271	52	14,092
NM	Feb-2003	N6ZZ	351	52	18,252	I	Sep-1998	IK0HBN	100	35	3,500
OK	Sep-2003	K3LR	352	48	16,896	JA	Feb-1991	7J1AAI	13	9	117
TX	Feb-2000	N5TJ	381	52	19,812	KH6	Sep-1981	KH6NO	121	30	3,630
CA	Feb-2003	W6EEN (N6RT)	378	54	20,412	LU	Feb-2003	LU1FAM	92	35	3,220
AK	Feb-2000	KL9A	202	47	9,494	LY	Sep-2000	LY4AA	163	38	6,194
AZ	Feb-2000	K6LL	364	50	18,200	OH	Sep-1998	OH1NOA	56	22	1,232
ID	Feb-2003	W7UQ (KL9A)	283	46	13,018	PY	Sep-1980	PY8ZPJ	29	14	406
MT	Feb-1998	K7BG	273	43	11,739	UA9	Feb-2000	RU0SN	15	13	195
NV	Feb-2000	K7BV	290	50	14,500	UN	Sep-2000	UP6F	13	10	130
OR	Feb-2003	N6TR	393	52	20,436	VK	Sep-1994	VK5GN (N6AA)	48	22	1,056
UT	Sep-1991	K6XO	263	44	11,572	ZD8	Sep-1990	ZD8Z (N6TJ)	228	43	9,804
WA	Feb-2003	K7RI (K7SS)	297	53	15,741	ZS	Feb-2000	ZS1ESC (N6AA)	51	18	918
WY	Sep-1999	K7KU (N2IC)	312	48	14,976						
MI	Feb-2003	N8EA	331	52	17,212						
OH	Feb-2003	K8MR	309	52	16,068	Highest multiplier	Feb-2000		55		K9AA (K9PG)
WV	Feb-2002	N4ZR	286	48	13,728	Highest QSO total	Feb-2003		402		K4AAA (W4AN)
						Highest score	Feb-2003	21,306			K4AAA (W4AN)
						Highest team score	Feb-2002	163,373			SCCC #1
						Highest Low Power	Feb-2003	15,741			K7RI (K7SS)
						Highest QRP Power	Feb-2002	10,800			K7RI (K7SS)
						Logs received	Sep-2003	209			
						Number golden logs	Sep-2003	17			
						Number logs >=300	Feb-2003	52			

accuracy. A report on how your log was scored can be received via return e-mail to tree@kkn.net.

Mark your calendars now for the next CW Sprint on February 15 UTC from 0000:00.00Z to 0400:00.00Z. Don't forget the 7-day log submission deadline.

Soapbox

Portable operation, waiting for new house to be built. FT100D to 30L-1, TH3JR on AB-677 porta tower. Had difficulty drumming up enthusiasm. Most CW ops still in shock over ITU decision. 73—K3MD. Can't believe I worked VY1 and VE9, but missed AZ and MD!—K5ZD. Really blew it when I went to 20 meters. Finally gave up on the dipoles and parked the quad, but rate hurt. Missed a lot of mults.—KJ9C. First time over 300 Qs!—KM3T. Conditions were pretty good - a nice kickoff to contest season since the summer has been pretty blah.—N0AX.

This sounded more like the Feb version. Great fun. Good turnout and low noise. Thanks, Howie—N4AF. Was only able to jump in for the last hour and was immediately met with a bunch of "wrkd B4"s—a sure sign N4GN and/or N4GI were active. Enjoyed it despite the dummy load of an antenna I'm using.—N4GG. I sure wish all the testers would learn my name. It got extremely tiresome to send *Arnie* over and over again!—N6HC. First attempt at SO2R in Sprint was nearly a bust. Chickened out and used it only as a rapid band change facility. Failed even to meet my February score that was made at a smaller, simpler station. Got off to an unusually slow start on 20. Was activity down?—N6XI.

No computer, shack a mess; easy to quit early; nice to be called by VY1JA!—N9JF. Great contest but very fast. Lot of new folks this time. Props were very good for a

TOP 10 QSOs		TOP 10 QRP	
K4AAA	404	N8VW	6300
N2NT	394	WD7Z	5577
W4PA	393	K5IID	4862
N9RV	389	NB1B	3531
N6TR	379	W8TM	3500
K5ZD	370	W5KDJ	2639
K1KI	369	N6WG	1440
K5TR	365	N4BP	1400
AG9A	365	N0QT	432
K9NW	359	KI0II	140

