

CW OPEN 2011

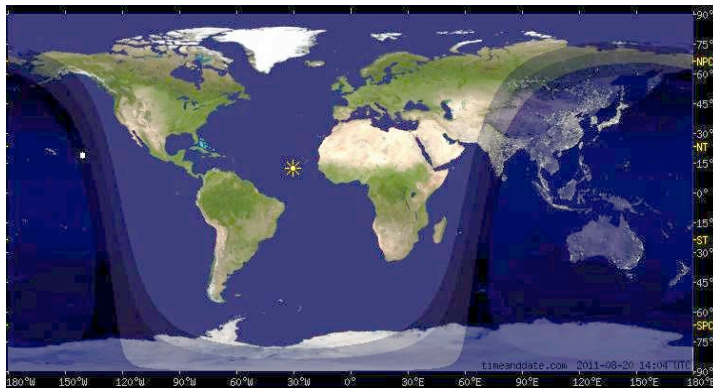
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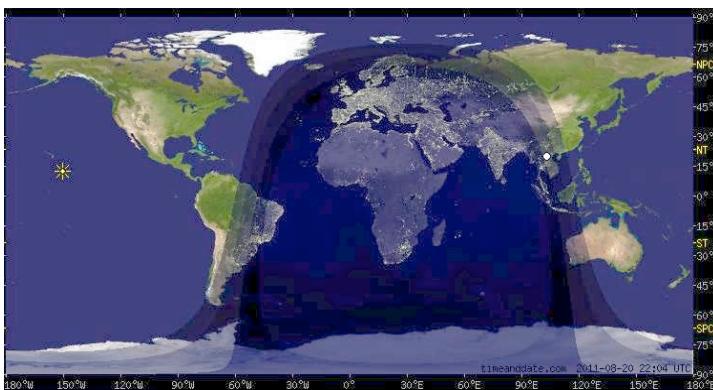
The CW Operators Club (CWops) was started a little more than a year before the first CW OPEN (CWO) competition. The club's vision was to provide a platform for various CW activities including friendly ragchewing, service, education, and competition. The competition started with bi-weekly CWT events that were one hour long spread through the day, during the mid-week. The purpose was (and still is) a way to get CW activity going in a friendly semi-competitive format. With the success of CWT, there came a desire for a more competitive version of CWT with real prizes/awards and based on serious adjudication of submitted logs. That vision has turned into the first annual CW OPEN competition on Aug 20/21 2011.

The CWO organization started with Rob, K6RB, who asked me to organize and manage the event. We pulled together a management team and began discussing timing, rules, and the like. K6MM added the CWO information to the CWops website, and we were off and running with little time to get the word out about this new event. K6RB took on the publicity job and contacted hundreds of individuals, magazines, newsletters, and more. By the time CWO was about to start, it seemed like everyone in the world knew about it, and the responses were all very positive.

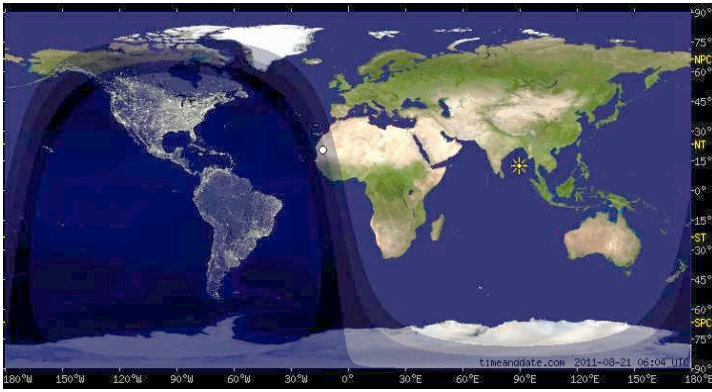
Early on, we decided to stay with the CWT concept of three independent events or sessions. But, instead of one hour each, they would be four hours each and separated by four hours of time to allow for significant propagation change. The idea is that each IARU region should have one good session for the low bands, one good session for the high bands, and one not-so-good session. A little for everyone. You have your choice which session(s) to enter.



Session 1 gave sunlight over most of NA, SA, AF, and EU, and night time conditions for AS and OC. There was excellent propagation from Asia to NA at the start on the low bands, and good propagation between SA, NA and EU as NA was in early morning while EU enjoyed late afternoon.



Session 2 had sunlight on NA, OC, and AS while AF and EU were in darkness. SA enjoyed gray-line propagation with AS as the sun set on SA and rose in AS.



Session 3 had daylight in EU, AS, and AF while NA, SA and much of OC were in darkness.

Three very different propagation challenges! These maps show day/night in the middle of each session. So, while propagation can, and did, change during any sessions, it was reasonably constant compared to session-to-session changes.

