RESULTS
February, 1985, North American Sprint

CW

By Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Three! Count 'em! Three DX multipliers readily available thanks to OH2BH at XE2MX, W2TO at 4U1UN, and W6OAT operating portable VP9. And VE1, VE3, VE4 and VE7 there for the picking. Even a few rare USA catches showed. KB7RV handed out a handfull of contacts from Nevada while KK7C made 24 QSOs from Utah--running 950 mw on 40 meters and 750 mw on 80! Congratulations to those of you who worked him on both bands. With ears like that, you deserve the multiplier! In all, the abundance of multipliers made the February Sprint a good time to bust a few records, and seven stations did just that. Kudos to N4TY in KY; N4ZZ in TN; N6TR/7 in OR; K8CC in MI; XE2MX in Mexico; W6OAT/VP9 in Bermuda; and 4U1UN at the United Nations, all of whom set new state or country high marks. In all, twenty-seven stations made over 250 QSOs and twenty had more than 10,000 points.

Conditions clearly seemed to favor Texas since half of the top ten scores came from there. True to form, K5ZD blew away all the competition again. This was Randy's fifth win in the cw Sprint, and he outdistanced his nearest rival, N5JJ, by slightly more than 1,000 points. As most of you know by now, Randy has moved from Texas to Massachusetts, so it will be interesting to see what that does to his score in September.

N6TR's WASPs made a strong comeback to wrest the top team spot from K8CC's Motley Crew #A, who dropped from first place last September to second this time. The Midwest Popguns #1, assembled by NØSS and W8LNO, held on to third spot, and Texas DX Society's Team #1 wound up fourth. Note that the TDXS score of 70,528 was only slightly less than 1,000 points behind their September '84 finish of 71,501 which was sufficient to land them in second place back then. Needless to say, team competition was a lot stiffer this time than it has been in the past.

There were several guest operators in the February Sprint. In addition to OH2BH at XE2MX and W2TO at 4U1UN, W6AQ was operated by WA6OTU; AI6V by WA6VEF; W6UE by AA6RX; W6VG by SMØDRD; K6QEH by NC6U; and W8LT by KD8NS.

Would you believe the February Sprint logs went on a DXpedition? That's right, they all went with the FOØXX operators to Clipperton Island. I thought I would have lots of slow time on the boat to spend checking them, but that's not the way it worked out. In actual fact, the packet of logs didn't even get opened until I got back to California.

As in any contest, there usually are some interesting comments noted on the logs. Here are a few I thought you might enjoy: "The QSY rule made it tough on my 20 wpm code speed, but do not change a thing. Loved the test and will be back next year with higher code speed." N4JBP; "Maybe we should consider 40, 80 and 160?" W1WEF; "This was my first Sprint. I had a great time, but about the time I was getting the hang of it, it was over!" NO4R; "I tell you what, this contest is wild." N4TY; "Spent the first hour spinning the yagi to no avail--was plugged into a 20 meter vertical." K5TU; "Living in a condominium is a real bummer. No antennas or amps." NF6H; "My first Sprint over 10K. Having K7HM and KZ5M active in the same cw contest is a bit too much. Nothing like similar calls at high speed!" NE6I; "For the first three hours of the Sprint, I loaded my antenna tuner into nothing. After I put out the fire, it went well!" KO9Q; "My first Sprint. It took me about two hours to get the rhythm." KD7EY/Ø.

Over the last few months a number of stations have commented about changing the Sprint rules. Some want to change the starting times while others want to change the frequency bands. The bottom line, though, is the fact that whatever change is suggested benefits the station suggesting the change at the expense of somebody else. The Sprint rules have evolved over time and embody lots of compromises. We're never going to be able to make everything equal for everybody. Depending on where we are in the sunspot cycle, different areas of the country have advantages over other areas at any particular moment in time. Nonetheless, top ten performances have come from every region (except Canada and the US's 9th call district), so at some time things must be right for you. I bring up this subject because I've been an advocate of not changing the rules to mollify those stations on the "backside" of the cycle. I think they should bide their time waiting for the sunspots to change. Meanwhile, those whose time has come should be permitted to reap whatever benefits the sunspots have dealt them. My resistance to rules changes has prompted more than one well-known Sprinter to comment "If you're not going to change the rules, then I won't operate in the contest." Now all this leads me to wonder if the rules really are the problem. Might it not be something else? Does a contest perhaps have a finite lifetime, and grumblings about the rules are simply a manifestation that the participants are ready to spend their weekends doing something else? Has the Sprint run its course? Would it make sense for us to declare that, say, the September, 1986, Sprint will be the last, and let the contest go out in a blaze of glory rather than just peter out from waning interest? Surely I (and, I suspect, K7GM who checks the ssb logs) could use the time normally spent pouring over Sprint logs to do other things. If the interest in the contest is dying, then I for one would like to get it over with quickly so I can get on to something else. I'd love to hear your comments...

