75th Anniversary Running

ARRL November Sweepstakes 2008

Time and Dates:

(CW) 2100Z Nov 1st to 0300Z Nov 2nd
(PH) 2100Z Nov 15th to 0300Z Nov 17th

These are ARRL Affiliated Club Competition events also!

For these contests the ARRL combines an individual's scores from both the CW and PH entries. The total for each Alabama Contest Group member that enters will be combined to determine the total Alabama Contest Group (ACG) score for the Club Competition.

Looking for participation from the Alabama Contest Group.

So you say, well I like this contesting stuff, but I really only have a modest station with wires and maybe a tribander and anyway I am just a casual operator and I don't usually give a lot of time to contests.

First, as a domestic contest, Sweepstakes is a great activity for those with Tribanders at 40' or so and/or wire antennas. With this kind of setup you can easily make hundreds of QSOs. In fact you may be able to out do some of those big gun stations with monobanders and 200' towers, etc.

Secondly, casual operators are the bread and butter contacts in this contest. Without you it is not possible for all those big gun contesters to make all those contacts.

Third, give what you can for operating time, but most to have some fun! That is what this hobby is about.

Maybe I only have a few hours that I can give to play in these contests. Will that help?

Sure, all scores help!

Last year Larry/K4AB operated four hours in SS CW and made 239 QSOs with 71 Mults for a total score of 33,938 points. Chris/NV4B operated a few hours and made 172 QSOs with 68 Mults for a score of 23,392. Johnny/KR4F made 200 QSOs with 75 Mults and scored 30,000 points. These three scores alone combine for over 86,000 points for the ACG.

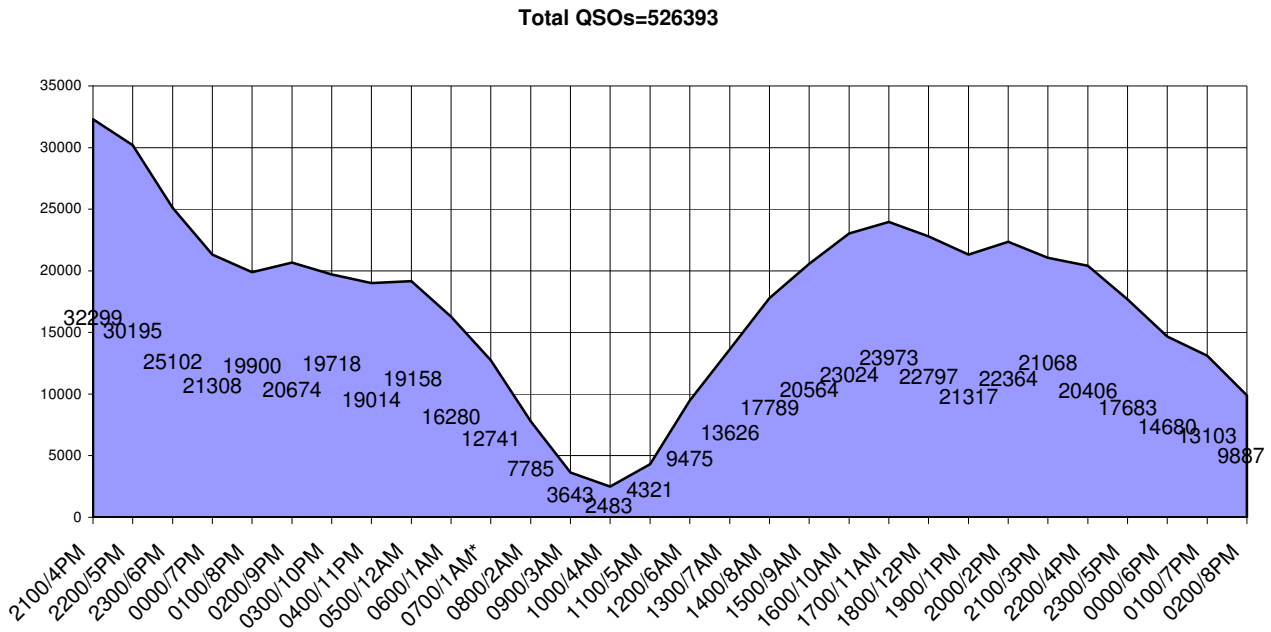
The ACG finished 10th in the Club Competition with a combined 21 logs for a point total of 1,487,262. The Contest Club of Ontario finished 11th with a scored of 1,437,768 with 37 logs. So you can see that K4AB, NV4B and KR4F scores helps push the ACG to the 10th place finish over the 11th place Contest Club of Ontario in the Club Competition.

This is what the ARRL Club Competition is all about—everybody's score contributes to the total club score!

OK, so maybe I can give some time to operate. When would be a good time to operate?

Tough question to answer, but simply just give time when you can.

But if you have some control over a few hours you can operate then take a look at the following information and maybe it will help you to decide on an operating schedule.