General note on the result listings

See <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>

The tabularized results show the number of QSOs, multipliers, and final score after log checking. They are sorted by power level (HIGH, LOW, or QRP). In addition, each entry shows whether the operator claimed he/she used some sort of spotting assistance (e.g. packet or skimmer is denoted by -A). Note that this extra information is simply that which is provided in the log header. There is no real way to verify this information. Should there be an error, please let us know and we can change it on the website listings. We recognize that many hams should, but do not, look at their Cabrillo logs before sending them in. Thus, some information may be simply the default value, or missing altogether.

Session 1 Results

As you can see from the high power “top 10” scores below, Session 1 was a NA feeding frenzy. Larry, K5OT, operating from the K5TR “superstation” edged out Ken, K6LA, operating from VY2TT. Andy, AE6Y rounded out the top three.

2011 CWO Session 1 Final

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
K5OT @K5TR	307	180	55260	HIGH
VY2TT op K6LA	275	190	52250	HIGH
AE6Y	294	174	51156	HIGH
AA3B	289	168	48552	HIGH
N4AF	282	169	47658	HIGH
W0YK	274	170	46580	HIGH
K6RB	270	164	44280	HIGH
N4ZZ	257	172	44204	HIGH
N8AA	266	166	44156	HIGH
K0RF	252	175	44100	HIGH

It's interesting to note that the top score had the highest QSO count by a significant margin, although trailing in multipliers. This may be because Ken spent most of his time on 20 meters, jumping to 40 and 15 to catch more points on his second radio, but concentrating on 20 where new contacts were guaranteed to be new multipliers. Larry, on the other hand, spent considerable time on 40 meters at the beginning before

moving to 20 after the first hour, then 15 after the second hour. Thus, Larry was able to log significantly more QSOs yet didn't really suffer very much from lack of multipliers.

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
N5AW	242	154	37268	LOW
K0AD	216	146	31536	LOW
K9CT	225	137	30825	LOW
W1RM	206	137	28222	LOW
W0UA	182	128	23296	LOW

There were 82 low power entrants for Session 1 led by Marv, N5AW, from Texas. Here are the top five low-power scores. Unlike the high-power results, the top low- power scores are more spread out. It's interesting to see

K9CT and W1RM both made exactly 137 multipliers. Craig, K9CT, spent more time jumping band-to-band than Pete, W1RM, who tended to concentrate on a particular band rather than doing a lot of band jumping. As seen with the high-power stations, band jumping tends to produce more QSOs, but not necessarily more multipliers.

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
W6JTI	139	91	12649	QRP
N2WN	124	86	10664	QRP
OK1DIG	108	89	9612	QRP

There were only seven QRP entries. Frank, W6JTI, walked away with this impressive win from northern California. Both Frank and Jules, N2WN, operated mostly Search & Pounce, but Frank did a lot

more band-to-band jumping indicative of SO2R. Meanwhile Dan, OK1DIG, did an outstanding job dodging RDA signals to find over one hundred CWO enthusiasts. We'll hear more about Dan, later.

Session 2 Results

2011 CWO Session 2 Final

station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
NP2X op K9VV	272	215	58480	HIGH
AA3B	306	189	57834	HIGH
K0RF	279	197	54963	HIGH
K5OT @K5TR	275	196	53900	HIGH
K5KG	268	188	50384	HIGH
AE6Y	279	175	48825	HIGH
W0YK	259	187	48433	HIGH
N4ZZ	254	174	44196	HIGH
W6OAT	235	172	40420	HIGH
K0LUZ	225	175	39375	HIGH

The overall winner for Session 2 is Fred (Ed), K9VV, operating NP2X from Chriatiansted, Virgin Islands.

Although Bud, AA3B, did a solid job with over 300 QSOs (far more than anyone else), he did a lot more band jumping to achieve that which evidently resulted in fewer multipliers.

K0RF and K5OT battled it out for third place with Chuck getting ahead with

only 4 more QSOs and one more multiplier.

station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
K1XM	205	152	31160	LOW
WK2G	191	130	24830	LOW
K0VBU	164	136	22304	LOW
W3KB	162	129	20898	LOW
K1IMI	169	118	19942	LOW

Low power was dominated by Paul, K1XM. Second place, Merrill, WK2G, seemed to have a similar operating strategy with regard to band selection as Paul, but found 14 fewer stations and significantly fewer multipliers.

station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
OK1DIG	192	144	27648	QRP
N2WN	134	98	13132	QRP
K0PC	65	54	3510	QRP

QRP effort in Session 2 was similar to Session 1 except that Dan, OK1DIG, took advantage of better propagation to NA and clobbered all other QRPs. Jules, N2WN,

came up and improved on his excellent Session 1 performance, but it wasn't nearly enough to catch Dan this time. Third place went to Pat, K0PC.