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mu	Score	Team	Area
K1KI	Tom	47	120	84	251	40	10,040		CT
W1WEF	Jack	33	113	78	224	40	8,960		CT
K1VUT	Dave	18	87	58	163	34	5,542		MA
W2GD	John	16	114	91	221	38	8,398	WASP	NJ
K2SX	Dennis	22	96	78	196	35	6,860	Owls	NY
W2GGE	Jack	11	102	53	166	36	5,976	Owls	NY
KW2J	Al	18	23	10	51	18	918		NY
W2AYJ	Bob	16	24	3	43	17	731	Owls	NY
W2JEK	Don	0	11	1	12	9	108		NJ
W3LPL	Frank	61	118	94	273	34	9,282		MD
K3TM	Roger	33	67	69	169	32	5,408		MD
W3UM	John	9	57	74	140	32	4,480	WACO	PA
K3MD	John	20	54	74	148	29	4,292		PA
W3AP	Nor	21	56	51	128	32	4,096	WACO	PA
K3WGR	Al	12	64	37	113	29	3,277	WACO	PA
KH6CP/3	Zack	7	56	39	102	27	2,754		PA
K3WUW	Dallas	0	57	22	79	24	1,896		DE
WB3CAC	Russ	3	17	7	27	16	432	WACO	PA
N4ZZ	Don	68	100	96	264	39	10,296	Motley #A	TN
K4BAI	John	89	113	75	277	37	10,249	Popguns #1	GA
NA4K	Steve	52	93	77	222	37	8,214	Motley #B	TN
WC4E	Jeff	68	86	61	215	35	7,525	Motley #B	FL
N4TY	Ty	25	75	71	171	36	6,156	Motley #B	KY
N4KMY	Pat	11	94	75	180	34	6,120		NC
WM4T	John	0	83	61	144	36	5,184	Motley #B	KY
NO4R	Len	34	67	40	141	33	4,653		KY
W4PDZ	Jim	10	25	9	44	18	792		KY
N4JBP	Doug	0	42	0	42	18	756		TN
K1ZX/4	Jim	0	0	10	10	7	70	Popguns #2	FL
K5ZD	Randy	87	126	110	323	40	12,920	Motley #A	TX
N5JJ	Dave	83	113	81	277	43	11,911	TDXS #1	TX
K5GN	Dave	77	113	99	289	40	11,560	TDXS #1	TX
K5LZO	Chuck	92	116	93	301	38	11,438	TDXS #1	TX
N5RZ	Ralph	64	137	80	281	39	10,959	Motley #A	TX
K5GO	Stan	44	116	99	259	39	10,101	Motley #A	AR
N5DU	Bob	60	106	83	249	40	9,960	TDXS #1	TX
KN5H	Steve	66	107	99	272	35	9,520	TDXS #1	TX
W5XZ	Dan	76	108	71	255	37	9,435	Motley #A	LA
K2TNO/5	Bill	37	137	73	247	37	9,139	TDXS #1	TX
K5TU	Kim	57	111	67	235	38	8,930	TDXS #2	TX
N3BB/5	Jim	71	98	63	232	36	8,352		TX
KG5U	Dale	49	84	67	200	35	7,000	TDXS #1	TX
W3AS/5	Doug	28	90	53	171	32	5,472		OK
KA5SBS	Chuck	17	45	41	103	26	2,678	TDXS #2	TX
N6RO	Ken	93	93	75	261	41	10,701	NCCC	CA
W6AQ	Mark	74	130	74	278	38	10,564	WASP	CA
AI6V	Gary	95	100	71	266	39	10,374	WASP	CA