The above chart shows the entire operating period by hour for the 2007 SS PH event. One can see that the first two hours produced the largest number of QSOs compared to the other hours. There were 62,000 plus QSOs made in the first two hours of the contest.

Any time leading up to midnight the first day will yield a good opportunity to make a lot of contacts.

Sunday, 10AM to around 4PM would also be a great time to be on. Actually good rates can be had all the way up toward the end of the contest for a part timer. Everyone will be looking for new stations, so if you haven't been on the air very much, you will be in high demand.

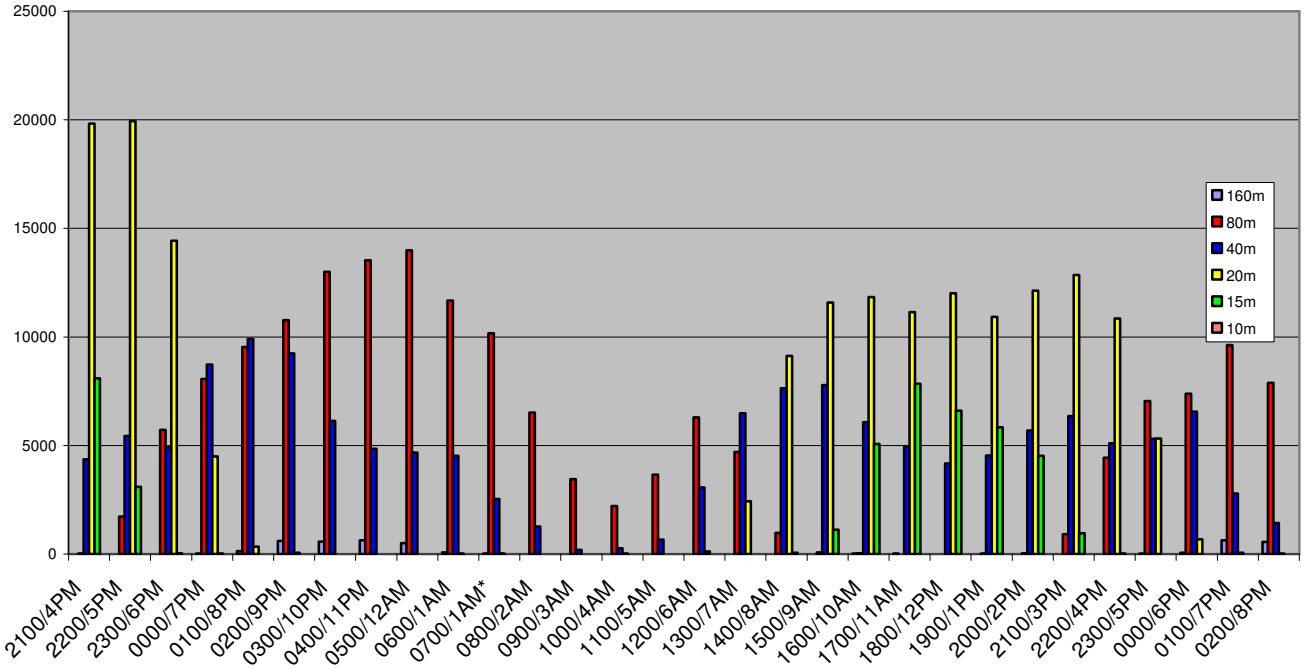
Hey I can do the PH stuff, but I am not real good at CW!

The PH contest will follow the CW event two weeks later; we will need your participation there also.

As for CW, I'm not real comfortable with trying to land in the bottom portion of the band with the 30+ WPM folks. I would suggest that you stay in the upper portion of the band with a CW speed that you are comfortable with.

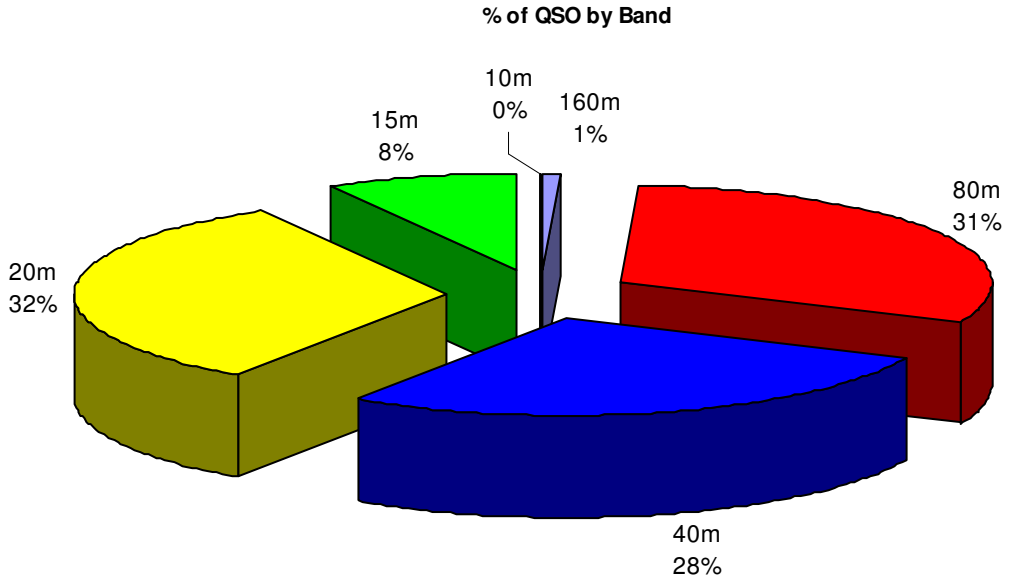
Callers will slow down. If they don't at first, just call CQ again at your speed and they will eventually get the idea. They want and need to work new stations and that could be you! For the big guns it is about QSOs, there are only 80 Mults and most all the big guns will have the 80, so the difference is in the QSOs. Regardless of your CW speed you could make a big difference in their final score! So I will assure you that they will slow down to your speed.

