

Contest Soapbox

2002 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

56 Soapbox entries available

KN3A -- Nov 17, 2003 09:35 ET



My wife thinks the hamshack desk is messy?

This was the first contest I've been in for years because I had taken a 7 yr. absence from ham radio. I decided to try QRP this year for the challenge of it, and greatly surpassed my expectations. I was mostly on 40 and 80 meters and in just over 10 hours total time, I worked 50 sections and 155 contacts. I appreciate the courtesy that everyone had with my QRP and taking the time to make sure they had all my info. I look forward to the contesting again. Using the N3FJP logging program was a big help. Last contest a few years ago was done by paper. This was ready to submit literally minutes after the contest ended. Where was SFL???

Couldn't find you anywhere.

73--Scott (formerly WY3X) -- *KN3A*

VE4MM -- May 24, 2003 17:27 ET

Results are now official: Thank you for all the QSO's so I could earn my first Clean Sweep, and on QRP!!!! Need a Voice Keyer and better antennas for next year. Here's hoping that 10M will still be alive next year! 73, Mike -- *VE4MM*

K0PJ -- May 21, 2003 11:59 ET

Had a great contest...my low band antenna,the Hy-Tower vertical, was a killer into the east coast from WI on 75m, where I made the most contacts.

I'm looking forward to SS 2003!

Greg -- *K0PJ*

K2Z -- May 5, 2003 19:24 ET



KD2RD & Friend

First contest with a Special Event Callsign. Lots of fun but not sure if the call made much of a difference in Q's. Thanks to everyone for the Q's & the SWEEP ! CU in November.

73's

John -- *KD2RD*



"Shorty-Fourty" with Tribander & 80 m loop.

K2Z -- May 2, 2003 22:11 ET

First time using a Special Event Callsign. Lots of fun but hard to say whether it made much of a difference in Q's. Maybe next year we'll go Multi-op with the Collie (Cassie). That'll help ! 73's & Thanks for the SWEEP. See you in November ! John -- *KD2RD*



KD2RD and Friend



2 el. Shorty Fourty, Tribander and 80m loop hidden in the trees.

WB4OMM -- Apr 5, 2003 17:30 ET

Wow! Another Sweeps done and gone! This is my favorite contest - I have participated every year since 1994 - and have had a Clean Sweep every year! (I have 9 Sweep Cups that adorn my shack for everyone to see). As there is usually minimal activity from the NFL section, it seems like I become a semi-rare section to work. Glad I could help so many out with North Florida. This year, I set out to operate as much of the 24 hours as I could; in previous years, work and family obligations always seemed to keep my op time down. As I finished 2nd place in my Section (NFL) and Division (SE) last year, I also wanted to "go for score". I guess I'll have to just bite my nails and wait to see if I made out as well as I hoped. To all my "SS" friends out there, thanks for the contact and hope to see you next year! 73! Steve -- *WB4OMM*



Steve - WB4OMM - NFL Section, Low Power



Steve - WB4OMM - NFL Section, Low Power

KC0IGY -- Jan 23, 2003 00:46 ET

Well, this was my first ever Sweepstakes, and only my second contest! I had a blast throughout. I didn't get a clean sweep, topping out somewhere around 60 sections in limited operating time. Antennas are pretty minimal (2 dipoles in the trees), but the help of harmonics, Alex (age 3) and Andre (18 months) was invaluable!

See you in the next one!

Pierre KC0IGY -- *KC0IGY*

N5SMQ -- Jan 17, 2003 15:06 ET

Didn't do too well this year. We moved to Va. mountains from La. swamps in June and didn't have time to set up good antennas so operated from the truck on the mountain top, and it SNEAUXED (snowed) Most I have ever been in, still had a ton of fun. Hopw I didn't mess too many up with Section Change. Boy this year I could write a side bar on this operation. hahahaha -- *N5SMQ*



100 A N5SMQ 91 VA ????? Not LA ????
Yes VA it don't snow like this in LA .

KE0BZ -- Dec 29, 2002 18:13 ET



Wayne (L) at the mike, and John helps with logging

We operated from the shack of KE0BZ in Lincoln, NE, this year. The old war-horse NCL2000 from the NU0C shack sure made getting contacts easier, although RF getting into the keyboard made logging interesting at times! I think Wayne wants an amp now.

A good time was had by all, despite a visit from Murphy that caused flames to shoot from the L4b power connector and necessitated a last-minute trip home to get the other amp. We operated all hunt & pounce, and visitor John from my Boy Scout troop got some hands-on experience with ham radio and is really excited about getting his ticket. Possibly a new SS op from Nebraska next year? Who knows...