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mu	Score	Team	Area
NE6I	Dennis	48	130	72	250	41	10,250		CA
N6TV	Bob	83	120	66	269	38	10,222	WASP	CA
N6BT	Tom	71	128	53	252	39	9,828		CA
N6ZZ	Phil	91	93	74	258	38	9,804	WASP	CA
N6AA	Dick	94	115	39	248	39	9,672	WASP	CA
W6UE	Dave	75	87	98	260	36	9,360	WASP	CA
W6RGG	Bob	83	88	58	229	39	8,931		CA
AJ6V	Ed	79	101	52	232	32	7,424	NCCC	CA
W6VG	Geo	74	71	51	196	35	6,860	NCCC	CA
K6QEH	Kevin	44	122	31	197	33	6,501		CA
K6AAW	Lary	60	81	28	169	34	5,746		CA
N6CQ	Bill	54	68	41	163	33	5,379	NCCC	CA
WB6DSV	Geo	61	59	47	167	32	5,344	NCCC	CA
K6LRN	Dick	37	61	38	136	30	4,080	NCCC	CA
NF6H	Doug	35	45	21	101	25	2,525		CA
K7GM	Rick	75	103	80	258	40	10,320	WASP	AZ
K6LL/7	Dave	78	121	82	281	36	10,116	WASP	AZ
N6TR/7	Tree	83	111	69	263	38	9,994	WASP	OR
N7NG	Wayne	52	100	78	230	35	8,050	NCCC	WY
KG7D	Bob	55	70	45	170	34	5,780	Popguns #1	WA
K7WA	Jim	47	76	36	159	29	4,611		WA
KK7C	Jim	0	8	16	24	12	288		UT
K8CC	Dave	51	106	104	261	40	10,440	Motley #A	MI
K8MR	Jim	53	105	90	248	39	9,672	Motley #A	OH
W8LNO	Joe	60	101	89	250	37	9,250	Popguns #1	OH
W8FN	Randy	33	77	106	216	40	8,640	Motley #B	OH
KU8E	Jeff	32	92	97	221	39	8,619	Motley #B	OH
KW8N	Bob	57	87	87	231	34	7,854	Motley #B	OH
K8NZ	Ron	47	81	94	222	34	7,548	Motley #A	OH
WD8IXE	Steve	33	78	89	200	35	7,000		OH
N8EA	Joe	41	82	80	203	34	6,902		MI
W8LT	Mike	28	79	87	194	34	6,596	Popguns #2	OH
N8ET	Bill	49	63	69	181	34	6,154	Motley #B	OH
KV8Q	Tom	34	55	56	145	30	4,350		OH
K8JM	John	3	87	0	90	32	2,880		MI
K8DD	Hank	0	21	70	91	27	2,457		MI
W9RE	Mike	63	102	91	256	39	9,984	Motley #A	IN
K9BGL	Karl	31	107	92	230	40	9,200	Popguns #1	IL
KM9P	Bill	34	95	94	223	37	8,251	Popguns #1	IL
K9KM	Howie	47	85	71	203	36	7,308		IL
AC9C	Mike	46	72	67	185	31	5,735		IL
KO9Q	Mike	17	46	41	104	29	3,016		WI
KRØY	Jeff	63	127	98	288	39	11,232	Popguns #1	MO
WØUA	Geo	38	126	111	275	40	11,000		CO
N2IC/Ø	Steve	39	123	117	279	36	10,044		CO
NØSS	Tom	45	89	107	241	40	9,640	Popguns #1	MO
KØVBU	Bill	32	82	104	218	36	7,848	Popguns #1	KS
KMØL	Steve	18	105	79	202	37	7,474	Popguns #1	MO

