

Results: North American Sprint, CW — February 2018

The 82nd running of the CW North American Sprint took place on February 4. We received 160 logs, and approximately 218 stations were active.

Conditions seemed to be good, but 20 meters did not stay open very long, and most found their way to 40 before the end of the first hour. Only 222 QSOs were reported in the second hour on 20, and none after 0130 UTC. As a result of the early migration to 40 meters, many stations ended up on 80 earlier than normal. This resulted in higher-than-average contact totals on that band.

In total, 4,355 QSOs were reported on 20 meters, 12,309 on 40 meters, and 12,145 on 80 meters. While we don't have all the data to prove this, we believe that this is the strongest-ever showing on 80 meters in comparison to the other bands.

The North American station with the most contacts on 20 meters was K1AR. John stayed on the band for just 46 minutes before moving to 40 meters. It is unusual for the highest total for 20 meters to come from the East coast. Typically, that distinction is reserved for stations in the West that have more sunlight. This gets even more improbable when one considers that John's only antenna is a dipole. The second highest North American QSO total on 20 came from John's "neighbor," Tom, K1KI, who logged 70 contacts. N2NT, W2GD, and W1WEF all had 69, while one West Coast station, N6TR, showed up with 65. Two stations were active from Hawaii, KH7Q and KH6TU. They had 93 and 83 QSOs, respectively, on 20 meters. This is not surprising given the amount of sunlight they had and the fact that 40 meters was a tough band for them until they got closer to sunset.

While the contest starts off with a bang – the highest peak rate was not achieved until both 40 and 20 meters were busy. There was a bit of a drop off when 40 meters got "tired," but things picked up again as activity started shifting to 80 meters 2 hours into the contest. If you felt you were alone as the rate plummeted during the last hour, you had lots of company. You can see that the overall rate was down nearly 40% at the end of the contest compared to the peak just before the end of the first hour. Another factor is that operators relied on 80 meters for most of last 2 hours of the contest. There just was not enough activity to support high rates for that long of a period.

Due to the plummeting rate during the last hour, it seems a good strategy is to totally focus on maximizing your 20-meter total. These contacts are like gold, since you can't make them later on. As long as your rate on 20 meters is better than what you are going to experience during the last 10 minutes of the contest, you should slog it out on 20. This is always a hard decision to make, and recognizing when it's the right time to leave 20 meters is an important decision for the serious competitor.

Most stations found 40 to be in excellent shape, and a total of 52 stations had at least 100 QSOs on 40 meters after log checking. Eighty meters was good enough that 68 stations made at least 100 contacts there.

High Power

The battle for first place in the High Power category was close enough that the final winner was not obvious just by looking at the claimed scores. Three stations were all within striking distance of the top spot, but when the smoke cleared, Trey, N5KO, snagged 1st place with a six QSO margin over Mike, W9RE. Tree, N6TR, was only a couple of contacts behind Mike, doing so with only one radio and six band changes. Another Mike, N7MH, operating W6YX, placed 4th, making his third Top 10 appearance. Next was Andy, N2NT, who posted the top East Coast score. NO3M and AA3B followed, battling it out in Pennsylvania, and K1KI had the top score in the

Northeast, taking 8th place. Texas finally showed up in 9th place, thanks to N3BB, and K3LR squeaked into the Top 10 after a long absence, with only 4 band changes. It has been 13 years since Tim has been in the Top 10. He is no stranger to the list, however, having done it 16 times before.

Low Power

Colin, KU5B, piloted NR5M to the top spot in the Low Power category. Following Colin is a list of the usual suspects that typically place high in this category. Larry, K7SV, was about six QSOs off the winning pace and took 2nd place, followed by Steve, N9CK. Phil, K3UA, took 4th place, while Don, W4OC, came in 5th. All five of these scores were pretty well packed together. N7CW came in 6th, followed by N8EA, W1NN, WDØT, and N6ZFO.

QRP

Nine stations entered in the QRP category this time. Ken, KE3X, led the field with 186 QSOs and a score of 7,812. Second place went to Karl, N8NA, who delighted many with the Delaware multiplier. K5NZ and K8CN posted scores of more than 2,000 points. Finishing off the list were W4ER, NN7SS (K6UFO), K1SX, KØGUZ, and another rare multiplier WC7S in Wyoming. If you ever feel that your station is not getting out well, perhaps you should try the QRP category and see how bad things can *really* be.