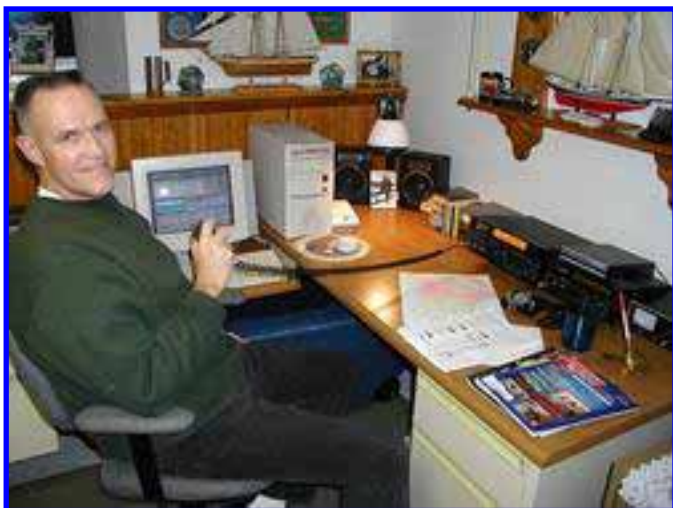
Ops - Jim NU0C, Wayne KE0BZ, and John.

73 de NU0C -- *NU0C*



John learns how to tune in an SSB signal

K8BZ -- Dec 27, 2002 09:38 ET



**K8BZ at the mic during the SSB contest.
First time ever for a sweep in both CW and
SSB. Thanks to the "rare ones".**

This was the best contest ever. Excellent participation from the rare sections. Thanks to those in Maritime. AK, VI, and YT. Will see you all again next year. -- *K8BZ*

K8BZ -- Dec 23, 2002 15:27 ET

This was the best SS ever. First time for a clean sweep in both phone and CW. Thanks to all for the contacts and sportsman like conduct. See you again next year. -- *K8BZ*

KB9KEG -- Dec 20, 2002 22:04 ET

Used the N1MM Logger program and proceeded to get a SWEEP, 2 Years in a row!!!! Ran the contest from the home QTH of North Fond du Lac, Wi. 500 watts and a wire antenna. Horizontal double right angle loop antenna up 20' and 322' around twice. Sure did have a good

time though and met some of my buddies along the way. 73 and see you all next year...and thanks to all the sections I contacted. Glad there were a few of each out there. Really chased a few last ones between numerous bands but it worked out great!!!! 73 Randy -- *KB9KEG*

WB1GQR -- Dec 19, 2002 01:51 ET

This year I started out well and equalled the best score I've ever amassed at the half way point. I pretty much stuck to my game plan and the bands cooperated.

Now, Sunday... well it wasn't pretty. In fact, it was a struggle. That has been drill for the last 3 years. Last year I tried to tough it out in one spot. This year, I moved more, but not fast enough. I was gunning for last year's Unlimited Champ K7BV, as he moved from NV to CT. But, Dennis was just playing around this weekend. And then, I almost missed NV - they were few and far between without K7BV! No one should have had trouble with Vermont, though. There were so many big scores here, it was like operating from STX!

Nothing broke down! With a station with 20-25 year old equipment (and an even older op), that's wonderful! -- *WISJ*

W1CTN -- Dec 18, 2002 20:25 ET

I found this session of the ARRL SS phone contest to be very enjoyable. The bands were all in good shape and this allowed me to make a clean sweep in just over 8 hours. Lots of high numbered checks so it looks like the newer ops are also in the contesting mode. It's a fun contest for the ham with a modest station, and the exchange gives it just the right amount of challenge to get all the info correct.

I would like to see team competition along the same lines as the teams in the North American QSO Party. I hope to work some of the SS testers during that contest in January 2003.

Here is my station description: (a derringer station in the world of big guns)

FT 920 100 watts - Dipoles 80/40 and Classic 33 20-10 at 45'

73 and Season's Greetings, Dave -- *W1CTN*

N2DUP -- Dec 16, 2002 09:09 ET

Although licensed for 20 years and primarily a VHF/UHF op over the years, I finally got a full-fledged HF station on the air (IC-746 and Spi-Ro Mfg A-2 70-foot all-band limited space antenna) this fall. The locals prodded me into getting on the air with a contest, namely SS, to

give the new HF station a workout.

Still learning how to work the tuner and all, and moving from band to band, I worked the contest for about 12 hours -- on 10M, 15M, 20M and a little 40M -- and had a ball.

Through the contest, I have developed my logging skills (something VHF/UHF ops don't do as much) and honed my HF operating skills, too. It was an excellent opportunity.

I worked 154 stations in 52 sections -- not bad for a first time out, I suppose. I can only get better, right?

73, Chuck Gysi, N2DUP / MN Section / www.scancomm.net / N2DUP@arrl.net

-- *N2DUP*

KT0R -- Dec 14, 2002 00:39 ET



High Rates, Great Fun. Sweep at 01:05 Zulu !
Always a pleasure to work everyone. -- *KT0R*

**The Ops @ KT0R SS SSB 2002 Lt-Rt.
KT0R, K0AD, K0OB, K0MX**



ANTENNAS @ KT0R



Operating position A KT0R SS SSB 2002



Operating position B KT0R SS SSB 2002

N4KIT -- Dec 11, 2002 12:54 ET

As usual, what a blast. I have to admit I fell short of my goals to work the Sweep and beat last year's score... so much for continuous improvement. Thought I had this one licked... XYL "pre-tuned" to expect little of my smiling face for the weekend, lousy weather (can't do outdoor chores!), decent propagation. Unfortunately the lousy weather (heavy rain) caused a soaking wet branch to drape itself across one leg of the inverted vee. No wonder I could'nt get better than 2:1 match on 10. Thank goodness for tube finals. But frustration with the matching problem led me to quit early since I didn't feel like messing with the antenna in the rain.

