

Results: North American Sprint, CW — Fall 2009

The 65th North American Sprint, CW took place the weekend of September 13, 2009. The low number of sunspots (or total lack thereof) continues to affect 20 meters, and only six stations managed to work at least 100 QSOs on that band. Offsetting that statistic, however, was better-than-normal conditions on 80 meters, with many stations achieving QSO totals in the three digits on that band.

While the Southwest dominated the top-score boxes, a few stations in the Northeast managed to break into the Top 10 in both the High and Low Power categories. For most of the country, two bands were available during most of the contest, enabling ops running two radios to dominate.

A total of 174 logs were received — all

in electronic format. That's almost twice as many as came in for the phone Sprint, but it's also down by about 30 logs from the previous fall. The log checker thanks everyone who made the effort to send in their log electronically.

This contest relies heavily on word of mouth to encourage newcomers. It can be a rather frightening event for someone who has never operated it before, so it's really up to us regular participants to encourage new operators to give it a try. There is simply no other contesting event that is as intense. Once people catch on, they often come back for more.

There has been a lot of debate recently about whether Internet packet spotting is a good thing for contesting or not. Due to the Sprint "QSY rule," packet spotting has not had any impact on this event. If you *did* spot someone in the Sprint, they would have had

to QSY after one QSO and show up on a different frequency anyway. We at the Boring ARC often have joked that we should allow packet spotting in this contest, since it would do no good.

Next CW Sprint Just Ahead!

The next CW Sprint is coming right up on February 7 UTC (Saturday, February 6, local time in North America). For team registration, use the *NCJ* Web page, www.NCJweb.com. Submit logs via e-mail to cwsprint@kkn.net or use the log submission form on the *NCJ* Web site. *Logs are due seven days after the contest!*

All-Time CW Sprint Records

Highest Multiplier	55	K9AA (K9PG)	Feb 2000
Highest QSO Total	428	N6TR/7	Feb 2005
Highest Score	21,816	K4AAA (W4AN)	Sep 2003
Highest Team Score	163,373	SCCC #1	Feb 2002
Highest Low Power	15,741	K7RI (K7SS)	Feb 2003
Highest QRP	10,800	K7RI (K7SS)	Feb 2002
Logs Received	227		Feb 2004
Number Golden Logs	18		Feb 2008
Number Logs	300		Feb 2003

Top 10 QSOs

W6YI	355	KA9FOX	9061
N2IC	353	N8NA	8052
K5TR	352	N8EA	7310
N5KO	350	KB7Q	6156
K5ZD	342	KE0G	5236
N3BB	342	NA4BW	4788
N6TV	342	WI9WI	4760
N6TR	339	NN7SS	4318
K1KI	336	AA4XX	1708
K6NA	332	N5ER	1035

Top QRP

KA9FOX	9061
N8NA	8052
N8EA	7310
KB7Q	6156
KE0G	5236
NA4BW	4788
WI9WI	4760
NN7SS	4318
AA4XX	1708
N5ER	1035

Top 10 Mults

K5TR	48	K5TR	352
KW8N	48	K6NA	332
N2NT	48	K9NW	317
K1KI	47	K4BAI	287
N3BB	47	N9CK	277
N5DX	47	N2GC	268
N6AA	47	KV8Q	192
Many	46	K8MR	114
		N6RT	52
		K6III	19

Top Golden Logs

K5TR	352
K6NA	332
K9NW	317
K4BAI	287
N9CK	277
N2GC	268
KV8Q	192
K8MR	114
N6RT	52
K6III	19

Top 10 Low Power

N9CK	12,188		
K5NZ	11,508	N3BB	164
N5DO	11,484	N5KO	150
K0AD	11,176	N2IC	140
K4XU	11,094	N5DX	140
K1HT	10,621	N2NT	128
N0AT	10,578	K5TR	116
W1NN	10,428	W6YI	114
NA4K	10,208	K4RO	106
K9MMS	9976	N6RO	98
		N4AF	96

Top Band Changes

N3BB	164
N5KO	150
N2IC	140
N5DX	140
N2NT	128
K5TR	116
W6YI	114
K4RO	106
N6RO	98
N4AF	96

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	QSOs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K5TR	16,896	116	0	106	87	86	73
W6YI	16,330	114	1	94	95	82	84
N2IC	16,238	140	1	102	92	80	79
N3BB	16,074	164	3	116	82	79	65
N2NT	15,888	128	7	97	81	92	61
K1KI	15,792	2	3	85	91	74	86
N5KO	15,750	150	4	100	89	81	80
K5ZD	15,732	78	3	107	86	79	70
N6TV	15,732	24	1	99	92	80	71
K6NA	14,940	4	0	87	88	72	85