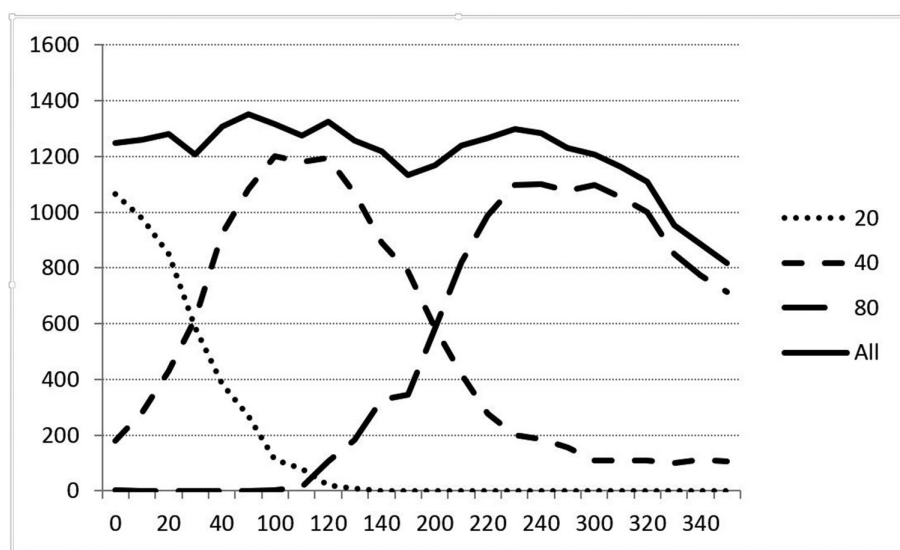


Figure 1 — Contacts reported by band for each 10-minute period.

Team Competition

Twenty-five teams registered this time, and, once again, the Northern California Contest Club #1 team took the top spot. The five-man team of Sprint veterans — N5KO, N7MH (@ W6YX), N6TV, K6XX, and N6RO — is a tough one to beat. Second place went to the AdHoc team, which has a long history of combining big scores from around the country. Third place went to the 5-Land Buds with four members from Texas and one from Louisiana. Fourth place went to the Southern California Contest Club #1 team. NCC/MRRC CQ, NCCC #2, NCC/MRRC QRZ and FRC also had competitive team scores, aggregating more than 50,000 points. The FRC team did it with only four entries.

Consider sponsoring a team for the next event. This is the best way to help inject more activity into the contest.

Golden Logs

Sixteen logs made it through the log-checking process with no deductions. This was close to the record of 18 set 10 years ago. K1AR had the most golden QSOs with 287, with N9RV, KØEU, K4XU, and N6XI all close, with more than 250 contacts each. W2RQ and N4DW showed up next with more than 180 QSOs.

Records

Exactly one new record was posted as Mike, VE9AA, improved on his existing record in New Brunswick.

Next Time

The next CW Sprint will take place on September 9 UTC (Saturday, September 8, in US time zones). The event starts at 0000 UTC, and stations may operate from 0000 to 0359 UTC inclusive. If you start a QSO just before the clock ticks over to 0400, you may finish it and log it at 0359.

For team registration, use the NCJ web page, www.ncjweb.com. Submit logs to cwsprint@kkn.net or use the log-submission form on the NCJ website. **Logs are due 7 days after the contest!** Final scores are typically posted on the NCJ website and on the CQ-Contest reflector within 2 weeks of the contest. Check out the Web resources at www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html and rules, records and previous results on the NCJ website.

SOAPBOX

Bad, Bad, Bad! — K6CSL
 100 watts and a wire — K16OY
 Yikes....that sucked! from here, 20 was a no-show — KJ9C
 Got some nice short skip on 20 meters for awhile. We need to be sure to recruit participation from the rarer mults. — KW8N
 Hey, this amplifier thing could catch on! — N0AX
 A tough grind with 20 meters lasting only

30 minutes — N3BB

Portable operation from friend's backyard. 20 meter inverted vee at 34', 40 meter 1/4 wave vertical with four raised radials, K3, N1MM+. — N6AN

Sorry only had a minute or two. Operated remote to Maine. Managed a whopping 4 QSOs :) Thanks for those! 73 Ron — N6EE
 20m closed early, making for a tough slog. — N6TV

Truckee remote from Saratoga — N6XI
 Rain static, no 20 meters. Not a great contest this time. — N9RV

