

Results, February 2000

NCJ Phone Sprint

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The millennium celebrations which marked December 31, 1999 apparently carried over into the February 2000 Phone Sprint. Fireworks, celebrations, and a series of "firsts," occurred both in December and in February.

Eighteen years have passed since the first Phone Sprint was run in September 1982. There have been 36 contests marked by conditions good and bad, high sunspots and low, ice storms and sunny skies, short skip and long. Usually, with that much history, domestic contest records don't change often and, when they do, the changes are usually incremental. Not this time.

Thanks in very large part to the efforts of K9PG (see his sidebar), the scores and activity in February 2000 represent almost a watershed in the history of the Phone Sprint. Over 20 records of one sort or another were set—most convincingly. Much of this write-up will be spent on reviewing the records set during the February 2000 Phone Sprint.

First, we received 127 logs from 47 different areas. The log total ties the record set in 1992 while the number of different areas easily surpasses the old mark of 40.

Sixteen State/Province records were set. There are so many of them, a chart is in order.

Take a few minutes to study the *New Versus Old Records* table. It's obvious that the old records were not broken incrementally, they were broken almost exponentially. There are stories behind every score. Let me point out just a few.

In the table, the old records averaged 13276 points. On average, the new mark was 2761 points higher. That's a 21% score improvement. Goodness!

The upper Midwest was one great place to be. Each of the states in 9-land now sports a new scoring mark as do two states in 8-land. The nines were particularly record-prone.

Two entrants in WI broke the old record (WE9V and KA9FOX), two did it in IL (K9XD and AG9A) and three did it in IN (W9RE, K9NW and N9RV). Two of the states in 3-land also had new marks set. Each of these records is partially due to the 40-meter start chronicled by K9PG in the sidebar.

TN was another state where multiple persons broke the old mark. K4WX was on the top of the stack in TN breaking his old mark (he's ex-N4ZZ). He was joined by K0EJ and K1KY. Of particular note, K0EJ broke the old record while running low power.

One record was broken that was set in the very first Phone Sprint—the record in WV. In fact, six new records broke marks which were at least ten years old.

One old record that was smashed was in Ohio. Bob, KW8N, broke his own 13-year-old record by almost 25%. In and of itself, that's a huge jump. It's even more amazing when you consider that Bob competes at a very high level every time he gets into this contest. To put it mildly, Bob has a reasonable idea of what he's doing and he hasn't been sitting on his mike for the last 13 years. He's won this contest twice before and has been in the Top Ten 27 out of 36 times, including 10 out of the last 11 contests (that's an absolutely mind-boggling track record). Here's someone who is extremely competitive, who enters almost every contest, who set the record 13 years ago, and then, when he does set a new mark, he breaks his old record

by 36 QSOs and 6 multipliers. That's phenomenal.

The new CA record is also impressive. In virtually every contest, a CA station or two or three is in the Top Ten. There are often 20 entrants from the Golden State. Yet the old record took over 10 years to break, and when it fell, the new mark is an increase of over 7%.

As I said, there are many stories behind the many new records—NT1N setting a new mark in yet another state; a first-time entry from stalwart VY1JA, fill-

Top 10 QSOs

KW8N	366
K9XD	356
K6LL	345
N6MJ	344
W9RE	343
WE9V	332
K4XS	331
K3CR	330
W7WA	327
NT1N	325

Top 10 Multipliers

K9XD	58
K6LL	57
KW8N	57
K4XS	56
N6MJ	56
NT1N	55
K3CR	55
NR6O	55
W5WMU	54
K5OT	54
K6RO	54
W7WA	54

Golden Logs

(Logs over 50 QSOs with no score reduction)

K3CR	330 QSOs
W6EU	275 QSOs
KR6RF	230 QSOs
K0EJ	226 QSOs

Top 10 Scores

Call	Score	Band Changes	QSOs Lost
KW8N	20862	65	3
K9XD	20648	55	1
K6LL	19665	2	8
N6MJ	19264	2	3
K4XS	18536	21	3
K3CR	18150	32	0
NT1N	17875	7	7
W7WA	17658	10	5
WE9V	17596	3	2
W9RE	17150	11	3

Top 10 Low Power Scores

Call	Score	Band Changes	QSOs Lost
K6ZH	12393	10	8
WA7BNM	12296	2	1
K0EJ	11300	5	0
N9SD	10904	5	4
VE5SF	10608	1	4
K5KA	10516	2	2
W8MJ	10164	17	4
N8AA	9898	20	3
N8EA	9618	4	1
W0UY	9568	9	3

