

Results: September 1988 North American Sprint CW

By Trey Garlough, WN4KKN/5

Increased multiplier activity and excellent efforts from all areas made the 23rd running of the Sprint the most prolific ever, with a record 54 stations reaching the 10k milestone. Amidst this din of high scores, 21 stations found their way to new all-time records in their regions. Six stations set new all-time call-area records and two set new all-time country records.

Nationwide representation was the rule among the Top Ten as seven of the ten call areas appear in this group. A glance down to 11th place, one QSO behind the #10 man, reveals a representative of another call area. A fraction of a QSO below behind him was an operator from yet another call area: Dave, NU9R. Alas, Dave made the short trip across the Mississippi River to the Hannibal QTH of K4VX/0, transforming himself from a W9 to an almost-W9.

So with nine of the top twelve scores coming from (almost) nine different call areas, where was the place to be? It's hard to say. But North Texas looked pretty good as the other three stations in that top group were in the Dallas area, including third-time winner Jeff Steinman, KR0Y/5. Jeff's two multiplier advantage was just enough to overcome the effort of top QSO man W0UA, who made 318 contacts. Finding one more of the 50+ active multis would have been enough to barely push George over the top.

Kudos also go to #3 man John Laney, K4BAI, who destroyed the old W4-call-area record by over 2100 points and captured the highest overall rank ever by a W4. John reports that short skip on 20 and 40 contributed to his effort, which was 30 QSOs and 3 multis higher than his previous best. What was the magic hardware behind John's success?

The K4BAI antenna farm was a TH6DXX (with a broken rotator indicator) for 20, a 4BTV for 40, and for 80, an inverted vee that appeared to be shorted and was therefore used with a tuner. Good work, John! Perhaps some of us can make those enhancements to our stations before the next Sprint.

Top DXpedition honors go to Dave McCarty K5GN, aka XE2-Good-For-Nothing/3, who breezed to a new all-time record for non-USA stations. Dave was operating from a penthouse in Cozumel, and barely escaped before hurricane Gilbert made its appearance.

With three big scores from Texas and one from Colorado, the Blues Brothers broke out in a jubilant rendition of the theme from "Rawhide" as they took the team competition for the third straight time. In the process, they set a new all-time team record of 129,155 points, eclipsing the (not so) old mark of 121,630. The rival James Gang took second place honors with their best showing ever, edging the Southern California Contest Club and the Texas DX Society. The

Top Ten Scores

	Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mul	Score	Team	Area
1	KR0Y/5	Jeff	106	118	87	311	47	14,617	Blues	TX
2	W0UA	Geo	115	115	88	318	45	14,310	Blues	CO
3	K4BAI	John	117	114	76	307	46	14,122		GA
4	K5LZO	Chuck	107	97	95	299	46	13,754	TDXS	TX
	WN4KKN/5	Trey	114	107	78	299	46	13,754	Blues	TX
6	N6TR/7	Tree	133	111	68	312	44	13,728	SCCC #1	OR
7	N5RZ	Ralph	126	97	90	313	43	13,459	Blues	TX
8	K1TO	Dan	96	111	82	289	46	13,294	Murphy	CT
9	K6NA	Glen	114	101	67	282	47	13,254	SCCC #1	CA
10	W3LPL	Frank	99	116	86	301	44	13,244	Blues	MD

Top Ten QSOs

	Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mul	Score	Team	Area
1	W0UA	Geo	115	115	88	318	45	14,310	Blues	CO
2	N5RZ	Ralph	126	97	90	313	43	13,459	Blues	TX
3	N6TR/7	Tree	133	111	68	312	44	13,728	SCCC #1	OR
4	KR0Y/5	Jeff	106	118	87	311	47	14,617	Blues	TX
5	K4BAI	John	117	114	76	307	46	14,122		GA
6	K4VX/0	Dave	102	110	93	305	43	13,115	Blues	MO
7	K6LL/7	Dave	114	131	57	302	42	12,684	Blues	AZ
8	W3LPL	Frank	99	116	86	301	44	13,244	Blues	MD
9	W2RQ	Bill	115	99	86	300	44	13,200	James	NJ
10	K5LZO	Chuck	107	97	95	299	46	13,754	TDXS	TX
	WN4KKN/5	Trey	114	107	78	299	46	13,754	Blues	TX