Highlight of the 'test was QSO with NS2P in Northern New York. Brief QSO indicated his QTH is just 3 miles as the crow flies from my boyhood home where the dreams of becoming a ham first found a home in my heart. 25 years later that dream is reality. Thanks to NS2P for bringing the NNY mult and a bit of nostalgia to my day! See ya'll on 10 in Dec. with my new FT-920!

73 de Chris 001 A N4KIT Check 96 Virginia -- *N4KIT*



K5AEA Hard at it Saturday evening, with DK1CM helping to pull them out of the noise.



K5UTD's TH-11DX and 40M Rotary Dipole at 100ft flying high in front of a beautiful November sunset.



K5UTD, the Comet Amateur Radio Club at the University of Texas at Dallas was manned during this year's SS by Oliver, W5/DK1CM and Justin, K5AEA. We entered the contest with hopes of breaking 1500 Qs, and we almost got there.

Starting the test, we missed grabbing a calling frequency on 10 below 28.500, but since there were stations calling all the way to 28.8, we grabbed a frequency closer to the 500 mark and ran for the first hours of the contest. Even though we were a strong signal on the band, the yagi hurt us a bit; as we would call to the northeast the W6's would push us around, and as we would call to the northwest the Northeasterners tried to take over our frequency. We finally settled on some combination of turning the beam every few call when we didn't have a pileup. After we milked 10M and 15M for all they were worth, we S&P on 20M a bit, not too worried about grabbing the sweep but hoping to get a calling frequency on one of the low bands, since we couldn't find one on 20M.

40M proved the place to call, and heading into the late evening hours we were well on the way to 600. After taking advantage of our 40M rotatable dipole at 100ft, we tried to work on 80M a bit for some of the missing sections. Our dipoles, which were hung the week prior to CQWW Phone were oriented toward Japan and Europe, and unfortunately left a huge hole in the far northern US. With noise at S9 I closed shop at 1AM still working over 60/hr on 80M. Oli and I had decided early in the evening that I would work till 1am CST while he went home and got some sleep, and he would fire it back up at 7AM for our 6 hours off. This strategy proved to be detrimental.

From left to right: The Primary Operator's Position, the logger's seat, our web server, and the K5UTD packet cluster

When I made it back to the test around noon, Oli was working on 1000 and holding good rates. He had earned the mug in the first hour of Sunday morning, easily grabbing KP3, AK, and KH6 for

the sweep. By 2PM, I was back at the helm; giving out my first ever SS serials over 1k felt really good, and people always seemed anxious to grab the next number. By 7PM however, the test was all but dead for K5UTD. I think that I worked just over 50 Qs in the last two hours of the test, finding only 3 to 4 new calls on a band at each change. However, I did get to give out serials over 1360, just over 100 Qs shy of our goal.

It was great to hear all of the stations with recent checks, and was even better to write over 15 school stations into the log. We ran as "S" ourselves, sometimes confusing ops who didn't seem familiar with the class.

We are waiting anxiously for the results to see who the champ of the school clubs turns out to be. Stanford, W6YX, ran Multi and did a great job. The last time I heard them they were well on their way to 2k. Thanks for all of the spots guys, we tried to return the favor when we heard you!

Our final tabs were 1350+ Qs x 2 x the sweep = 210,000+

73 to all and best of luck to all! K5UTD will be back next year and looking to beat W1YK's school club record of 222,000 points.

For more information about the Comet Amateur Radio Club at UTD, please have a look at our webpage at <http://ham.utdallas.edu>

The University of Texas at Dallas, located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano and Dallas in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor®, enrolls more than 13,000 students. The school's freshman class traditionally stands at the forefront of Texas state universities in terms of average SAT scores. The university offers a broad assortment of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. For additional information about UTD, please visit the university's Web site at <http://www.utdallas.edu>.

-- K5AEA

W1JQ -- Nov 30, 2002 13:43 ET

Well, for the first time ever I had my logging software blow up mid-contest. No one to blame but myself, since it's my own program. Fortunately, it was backing up every QSO to another computer on my network, so I didn't lose anything, but it's not what you want to be fixing at 1 AM. Then there were the times I changed bands and forgot to tell the logger--had to go back and guess when the band change took place. Right after the contest, I ordered the digital interface for my rig and wrote the software to read the band automatically. That will help for next time.

Meanwhile, I don't want to think about how many points I'll lose.

Still, part of the fun is griping about what went wrong. There was plenty that went right. I had a lot of fun; made my first clean sweep ever (worked Maritime 1st QSO Sunday morning); didn't get to 1000 Qs (my pre-contest goal), but got close enough. There's always next year.

There are lots of contests, but SS is always one of the most fun. -- *W1JQ*

WA6HXF -- Nov 27, 2002 15:56 ET

First hour of contest was spent defragging and diskscanning my log program to get it working. Then had my 21MHZ 'Go South' in my rig! After that decided to go for the Sections and not most contacts. Had a fun time and got 77 Sections in 77 Contacts. Never even heard the missing 3 (QC,NWT,DE). Guess they were there (hihi)

Looking forward to next year already and maybe a new rig to "Fight the unbeatable Foe" (Murphy, that is)

Dave, WA6HXF -- *WA6HXF*

KK5K -- Nov 25, 2002 17:34 ET



Photo: TARC OPERATING POSITION ONE L-R; Chris-KD5JXL, Rob-WJ5K and Melanie-KD5TDH. This shot was taken in our main operating suite.

