# 2015 ARRL November Sweepstakes Results — CW

## Needles, haystacks, and ham radio — a Missouri amateur finds joy in a minimalist approach to Sweepstakes CW.

Kelly Taylor, VE4XT, ve4xt@mymts.net

Conventional wisdom holds that the key to winning Sweepstakes is to find productive frequencies and run like crazy for every minute of the available 24 hours, hoping against hope that you find all 83 ARRL sections. Paul, KØJPL, of Chesterfield, Missouri, took a different approach.

He didn't win. He didn't place. He didn't even show. Indeed, his score is so far down the listings, you have to be looking for a specific convergence of events to find it. Paul earned his sweep of 83 sections, but took only 83 QSOs to do it. Quite the contrast from the 1475 contacts and a sweep in the winning log overall, turned in by Stan, K5GO, and his son Kevin, N5DX!

Regarding Paul's effort, the word "surgical" comes to mind. Eighty-three needles in a thousand haystacks. "I enjoy most contests, but try to stay away from running a frequency," Paul said. "I got started on this years ago by my Elmer, Bill Pike, KØECK (SK). One contact in each of the sections requires a lot of tuning around."



#### **The Full Sweep**

The complete writeup on CW Sweepstakes is now online as a downloadable article containing more text, graphics, and tables. The full results also feature extended line scores with a full breakdown of QSOs by band in an attractive new format. You can also get your log checking report, detailing the log checking outcome for each QSO. The searchable database of all scores is available online, too. Go to www.arrl.org/contest-resultsarticles and look for the 2015 folder. Updated records are available at www.arrl.org/contest-records.

No kidding. Many of the top operators can rack up 83 QSOs in less than one good hour, but for Paul this was no time-saving effort. "It usually takes until about 1700 on Sunday to finish up," he said.

It's been done before, in some years by multiple operators. Paul said he's done it 10 times since 2008 (including in SS Phone), but this year, it appears he's the only one to try. The feat requires pinpoint accuracy, since one busted QSO costs you not only the Q, but also the section. [Paul turned in the fifth largest Golden Log (no errors). - Ed.] And while it's not a requirement, it's easier if you're in a section that's not that rare, such as Paul's home state of Missouri. Your name would be forever reviled if you purposely gave out Northern Territories or Newfoundland or even VE4, for that matter - to only 83 stations. By the way, Paul did it the oldfashioned way, without spotting, as a single operator using high power.

For the amateur community at large, Paul's



Kevin, N5DX (left), and his dad Stan, K5GO, at Stan's shack in northwestern Arkansas. [Kevin Stockton, N5DX, photo]



Paul, KØJPL, and his wife, Linda Lou, in his nicely appointed shack in Chesterfield, Missouri. [Paul Haefner, KØJPL, photo]

#### Sponsored Plaque Winners — CW

ARRL is please to award a Sweepstakes Plaque to the Overall and Division Leaders in each category, thanks to Icom America and numerous clubs and individuals who sponsor these awards. For more information on plaque sponsorship or to order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, at 860-594-0232 or **w9jj@arrl.org.** Plaques costs \$75, which include all shipping charges.

Branch Manager Bart Jannke, W933, a	at 000-394-0232 01 W	alle alliorg. Flaques cos
Division / Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
Overall Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power	N2IC KP2M (W2GD, op)	Trey Garlough, N5KO Radiosport Manitoba — VE4VV Memorial
Single Operator QRP	NØAX	QRP Amateur Radio
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	KØEU	Club International Joe, KH6GA, &
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	K6LL K5GO WØDLE KØHC (WØBH, op)	Victoria, N4WV Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Atlantic Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power	AA3B K3UA	Icom America Potomac Valley
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power	WR3R WR3Z K3AU (K2YWE, op) W2FU K2AA	Radio Club Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Central Single Operator High Power	W9RE	Society of Midwest
Single Operator Low Power	N9CK	Contesters Society of Midwest
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	K9ZO K9CT WE9V KEØL KA9VVQ W9UIH	Contesters Sean Kutzko, KX9X Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Dakota Single Operator High Power	NEØU	Minnesota Wireless
Single Operator Low Power	NAØN (@WØZT)	Association Minnesota Wireless Association
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power	KEØG KTØA	Tod Olson, KØTO Minnesota Wireless
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power	KØMPH WØSD	Association Icom America Minnesota Wireless
School Club	NØT	Association Tod Olson, KØTO
<b>Delta</b> Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power	KØEJ NA5NN (N4OGW, op)	Icom America Icom America
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power	WF7T N8OO W9SN K5GO KW4JS (KI4WXI, op)	Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Great Lakes Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power School Club	K1LT N8SS KT8K N4QS K8BL W5MX W8EDU	Mad River Radio Club Mad River Radio Club Icom America John S. Comella, N8AA Icom America Icom America
Hudson Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	N2NT (N2NC, op) W2LK WS2E W2VQ K2DFC	Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Midwest Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power	KØDEQ NØNI (AG9A, op)	Icom America Society of Midwest
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	NØAX NØXR KØVBU KØWA KB5ENP KØHC (WØBH, op)	Contesters Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America