Top Ten Multipliers

Call	USA	VE	XE	Other	Total
K6NA	41	4	1	KP4	47
K9ZO	41	4	1	KP4	47
KR0Y/5	42	4	1		47
N4DW/5	41	4	1	KP4	47
N4ZZ	42	4	1		47
K1TO	43	3	0		46
K4BAI	42	3	1		46
K5LZO	40	3	1	KP4,CM	46
K8HVT/2	41	3	1	KP4	46
K8MR	41	4	1		46
N0BSH/9	42	3	1		46
N6ZZ	40	4	1	KP4	46
WC4E	41	3	1	KP4	46
WN4KKN/5	41	4	1		46

Sprint is a short, four-hour contest that usually has about 200 participants. Only a few of the top-scoring entries make over 300 QSOs. Because of the Sprint's small size, the Contest Committee has time to give each log a close look. In fact, of the 118 logs received, only eight escaped the wrath of the Committee's red pens.

Although making a lot of contacts is a goal of the competition, it is secondary to accuracy. For the typical station making 240 QSOs, a reporting error is like turning off the radio for a minute. Reporting an unmarked dupe would be like turning off the radio for four minutes. Having 10 busted

QSOs Removed During Log Checking

Call	Claimed	Bad	NIL	Dupe	Penalty	Total	Final
KR0Y/5	322	7	2	0	2	11	311
W0UA	323	1	2	0	2	5	318
K4BAI	311	4	0	0	0	4	307
K5LZO	308	7	1	0	1	9	299
WN4KKN/5	309	8	1	0	1	10	299
N6TR/7	317	3	1	0	1	5	312
N5RZ	320	7	0	0	0	7	313
K1TO	295	6	0	0	0	6	289
K6NA	282	5	0	0	0	5	283
W2RQ	303	3	0	0	0	3	300
W3LPL	302	1	0	0	0	1	301
K4VX/0	311	6	0	0	0	6	305
W5WU	304	5	1	1	4	11	293
N4RJ	298	7	3	0	3	13	285