New Versus Old Records

Area	Call	New Record	Call	Old Record	Points	Percent
CT	NT1N	17875	W1WEF	15066 (Feb '89)	2809	18.6%
VT	KK1L	12672	KK1L	9374 (Sep '99)	3298	35.1%
MD	K3MM	14637	KM3T	14444 (Sep '87)	193	1.3%
PA	K3CR	18150	K5ZD	16677 (Feb '92)	1473	8.8%
AL	K4NO	12576	KE4GY	8987 (Sep '95)	3589	39.9%
NC	K4MA	13700	AA4NC	12788 (Feb '92)	1088	8.5%
TN	K4WX	14739	N4ZZ	10836 (Feb '89)	3903	36.0%
CA	N6MJ	19264	N6BT	17898 (Sep '89)	1366	7.6%
AZ	K6LL	19665	K6LL	18150 (Sep '97)	1515	8.3%
OH	KW8N	20862	KW8N	16830 (Sep '87)	4032	24.0%
WV	K3JT	11172	N8II	9956 (Sep '82)	1216	12.2%
IN	W9RE	17150	W9RE	14945 (Sep '87)	2205	14.8%
IL	K9XD	20648	AG9A	15550 (Sep '94)	5098	32.8%
WI	WE9V	17596	KA9FOX	14308 (Sep '95)	3288	23.0%
VE6	VE6EX	9751	VE6GK	3330 (Feb '93)	6421	192.8%
VE8	VY1JA	1152	no entry	N/A		

ing the last blank spot in the US and Canada; K3JT getting on for just a few Qs and not being able to stop—and on and on and on. Congratulations to all the record setters. Let's do it again next time.

Moving to the Top Ten, KW8N took the brass ring with the second highest score ever recorded. He also had a high band change number, as usual. Note that a high number of band changes nowadays suggests effective use of a two radio strategy—a strategy possibly more important in the East than in the West. Half of the Top Ten stations were in the Upper Midwest—an unusually high number. Did the 40-meter start have something to do with it? Nonetheless, the geographic map was well represented in the Top Ten, with stations from California to Connecticut and from Florida to Washington.

As a whole, scores in the Top Ten increased dramatically. W9RE in the tenth spot had 17150 points, a score which would have WON 26 of the previous 35 Phone Sprints. The average Top Ten score of 18740 (!) was higher than ever before and such a score would have won in all but four prior contests.

Among low power enthusiasts, K6ZH led a pack of seven contestants reporting more than 10k points. Normally, we're lucky if one LP entrant breaks the magic 10k barrier (only once has there been two in one contest). Similar to the high power gang, the LP tenth place finisher would have won the category about 70% of the time in past contests. Note that fifth place finisher VE5SF posted a great score without the use of 80 meters (that's why he only had one band change).

In the club competition, the Midwest (not surprisingly) was the birthplace of the winning club. Members of the Society of Midwest Contesters have been the nucleus of multiple team entries over multiple years. Often their highest placing team has been named Dead Lizards Can't Talk (a name that, I'm sure, was derived in a Dayton contest suite haze). The last time DLCT took the top club position was September 1995. So this year, they changed their tactics. As K9NW so aptly put it: "after further review, dead lizards CAN talk." It obviously worked. Not only did DLCT finish first, they set a new club record, breaking the old mark set in September 1989. Four team members finished in the Top Ten. Congratulations. The other SMC entries finished in sixth, ninth, thirteenth and sixteenth.

After finishing first eight times in a row, the Southern California Contest Club took second place with a score that would have won the contest in any other year except this one and September 1989. Don't cry big crocodile tears for them though; their string of consecutive

WOW! What a Contest!

By Paul Gentry, K9PG

In the January/February 2000 *NCJ*, my contesting mentor Dave Patton, NT1N, wrote a short article in the CW Sprint results entitled *My Best Sprint?* Well, this SSB Sprint was most definitely *My Best Sprint!*

One of the biggest problems that I often face in the SSB Sprint is that I can never seem to get off to a big start. The perennial Top Ten guys often have first hours over 100, mainly on 20 meters. I've never come close to a 100-hour in any Sprint—ever.

Over the last few years, I have tried to get a group of people from the Midwest to start the Sprint on 40 meters in an attempt to work each other before the band goes long. It has worked with moderate success—there just haven't been a lot of people to work on 40 meters because most of them are on 20 meters. However, this time I put a lot of time and effort into getting more activity on for the contest in general with an emphasis on the 40-meter start.

I hounded several dozen members of my contest club and asked several other Sprinters elsewhere to do the same with their clubs. Judging by the huge increase in scores this time around, I'd say that it paid off!