OK, I get it. So if I want to operate some, where is the best place or what band(s) should I try to operate?



This above chart breakdown the QSOs by hours by band. Easy to see that operating the first two or three hours will produce a large

opportunity for success. For the first hour look to 15m and 20m and during the second hour look to 20m and 40m. If you might operate later in the evening then 40m and 80m are the best bands. If you are going to operate during this time, got to have something for 80m, a dipole will be great!



This pie chart shows the breakdown of QSOs by band. This definitely lets one know what bands are the bread and butter bands of the contests. 10m and 160m don't have much to offer. But don't overlook 10m because if it opens then there will be an abundance of QSOs to be had. Some guys only operate 10m so if it is open, then that's where you have to be to work them.

OK, I don't really have much else, the real goal here is to show those in the general membership that this is a contest that you can have a lot of fun in and you can be competitive with a tribanders and/or wires antennas. You can help your club, the Alabama Contest Group, toward a bigger score in the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition for this event, if you participate.

Come and join us for one or both weekends and have some fun.

For more information, rules and statistics about the ARRL Novemember Sweepstakes take a look at:

http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2007/SS-Phone/

Finally, here is the raw data that I used for the above charts. I acquired this data from the ARRL website.

Hour Z			160m	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m	Total	% of Total
2100	CDST	4PM	4	10	4368	19829	8088	0	32219	6.12%
2200	CDST	5PM	0	1723	5436	19941	3095	0	30195	5.74%
2300	CDST	6PM	0	5726	4910	14431	35	0	25102	4.77%
0000	CDST	7PM	9	8060	8733	4495	11	0	21308	4.05%
0100	CDST	8PM	129	9533	9905	333	0	0	19900	3.78%
0200	CDST	9PM	608	10768	9243	55	0	0	20674	3.93%
0300	CDST	10PM	578	13003	6137	0	0	0	19718	3.75%
0400	CDST	11PM	635	13535	4843	1	0	0	19014	3.61%
0500	CDST	12PM	501	13983	4672	2	0	0	19158	3.64%
0600	CDST	1AM	73	11680	4518	9	0	0	16280	3.09%
0700	CST	1AM	8	10174	2540	19	0	0	12741	2.42%
0800	CST	2AM	0	6518	1267	0	0	0	7785	1.48%
0900	CST	3AM	0	3448	194	1	0	0	3743	0.71%
1000	CST	4AM	0	2209	263	11	0	0	2483	0.47%
1100	CST	5AM	0	3661	656	4	0	0	4321	0.82%
1200	CST	6AM	0	6293	3065	114	1	0	9472	1.80%
1300	CST	7AM	0	4707	6482	2433	4	0	13626	2.59%
1400	CST	8AM	1	978	7631	9118	61	0	17789	3.38%
1500	CST	9AM	0	79	7787	11579	1118	0	20563	3.91%
1600	CST	10AM	15	29	6071	11839	5070	0	23024	4.37%
1700	CST	11AM	15	5	4969	11143	7841	0	23973	4.55%
1800	CST	12AM	4	5	4165	12020	6603	0	22797	4.33%
1900	CST	1PM	0	15	4534	10925	5841	2	21317	4.05%
2000	CST	2PM	1	23	5691	12126	4520	3	22364	4.25%
2100	CST	3PM	0	917	6347	12852	951	1	21068	4.00%
2200	CST	4PM	0	4444	5104	10842	15	1	20406	3.88%
2300	CST	5PM	14	7041	5303	5325	0	0	17683	3.36%
0000	CST	6PM	52	7388	6560	680	0	0	14680	2.79%
0100	CST	7PM	629	9629	2782	60	1	2	13103	2.49%
0200	CST	8PM	553	7888	1432	14	0	0	9887	1.88%
Totals	CST	9PM	3829	2E+05	145708	170200	43175	9	526393	

Please note that I have shown the change of time from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time at 0600Z.

By the way, I am not a propagation expert, and certainly anything goes in that area. Who really knows what may happen this year, I just used this information as a historical indication of what trends might occur this year. Use this information to draw your own conclusions.

73, Jim/KC4HW