A rollicking good 30 minutes! 20m:

Force12 C31XR at 72 ft Elecraft K3 turned down to 5 watts K3/0-Mini control head and RemoteRig Writelog — NN7SS

Remote from Japan. — W1NN
 Great conditions and great activity — just like old times! — W9RE

Operated remote from Tokyo, Japan — WA6URY

My first NA CW Sprint. I defaulted to only answering CQs. Maybe next time I'll get a handle on the standard M.O. — WB6ETY

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Bd Chg	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
N5KO	15,410	126	2	108	93	73	61
W9RE	15,168	149	4	95	80	82	59
N6TR	15,040	6	2	113	78	77	52
W6YX	14,700	31	3	82	80	78	60
N2NT	14,212	122	4	114	84	73	52
NO3M	14,061	130	5	110	83	78	56
AA3B	13,770	106	8	102	80	69	55
K1KI	13,684	18	2	100	78	84	49
N3BB	13,478	90	3	95	67	78	53
K3LR	13,275	4	5	64	82	85	64

Top 10 High Power - Max 12 Band Changes

Call Sign	Score	Bd Chg	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
N6TR	15,040	6	2	113	78	77	52
K3LR	13,275	4	5	64	82	85	64
K6XX	12,760	2	6	85	75	77	53
K9NW	12,672	6	3	80	68	87	53
N6AA	12,540	2	7	90	66	71	58
K1AR	12,341	4	0	94	70	80	43
N2NC	12,054	6	6	87	63	72	65
N3QE	11,997	8	8	60	82	74	63
K6LL	11,835	2	1	61	75	57	70
N2ZN	11,760	2	5	73	75	67	65

Top 10 Low Power

Call Sign	Score	Bd Chg	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
NR5M	11,266	44	2	69	79	69	45
K7SV	11,008	4	7	45	78	66	67
N9CK	10,960	85	1	86	67	67	54
K3UA	10,794	2	3	51	75	83	48
W4OC	10,416	72	5	51	67	71	59
N7CW	9,504	4	5	65	57	52	42
N8EA	9,000	15	8	53	68	65	39
W1NN	8,970	25	9	50	68	68	44
WD0T	8,970	40	4	69	49	63	49
N6ZFO	8,820	4	2	43	55	60	52

Top 10 Low Power (Max 12 Band Changes)

Call Sign	Score	Bd Chg	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K7SV	11,008	4	7	45	78	66	67
K3UA	10,794	2	3	51	75	83	48
N7CW	9,504	4	5	65	57	52	42
N6ZFO	8,820	4	2	43	55	60	52
W7ZRC	7,585	2	7	44	57	48	36
KG5U	7,518	4	3	38	31	62	48
WQ5L	6,806	4	1	26	26	61	53
K7QA	6,594	2	21	36	26	53	42
WØETT	6,105	12	9	34	40	45	46
K6PO	5,957	4	11	41	35	43	42

Top 10 QRP

Call Sign	Score	Bd Chg	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
KE3X	7,812	10	10	55	50	45	36
N8NA	5,364	5	5	16	47	43	43
K5NZ	3,240	27	3	30	39	27	12
K8CN	2,040	10	3	40	31	14	0
W4ER	777	4	3	4	7	8	18
NN7SS	234	0	4	18	0	0	0
K1SX	180	1	0	2	4	6	3
KØGUZ	126	0	7	5	3	1	5
WC7S	63	2	3	8	1	0	0

Top 10 QSOs

N5KO	335
NO3M	327
N2NT	323
N6TR	320
W9RE	316
K1KI	311
AA3B	306
W6YX	300
N6WIN	299
K3LR	295

Top 10 Multipliers

W6YX	49
W9RE	48
N6TR	47
N3BB	46
N5KO	46
Many	45

Golden Logs

K1AR	287
N9RV	272
KØEU	263
K4XU	261
N6XI	259
W2RQ	184
N4DW	180
N6AN	68
VE3EY	66
K1DG	18
K1SX	15
K6CSL	14
WB6ETY	12
VA7ST	6
KI6OY	2
NJ6G	1