Bad = Miscopied Exchange

NIL = Not In Log

Dupe = Unmarked Duplicate QSO

Penalty = Additional Penalty QSOs Removed

Call (Opr)	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mul	Score	Team	Area	Call (Opr)	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mul	Score	Team	Area
WB0UA	Geo	115	115	88	318	45	14,310	Blues	CO	WD5N	Dave				193	37	7,141	Texas	TX
K4VX/0 (NU9R)	Dave	102	110	93	305	43	13,158	Blues	MO	W5ASP	Joe	58	64	59	181	38	6,878	TDXS	TX
KMBO	Tony	80	88	68	236	44	10,384		MN	K13L/5	Don	83	49	32	164	39	6,396	PVRC	NM
KM8L	Steve	84	103	45	232	43	9,976		MO	AA5BT	Derek	57	48	36	141	35	4,935	Texas	TX
K8AD	Al				186	39	7,254		MN	KE5AL	Jim				123	39	4,797	Texas	TX
WB0O	Bill				153	34	5,202		ND	K5DX	Sharp	62	49	19	130	35	4,550	TDXS	TX
KV8I	Bill	59	36	45	140	35	4,900	SCCC #2	NE	W5NR	Art				70	24	1,680		TX
N0FFZ	Van	47	40	0	87	33	2,871		CO	WC5D	Van				26	20	520		LA
										WB5VZL	Geo	4	0	4	8	5	40	Texas	TX
K1TO	Dan	96	111	82	289	46	13,294	Murphy	CT	K6NA	Glen	114	101	67	282	47	13,254	SCCC #1	CA
W1WEF	Jack	114	98	76	268	45	12,960	Murphy	CT	N6ZZ	Phil	126	100	47	273	46	12,558	SCCC #1	CA
K2SX/1	Den	107	94	39	240	43	10,320	Boiled	CT	W6AQ (WA6OTU)	Mark	116	108	54	278	44	12,232	SCCC #3	CA
K1KI	Tom	97	87	34	218	41	8,938		ME	K6STI	Brian				258	44	11,352	SCCC #2	CA
N1ATN	Bob	1	6	0	7	7	49		NH	N6CW	Terry	100	108	44	252	45	11,340	SCCC #2	CA
										NE6I	Dennis	103	108	47	258	43	11,094	SCCC #1	CA
W2RQ	Bill	115	99	86	300	44	13,200	James	NJ	N6RO	Ken	111	99	53	263	42	11,046		CA
W2GD	John	85	110	88	283	45	12,735	James	NJ	N6ND (N6W)	Kurt	98	96	60	254	43	10,922	SCCC #1	CA
K2ZS	John	94	111	84	289	44	12,716	James	NJ	W6YA	Jim	103	93	46	242	43	10,406	SCCC #1	CA
K8HVT/2	Hal	92	81	65	238	46	10,948	Murphy	NY	N6VR	Ray	109	79	46	234	43	10,062	SCCC #1	CA
K2ZJ	John	88	106	65	259	42	10,878		NY	AJ6V	Ed	115	75	42	232	43	9,976		CA
K2LE	Andy	77	105	59	241	45	10,845	Boiled	NY	W6RGG	Bob	101	90	40	231	43	9,933		CA
N2AZS	Larry				218	45	9,810		NY	W6UQF	Chas				225	43	9,675	SCCC #2	CA
K2AEV	Mike	75	73	45	193	43	8,299	James	NY	N1EE/6	Scott	112	73	44	229	41	9,389		CA
K2AU	Joe				176	40	7,040		NY	N6TU	Bud	98	66	44	208	40	8,320	Blues	CA
NM2L	Greg				165	39	6,435		NY	AC6T	Steve				200	39	7,800		CA
N2GZL	Dave				98	33	3,234		NJ	W7CB/6	Larry	70	74	43	187	40	7,480	SCCC #2	CA
										NC6U	Kevin	74	88	39	201	36	7,236	SCCC #2	CA
W3LPL	Frank	99	116	86	301	44	13,244	Blues	MD	W6WZO (KD7EY)	Casey	69	55	38	162	35	5,670	SCCC #2	CA
KC8C/3	Mike	95	101	61	257	42	10,794	PVRC	MD	N6RZ (WB6SHD)	R0B	81	0	32	113	37	4,181	Klan	CA
W3GG (WB2EKK)	John	81	96	77	254	41	10,414	PVRC	MD	KB6RFX	Darrel	48	39	30	117	34	3,978	SCCC #3	CA
AA3B	Bud	65	90	64	219	43	9,417		PA	N6NF	Tom	48	34	22	104	29	3,016		CA
N6CQ/3	Bill	83	62	49	194	41	7,954	SCCC #2	PA	N6TV	Bob	0	88	0	88	31	2,728		CA
K3NW	Norm	53	87	41	181	43	7,783		PA										
K4BAI	John	117	114	76	307	46	14,122		GA	N6TR/7	Tree	133	111	68	312	44	13,728	SCCC #1	OR
N4RJ (KM9P)	Bill	93	112	80	285	45	12,825	Blues	GA	K7SS	Dan	127	116	54	297	44	13,068		OR
N4ZZ	Don	104	108	60	272	47	12,784	Blues	TN	K6LL/7	Dave	114	131	57	302	42	12,684	Blues	AZ
K4POL	Al	68	111	78	257	45	11,565	PVRC	NC	W7EJ (N6TJ)	Jim	108	97	62	267	40	10,680	SCCC #1	OR
WC4E	Jeff	114	76	60	250	46	11,500	James	FL	N6AA/7	Dick	120	97	54	271	39	10,569	SCCC #1	OR
AA4NC	Will	73	114	71	258	44	11,352	Klan	NC	N7NG	Wayne	84	91	57	232	43	9,976		WY
K1ZX/4	Iceman	108	78	71	257	43	11,051	James	FL	K13V/7	Rich	79	87	17	183	39	7,137		NV
NA4K	Steve	91	81	74	246	43	10,578		TN	K7CU	Curt	73	68	26	167	37	6,179		UT
N4IR	Jim	78	90	74	242	41	9,922		TN	WE7G	Bruce	68	44	34	146	37	5,402	SCCC #2	AZ
N4TY					193	42	8,106		KY	WE7B	Laura				145	36	5,220		UT
WB4QBB	Jay	75	81	40	176	42	7,392	Klan	FL	NJ2L/7	Rus	54	24	2	80	25	2,000		OR
N4OGW	Torsten	40	67	41	148	38	5,624		KY										
KB4GID	John	47	61	3	111	40	4,440		GA	K8MR	Jim	97	107	70	274	46	12,604		OH
										W8LT (KD8NS)	Mike	90	116	76	282	43	12,126	James	OH
KR0Y/5	Jeff	106	118	87	311	47	14,617	Blues	TX	KW8N	Bob	85	115	69	269	44	11,836		OH
K5LZO	Chuck	107	97	95	299	46	13,754	TDXS	TX	N8EA	Joe	74	84	77	235	43	10,105		MI
WN4KKN/5	Trey	114	107	78	299	46	13,754	Blues	TX	W8AUB	Doug	68	96	68	232	40	9,280	Ohio	OH
N5RZ	Ralph	126	97	90	313	43	13,459	Blues	TX	W8BM	Jim	49	49	34	132	36	4,752		MI
W5WMU (K5GA)	Bill	112	107	74	293	44	12,892	TDXS	LA	NF8R	Dave	61	41	28	130	36	4,680	Ohio	OH
KG5U	Dale	106	102	69	277	45	12,465	TDXS	TX	W8LLD	Elmer	1	65	43	109	32	3,488	Ohio	OH
K2TNO/5	Bill	96	108	69	273	45	12,285	TDXS	TX	K8CV	Walt	38	26	24	88	29	2,552		MI
K5NW	John	79	106	69	254	42	10,668		TX										
N5DU	Bob	109	96	66	271	39	10,569	TDXS	TX	K9ZO	Al	99	82	85	266	47	12,502	James	IL
N4DW/5	Dave				222	47	10,434		TX	N8BSH/9	Mike	104	86	52	242	46	11,132	James	WI
N5RP	Bob	92	81	60	233	40	9,320	TDXS	TX										
NT5D	Brent	77	75	58	210	38	7,980	TDXS	TX	VE2ZP	Dave				214	41	8,774		Que
W5XX	Mal				177	42	7,434		MS	VE1CYL	Paul	71	42	23	136	33	4,488	James	Mar
										XM3CUI	Eddy	33	43	29	105	35	3,675		Ont
										XE2GFN/3	Dave	108	77	36	221	42	9,282	TDXS	Mex