Session 3 Results

This should have been the time of increased activity for EU and AS. NA and SA were in the middle of their night which gave them good low-band conditions, but also the need to be up and active in the middle of the night. Unfortunately, only 17 EU logs were received for Session 3. NA activity was down considerably due to the late hour. Nothing was heard from AS, and only one station came in from OC.

2011 CWO Session 3 Final

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
W0YK	192	113	21696	HIGH
AE6Y	198	108	21384	HIGH
W6OAT	182	117	21294	HIGH
N6RO	193	110	21230	HIGH
K0RF	189	112	21168	HIGH
AA3B	186	112	20832	HIGH
K5KG	147	105	15435	HIGH
N4ZZ	157	98	15386	HIGH
N3AD	145	96	13920	HIGH
K2RD	157	87	13659	HIGH
K6SRZ	157	87	13659	HIGH

Ed, squeaked by Andy, AE6Y, to take the top honors for Session 3. Ed managed to find 6 more stations and 5 more multipliers than Andy.

-A The Session 3 competition was very tight with Rusty, W6OAT, coming in third with just 10 fewer QSOs than Ed, but with 4 more multipliers.

-A The highest QSO total of anyone was Ken, N6RO, but the lack of multipliers left him in fourth place. Ken was jumping bands a lot,

but it can't be determined if that caused the lower multiplier count.

Of note is the tie score of K2RD and K6SRZ for 10th place. Now that's close!

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
WK2G	99	88	8712	LOW
K1XM	88	83	7304	LOW
NE7D	100	63	6300	LOW
VE4AEO	98	59	5782	LOW
K0AD	76	56	4256	LOW

The low power competition was handily won by Merrill, WK2G, in Florida. Paul, K1XM, was well back with 11 fewer QSOs and 5 fewer multipliers. Third place finisher Rock, NE7D, actually had the most QSOs, but was well back with only 63 multipliers.

Station	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
OK1DIG	50	50	2500	QRP
W0EA	47	41	1927	QRP
K0PC	33	31	1023	QRP

Once again, Dan, OK1DIG, found 50 stations with a log that was only 40 meters. No band changes at all. As a result, he also had 50 multipliers. Tom, W0EA, and Pat,

K0PC, rounded out the QRP entrants. Only four QRP logs were received.

Combined Results

There were 130 stations that submitted logs for more than one Session, thus entering them into the Combined Competition. The Combined score is the simple sum of Session 1, Session 2, and Session 3. If someone did not enter one session, that works, but obviously it is a disadvantage to entering all three.

Note that the power level of the Combined is the highest power claimed in any of the individual sessions. Thus, if someone entered as LOW in Session 1 and HIGH in Session 2, their Combined power is HIGH.

2011 CWO Combined Final

Station	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total Score	Power
AA3B	48552	57834	20832	127218	HIGH
AE6Y	51156	48825	21384	121365	HIGH
K0RF	44100	54963	21168	120231	HIGH
W0YK	46580	48433	21696	116709	HIGH
K5OT	55260	53900		109160	HIGH
K5KG	38775	50384	15435	104594	HIGH
N4ZZ	44204	44196	15386	103786	HIGH
W6OAT	39680	40420	21294	101394	HIGH
K6RB	44280	37260	10660	92200	HIGH
N8AA	44156	39208		83364	HIGH

Bud, AA3B did not make the top score in any of the three sessions, but when combined together, he had the top score in the Combined. Andy, AE6Y, combined a 3rd, 6th, and 2nd place finish in the individual events to come out second.

Chuck, K0RF, had a great Session 2 to bring up his total for a third place finish. K5OT went to bed and never competed in Session 3, but with such great scores in Sessions 1 and 2 his total was good enough for a fifth place Combined finish.

Station	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total Score	Power
N5AW	37268	10379	2320	49967	LOW
K9CT	30825	16380		47205	LOW
K0AD	31536	9506	4256	45298	LOW
K1IMI	22448	19942		42390	LOW
VE4AEO	15582	19344	5782	40708	LOW

In the low power category, Marv, N5AW capitalized his big Session 1 win with a 14th place finish in Session 2 and a 12th place finish in Session 3 for First place in the low power Combined competition.

Craig, K9CT, combined a 3rd place in Session 1 and 7th place in Session 2 with a 2nd place Combined. Imagine if he had not gone to bed and worked Session 3! Of course the reason for this success was that some of the other really good low power scores worked in only one Session and therefore did not compete for the Combined award.