Tupelo Amateur Radio Club Contest Team got together and operated our club call sign KK5K for the ARRL SS 2002 Phone Contest. We had a ball. We operated from our clubhouse at the Tupelo Regional Airport in Tupelo, MS.

So far, we are more of a social bunch than a contest group, but this didn't keep us from having fun. We came up two short of the SWEEP. I know that we just plain missed PAC section, but where was Nevada ?

We can't wait until next year. Hope to make a SWEEP next year!

Please check out our website at:

www.tupelofest.org -- *WJ5K*

K9JS -- Nov 25, 2002 11:24 ET

Hurt lower back just hours before the start, very hard to stay in the chair. 85% S&P, When all the "hard" sections had been worked by Saturday evening I "knew" the sweep was in the bag - Third SS and Third Sweep for me! Can SMC achieve the "3-PEAT" as well?

Biggest High to Low Moment: Needing NV as last section, I tune accross K7BV, 1 call no problem until the mental realization that he is No Longer In NV!! Get so flustered I had to call him a second time to make sure I copied the exchange correctly! Start to sweat the Sweep a bit, see various spots for NV, don't hear anything, finally find W7TTT, huge thank you for the last section @ 1918Z. Basically gave up after that. Too much pain to sit any longer. :-(

Best Investment of Time: Threw up a 40M Dipole @ 35 feet, Finally felt loud on a Band! One guy said I was about 20,000 Over S9! Only "running" was on 40M.

First contest with "new" call, only messed up 2X. Sorry for my "Lid" moments. -- *K9JS*

WA9STI -- Nov 24, 2002 14:58 ET

For the second year in a row, I humped up to a 2800' mountain top above the San Fernando Valley in the LAX Section to work QRP with a Yaesu FT-817 and Outbacker Joey vertical. Although I was only able to stay up there for 2.5 hours, I made 55 contacts in 33 sections. However I only worked one other "Q" station. Thanks to all who heard my QRP signal and exchanged the info even though sometimes it took a little longer. Next year I'll spend more time operating from up on the mountain and send a picture. 73 de Scott, Los Angeles, CA -- *WA9STI*

KC0LUX -- Nov 22, 2002 23:53 ET

My first November Phone SS (check 01) - thoroughly enjoyed it and the chance to make QRP contacts with all states. Didn't quite make it, but the challenge and enough contacts kept me going. Thanks to all who patiently worked me QRP - the polite appropriate operating by all I heard was encouraging in the activity of a contest. -- *KC0LUX*

N7QAX -- Nov 21, 2002 22:37 ET

Wow, what a great time, last year my family and I moved into a new house and I didn't get the shack together in time for the SS. With a remodeled shack and a new dipole for 40/75 meters I was ready to roll. This is the fifth time I operated in the thing and I finally got a sweep. I would have done a little dance but the shack is a little small.

Bill Torrance N7QAX -- *N7QAX*

KB1FWN -- Nov 21, 2002 18:44 ET



**My array, pointed north the whole time!
Oooooops!**

ray...." I HAD THE SWEEP! With it under my belt for the first time, I was excited. On later inspection, however, it would turn out that I forgot to put the break on and the beam was pointed north the whole time! I can't wait for next year! -- *KB1FWN*

W0NO -- Nov 21, 2002 11:59 ET



**"No California-kilowatting, boys..." W0NO,
K0WA and K0FJ**

My station is hidden here in WMA, so I knew that I could be a rarity. I also figured that I would get my butt kicked by K1TTT and friends up in Peru, Mass, but I have yet to see the score. Early Sunday morning, I was running down on 15, worked a NTX, thought to myself, "I need LAX for the sweep." Don't get me wrong, LAX is no rarity. For some reason they hadn't found me yet...but just as I thought that, came a "Kilowatt Number Six! King Six! King Six!" He was weak, but I needed the six. Would it be LAX? He shouted his exchange. The copy was bad. He had to be LAX. "I didn't get the section, section, section, please!" He came back. I will never forget the two words I caught: "...Alpha X-

After a fun CW weekend at W0NO's in Beloit KS (see CW soapbox for K0WA), the old Flatland Amateur Radio Transmitting Society reconvened at Alan's for sideband, with the addition of Mike K0FJ. The five have traveled to Dayton together, and various subsets have done SS multiops for decades.

Talk of chances for polar path disturbances put the fear of sweep hindrance in our minds, but between our run and mult stations we had virtually all the traditional nasties in the log, many with insurance stations, in the first few hours. We were left with such nailbiters as ORG and OK and earned our mugs when rare ol' NV went in the log at 1AM.

It was a pleasure logging so many stations with recent checks, and seeing enthusiastic comments on this soapbox from new and rejuvenated testers! Doing Sweeps with a regionally



AB0S / K0BJ pull stints at the IC756 PRO II / Alpha run station.

competitive group is a treat, and this was K0FJ's first time to be part of such an effort. Each individual brings unique talent and hardware to the effort. But the greatest fun is shared comraderie among three hams spawned in the late 60s and two more from either end of the 90s.