TOP 10 MULTS		TOP 10 GOLDEN	
K4AAA	54	K5ZD	370
K6LA	54	AA3B	331
N9RV	53	N5OT	325
K5GN	53	K8CC	322
AG9A	52	K5WA	302
K8CC	52	K6NA	300
W4PA	51	K1HT	294
K5TR	51	N2GC	279
K4NNN	51	W7UQ	249
N6MJ	51	K4MX	242

TOP 10 Low Pwr		TOP 10 Band Changes	
K7SV	14700	K4AAA	232
K7RI	14350	N9RV	191
K1HT	14112	N2NT	168
K9AA	13920	W4PA	154
NA0N	13536	K5TR	142
K8NZ	13110	W9RE	141
N6MJ	13056	AG9A	119
K4AMC	12690	AA3B	115
N0AX	12624	K3NA	106
KG5U	12604	K5GN	96

change. C Ya'll on the next one.—W5KDJ. Always a lot of fun. I sure was rusty this time.—W6MVW. I am too old for this SO2R stuff. Somebody please lobotomize me!—W6UE. Watched the US Open Women's Single Tennis Championship and gave my

new SO2R set up a trial run at the end of the test.—W04O. First Sprint ever using low power.—K4AMC. Great activity and lots of mults. Thanks W4AN for the teams.—K4RO

Started the contest with one radio on 20 meters, the other on 40 meters. Just before 0300 I finally noticed why the rate had fallen so badly on 40 meters. I was only running about 80 W. The amp was dark—never turned it on—I'm such a lid. Here's to February!—K5GN. Thanks to Geo III for allowing me to operate his fine station. The most intense competition there is. The beer always tastes better after this contest! Thanks to everyone for the QSO's.—K5TR. And I used to say mults in the sprint were serendipitous!—K6LA

Poor planning, poor preparation—more challenging that way!—K6NA. I had terrible power line noise, so I struggled on 20 meters for a long time. I finally went to 40 meters for some fun before heading out to the airport.—K6UFO. There is no other contest where getting punned can be so much fun!—K7NV. Talk about fun. Super condx and lots of participation in my favorite contest. What more can one ask for? Well I could ask that my old friend Danny, K7SS, doesn't beat me by one multiplier again! I had the beam north of west quite a bit of the time looking for our Canadian friends and a KL7. Maybe I'd have worked the XF4 on at least one band if I pointed it further south once in a while! Then I'd probably have missed KL7WV or VY1JA! Bring on the next one!—K7SV

First time in a sprint; Started out rough on 20 meters and had a logger problem and things got worse, so I started over on 40 and 80 and I had relaxed enough—KB5NJD. Very limited time due to other commitments.—K17Y. Started late and somewhat tipsy, but had a blast and surpassed my expectations for such a late start.—KT1V. The sprint is a great contest!

TEAM SCORES

Dead Lizards		NCCC #1	
N9RV	20617	N6TV	17040
AG9A	18980	N6XI	14100
K9NW	17232	N6RO	13818
W9RE	14355	K2KW	13350
K9ZO	13938	K6XX	12690
K9AA	13920	W6RGG	12510
K9AY	12925	K7NV	12060
N9CK	12852	NI6T	11468
KJ9C	11880	N6PN	9495
KA9FOX	10040	N6ZFO	8323
	146739		124854

Southern Sprint		YCCC #1	
Coalition (SSC) #1	K1KI	18450	
K4AAA	K5ZD	17760	
W4PA	K1DG	15600	
N4AF	W1WEF	15582	
K4BAI	KM3T	14310	
K7SV	K1HT	14112	
K4RO	N2GC	13950	
W9WI	K3NA	10290	
K4NNN	KT1V	3200	
W4OC		123254	
		145129	