75, which include all shipping charges.	AWARDS SPONSOR	
Division / Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
New England Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power	K5ZD K1XM	Icom America Michael
Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator Low Power	K8CN W1SJ W1UJ W1FM	McKaughan, K1DM Mark Olsen, KF1V Mark Olsen, KF1V Icom America Icom America
Northwestern Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator ORP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power	N9RV K7BG W7QDM K7CF K7GA K7RI K7RI K7SS	Icom America Icom America Phil Yasson, AB7RW Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Pacific Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power	W7RN (N6TV, op) K7GK W6YX (N7MH, op) WA6O (@N6XG) K9JM N6RO	Icom America Robert A. Wilson, N6T Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Roanoke Single Operator High Power	N4AF	Potomac Valley
Single Operator Low Power Single Operator ORP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	W4AAA (KK9A, op) N4CF N1LN AA4NC W4RM W4TG K4KDJ (KK4BSM, op)	Radio Club Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Rocky Mountain Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator Low Power	N2IC N5FO KØEU AD1C WØDLE	Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Southeastern Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power School Club	NX4N KP2M (W2GD, op) K3TW N4BP N4PN N4GI W4UAL	Icom America Icom America Icom America Charlie Wooten, NF4A Icom America Icom America
Southwestern Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	K6LA AA6PW N7IR K07SS K6LL W6YI W8TK W8TK W6RFU	Icom America Icom America N6HE and W6DLD Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
West Guif Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator ORP Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator Low Power School Club	NR5M (K5GA, op) W8FN N1CC N5ZC K5CM NM5M N5XU (AA5BT, op)	Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Canada Single Operator High Power Single Operator Low Power Single Operator QRP	VE3KI VE2CWT (VE2FU, op) VE6EX	Icom America Icom America QRP Amateur
Single Operator Unlimited High Power Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Multioperator High Power	VY2ZM VE5MX VE3MIS (VE3NE, op)	Radio Club International Icom America Icom America Icom America
Multioperator Low Power	VY2TTT	Icom America

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#### 2015 ARRL SS CW Regional Leaders

Boxes list call sign, score, and category: Single Operator, High/Low/QRP — B/A/Q; Single Operator Unlimited, High/Low Power — UH/UL; Multioperator, High/Low Power — MH/ML; School Club — S)