Top Single Radio

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	QSOs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K1KI	15,792	2	3	85	91	74	86
K6NA	14,940	4	0	87	88	72	85
N6AA	14,758	2	3	77	77	73	87
N6TR	14,577	2	2	85	99	75	80
W7RN	14,536	2	1	79	81	80	76
N9RV	14,520	4	3	77	95	68	90
K9NW	14,265	8	0	91	81	85	60
K6XX	13,545	10	2	74	84	75	68
NR5M	13,376	12	2	93	87	66	58
N2NC	13,185	10	1	77	81	67	68

Final scores typically are posted within two weeks of the contest and are announced on the CQ-Contest reflector. These also will be posted on the NCJ Web page at that time.

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

HIGH POWER

Overview

For the second time in a row, Ralph Bowen, N5RZ, piloted the K5TR station to victory. This is Ralph's third victory and his 29th Top 10 finish. He also had a Golden Log. Coming in second place — also for the second time in a row — is Dan, N6MJ, operating at W6YI. Moving up one spot from February 2009, Steve, N2IC, posted his 40th Top 10 victory. Jim, N3BB, came in fourth place. These top four were the same top four in February. The only difference is that Steve and Jim swapped positions.

Andy, N2NT, had the highest East Coast score and placed fifth, with Tom, K1KI, right on his heels. Former Sprint Editor Trey, N5KO, placed seventh, followed by Randy, K5ZD. Ninth place went to N6TV, and K6NA sneaked into the Top 10 for the first time since 1995.

It's interesting to note that it's still possible to make the Top 10 with only one radio. Typically, however, those scores are pushed down into the second half of Top 10. When comparing the two-radio box score to the Top 10 listing, you can see that four of the next five scores after the Top 10 are single-radio efforts. There is no doubt that operating this contest with advanced software enabling 100-plus band changes is a different experience than the rest of us have with just one radio. It takes a great deal of concentration to effectively run two radios, and some people have decided that it is more fun to just deal with one radio.

Low Power

The Low Power category is very popular in this contest. It offers an opportunity for those who have a fairly decent signal and employ aggressive operating techniques to enjoy nearly the success of the High Power entrants. Steve Franzen, N9CK, found

himself in this category once, due to RFI problems, and he's never looked back. Steve finished ahead of the pack with 277 QSOs and a Golden Log to boot. In a tight race for second place, Mike, K5NZ, squeaked head of Dave, N5DO, both from Texas. Al, K0AD, in Minnesota came in fourth, just ahead of Dick, K4XU/7, operating from Oregon. Dave, K1HT, had the best Low Power score from the East Coast, coming in sixth, followed by Ron, N0AT. Rounding out the Top 10 were W1NN, NA4K and K9MMS.

QRP

Twelve brave souls entered the m el e armed only with 5 W. This assures they will be squashed almost every time they set their sights on a station to work. Often, they will stay on the same frequency calling whoever inherits it, hoping that nobody else will be calling the occupant of the new frequency. Once they get through, they are sometimes rewarded with a second QSO, and then it's off to find a new frequency.

One of the interesting advantages in having a long call sign in this contest is that if there is a pileup, you can often end up being in the clear when sending the last two letters of your suffix. Imagine you are hearing three or four signals but can't pull out anyone's call

Team Scores

1. Austin Heat		2. Northern California Contest Club #1		3. Yankee Clipper Contest Club		4. Southern California Contest Club #1	
K5TR	16,896	N5KO	15,750	K1KI	15,792	W6YI	16,330
N3BB	16,074	N6TV	15,732	K5ZD	15,732	K6NA	14,940
N5DX	14,711	W7RN	14,536	W1WEF	13,095	N6AA	14,758
N6TR	14,577	K6XX	13,545	K1AR	12,285	N6AN	11,424
N5TJ	14,355	N6RO	13,420	N2GC	11,792	W4EF	10,340
N4AF	13,552	AE6Y	12,466	KM3T	9534	AC6T	10,290
NR5M	13,376	N6XI	12,452	WA1Z	9156	W6TK	8580
K5OT	11,700	W0YK	12,255	W1UE	8471	NE6I	5960
KZ5D	11,256	W6OAT	10,879	K2KQ	7920	K2RP	2128
W0BH	10,868	K6AW	10,414			N6RT	1352
Total	137,365	Total	131,449	Total	103,777	Total	96,102