5. SCCC #1 (W6EEN, K6LA, N6AA, W6UE, K6NA, W6TK, XF1K, K6ZH, N6TW, K6XT)	116344
6. NCC (N2NT, K3LR, K2UA, K8MR, W2RQ, K8NZ, N4KK, N3RA, KL7WV)	108132
7. NBFA5 #2 (K5TR, K5GN, N5TJ, K5GA, WQ5L, N5AW, KC5FU, KB5NJD)	96835
8. Azenmokers (N6ZZ, N2IC, N5OT, K5KA, K5YAA, WD7Z, K5IID, K5CM, W7YS, N0QT)	90521
9. NCCC #2 (W7RN, AJ6V, W6NL, W6OAT, W0YK, K6LRN, W6YL, AD6TF, ND2T, K6DGW)	86175
10. SSC #2 (N4OGW, K0LUZ, K4MX, KO7X, K4IQJ, W1MO, K4QPL, NF4A, N4GI, K0EJ)	86145
11. Austin Powers (W5KFT, K5WA, N3BB, KG5U, N5DO, NT5TU, N5XU, W5ZL)	85665
12. SSC #3 (K5KG, W4AU, AA4GA, KZ5D, W4NZ, KU8E, WJ9B)	80677
13. Corner Pocket Contesters (N6TR, K7RI, N0AX, W7UQ, K7BG, KI7Y)	68794
14. FRC (N2NC, AA3B, K3WW, K2PS, K3MD, N9GG)	65907
15. YCCC #2 (K1G, K1EA, K2SX, K2KQ, K1EBY)	53995
16. Team CCO (VE3JM, VE3KZ, VA3NR, VE3KP, VE3IAY, VE3FU, VE3RZ, VE3DZ)	53341
17. SMC (K0OU, WT9U, WI9WI, N9JF)	37295
18. MRRRC (K8CC, K9TM, N8VW, AD8P, KT8X)	37222
19. GCC (W0ETT, N0KE, N0SXX, K0UK, KI0II)	25412
20. MWA (NA0N, K4IU, KT0R)	23848
21. NBFA5 #1 (N5PO, N05W, W5DDX, KE5C, AE5P)	21182
22. SCCC #2 (N6HC, W6MVW, K6EY, W6KY)	18144
23. SSC #4 (K4LQ, K4WW)	7394
24. NCCC #3 (K6UFO, N6WG)	3557
25. Procrastinators (N4BP, VA7ST)	1865
26. NBFA5 #3 (WM5R)	6

Guest Op List

W5KFT (K5PI); W6UE (W4EF); K5TR (N5RZ); KL7WV (W3YQ); N4AO (WC4E); N5XU (AA5BT at N5XU); N5ZK (W5ASP); W6EEN (N6RT); W6YL (W6CT); W7RN (K5RC); W8KW (W8UE); K7RI (K7SS); N4KK (K9VV at K4FAU); XF1K (XE1NTT); KC5FU (K5MR); K9AA (K9PG at K9QVB); W7UQ (KL9A)

I felt like a deer caught in the headlights for the first 30 minutes—pretty hectic. But—as the contest went on I really started enjoying it. I should have been better prepared and I should have changed to the low bands earlier. I was afraid no one would hear me on my little 88 foot dipole when I switched to 40/80 but I ended up with my best QSO rate of the night on 40 and then never made it to 80! Well—wait till next time!—NØSXX.

Yikes - and duh!—N5XU. How could I have missed the easy Vermont multiplier? K1EA owes me, big time.—N6TV. Nice to finally work a decent multiplier.—N9RV. Just when you begin to have the feeling that you are getting the hang of this contesting game along comes the sprint to provide a good dose of reality. I've still got a long way to go! But what a fun trip to even get in the sprint game with a lot of really good CW ops (did someone say CW was dying?), good activity, and from STX some good conditions last night. And when I turned off the YLs Ionic Breeze Machine—boy did the bands get quiet! "Its a sprint honey and only four hours long!" I took a cue from W4AN's posting and started out on 40 which seemed to be a good move since, with 50 watts and a low dipole, I tend to get beat up pretty badly in the initial 20 meter bedlam and if I start on 20 and then move with everyone else to 40 I'm Texas roadkill again on that band. So that paid off and I was able to post my best score ever but still shy of my goal of 200. I haven't done a detailed analysis but it seems like my biggest problem is that the ratio of follow-on QSOs to S&P QSOs was subpar—will have to work on that. Look for me again in the next one and all of the CW events in between. I hope to work some of you in the upcoming Texas QSO Party September 27-28 when you can chase some 'dillos across most of the 254 Lone Star counties. Check out the Website at www.w5nc.org for details. Thanks to everyone for the Q's.—73, Chuck.—NO5W.

First time trying the Sprint—love it—had to get into the groove, but then okay. Think I would have done better with an 80 meter antenna. Only worked 20 meters and 40 meters.—VE3RZ. Hope to make full four hours someday! 73 Wayne.—WØZP. Radios and antennas worked fine—the operator needs refurbishing!—W4NZ. First Sprint—unique contest. Will try again when I can commit the whole four hours. Prior commitment precluded that this time around.—W5ZL. Rig Elecraft K1, 4 W up ladder line to an inverted vee.—W8TM. My second sprint attempt and first QRP. QRP is tough in this contest but I improved from my first attempt.—WD7Z.