K0WA, K0BJ and K0FJ face 2+ hr. commutes to get to the station. BJ joined FJ in his van and their homeward journey is chronicled in this soapbox as W0WOB/m, their "second SS". Many thanks to Alan W0NO who has enthusiastically built a competitive M-2 station in the short years he's been licensed. 73 -- K0BJ

K9DI -- Nov 21, 2002 09:40 ET



A picture of myself and my Leader Dog Sequoia. This picture was taken before I upgraded to Extra and acquired my current call so don't let the call on the hat fool you.

WOW, What a BLAST!!!! this was my first participation in a contest other than the QRP-L FoxII hunts and ARRL Field Day. I didn't have much time to operate, but did manage to snag 50 QSO's and 35 sections with my K2 and 5 watts. I was putting the power out through a Gusher dipole up about 35-40 feet, and then I borrowed a 5 band vertical. Sign me up for next time!!! 73/72 de Wayne K9DI es Leader Dog Sequoia. -- K9DI

K1MKF -- Nov 20, 2002 16:38 ET

I was at the Meriden ARC from the start on Saturday until 0300 local. I was on 75m phone for

the last 3 hours (as W1NRG) and had a great time. On Sunday I operated from home on and off (as K1MKF) over 6 hours. Sweepstakes is still one of my favorite contests. The operators were all polite and professional even when a newly licensed 12 year old HAM took to the W1NRG mic for the very first time. Thanks to everyone who made his first contest something to remember. -- *K1MKF*

W4NTI -- Nov 20, 2002 13:36 ET

Great contest as usual. The CW and Phone Sweeps are by far my favorite contest of all time. Missed the 80 sections by 1 on CW but managed them all on phone.

The thing I noticed this year was all the 'young' checks. Such as 00, 01 and even 02. Heard lots of youngsters and even some YL's. Good to see them. -- *W4NTI*

K0RH -- Nov 20, 2002 23:42 ET

Well, this was the third effort of the duo of Jim K0RH and Nate N0NB and by far our best effort to date.

Jim's station is primarily built for DX, so we've learned to "downgrade" the antenna system a bit for a better SS score. This year Jim added a multiband vertical at about 40 feet. Being able to switch between the vertical and the low(!) KT-34XA made working each coast much easier on 20, 15, and 10m. Perhaps the next thing to try is an inverted vee for 40m as the 2 el yagi is still too much of a DX antenna for this contest.

The bands were in very good shape this year with even 75m being nice and quiet Saturday evening. Unfortunately, good rates on the other bands meant that we got on 75 much later, but I hope anyone needing KS Saturday night did manage find at least one of the operations.

On the plus side we did manage to improve our rate considerably over the past two efforts.

Perhaps most impressive was the civility on the bands. Not once did I hear anything not becoming a courteous operator. Certainly QRM got heavy and a couple of times I was asked to QSY, which I did. Everyone I encountered in the '02 SS was a lady and a gentleman. Thanks, Riley, for helping to restore civility to the ham bands!

I find it interesting to look at the last sections that are worked for the sweep. In 2001 NL and PR were our last two sections worked. This year NE, WY, and MB were our last three worked for the sweep. Interestingly NL came by for #47 and NWT for #51 this year while PR was #62. The traditional "rare" sections just weren't. Does this mean we need more sections?

CU in SS '03! -- *N0NB*

KA6T -- Nov 20, 2002 15:10 ET

Really enjoyed taking part in the SS from the new QTH here in Oregon. Being on the side of a hill facing east seems to make it easier for most folks to hear me, which is great. It was frustrating though to call a bunch of WWA stations and never get a response, when I can actually SEE Western Washington out the window of the shack! Also missed Idaho. For next year I will have to put up some kind of antenna to radiate on 40 or 80 meters.

See you all again next time!

Bill -- KA6T 91 OR -- *KA6T*

WA3SES -- Nov 20, 2002 10:47 ET

Original plan was to get on Sunday afternoon after the football game...maybe for 4 hours or so. I changed my mind, and got on a little Saturday evening (12 Q's), but didn't seem to have much of a signal, so called it a night very quickly. Sunday a.m. (about 1500z) decided to take a listen on 40 meters, and, finding it rather quiet, (i.e., not "wall to wall") did a little s&p then called CQ at 7.172. 56 minutes and 121 Q's later, I had given the sweep to about 4 or 5 stations, and had many more mention I was one of their last two or three. That was a nice thrill. My QSO was never, at least to my knowledge, the sweep QSO for anyone in SS. WPA just is not that rare. I did stop to watch the football game, then got on some more in the evening, hearing "thanks for the sweep" a few more times.

Now if I could only get the SS sweep myself one time.....

73 Ed -- *WA3SES*

KC4YYX -- Nov 19, 2002 15:41 ET

Wow, Did I have fun. Thanks to all who answered my call. This was the first contest I have participated in. I've had my Novice since 1982, but never had any rigs to operate. I've just recently upgraded to Tech with code, General and Extra all in the last month. I was hoping to be able to work the Extra bands without the "temporary AE," but the USPS felt otherwise in delaying my upgrade paperwork 2 weeks. I even had one of you say "that's a mouthfull!" I wasn't able to get a clean sweep and need help figuring out my points, but I did have a lot of fun and will be back. I really need a shorter call!!! Special thanks go to my local club the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club for their encouragement for me to get on the air. Working Alaska was great since my son is stationed in Anchorage. Maybe I can get him interested, who knows? I also agree with the other posts about HAMs going the extra mile to help out "newbies." I made a few mistakes and hopefully didn't upset anyone.