I set a goal of 325×50 . If I got close to that, I'd be happy. I never thought that I'd end up with $357 \times 58!$ My strategy was to spend as much time as possible on 40 meters at the start. My thinking was that no matter when I end up QSYing to 20 meters, when I did I'd be fresh meat, so the longer I spend on 40, the better. I had 29 Qs logged after the first 10 minutes ranging from W0UY in KS, K4WX in TN and AC0W in MN, to NT1N in CT—and the reliable VT mult, KK1L. N8NA also showed up handing out the DE mult! Starting on 40 meters really paid off! It was really hopping at the start and there was activity on 40 throughout the entire contest!

I left 40 meters for the first time at 0011Z with 31 Qs in the log, all but 2 were on 40. I spent the next 25 minutes on 20 meters, then went back and forth between 20 and 40 meters for the remainder of the first hour.

At 0100Z, I had 115 Qs in the log, 42 on 40 meters and 73 on 20 meters. This is by far the best start that I've ever had. The rest of the contest was relatively uneventful for me other than having some good mults call in as well as finding some on the second radio. My next three hours were 77, 73 and 93. The last hour of 93 seemed to be a bit above average.

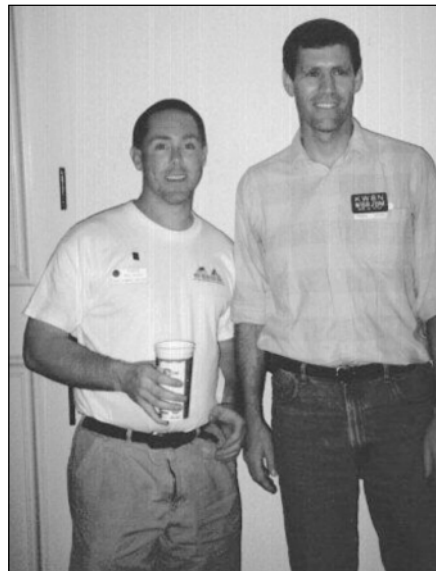
Activity was way up and there was someone on from every State and Province, except VE2. Where were you, Serge? Our friend VY1JA also made a showing. Thanks, J! With all the DX mults on, there were about 70 possible mults available!

Without question, what made this the best Sprint of my brief contesting tenure was the great jump-start I got on 40 meters. It also helped everyone else from the Midwest to the East Coast including the winner, KW8N. Bob and I were within one QSO of each other ten minutes into the contest. His last 43 minutes must have been killer—I was 7 QSOs ahead of him at 0317Z. Kudos to Bob.

There were also all kinds of state records shattered. Many ops who set new records started on 40 meters. They tell me that the start they got off to on 40 meters helped them greatly! Could these guys and others in the Midwest and on the East Coast have done as well as they did if they didn't start on 40? It's tough to say. However, organizing a start on 40 meters with this many people has never been done before and you certainly can't argue with the fact that it worked!

We'll be doing the same thing for both modes in September. If you were one of the guys that got on 40 meters at the start this time, how about doing it again? If you are one of the guys who didn't start on 40 this time, how about giving it a shot! You might be pleasantly surprised like we all were!

See you on 40 meters at 0001Z on Sept 17!



Paul Gentry, K9PG, and Bob Hayes, KW8N

victories is twice as long as anyone else's. September would be a nice time to start another string, don't you think?

Perennial entrants NCCC and MRRC took third and fourth. The Tennessee Contest Group was big enough to field two teams this year (as did SCCC). Congratulations and thanks to all the club entries.

To finish up the record machine, other records set included: most multipliers (58); 19 entrants with 300 QSOs or more; and 43 persons with 50 or more multipliers.

Finally, from "The Twilight Zone" department, there was a veritable plethora of "sixteens" in this contest. To wit: there were 16 team entries, 16 State/Province records were set, 16 contestants had over 16k points, and a 16k score would have won the contest 16 times in the past. Makes you wonder.