Checklogs: KA1NXT, KJ0G, N18L/1, W2KTF

Disqualifications: None

exchanges would be like taking a 10-minute snack break during the middle of the contest!

In addition to getting it all right on the receive side, please make an effort to be correct on the transmit side. With the advent of memory keyers, it's easy to send the wrong sequence number. When this happens, please make a note of it in the log. This will spare an unwitting victim some red ink for having had the misfortune of correctly copying your incorrectly sent serial number. Even contest winner Jeff momentarily got off track with the serial number. The note he made in his log spared two of his competitors from unfair score reductions. On the darker side, one station from SE Houston let his keyer run amok for 15 minutes, nailing ten logs with red circles. Oops.

This excerpt from item 14 of the Sprint rules describes the score reduction scheme:

For each unmarked duplicate QSO, you lose that contact plus an additional three contacts; for each QSO for which you are not in the other station's log, you lose that QSO plus an additional contact; and for

each QSO for which the log data is incorrectly copied in any respect, you lose that contact.

The special log checking summary illustrates how some top operators fared during the Committee's review of the logs. In addition to showing the overall claimed vs. final numbers, the summary indicates which of the categories under item 14 that contacts were disallowed.

On a positive log checking note, many stations deserve recognition for submitting neatly handwritten logs. This year's competition for the editor's "golden pencil" award recognizing immaculate penmanship ended in a draw. The co-winners were AA5BT, K7CU and WE7B. The editor also gratefully acknowledges the following stations who included their logs on XT-compatible diskettes: KB6RFX, NC6U, N6TR, N5RZ, AA5BT, WD5N and WB5VZL.