Top 10 Band Changes

W9RE	149
NO3M	130
N5KO	126
N2NT	122
N4AF	118
W5KFT	114
N4OGW	109
KØRF	108
AA3B	106
W8WTS	96

Team Scores

1. Northern California		2. AdHoc		3. 5-Land Buds		4. Southern California	
Contest Club #1		Contest Club #1		Contest Club #1		Contest Club #1	
N5KO	15,410	W9RE	15,168	N3BB	13,478	N6WIN	13,156
W6YX	14,700	N4AF	12,628	W5KFT	12,364	N6AA	12,540
N6TV	12,936	KØEU	11,572	N5RZ	11,835	N5ZO	11,592
K6XX	12,760	N9CK	10,960	K5TR	11,610	K6LA	10,277
N6RO	12,054	W4OC	10,416	KZ5D	9,856	AC6T	8,440
Total	67,860	Total	60,744	Total	59,143	Total	56,005

5. NCC/MRRC CQ (NO3M, KW8N, K3UA, K8MR, W2FU)	55,072
6. NCCC #2 (N6XI, AE6Y, K9YC, W6OAT, N3ZZ)	53,374
7. NCC/MRRC QRZ (K9NW, N2ZN, NA8V, N8EA, W1NN)	52,160
8. FRC (N2NT, AA3B, N2NC, W2GD)	50,242
9. SECC#1 (N4OGW, K4BAI, KU8E, KH7Q, N4IQ)	47,916
10. NCC/MRRC DX (K3LR, W8WTS, W3YQ, W9PA, NW2K)	43,686
11. Arizona Outlaws Gamb (K6LL, N7CW, AA7V, N6VR, W9CF)	43,567
12. PVRC 1 (N3QE, K3TN, K7SV, N1LN)	42,834
13. Oregon Sprinters (N6TR, K4XU, WS7L, K17Y)	39,072
14. NCCC #3 (AJ6V, N6ZFO, NA6O, KH6TU)	29,340
15. Big Sky Contesters (N9RV, KJ9C, K7QA)	25,938
16. Texas Tornadoes (NR5M, WQ5L, K0NM)	21,702
17. SCCC #2 (K6AW, K6PO, W4EF, NE6I)	19,659
18. Rocky Mountaineers (KØRF, WØETT, KØGUZ, WC7S)	18,399
19. PVRC 2 (KE3X, KG3V, N4CF)	14,982
20. TDXS (K5GN, N5XZ)	14,050
21. MCC Team #1 (VE9AA)	9,321
22. TexasTwo (N5DO, KB5RF)	5,175
23. NCCC #4 (W6RGG, K6CSL)	4,095
24. SECC#2 (N4EEV)	3,710
25. Arizona Outlaws Rowd (K6WSC, N9NA)	3,559

Guest Ops

KØHC (WØBH)	N5KO (@W6NL)
KØW (ACØW)	N6WIN (N6MJ)
K5TR (K5OT)	NN7SS (K6UFO)
KE3X (@N4RV)	NR5M (KU5B)
KH6TU (AD6E)	W1AJT (VE3UTT)
KH7Q (N2NL)	W5KFT (K5PI)
	W6YX (N7MH)

Single Operator Scores (New records are in bold-face type)