73, David KC4YYX, King George County, VA -- *KC4YYX*

W0EEE -- Nov 20, 2002 08:58 ET



KI0PX logs while KC9UMR works the pileup

well, we worked our sweep, and clobbered last year's score by quite a bit (100000+ vs 43000), so we've got a good group of contestors this year. That, coupled with some equipment upgrades, we were able to work 40M and 80M like never before. Everyone in our station was impressed when one of our ops was working a pileup and said "guys, im trying to work the little girl whos getting clobbered by this pileup" and the frequency went dead, except for our op and the YL. It's great to see so many new ops on the air for this... more contacts for us to work!! <g>



KC0JEO works QC (our LAST mult) as N8YXR celebrates the sweep

(W0EEE ops, KC9UMR, N8YXR, L4LO, KC0JEO, KB0TCB, KC5IPN, + 2 guys who are working on their licenses... they like contesting!)

W0EEE is the university of Missouri-Rolla ARC, located roughly halfway between St. Louis and Springfield, MO on scenic Interstate 44 :) We are into a little bit of everything when we can be.... no satellite antennas, but we have an '847. We currently host the only APRS digi in Rolla, in order to spark a little more interest in it. We keep a shack full of equipment for our members to use whenever they please (they are issued keys if they so desire to get them from the university)... A GREAT club at a GREAT school :) -- *KC9UMR*



N4LO chases sections while KI0PX chows down



N8YXR gets yet another mult while chasing the sweep

KF6ILA/KH2 -- Nov 20, 2002 06:40 ET

As most of you know, Guam (KH2 Land) is between 14 to 18 hours ahead of the Continental U.S., so the sweepstakes started for me Sunday Morning. Even though I figured that I would only be able to work for about five hours before the bands closed, I decided to make a go of it anyway. I was using a Hustler 6-BTV at a barefoot 100 Watts. Even though I could hear many stations, I was only able to work fourteen, averaging about 10 minutes to get my information across. I would like to say thank you to all the stations which we were successful, and those which we tried, but could not. I know that it was a trial to "dig me out of the dirt" for the contact. Thank you all and looking forward to next year. 73 de Duncan -- *KF6ILA*

K7FU -- Nov 20, 2002 01:00 ET



Bruce K0BJ and Mike K0FJ enjoyed a second SS on the road but had 'brain overwrite' problems trying to dupe from memory.

K0BJ ran the mic and paper-logged, while K0FJ tuned and piloted. We attempted to “mental-dupe”, and must apologize to those we called twice. We gave out "A" precedence but realized after a while we were a multi entry. The callsign is the Trojan ARC's, and used to belong to Chief Engineer Vern “Weatherman” Snider at KXXX.

Western KS is pretty flat so it was nice having our li'l Second SS to accompany us home. The Solomon River meanders along US 24's route and hey, it actually has water in it here and there, which brings out the wildlife. We appreciate all the “drive safe” wishes we got from ops, as we had quick slowdowns to avoid a deer and a

possum. Anybody notice the Doppler shift? 73 -- *K0BJ*

KB3ING -- Nov 19, 2002 09:18 ET

Being a new ham, and only having a 10 meter rig for HF, I haven't had much of a chance to operate on HF. I decided to turn my 10 meter rig on Sunday, and noticed some activity. After listening for a few minutes, I decided to jump in and participate a little. I made 5 contacts: 1 Virgin Islands, 2 Colorado, 2 Utah. This was my first experience with HF, and my first participation in any contest. I didn't rack up many contacts, but I did have fun getting a few. I think I will give 10 meters a try again next month for the 10 meter contest.

73,

Tom -- *KB3ING*

W0YC -- Nov 19, 2002 13:42 ET

I enjoyed participating as an alumni of the University of Minnesota Gopher Radio Club. We had several folks stop by to work the mike. Even my YL got on the air to make a few contacts. She really enjoyed hearing from the Ohio stations, as she grew up there. She still is waiting to hear from the Wooster folks, though.

Some of you working QRP out on the coasts and down in Texas were impressive. I heard you like you were almost sitting in the shack. Some of you were coming in nearly 5/9 to us here in Minnesota. I hope I gave you accurate RST's...

I know we nearly logged 700 contacts, and we were only short a couple sections of a clean sweep. Getting IA in the last 30 minutes to clear a section was a cause for celebration. Thanks for the QSO.

We enjoyed working the other college/university clubs as well. I think Harvard out did us with a check of 12. I know a lot of you were probably confused about a check of 19 with voices so young, but if you check us on QRZ, you will find we have been around as W0YC since 1919. We are fortunate to exist on campus and we appreciate your patience with us as we learn how to contest. I know we had people participating in the Sweepstakes who never touch HF otherwise, or they haven't gotten their ticket yet. Again, kudos to everyone, it really makes the hobby fun.