Station	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Total Score	Power
OK1DIG	9612	27648	2500	39760	QRP
N2WN	10664	13132		23796	QRP
W0EA	5824	3120	1927	10871	QRP

In QRP, Dan, OK1DIG, combined his Session 2 and Session 3 wins with a strong Session 1 to win the Combined competition. Jules, N2WN, combined two 2nd place finishes to finish the Combined ... in 2nd place. In this case, he was far enough behind Dan that even if he had done well in Session 3, it probably wouldn't have been enough to catch him.

Team Results

Ten teams competed for the Team Honors. Teams could be organized by anyone, anywhere. They do not need to be clubs, although they can be organized from within a club. For example, the Northern California Contest Club organized three separate teams just from their own members. We thank Andy, AE6Y for that exceptional organizational effort from NCCC. Other clubs organizing club teams were the Central Texas DX & Contest Club, Society of Midwest Contesters, and Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

NCCC #1	758217
A Team	437821
Solar Fluxers	389894
CTDXCC West	231765
NCCC #2	222451
CTDXCC East	146620
SMC #1	108109
YCCC #1	88324
NCCC #3	49776
Colorado Miners	15660
PCH	13494

NCCC team #1 easily walked away with the high team score with 9 members of the team giving scores to their team. The A Team, in second place had seven team members which included both EU and NA entries. Third place, Solar Fluxers, also had seven team members scattered across USA, Canada, Caribbean, and Europe.

The only team to completely fill up the 10 member maximum roster was NCCC#2. It may be that some team scores suffered because team Captains (the team organizer) failed to follow up

and make sure all of their team members sent in their logs. Live and learn, but in future CWOs. The Team competition will be tougher and every score counts.

Assistance

I applaud everyone who voluntarily gave their “assisted” status. The high number of assisted stations makes me think that generally we have an honest group of competitors, here. The use of assistance (packet or skimmer) is controversial and the practice is outlawed for almost all contests for single operators. In the CW OPEN, we thought that such assistance would probably not be a serious advantage for anyone given the unusual multiplier rule. Finding a “rare” mult in CWO is not the same game as finding a rare mult in a DX contest. Therefore we wanted to try allowing assistance for the initial CWO. The results are open for all to see.

The results show assistance with the -A designator. It seems pretty obvious based on who did and who didn't use some form of assistance that such assistance was not a big help. Personally, I used assistance just to see if it would be of any help at all. I connected to a local packet cluster via Telnet. I think I made only two or three QSOs based on that assistance. Bud, AA3B, used his own skimmer tool and thinks it was a help near the end of the session when rate slowed down and new stations became harder to find.

Does it really help to “win”? Maybe. Maybe not. Note that most of the session and power winners were not using assistance. However, it seems obvious that packet or skimmer could bump your score up a notch or two if the competition is close.

It was not our purpose to re-start a debate that has been ongoing for years. Rather, it was an attempt to try something different and see how it works. Should future CWOs allow assistance? Let us know your thoughts.

Almost everyone in the top 10 high-power group was using SO2R technology, as were many others. As a personal note, I used SO1R and barely missed the top 10 winding up in 11th place for Session 1. Did the lack of SO2R make my score suffer? That's difficult to say. To some degree, yes; but it certainly wouldn't have put me much higher in this list. I hope that next year we can collect SO2R information similar to what we did this year for "assisted". I think seeing how you compare to your competitors with regard to SO2R vs SO1R would be a good thing.

Log Checking

CWO is a new contest, and there is zero history to rely on for "how do we do this?" The purpose of CWO, as mentioned above, is to provide a serious competition based on the popular CWT events within the CW Operators Club organization. That means competitors MUST send in their logs and those logs must be checked for accuracy and scoring issues. Every log received was checked by computer to cross check each and every QSO. If the "other" log was available, all parts of the QSO were checked. If a QSO was uncheckable because the other log was not available, then some parts could still be checked by recognizing that others who worked the same station had similar (in most cases exact) reported exchange information. In fact, by looking at the logs received, it is possible to create a missing log (a virtual log) simply by extracting all the QSOs in all logs with that particular station, then sorting on serial number. Using that idea, errors in NR or NAME became obvious and scores were adjusted as necessary.

Is this process perfect? Hardly, but enough effort was put into this judging process that we have a very good feeling that the results have been adjudicated effectively and responsibly.

All log checks resulted in a RPT (report) file detailing each and every deduction. If you would like to receive your RPT file, let us know with an email to CWO@cwops.org

Thank You

We owe our thanks to the CW Operators Club for sponsoring this event, the CWO management team, and especially to Rob, K6RB for arm-twisting and cajoling as needed to make this event happen.

We also thank Icom America for stepping up and sponsoring all of the plaques and trophies awarded to the CW Open winners noted above. The top score in each Session, and in the Combined will receive a very nice trophy. The top score in each power category within each Session will receive a handsome plaque. <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/>

And, we also thank all the participants who got into the fun and made this inaugural CW Open a success. We look forward to the next one.