5. NCCC 2 (K6RB, N3ZZ, AJ6V, W6EU, K9YC, W6SX, K6SRZ, N6PN, NH6P, K6DGW).....	85,618
6. TNM (W9RE, N9CK, W1NN, K8MM, K9MMS, KV8Q, N8EA, K0DXC, N4ZR).....	82,978
7. Austin Hot (K5NZ, N5DO, K4XU, K6VVA, WQ5L, N5XU, NO5W, K1TN, K0IO).....	78,799
8. FRC Last Minute (N2NT, AA3B, N2NC, W2RQ, WW2Y, W3KB).....	71,968
9. MRRRC/NCC (N9RV, K9NW, KW8N, NN3NN, K8MR, K3LR, K3UA, K9TM).....	56,601
10. Bunch Zeros (WD0T, K0AD, N0AT, NA0N, N0AC, K0TG, K0MD).....	56,386
11. SSC (K4BAI, W4NZ, K4RO, NA4BW, K0EJ, K2SX, W4AU, KB4KBS).....	53,183
12. Rockies (K07X, N5QQ, W0ETT, N0SXX, AC0DS, K0UK).....	41,181
13. YCCC 2 (K1EA, K1HT, K2LE, W1JQ, NP3D).....	36,866
14. SMC (K0OU, ND9E, K9KM, WI9WI, N9FC, K9ZT, W9IP).....	36,062
15. Corner Pocket (N0AX, NG7Z, NN7SS, K7WA).....	22,493
16. CCO (VE3EJ, VE3NE).....	20,683
17. NCCC 3 (N6ZFO, KZ2V, K6NV, KA3DRR, W6NF).....	8599

Guest Operators

AC6T	@W6RFU	K6AW	@W6NV	M0FGA	K5GN	NN3NN	NO3M	NR5M	K5GA
K5OT	@K5NA	K7ZSD	K7GK	N1LI	K1DG, N5OT	NN7SS	K6UFO	W6YI	N6MJ
K5TR	N5RZ	KZ2V	@W6YX	N5XU	N9NB	NP3D	EW1AR	W7RN	N7MH

sign, but you hear a weak "OX" and know instantly that KA9FOX is calling you. This advantage paid off for Scott, KA9FOX, as he won the QRP category with an impressive 221 QSOs and 41 multipliers.

Coming in second place was Karl, N8NA, handing out the Delaware multiplier. Being in a rare section adds a few dB to your signal, since everyone knows whom to keep an ear out for. Joe, N8EA, in Michigan, came in third, followed by Gene, KB7Q, operating from Montana. Dan, KE0G, placed fifth from Minnesota. Rounding out four of the remaining Top 10 slots was a group of five-character call signs: NA4BW, WI9WI, NN7SS and AA4XX, respectively. Number 10 was N5ER.

Team Competition

The team competition saw some solid competition for the top spot. The Austin Heat put together a team with some of the top scores in the contest and outdistanced the Northern California Contest Club. The YCCC managed to accumulate more than 100,000 points using only nine logs and came in third, ahead of the Southern California Contest Club. The SCCC avoided being embarrassed by the second team from the NCCC that posted a respectable fifth place.

The best way to encourage new people to operate this event is to sign them up for a team. Many thanks to those who organized the teams. These included K8MM, N3BB, K3LR, K0AD, KU8E, N6RT, K6UFO, VE3EJ, K6XX, W0ETT, K9GY and K1K1.

Golden Logs

It takes perfect execution and a little bit of luck to survive the thorough log checking process without any red marks. Fifteen stations achieved it this time around, and six of them had more than 250 QSOs! If you're interested in seeing how your log was scored, you can request a copy of your log check report via e-mail to tree@kkn.net. Reports are available for the past few years as well.

Records

Many records were set this time around, mostly in the QRP and Low Power categories. K8MR/1 made lemonade out of having to be in Vermont for a wedding and set a new Low Power record for the Green Mountain State. N8NA posted a new QRP record for Delaware. Karl now holds the record for both Low Power and QRP for the First State.

Elsewhere, NA4BW improved upon his existing QRP record for Georgia, which he'd set just last February. AA4XX erased the 11-year-old record for QRP in North Carolina. N5DX set a new High Power record for Arkansas, while N5ER posted the first-ever QRP score from there. KB7Q eclipsed his

previous best QRP score from Montana, and N8EA now has a clean sweep of the Michigan records by adding the QRP record to his portfolio. KA9FOX updated his QRP score from February, and KE0G set a new QRP record for Minnesota. N0SXX posted a new Low Power record for South Dakota, while KM3T took a radio on vacation to VP9 to set a new Low Power record from there.