73's, Anders Johansson -- *KB0PJV*

W2KA -- Nov 19, 2002 12:53 ET

Everyone kept asking me where's NNY? Its up near Canada guys! Nothing blew-up or fell down, so I consider it a success. -- W2KA

N9OH -- Nov 19, 2002 12:11 ET



The criminal - Emma

Had a good day Saturday, getting most of the mults out of the way on a 100% S&P effort. Sometime Saturday night, my amp started arcing on all bands -- and i ended up turning it off and running the rest of the contest at 100w. It became harder and harder to work those stations - even close ones. KA9FOX up in WI thought i was QRP for crying out loud. Sunday morning came and my wife had compelling reasons for me to do chores and yardwork rather than "play radio" as she calls it. I spent a few hours in the garage working on various things and even got suckered into putting up xmas lights on the front of the house. Finally It was about 5pm and i was "free" to get back to radio. I figured i could at least pull a sweep, even if i didn't make the # of Q's i had hoped. Well, thats when my wife thought it would be a good time to tell me that our dog Emma had decided to attack my coax that feeds my vertical out back. The coax is about 50 feet of direct-burial coax with the last foot above ground -- also including a rf choke



Coax Remains

via 10 turns of coax around a 6" diameter or whatever. Still about 1 foot of coax exposed (real length is longer). Well, the dog first ate through the rope and tape holding the coax turns in place. Then pulled on the cable for a while and dug up about 5 feet of cable that was buried! Then she went for the big one.... she ate right through that coax. This English Springer Spaniel of 6 months had an appetite for plastic and copper. Ripped the shield off of the base of the antenna and then chewed right through a second piece of coax -- insulator and all. I'm not sure how much she ate. I hope it was good. Well I forgot to mention that before my wife told me

about this -- i had made 7 contacts (15 and 10 meters). I have no idea what was radiating. The coax??? Wow. Kudos to those stations who worked me with my coax laying on the ground as my antenna. I did hear my rig clicking and i had to back the power down.... which should have been a clue. After i saw the SWR sky high was when i decided that something was up and then the story came out. I've attached two pictures.... one of the dog and the remains of the coax. The other of the base of the vertical and the chewed off end of the coax there.

I must come up with a way to protect the cable after I repair it. Haven't yet.... as i need to drop the whole antenna to repair the base. Dumb dogs. Supposed to be man's best friend... turns out to be HAM's worst foe! :)

73 - Steve -- *N9OH*

KC0ADP -- Nov 18, 2002 19:47 ET

Only worked 129 but it was fun as usual! Tnx to all the stations I did contact. Also, to all those that took the time to explain to those not familiar with the contest on what was going on and what to give for an exchange. I didn't mind waiting to work you.

73 John KC0ADP -- *KC0ADP*

KQ9L -- Nov 18, 2002 16:04 ET

Well, I had a BLAST!! This was my first Sweepstakes, worked 187 QSO and nearly a sweep! I must say that I was very impressed with all the hams who took the extra time to welcome me to the HAM community when they heard my 02 check. Overall I believe that contesting suits me just fine. I know that some folks belly ache at the thought of the band being overrun during contests, but, as a new ham I understand the potential benefits of being able to work a station

under adverse conditions. Frankly I think that I am a better operator by practicing during a contest! Well hope to meet you all during the next contest! 73 Rich -- *KQ9L*

AE0C -- Nov 18, 2002 14:02 ET

This was my first November Sweepstakes. And it coincided with another great Minnesota event, Deer Hunting Season. This meant that all my QSO's where in the evening. It also accounts for my only able to log 41 contacts. Well I plan to send in my log anyway. I do plan to attempt other contests as this one was a real HOOT. TNX for all those who came back to me while I sat in a small little cubby hole in our 20' travel trailer located in the north woods of Minnesota working an old Yaesu FT-101-EE barefoot into a homebrew G5RV strung through the trees.

042 Alpha from AE0C check 01 MN

TNX again, Dave -- *AE0C*

KQ6IK -- Nov 18, 2002 13:40 ET

I just wanted to say thanks to the people who had the patience to work my QRP station. It was my first time operating a contest QRP and was a real challenge. I ended up doing much better then I thought I would and had a great time. I wasn't able to operate the whole contest but I will make sure I do next time. -- *KQ6IK*

AA8HH/M -- Nov 18, 2002 11:30 ET

Great contest this year. Propagation was good and I worked those elusive VE2's and VY1's to get a Clean Sweep while operating mobile! -- *AA8HH*

WD8NVM -- Nov 18, 2002 19:45 ET

With relatively low power and a simple antennas I decided to try to work one station in each section. I'm glad to say I got my clean sweep, but made 81 QSOs. I forgot to cross off WNY when I worked the first one. Thanks to WW2Y I got my 80th section (NNJ) at about 9 am on Sunday morning. After bagging numbers 78 and 79 (MAR and NL) I just started listening to accents that sounded like the Sopranos!