And finally, a hearty "good show!" goes to Darrel Craig, Jr, KB6RFX, who with 117 QSOs finished near the top among the first-time participants. Not only is this a top-rank first effort, but since Darrel is 11 years of

age, that puts his birthyear in around 1977, about the time of the first running of the North American Sprint. When your editor was a new ham and struggling with the code, he didn't make his first contest efforts in the CW Sprint (or a closed CD Party), duking it out with the likes of WA2UOO, WB0DJY, K4PUZ or W6MAR (each of whom had record-breaking efforts in this running of the Sprint). He opted for more leisurely paced activities, such as the Novice Roundup. Congratulations Darrel! See you in February.

SOAPBOX

The Sprint is more fun each time (K8HVT/2). Great turnout (W1WEF). [Please] put the dates and times of the Sprint contests in EVERY issue of the mag (W2GGE). We were considering changing the team names to Anti-Eds, CASE (Contesters Against Sprint Eds), and Skin 'Eds, but cooler 'eds prevailed (NC6U). Doing a Sprint QRP is very much like being a pinball in a pinball machine. You get bounced around and beat up pretty badly down there in the trenches. Almost every battle is

lost and when you do win (you manage to get a frequency), you don't get much (NM2L). This was my first serious entry in the contest. It was a lot of fun and I will be back in February (VE2ZP). Lightning, rain, S9+60 static crashes—I couldn't hear a single station on 80 (WB0O). 80 meters got started relatively late. 20 meters featured short skip and good backscatter (W2GD). I really enjoyed the contest this time around. I guess that running 50 watts just is not the way to win a contest, especially with dipoles in an attic, hi. Thanks to all who heard my signal and see you in the next one (KB4GID)! Best CW score for me!! (N6TR). First single-op test of any kind for me in over three years. Very rusty! Miss most contests these days due to music—play Dixieland jazz on weekends (N6RO). Sure a lot of mults this time (N4DW). My first NA Sprint. I'm back into contesting after a lapse of quite a few years. Thanks for a fun contest (K3NW). The Sprint certainly took some getting used to, but once I got into the "swing" of it, I had fun; you sure have come up with a format that packs a LOT of contest into four short hours! (XM3CUI). Good condx, and fun, but with my limited antenna (14' pole out of a second floor window) have acquired habit of not sending CQ, hi. Some day with a more credible setup... (N0FFZ). Finally got to use a page 7 (NU9R). This was my first Sprint. By the time I figured out all the rules, the contest was over (N2GZL). Always fun to scan the frantic actions and feed some of the SHARKS!!! (W5NR). First contest from new weekend QTH but just had a Butternut HF6V. Should get better by next year (K2SX/1). 100W is a lot harder than 1000W! (K1KI). I've always used contests in the past to work a needed station. I'm now beginning to get the contesting/competition itch! CU next time! (K7CU). Had a great time operating from my hotel room at the ARRL National Convention. W1WEF was so loud on 40 that I could hardly believe that he was at home in Connecticut (NJ2L/7). This was the best Sprint I've been in—seems conditions and activity (including mults) are way up. I expected about 200 QSOs since most of my antennas are down due to move across town (W2RQ). Boy did I start slow. Shoulda gone to 80 earlier (WB2EEK, op of W3GG). Great contest! It requires so much more than just a big signal (N2AZS).

Team Scores

Blues Brothers			James Gang			Southern California Contest Club			Texas DX Society		
KR0Y/5	14,617		W2RQ	13,200		N6TR/7	13,728		K5LZO	13,754	
W0UA	14,310		W2GD	12,735		K6NA	13,254		W5WMU	12,892	
WN4KKN/5	13,754		K2ZS	12,716		N6ZZ	12,558		KG5U	12,465	
N5RZ	13,459		K9ZO	12,502		NE6I	11,094		K2TNO/5	12,285	
W3LPL	13,244		W8LT	12,126		N6ND	10,922		N5DU	10,569	
K4VX/0	13,158		WC4E	11,500		W7EJ	10,680		N5RP	9,320	
N4RJ	12,825		N0BSH/9	11,132		N6AA/7	10,569		XE2GFN/3	9,282	
N4ZZ	12,784		K1ZX/4	11,051		W6YA	10,406		NT5D	7,980	
K6LL/7	12,684		KA2AEV	8,299		N6VR	10,062		W5ASP	6,878	
N6TU	8,320		VE1CYL	4,488					K5DX	4,550	
	129,155			109,789			103,273			99,975	