Northeast Region	Southeast Region	Central Region	Midwest Region	West Coast Region
New England, Hudson, and Atlantic Divisions: Maritime	Delta, Roanoke, and	Central and Great Lakes Divisions: Ontario Section	Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, and West Gulf	Pacific, Northwestern, and Southwestern Divisions:
and Quebec Sections	Southeastern Divisions NX4N B 207.788	W9RE B 201.556	Divisions; Manitoba and	Alberta, British Columbia,
N2NT	N4AF B 183,060	K1LT B 174,798	Saskatchewan Sections	and NWT Sections
(N2NC, op) B 210,488	WP2B B 180,892	VE3KI B 161,920 KJ9C B 144.088	N2IC B 240,534	N9RV B 225,262
AA3B B 202,852 K5ZD B 201,192	K4JPD	KJ9C B 144,088 K9BGL B 128,576	NR5M (K5GA, op) B 232,068	W7RN (N6TV, op) B 218,954
K5ZD B 201,192 N1RR	(N4OO, op) B 172,972 KU8E B 170.100	N9CK A 174.824	K5TR	K6LA B 212,872
(@K1LZ) B 190,734	KU8E B 170,100 KP2M	N8SS A 144,180	(K5OT, op) B 221,610	WC6H B 193,520
KD4D B 180,940	(W2GD, op) A 213,144	W8CAR A 129,068	NSRZ B 219,286	W6PH B 192,560
W2LK A 156,492	NA5NN	K9KM A 126,400	AA5B B 203,360	K7BG A 174,964
K1XM A 154,324	(N4OGW, op) A 187,124	K9WX A 119,232 K9ZO Q 86,756	NØNI (AG9A. op) A 200.030	K7GK A 170,150 WJ9B A 166,788
K3UA A 144,648 W2ID A 135,456	NP3A A 186,304	K9ZO Q 86,756 KT8K Q 77.844	(AG9A, op) A 200,030 NAØN	WJ9B A 166,788 AA6PW A 155,708
W2ID A 135,456 VE2CWT	W4AAA	K9UIY Q 68,376	(@WØZT) A 169,904	W9CF
(VE2FU, op) A 130,086	(KK9A, op) A 173,138 N4KM A 160,542	N9SE Q 68,256	NØAT	(@K8IA) A 155,044
K8CN Q 72,384	K3TW Q 92,016	WI9WI Q 67,184	(NØKK, op) A 160,356	W6YX
W1QK Q 71,448	WF7T Q 87,576	K9CT UH 184,426	N5FO A 158,752	(N7MH, op) Q 120,848
WS2E Q 67,076	N5EE Q 87,360	N4QS UH 169,576 K8ND UH 164,984	W8FN A 155,520	VÉ6EX Q 111,040 N7IR Q 102,008
K1VUT Q 67,032	WØPV Q 64,960	VE3CX UH 163.178	NØAX Q 131,528 KØAV Q 121,120	N7R Q 102,008 N7CW Q 101,924
NA1CC Q 51,984 VY2ZM UH 192.864	N4CF Q 60,368 N4BP UH 209,326	K3WA UH 162.680	N1CC Q 75,492	W6JTI Q 91,040
WR3Z UH 183,098	N800 UH 209,326	K8BL UL 150,894	KEØG Q 49,296	WA6O
N3RR UH 170,262	K5KG UH 177,786	WE9V UL 147,242	WFØT Q 30,686	(@N6XG) UH 186,086
K3WW UH 168,822	AD4EB UH 177,612	N9CO UL 145,250	KØEU UH 214,306	W6SX UH 180,940
K3AJ UH 161,020	N1LN UH 175,462	K8BKM UL 129,232 KC9EE UL 119,394	WØZA UH 169,938	KO7SS UH 176,624 W1SRD UH 174,964
W1UJ UL 144,586 K3AU	AA4NC UL 175,462	W5MX MH 164.984	NØXR UH 160,218 KTØA UH 157.534	W1SRD UH 174,964 K6SRZ UH 174,798
(K2YWE, op) UL 137,700	N4PN UL 163,012 W9SN UL 152,442	AA8U MH 84.846	KOOU UH 149.068	K6LL UL 177.122
N3HEE UL 132,184	KY4F UL 151,208	NT8V MH 65,072	N5DO UL 156,206	KB7Q UL 173,968
KM1X UL 127,820	WQ2N/4 UL 134,316	VE3MIS	KØVBU UL 140,768	K7GA UL 112,640
N1QD	K5GO MH 244,850	(VE3NE, op) MH 52,164	NØAC UL 137,268	K9JM UL 95,450
(@K1KP) UL 124,500	W5RU MH 194,340	KEØL MH 31,980 KA9VVQ ML 53,280	AD1C UL 133,464 KØMPH UL 124,476	W6AWW UL 90,396 W6YI MH 229,910
W2FU MH 218,954 K3CCR MH 96,960	W4RM MH 190,236	N9MT ML 39.000	WØSD MH 222.938	KY7M MH 203.018
K2NA MH 80,190	N4GI MH 190,896 K9ES MH 145,476	W8EDU S 132,136	KØWA MH 196.710	N6RO MH 175.462
W3UR MH 4	W4TG ML 41,080	W9UIH S 10,080	NJ8M MH 134,128	K6MMM MH 157,276
VY2TTT ML 153,550	KW4JS	W9GRS	KØHB MH 121,014	K7RI MH 135,432
W1FM ML 45,760	(KI4WXI, op) ML 10,800	(W9KVR, op) S 968	NØMA MH 85,988	W8TK ML 160,024
K2AA ML 45,592	W4UAL S 87,814		WØDLE ML 175,960 NØUR ML 121,120	NX6T ML 152,388 K7SS ML 58,240
W3KWH ML 10,400 VO2AC ML 8,624	K4KDJ		N7IV ML 119.394	WW7LW ML 28,840
W1AF	(KK4BSM, op) S 200		NM5M ML 105,120	KL2R ML 12,312
(W1PL, op) S 10,608			WDØGTY ML 52,326	W6RFU S 157,202
. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			KØHC	
			(WØBH, op) S 181,604	
			N5XU (AA5BT, op) S 24,236	
			(10.001, 00) 0 24,200	