Pat -- *WD8NVM*

K7IM -- Nov 18, 2002 19:28 ET

Good grief! What have I done? First contest in 25 years and I really liked it! Genie is out of the bottle. Look for me on the 10 Meter test next month. Maybe even the 160. (I thought I had out

grown this silliness!) -- *K7IM*

W6BAR -- Nov 18, 2002 16:27 ET

WHAT FUN !!! We ran this as a club event for the first time from our club communations trailer. We will be back only 112 contacts but what a thrill. High Light of the event was working W1AW. We are already making plans for the January VHF contest. I would say the bug bit some of us. All operators we very nice to us even the one's we contacted twice by accident.
-- *KG6GMT*

N5RLQ -- Nov 18, 2002 13:39 ET

I had a lot of fun with the SS Phone contest. My husband KA5KLU and I worked the contest as a multi category. We didn't get a clean sweep but had fun trying. We didn't get to work as many hours as we would have liked to had to stop for church on Sunday. My husband said we might have made a clean sweep if we had worked the whole contest we made contact with most of the hard ones like: MAR, SD, ND, NNY, NL and NWT. The ones we missed were 5's right in our own backyard. Only managed to work MS, just didn't hear much on 80 meters. We recommend the contest to anyone that hasn't tried it and why not try doing it as a family. Next time we plan on getting our son KC5QIG to work it with us. See you next SS.

73's//88's Lucy/N5RLQ -- *KA5KLU*

AE4NR -- Nov 18, 2002 13:19 ET



AE4NR RICH HAVING A BLAST DURING SWEEPSTAKES

WHAT A BLAST DID NOT GET A SWEEP BUT DID HAVE A GREAT TIME. LAST YEAR 10,000 POINTS THIS YEAR 35,000 POINTS. MADE 100 CONTACTS AND QUIT LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE THE SAME. THIS YEAR 251 CONTACTS NOW I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR NEXT YEAR GOING FOR 500 AND 50,000 POINTS. I REALLY WANTED TO QUIT WHEN I WORKED ANOTHER NC BRAVO WITH WELL OVER A 1000 CONTACTS IF ALL GOES WELL NEXT YEAR A QUAD FOR 10 15 AND 20 THAT WILL CERTAINLY HELP BUT ALL IN ALL A GREAT TIME THANKS TO ALL WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

AE4NR B CHECK OF 89 NC. -- *AE4NR*



The "modular" approach made it easy to accomodate two sets of operators without consuming an entire room. It's also easy to get to the back of all the equipment.



Cosmo Harrigan, Webster KD7FYX, and Joe KD7FWQ are busy trolling the bands. Cosmo, in his first contest, and Webster were working together calling CQ. Joe was busy search-and-pouncing.

W7VMI is the Vashon-Maury Island Radio Club, formed this year and having a good time putting some new operators on the air. Vashon Island also counts as IOTA NA-065 and for the U.S. Islands program as WA-060S.

When VO2WL is your fourth QSO and VY1JA is in the log within the first hour, you might start getting a warm-and-fuzzy feeling about making the Sweep. Those of us that have been around Sweepstakes a while know that getting the rare sections early usually means having a hard time with something easy - like NNJ or ORG. In our case, BC and EWA were tough, but VA7RR went in the log late Saturday night, leaving only Maine, VE2, and VE3 for Sunday. Thanks to Serge, VE2AWR, and several W1's and VE3's, the lads will all be sporting a new coffee cup again this year.

Nice to hear lots of 99, 00, 01, and 02 checks on the air!

73, Ward N0AX W7VMI Trustee and Choreographer -- *N0AX*



Twin brothers Lowell KD7DQO and Webster KD7FYX work the bands Sunday morning in push-pull.

K3TUF -- Nov 18, 2002 09:41 ET

I had a wonderful time this year. Have wanted to attain a clean sweep since I was a kid, and this year I did it. Had a bit of nervousness in contacting Montana, but Sunday afternoon I was just about to leave 10 meters and go to 20 when I forced myself to go all the way up the band, and there was MT as loud as anybody. Been a ham for over 40 years, but this is only my third SS. I fully expect to enjoy many more to come. Phil Theis, EPA -- *K3TUF*

N7HJ -- Nov 18, 2002 09:11 ET

What an absolute hoot. Was really fun this year. I attained two goals I set. Sweep and 500 qso's. I know I cant compete with quack quack and RI so I kept my goals attainable hi hi. I hit 90,000 points so my goal next year is 100,000 points. Nice to find VE2AWR calling CQ at 21.203 and getting him before a pileup hit. Found Maritimes tuning about also, giving me the sweep. Funny, calling CQ later I worked 3 more Maritimes hi hi.

My Nits for the contest is Sunday being asked constantly for my section, why not work the person and find out. I just kept calling CQ without answering them.

Even worst was 2 stations (WHOM I will not name here) Called me with very strong signals, I repeated their calls and they QSL'ed and after I gave my exchange never came back. Guess they didnt need WWA. But at least complete the exchange. This contest is and is supposed to be FUN.

Every Year I say Im going to give a concerted effort and fall short but at least this year I operated more hours than before HI HI.

NEXT Year QQ and RI, Next Year

Scotty N7HJ Everett, Washington -- *N7HJ*

WP3GW -- Nov 18, 2002 08:48 ET

I only did 15(!) stations; had to work the house these days, try to be more prepared next time (long exchange was new to me) but anyway happy to be multi for those. . . . hey! any other KP4's out there worked this one? See Ya next time -- Angel -- *WP3GW*

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