I'm not exactly a fast code operator, and my copying skills have never really gotten beyond about 16-18 WPM, but George, K5TR, was so insistent about getting me on for the contest (about the least appropriate contest possible for my skills) and joining one of his teams, that I had to get on. I operated portable, using the ICOM IC-706MkII G in my car, with a 20 meter Hamstick, a Super CMOS 4 keyer, and Bencher paddles, from Colorado Bend State Park in San Saba County. The camping trip was the main goal for the weekend, so I could only spare an hour or so to get on the radio. Every QSO I made I made by calling CQ at a speed I could copy. As usual for me in CW contests, I got very, very few answers. My operation almost didn't happen, as the paddles were dropped

onto rocks and the cable came between the paddle base and a rock, cutting clean through the dit line. I didn't really have much in the way of troubleshooting tools with me except for a pocket knife, but I discovered that if you bent the cable with the cut at the inside of a sharp bend, you could get contact, so a twist tie from the hamburger bun bag saved the day!—WM5R.

Had just 45 minutes to participate without time even to push up the mast. Never quite got into the rhythm but still enjoyed the little bit of time I had for it. Twenty meters played long, forty meters was watery, and eighty meters was crud for me.—K6OWL. Many thanks to my host KK1L.—K1EA. All three bands were in good shape, but 40 seemed to have less activity than usual around the middle of the contest. Somehow I managed to get through the whole four hours without working N6TR (and a few others with sizable QSO totals). I wasn't trying to, honest! It was great to hear a number of newcomers getting their feet wet.—K1HT

What could go wrong, did. Birds busted the 40. Computer crashed *Writelog*, so I logged with *Notepad*—Hey, try it sometime, it really sucks! Forgot to note band changes in *Notepad*, so I'll lose a few Q's. Plus, at the start, I didn't have a clue what the fellows were sending to me. That's what this is for, right? Practice! 73, Art.—K6XT. What a hoot! Intense big bang out of the sprint! Thanks to TR and MA for running 'em, and to all the guys who did so before, and to K7RI for the seat. One of these day gonna learn SO2R and try for the fast lane. See you all next time!—K7RI. Computer died right before the contest started, lost the first half hour.—KA9FOX. Always fun to say hello to our friends scattered around the country. Nice to hear folks sending at something less than infinity wpm. 73, Fred.—N4KK. Long time contester but first sprint. It's definitely a different contest!—N5AW. Thanks to W5GN for the use of his station. First SO1R contest for me in a long time!—N5TJ.

Short time in the contest due to no time to prepare and a bollixed primary radio. In spite of trying to find all the ops who were gunning for the top, it is amazing how many I never heard to give the Delaware multiplier. Better luck to them and me on the next outing.—N8NA. Operated from NX5M. First time in Sprint with high power, first time from a station that has outside anten-

nas, my third Sprint. Had to send way too many fills on my call and name, hope that more people will begin to recognize me in the next Sprint. Great contest, and still lots to learn. I wish this contest was more often, seems like there's plenty of activity and plenty of people mention that six months is too long to wait for the next sprint fix.—NT5TU.

My thanks to Hector, XE2K, and Ray, N6VR, for inviting me on their IOTA expedition and allowing me to operate the Sprint. What a very different environment for operating the Sprint! I am used to being at home or Caltech. Instead I was in a beach tent with mesh sides sitting in front of an ingenious camping table, and a view of Ensenada across 15 miles of water. Add the drone of a generator and the sporadic voice of a fellow operator working 15 meter phone and the picture is complete. Oh, yes, it was also hot that afternoon. I was pleased with the result, the multipliers coming in without much effort on my part. I know I missed VE2FU who may have heard me but QRM prevented making a QSO. Kansas was heard but never when I could initiate a QSO. What were the others I could have worked? This was lots of fun, work, sweat, and push. I love the Sprint!—XF1K

No rotor, no 40 meter antenna, 80 meter antenna tuned for SSB, but had fun anyway. Nice to participate.—KC5FU. Great fun, great ops! Operated from our sailboat at the dock in Wilson, NY near Lake Ontario. Will try the Sprint more often. Tony.—K2NV. Always a great contest! Glad to be back after missing February. Missed a lot of mults this time, like many others. Activity was great from many areas of the US and Canada, but some of the regulars were missing.—K2UA. Oh so close to 300—congrats to K7RI and K7SV for breaking 300 Qs.—K9AA. FB time as usual!—K9NW.

I'll probably never be a sprinter. I'm satisfied to hand out a few QSOs and the mult.—NØAC. Lots of fun. Look forward to the next one. First time I was able to spend more than a few minutes. Heaven only knows how good the log is. Be gentle!—N3RA. QRP always tough in this test. Thanks for the Qs.—NB1B. Lotta problems, but still the *bestest* contest! 73 de Sponge "Bob."—W7UQ. Mults sure eluded me this time!—W9RE.