- Southern California Contest Club #2 (K6STI N6CW N6CQ/3 W7CBB/6 NC6U WA6WZO WE7G KV0I)..... 71,009
- Potomac Valley Radio Club (K4PQL KC8C/3 W3GG K13L/5)..... 39,169
- Murphy's Marauders (K1TO W1WEF K8HVT/2)..... 37,202
- Key Klix Klan (AA4NC WB4QBB N6RZ)..... 22,925
- Order of the Boiled Owls (K2LE K2SX/1)..... 21,165
- Ohio Contest Conspiracy (WD8AUB NF8R WD8LLD)..... 17,448
- Texas Radiosport Group (WD5N AA5BT KE5AL WB5VZL)..... 16,913
- Southern California Contest Club #3 (W6AQ KB6RFX)..... 16,210

All Time CW Sprint Records

State	Date	Call	QSO	Mult	Score	State	Date	Call	QSO	Mult	Score
CO	2/88	N2IC/0	339	44	14,916	OK	9/87	KM5H	294	39	11,466
IA	2/82	KF0H	269	38	10,222	TX	9/88	KR0Y/5	311	47	14,617
KS	9/82	K0VBU	231	42	9,702						
MN	9/79	W0ZZ	268	43	11,524	CA	9/88	K6NA	283	47	13,301
MO	9/88	K4VX/0	305	43	13,158						
NE	2/84	K0SCM	138	37	5,106	AK	9/81	AL7H	139	30	4,170
ND	2/88	WB0O	247	36	8,892	AZ	2/82	K6LL/7	302	44	13,288
SD		no entry				ID	9/82	K7NHV	281	38	10,678
						MT	2/88	KE7X	188	35	6,580
CT	9/81	K1KI	317	45	14,265	NV	9/87	WA7NIN	283	41	11,603
MA	9/81	K1AR	303	41	12,382	OR	9/88	N6TR/7	312	44	13,728
ME	9/88	K1KI	218	41	8,938	UT	9/88	K7CU	167	37	6,179
NH	9/80	K1AR	299	41	12,259	WA	2/87	K7SS	305	39	11,895
RI	9/85	K5ZD/1	247	36	8,892	WY	9/88	N7NG	232	43	9,976
VT	9/82	K2LE/1	183	39	7,137						
						MI	2/85	K8CC	261	40	10,440
NJ	9/88	W2RQ	300	44	13,200	OH	9/88	K8MR	274	46	12,604
NY	9/80	N2NT	319	42	13,398	WV	9/82	N8II	250	42	10,500
DE	2/82	W3XU	246	37	9,102	IL	9/88	K9ZO	266	47	12,502
MD	9/88	W3LPL	301	44	13,244	IN	9/87	W9RE	279	39	10,881
PA	9/82	K3LR	323	43	13,889	WI	9/88	N0BSH/9	242	46	11,132
AL	2/81	WN4KKN	267	41	10,947	VE1	2/88	VO1QU	143	33	4,719
FL	9/88	WC4E	250	46	11,500	VE2	9/88	VE2ZP	214	41	8,774
GA	9/88	K4BAI	307	46	14,122	VE3	9/88	XM3CUI	105	35	3,675
KY	9/88	N4TY	193	42	8,106	VE4	9/79	VE4KK	202	34	6,868
NC	9/88	K4PQL	257	45	11,565	VE5	2/82	VE5KK	228	38	8,664
SC	2/81	W4NL	104	33	3,432	VE6					
TN	9/88	N4ZZ	272	47	12,784	VE7	2/88	VE7AHA	230	36	8,280
VA	9/79	K4AF	276	39	10,764	VE8					
AR	2/82	K5GO	302	40	12,040	VP9	2/85	W6OAT/VP9	202	31	6,262
LA	9/88	W5WMU	293	44	12,892	XE	9/88	XE2GFN/3	221	42	9,282
MS	9/81	W5XX	222	38	8,436	4U1	2/85	4U1UN	70	23	1,610
NM	2/82	K5TA	250	39	9,750						