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mlt	Score	Band Changes	Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mlt	Score	Band Changes
K1KI	TOM	CT	70	125	116	311	44	13,684	18	AJ6V	ED	CA	44	97	69	210	42	8,820	2
K1AR	JOHN	NH	72	96	119	287	43	12,341	4	N6ZFO	*BILL	CA	35	76	99	210	42	8,820	4
W1WTF	JACK	CT	69	97	112	278	42	11,676	4	AC6T	STEVE	CA	22	90	99	211	40	8,440	2
W1EBI	GEO	MA	49	72	100	221	38	8,398	4	K6AW	STEVE	CA	39	81	70	190	40	7,600	6
W1EQ	BOB	CT	35	41	29	105	32	3,360	2	NA6O	GARY	CA	32	72	70	174	35	6,090	4
K8CN	**MIKE	NH	34	43	8	85	24	2,040	10	K6PO	*PAUL	CA	25	63	73	161	37	5,957	4
K1DG	*DOUG	NH	0	17	1	18	12	216	1	KH6TU	ALAN	HI	83	82	0	165	34	5,610	1
K1SX	**DAVE	MA	2	13	0	15	12	180	1	K6LRN	DICK	CA	14	64	72	150	36	5,400	2
N6EE	RON	ME	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	W4EF	MIKE	CA	0	32	80	112	38	4,256	1
N2NT	ANDY	NJ	69	129	125	323	44	14,212	122	KM6Z	*VLAD	CA	23	30	64	117	34	3,978	2
N2NC	JOHN	NJ	64	109	114	287	42	12,054	6	W6RGG	BOB	CA	34	79	0	113	35	3,955	1
N2ZN	KEN	NY	74	97	109	280	42	11,760	2	WA6URY	DAN	CA	23	43	30	96	30	2,880	2
W2GD	JOHN	NJ	69	92	82	243	42	10,206	2	N6AN	*REX	CA	23	45	0	68	28	1,904	1
W2FU	JEFF	NY	31	63	87	181	38	6,878	2	NE6I	DENNIS	CA	17	54	0	71	26	1,846	3
W2RQ	BILL	NJ	0	81	103	184	37	6,808	3	W1RH	BOB	CA	4	26	22	52	23	1,196	2
NW2K	*DEAN	NY	34	44	35	113	32	3,616	4	K6NV	BOB	CA	0	10	39	49	20	980	1
N03M	TY	PA	55	148	124	327	43	14,061	130	K6CSL	*BERT	CA	6	7	1	14	10	140	2
AA3B	BUD	PA	59	134	113	306	45	13,770	106	WH7W	MARK	HI	9	0	4	13	9	117	1
K3LR	TIM	PA	57	117	121	295	45	13,275	4	WB6ETY	*JOHN	CA	4	2	6	12	4	48	4
N3QE	TIM	MD	61	102	116	279	43	11,997	8	K16OY	*LEE	CA	2	0	0	2	1	2	0
K3TN	JOHN	MD	0	131	128	259	43	11,137	3	NJ6G	*DENNIS	CA	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
K3UA	*PHIL	PA	39	102	116	257	42	10,794	2	N6TR	TREE	OR	65	132	123	320	47	15,040	6
N8NA	**KARL	DE	0	86	63	149	36	5,364	5	N9RV	PAT	MT	37	128	107	272	45	12,240	78
K3KU	*ART	MD	8	59	43	110	34	3,740	8	K6LL	DAVE	AZ	41	120	102	263	45	11,835	2
N4AF	AL	NC	43	125	119	287	44	12,628	118	K4XU	DICK	OR	39	118	104	261	44	11,484	4
K7SV	*LAR	VA	45	115	96	256	43	11,008	4	N7CW	*BUD	AZ	9	102	105	216	44	9,504	4
K4BAI	JOHN	GA	18	114	121	253	42	10,626	6	AA7V	STEVE	AZ	14	98	110	222	41	9,102	4
K8MR	JIM	FL	19	111	111	241	44	10,604	28	N6VR	RAY	AZ	14	92	87	193	40	7,720	4
W4OC	*DON	SC	40	90	118	248	42	10,416	72	W7ZRC	*ROD	ID	10	74	101	185	41	7,585	2
KU8E	JEFF	GA	15	98	115	228	43	9,804	5	W57L	CARL	OR	38	80	78	196	38	7,448	4
W4NZ	TED	TN	30	88	109	227	40	9,080	31	KJ9C	MEL	MT	3	76	113	192	37	7,104	6
N1LN	BRUCE	NC	16	94	102	212	41	8,692	40	W7WHY	TOM	OR	31	77	77	185	37	6,845	4
N4CW	BERT	NC	0	107	103	210	40	8,400	1	K7QA	*TOM	MT	8	52	97	157	42	6,594	2
KE3X	**KEN	VA	38	61	87	186	42	7,812	10	K7SS	DAN	WA	52	95	0	147	41	6,027	1