Soapbox

All 80 meters. — AA5B
Bad operating cost me a multiplier. I worked a barely audible K8MR on 80. After many repeats, I got the number and name but left the state as OH, per my database from prior contests. Turns out he was in VT! — AE6Y

That's all I have. Hope to have more time by the next one. — DL5AWI

Bands pretty good — I got a good start then lost 11 minutes to a phone call and could never catch back up — K0OU

Slowly getting better but still a way to go. See ya in the next CW. — K0UK

It was fun to have Dr Beldar visit the Sprint. When conditions are mediocre, we need all the humor we can get. — K1HT

First time to operate more than about an hour in a Sprint, and first time on a team. That kept me in the chair. — K1TN

Twenty wasn't much but 40 was fantastic! — K4XU

Rain cancelled my social commitment, but I didn't have time to go to W5KFT. Got on from home with my K3, FL-2100 and C-4 at 40 feet. It was fun! Gotta get up an 80 meter antenna here for Thursday nights. — K5PI

First time with K3s — yeah! Thanks to all for the Qs — N5RZ @ K5TR

Personal best first hour — 107 QSOs! All downhill after that. — K5ZD

Sprint — The king of contests. My favorite way to get into the fall season! — K7SV

We attended a wedding in Stowe, Vermont, on Saturday, so I just had to take along a radio. Great fun answering all the "VT?" in the affirmative. — K8MR

Wheels fell off in the last half hour. — K9NW

Sprint is tough, its format really pushed my skill set, and that is why I like to operate this event. — K4DRR

Wish the SSB Sprint had this much activity! — KA9FOX

Oh well! Once again I proved to myself that my station sucks, my ears are stone and my brain is incapable of decoding CW at 35 WPM. When is it going to be Field Day again? — KB4KBS

Had great fun running QRP. QRN was down, signals were up, the "ears" out there were excellent. — KE0G

Twenty was weak here. No jump balls on that band for me. Forty and 80 were good producers, but they both went long rather quickly. — KV8Q

Still have a long way to go, but still fun! — KW8N

Thanks for letting me participate. — N0AC

Toughest 200 QSOs I ever made — 100 W and a multiband dipole at 30 feet. Just bangin' away and glad to be back on for the Sprints! The homebrew hacksaw-blade dual-lever paddle earned its Sprint battle ribbon, too. I'm sure the name Beldar and an unexpected QTH of MO threw some folks for a loop. — N0AX

Had a thunderstorm shortly after starting contest that lasted most of the four-hour period. Thanks to those who went QRS to my speed. — N0KM

Need more practice! — N5QQ

No whining! Well, just a little. I could never really get a good rhythm going until the beginning of the first hour on 80, but it didn't last long. Conditions seemed better than I expected. So, either I just didn't have the fast-twitch muscles this time or conditions got in the way. Maybe both. — N6AN

Eighty meter conditions were much better last year. Lots of weak East Coast signals. — N6TV

Haven't been in this one for a while but wanted to try it out with my new SDR. The operators in this contest are still the crème de la crème! CU in February! — N7EIE

FT-1000MP @ exactly 5 W. — N8EA

Eighty was exceptional. Much fun. — N9RV

Awful, just awful. I did better than this QRP in the Thursday and Friday night practices. My new 20 meter antenna was working Thursday and Friday night, but for Saturday, it was an open connection and no time to troubleshoot, so I used the old low tri-bander. Also, had electric fence noise bursts. I stuck around for 90 minutes because I was getting mults, and I knew it would only be worse when I got to 80. I barely topped my QRP score from the February Sprint, and I had been hoping for a big increase. Thanks for the CW practice, and congrats to the good ears that worked me. — NN7SS

This was a personal best for me and the first time over 200 Qs. I guess all those Thursday night NCCC NSs are paying off. — N05W

This was a strange one for me, making more Qs on 80. Spent the day putting up a Butternut vertical on top of my barn's metal roof, and while I got tired out, the antenna played pretty well. — W0ETT

Had to do paper log and manually send as I had a new PC and no time to install logging program. Antihistamine just prior to contest made me very drowsy. Cat kept making a bunch of noise and jumped on the desk until I finally banished him from the shack. Enjoyed it all, as usual. — W2RQ

Started a bit late to get the most of 20, but 40 had nice openings into CA and the East. Still can't used to this QSY business. Gave it my best for 30 minutes. can't imagine how SO2R ops handle it without a cranial short circuit. — W9IP

Fun contest, first time I have done a Sprint in a long time, great to work all the familiar calls and new ones also. Thanks! — WD0T

Twenty continues to be long at the start before it closes. N4CW/1 was the only northeastern station coming through, and he was solid 20 over S9. — WW2Y