Soapbox

This was my second Phone Sprint and I did 60 more Qs than my first.—*AE6Y*. Maybe I should use a name other than my own unless my fellow contesters learn how to spell my Japanese name.—*AJ3M*. Special thanks to *K9PG* for drumming up a lot of activity for this one. It made it the most fun Sprint of all time.—*KW8N*. A personal high in both Qs and mults.—*KØOU*. Only was on for an hour and a half. Missed a lot of fun this time.—*K1HT*. Can I just go get all my teeth pulled next time?—*K1KY*. The 40-meter start was fantastic.—*K3CR*. Maybe someday I'll have a competitive score.—*K3JT* (a new record seems competitive, Ed.) The great thing about contesting is learning while having fun.—*K4OOO*. First time over 300 Qs!—*K6RO*. It was an experience. Something like entering the Kentucky Derby on a Shetland pony.—*NX9T*. Always a fun contest though tough in the low power, no beams category—*K7ZO*. I made a few Qs on 20 with the beam on the ground, buried in 1 foot of snow, before I figured out that my dipole in the air would be a better antenna.—*N8NA*. I am amazed at the result. It would not have been possible without starting on 40 meters.—*K9XD*. It was great once I got started. I understand why Lee says it raises his blood pressure.—*KE4YBS*. What a great contest!—*KE9NA*. My first Sprint. What a blast.—*KG9X*. I'm not sure my learning curve is steep enough, but I'll be back.—*KR4QI*. Sprints render all other contests useless. Now if we can extend it to 24 hours, eliminate the high-power category and only permit one transmitter, we'd really be on to something.—*N7RX*. My first try. Was interrupted by the new baby (she was 3 weeks old) and dinner.—*VE7TLL*. Happy to work *WØBR* for the KS mult. This may be the first time I have done that in a Sprint.—*WØUY* (KS). I love the 4 hour format.—*W4NF*. Got my radio back from repair Friday afternoon and it worked okay. Forty minutes into the contest it quit hearing, so I banged on it and it heard again. After doing that 20 or 30 times it quit entirely.—*W6AQ*. QRP is for the birds in this test.—*W9WI* (QRP). Finished with personal bests in mults and score.—*WA7BNM*. First time over 300 Qs.—*WE9V*.

Club Competition

<i>Dead Lizards CAN Talk</i>	<i>Southern California Contest Club #1</i>	<i>Northern California Contest Club</i>	<i>Mad River Radio Club</i>
<i>K9XD</i> 20648	<i>K6LL</i> 19665	<i>NR6O</i> 16500	<i>KU8E</i> 15600
<i>K3CR</i> 18150	<i>N6MJ</i> 19264	<i>K5RC</i> 14210	<i>K9TM</i> 14739
<i>WE9V</i> 17596	<i>K6RO</i> 16794	<i>W6EU</i> 14025	<i>K3MM</i> 14637
<i>W9RE</i> 17150	<i>K6LA</i> 16536	<i>AE6Y</i> 13034	<i>ND8DX</i> 12138
<i>AG9A</i> 16380	<i>N6ED</i> 15900	<i>W6YX</i> 13005	<i>W8MJ</i> 10164
<i>K9NW</i> 16224	<i>W6TK</i> 14204	<i>KR6RF</i> 11040	<i>N8EA</i> 9618
<i>N9RV</i> 15810	<i>W7WW</i> 13300	<i>KA6BIM</i> 9000	<i>WD8S</i> 6670
<i>KA9FOX</i> 15198	<i>WA7BNM</i> 12296	<i>K6EP</i> 4674	<i>K8GT</i> 2079
<i>K9ZO</i> 14681	<i>K6AM</i> 6440	<i>Total</i> 95488	<i>AA8U</i> 144
<i>K8DX</i> 14535	<i>Total</i> 134399		<i>Total</i> 85789
<i>Total</i> 166372			

5. Tennessee Contest Group Alpha (<i>K4WX</i> , <i>K4MA</i> , <i>W4MR</i> , <i>K0EJ</i> , <i>K1KY</i> , <i>K4OOO</i> , <i>KE4YBS</i> , <i>K4BEV</i>)	71725
6. SMC & Company (<i>NT1N</i> , <i>KØOU</i> , <i>K9BGL</i> , <i>WØUY</i> , <i>WT9U</i> , <i>KL9A</i>)	70882
7. SCCC #2 (<i>W6UE</i> , <i>K6ZH</i> , <i>K6NA</i> , <i>N6RT</i> , <i>W6AQ</i> , <i>N6VR</i> , <i>N6TW</i>)	48240
8. Southeast Contest Club (<i>K4NO</i> , <i>W4WA</i> , <i>W4OC</i> , <i>W4NTI</i>)	35126
9. Society of Midwest Contesters #1 (<i>KE9NA</i> , <i>N9SD</i> , <i>WO9S</i> , <i>W9GIG</i>)	34076
10. Florida Contest Group (<i>K4XS</i> , <i>WC4E</i>)	28564
11. Texas DX Society (<i>W5ASP</i> , <i>KG5U</i>)	25920
12. Rush Drake Orchestra (<i>W7WA</i> , <i>KI7Y</i>)	24038
13. SMC #2 (<i>K9MMS</i> , <i>KE0FT</i> , <i>KØSN</i>)	15088
14. Alberta Clippers (<i>VE6EX</i> , <i>VE6FU</i>)	12796
15. TCG Beta (<i>W9WI</i>)	2079
16. SMC #3 (<i>K9PW</i>)	372