K4QPL	JIM	NC	14	81	72	167	41	6,847	2	W9CF	*KEVIN	AZ	13	75	71	159	34	5,406	4
N4DW	DAVE	TN	28	68	84	180	38	6,840	8	K5ZM	IAN	OR	32	62	67	161	33	5,313	6
N4IQ	BILL	SC	14	71	83	168	40	6,720	40	K17Y	JIM	OR	26	66	58	150	34	5,100	2
N4OO	*BRIAN	GA	17	60	69	146	34	4,964	6	K6WSC	*BILL	AZ	12	49	35	96	33	3,168	2
K4ORD	*RILEY	VA	15	29	83	127	38	4,826	2	AC7AF	*BRIAN	WY	1	21	23	45	19	855	2
K4OAO	*FRITZ	NC	0	53	70	123	38	4,674	1	N9NA	JOHN	AZ	1	15	7	23	17	391	4
KG3V	*TOM	VA	13	70	44	127	34	4,318	12	NN7SS	*BURT	WA	18	0	0	18	13	234	0
W4AU	*JOHN	VA	0	57	64	121	34	4,114	7	KA6BIM	DAVE	OR	2	7	0	9	7	63	1
K0EJ	MARK	TN	34	62	28	124	33	4,092	4	W6W7S	**DALE	WY	0	7	2	9	7	63	2
N4EEV	*MIKE	GA	0	32	74	106	35	3,710	5	KW8N	BOB	OH	48	120	115	283	45	12,735	21
N4CF	*MIKE	VA	10	43	39	92	31	2,852	6	W8WTS	JIM	OH	34	125	100	259	41	10,619	96
W1AJT	ART	NC	0	11	39	50	25	1,250	3	NA8V	GREG	MI	27	103	108	238	41	9,758	40
W4ER	**JOHN	AL	1	16	20	37	21	777	4	W3YQ	TIM	WV	24	105	95	224	41	9,184	8
K8LBQ	*BAIN	GA	1	11	3	15	11	165	2	N8EA	*JOE	MI	25	93	107	225	40	9,000	15
WN4AFP	*DAVE	SC	0	11	0	11	8	88	0	W1NN	*HAL	OH	22	90	118	230	39	8,970	25
N2NYR	*BOB	FL	0	7	0	7	6	42	0	N8AA	*JOHN	OH	0	65	74	139	36	5,004	1
N3BB	JIM	TX	40	132	121	293	46	13,478	90	AF8A	*GARY	OH	20	82	0	102	33	3,366	1
W5KFT	ROB	TX	36	126	119	281	44	12,364	114	KG8I	*JASON	MI	0	18	8	26	19	494	3
N5RZ	GATOR	TX	23	118	122	263	45	11,835	18	W9RE	MIKE	IN	52	144	120	316	48	15,168	149
K5TR	GEO	TX	36	120	114	270	43	11,610	59	K9NW	MIKE	IN	39	119	130	288	44	12,672	6
N4OGW	TOR	MS	51	116	115	282	41	11,562	109	N9CK	*STEVE	WI	50	114	110	274	40	10,960	85
K5GN	DAVE	TX	46	124	102	272	42	11,424	52	K9PG	*PAUL	IL	36	97	91	224	39	8,736	32
NR5M	*GEO	TX	45	113	104	262	43	11,266	44	W9PA	DAVE	IN	15	77	92	184	38	6,992	2
KZ5D	ART	LA	25	86	113	224	44	9,856	54	W19WI	JIM	WI	30	56	57	143	34	4,862	2
KG5U	*DALE	TX	13	61	105	179	42	7,518	4	K9KM	*HOWIE	IL	0	23	36	59	26	1,534	1
WQ5L	*RAY	MS	6	64	96	166	41	6,806	4	W2TP	CJ	IL	0	6	6	12	9	108	1
N5DO	*DAVE	TX	16	61	68	145	35	5,075	8	K0RF	CHUCK	CO	25	128	116	269	45	12,105	108
K0NM	NIZ	TX	8	44	58	110	33	3,630	4	K0EU	KEN	CO	13	117	133	263	44	11,572	40
K5NZ	**MIKE	TX	20	45	43	108	30	3,240	27	N0AX	WARD	MO	46	122	114	282	41	11,562	62
N5XZ	*ALLEN	TX	27	37	37	101	26	2,626	2	AB0S	TIM	KS	22	100	121	243	42	10,206	4
N9NM	*BARB	TX	0	30	20	50	20	1,000	3	K0HC	MILT	KS	33	88	111	232	40	9,280	14
KB5RF	*TOM	TX	1	3	6	10	10	100	2	WD0T	*TODD	SD	32	80	118	230	39	8,970	40
N5KO	TREY	CA	61	149	125	335	46	15,410	126	K0BJ	BRUCE	KS	25	60	101	186	37	6,882	3
W6YX	MIKE	CA	62	133	105	300	49	14,700	31	W0ETT	*KEN	CO	12	66	87	165	37	6,105	12
N6WIN	DAN	CA	45	134	120	299	44	13,156	81	N0AC	*BILL	IA	27	55	74	156	33	5,148	5
N6TV	BOB	CA	43	127	124	294	44	12,936	75	*BRAD	*BRAD	CO	3	38	83	124	33	4,092	2
K6XX	BOB	CA	56	114	120	290	44	12,760	2	K0W	*BILL								