Single Operat High Power	or,	Single Operat	or, QRP 131,528	Single Operator Unlimited, Low I		School Club KØHC
N2IC NR5M	240,534	KØAV W6YX	121,120	K6LL AA4NC	177,122 175.462	(WØBH, op) 181,604 W6RFU 157,202
(K5GA, op) N9RV	232,068 225,262	(N7MH, op) VE6EX	120,848 111,040	KB7Q N4PN	173,968 163,012	(AC6T, K6QD, ops) W8EDU 132,136
(STR	001.010	N7IR	102,008	N5DO	156,206	(AD8Y W8WTS, ops)
(K5OT, op) N5RZ	221,610 219,286	N7CW K3TW	101,924 92.016	W9SN KY4F	152,442 151,208	W4UAL 87,814 (K4GU, K4CWW, ops)
V7RN	210,200	W6JTI	91,040	K8BL	150,894	NØT 33,670
(N6TV, op)	218,954	WF7T	87,576	WE9V	147,242	N5XU
(6LA J2NT	212,872	N5EE	87,360	N9CO	145,250	(AA5BT, op) 24,236 W1AF
(N2NC, op)	210,488					(W1PL, op) 10,608
VX4N	207,788	Single Operat		Multioperator,		W9UIH 10,080
AA5B	203,360	Unlimited, Hig		High Power		(K9UH, KD9DEV, ops)
		KØEU N4BP	214,306 209.326	K5GO (+N5DX)	244.850	W8SH (K2BET, W8EO, ops)
Single Operat	or,	N8OO	209,320	W6YI	229.910	2,080
ow Power		VY2ZM	192,864	WØSD	222,938	W9GRS
(P2M (W2GD, op)	213,144	WA6O	100.000	W2FU KY7M (+NA2U)	218,954 203.018	(W9KVR, op) 968
VVZGD, 0P)	213,144	(@N6XG) K9CT	186,086 184,426	KØWA	196,710	
(AG9A, op)	200,030	WR3Z	183,098	W5RU	194,340	
NA5NN	107104	W6SX	180,940	N4GI (+WF3C) W4RM	190,896 190,236	
(N4OGW, op NP3A	186.304	K5KG AD4EB	177,786 177,612	N6RO (+N6BV)	175,462	
K7BG	174,964	ADTED	177,012	```'		
N9CK	174,824			Multioperator, Low Power		
N4AAA (KK9A, op)	173,138			WØDLE	175.960	
(7GK	170,150			W8TK (+KE2VB)		
NAØN				VY2TTT	153,550	
(@WØZT) NJ9B	169,904 166,788			NX6T NØUR	152,388 121,120	
WJ3D	100,700			N7IV (+NØGC)	119.394	
				NM5M	105,120	
				K7SS	58,240	
				KA9VVQ (+W9FZ)	53,280	
				WDØGTY (+N5PJ)	52,326	

story is just one small example of how Sweepstakes can appeal to everyone. Large stations, small stations, mobile stations, contesters, and non-contesters alike can find a way to jump in and enjoy.