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mu	Score	Team	Area
KØRWL	Larry	29	85	85	199	37	7,363	Popguns #1	MO
KJØG	Bob	31	72	46	149	30	4,470	MESA	CO
KØWA	Lee	12	63	64	139	32	4,448	Popguns #2	KS
WØQWS	John	4	65	56	125	32	4,000	Popguns #2	MO
NØBSH	Mike	27	48	34	109	32	3,488	MOOSE	MN
NØTT	Chas	0	54	50	104	29	3,016	Popguns #2	MO
KD7EY/Ø	Casey	6	55	42	103	26	2,678		CO
KØUK	Bill	32	19	42	93	28	2,604	MESA	CO
WBØGOB	Rodger	11	48	19	78	22	1,716	Popguns #2	NE
KUØG	Jim	16	33	27	76	22	1,672		MO
W6OAT/VP9	Rusty	43	93	66	202	31	6,262	NCCC	BE
XE2MX	Marty	69	61	52	182	29	5,278		MX
4U1UN	Hans	3	52	15	70	23	1,610		UN

TOP SCORES

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mu	Score	Team	Area
K5ZD	Randy	87	126	110	323	40	12,920	Motley #A	TX
N5JJ	Dave	83	113	81	277	43	11,911	TDXS #1	TX
K5GN	Dave	77	113	99	289	40	11,560	TDXS #1	TX
K5LZO	Chuck	92	116	93	301	38	11,438	TDXS #1	TX
KRØY	Jeff	63	127	98	288	39	11,232	Popguns #1	MO
WØUA	Geo	38	126	111	275	40	11,000		CO
N5RZ	Ralph	64	137	80	281	39	10,959	Motley #A	TX
N6RO	Ken	93	93	75	261	41	10,701	NCCC	CA
W6AQ	Mark	74	130	74	278	38	10,564	WASP	CA
K8CC	Dave	51	106	104	261	40	10,440	Motley #A	MI

TOP QSO LEADERS

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mu	Score	Team	Area
K5ZD	Randy	87	126	110	323	40	12,920	Motley #A	TX
K5LZO	Chuck	92	116	93	301	38	11,438	TDXS #1	TX
K5GN	Dave	77	113	99	289	40	11,560	TDXS #1	TX
KRØY	Jeff	63	127	98	288	39	11,232	Popguns #1	MO
N5RZ	Ralph	64	137	80	281	39	10,959	Motley #A	TX
K6LL/7	Dave	78	121	82	281	36	10,116	WASP	AZ
N2IC/Ø	Steve	39	123	117	279	36	10,044		CO
W6AQ	Mark	74	130	74	278	38	10,564	WASP	CA
K4BAI	John	89	113	75	277	37	10,249	Popguns #1	GA
N5JJ	Dave	83	113	81	277	43	11,911	TDXS #1	TX

TEAM SCORES

WASP		MOTLEY CREW A		MIDWEST POPGUNS #1		TEXAS DX SOCIETY #1	
W6AQ	10,564	K5ZD	12,920	KRØY	11,232	N5JJ	11,911
AI6V	10,374	N5RZ	10,959	K4BAI	10,249	K5GN	11,560
K7GM	10,320	K8CC	10,440	NØSS	9,640	K5LZO	11,438
N6TV	10,222	N4ZZ	10,296	W8LNO	9,250	N5DU	9,960
K6LL/7	10,116	K5GO	10,101	K9BGL	9,200	KN5H	9,520
N6TR/7	9,994	W9RE	9,984	KM9P	8,251	K2TNO/5	9,139
N6ZZ	9,804	K8MR	9,672	KØVBU	7,848	KG5U	7,000
N6AA	9,672	W5XZ	9,435	KMØL	7,474		
W6UE	9,360	K8NZ	7,548	KØRWL	7,363		
W2GD	8,398			KG7D	5,780		
	98,824		91,355		86,287		70,528

5. Motley #B (W8FN, KU8E, NA4K, KW8N, WC4E,
       N4TY, N8ET, WM4T) 58,346

6. NCCC (N6RO, N7NG, AJ6V, W6VG, W6OAT/VP9,
       N6CQ, WB6DSV, K6LRN) 54,100

7. Popguns #2 (W8LT, KØWA, WØQWS, NØTT,
       WBØGOB, K1ZX/4) 19,846

8. Owls (K2SX, W2GGE, W2AYJ) 13,567

9. WACO (W3UM, W3AP, K3WGR, WB3CAC) 12,285

10. TDXS #2 (K5TU, KA5SBS) 11,608

11. MESA (KJØG, KØUK)   7,074

12. MOOSE (NØBSH)   3,488