For competitors, Sweepstakes is challenging enough, what with the longest exchange in contesting. Imagine doing it while outputting less power than most rigs use to receive. "With QRP, you don't have the option of making your own propagation, so things have to be just right to make a top score," said the 2015 Sweepstakes CW QRP winner Ward, NØAX. "I think good 40 meter conditions were the key for me this year. With Sweepstakes being a one-QSO contest, having one really good band can make the difference."

Ward's score was enough to set a new Missouri record in QRP, breaking the previous one he set operating as WØEEE in 2013. "It's also key with QRP to use the second radio as much as you can," he said, referring to the practice of Single Operator Two Radio (SO2R). "I was able to call CQ and tune for stations to within plus or minus 10 kHz of my operating frequency." He credits his Kenwood TS-590S and its excellent phase noise characteristics — and the fact he was running only 5 W — for that. "It was pretty gratifying this year to be in the right location, with decent equipment, and finally be

a good enough operator to put the pieces together."

In the modern era of Sweepstakes, winning overall usually means one thing: Single Operator, High Power. No spotting. No helpers. And certainly no QRP. That was then, this is now. Stan, K5GO, and his son Kevin, N5DX, ran K5GO right to the sum-

Top Ten Golden Logs (zero errors)				
Call	Category	QSOs		
VE4YU W1MJ AD2KA K6CTA K0JPL K10J W5KI VE3VSM K0VG N6KW W0CZ	SOLP SOLP SOLP SOLP SOLP SOLP SOLP SOLP	340 120 114 85 83 79 37 30 27 26 26		

mit of Sweepstakes success, not only handily winning the Multioperator category, but also beating the incomparable Steve, N2IC, who won the Single Operator, High Power category.

Kevin said the experience reminded him of playing golf in father-son tournaments when he was a boy.

"At the time, my dad was the best golfer at our course, and getting the chance to be on his team made me really excited as a kid," he said. "Fast-forward 30 years and we got to do a father-son effort, but instead of our course being tree-lined fairways, it was the crowded frequencies of the ARRL CW Sweepstakes." The last time a Multioperator station won overall was back in 1996, when then-K1ZX (the call has since been reassigned) squeaked past Tree, N6TR, who was operating W5WMU in Louisiana. That Southern Florida team consisted of Jim, K1ZX (who later became K4OJ [SK]); Dan, K1TO, and Jeff, WC4E. Dan said the operation took place at the "White House," named for Florida's first family of contesting, Bob White, W1CW (SK); his wife Ellen, W1YL, and son Jim. They were recently inducted as the inaugural members of the new Florida Contest Group Hall of Fame.

What kind of adventure will you take this year? Limber up that paddle, polish those antennas, and get ready for the 2016 November CW Sweepstakes, November 5-7. See you there!



## The 2016 ARRL June VHF Contest

#### 1800 UTC Saturday June 11 - 0259 UTC Monday June 13

Many VHFers are already making preparations for the June VHF Contest. Are you ready? Held annually during the yearly peak of sporadic E season, don't miss out on this year's fun! There are several different categories to participate in, so whether your gear is FM-only, HF + 6 meters, or even covers three or four bands at VHF and UHF, there is something for everyone. There are QRP, Low, and High Power categories as well! And with the new rules that allow assistance, you can make announcements, chat with others about activity, and even spot yourself or see other's spots during the contest (as long as the contact is completed over the air). For this and other event rules, visit **www.arrl.org/june-vhf**. Here's some information about this event:

• The exchange is simple: just the Maidenhead grid square you're operating from. For more info on grid squares, visit **www.arrl.org/grid-squares**.

Operate from home, a hilltop, FM-only if that's what you have, or make QSOs from more than one grid square as a Rover. How about packing up your gear and going on a "grid-pedition" to a rare grid square, or perhaps to a National Park? (Read more about ARRL's National Parks on the Air event for 2016 at www.arrl.org/npota.)

See what others were doing last year on the online Soapbox at **www.arrl.** org/contests/soapbox.

Results and Awards: We request that you upload your Cabrillo log file to the new contest Web App at contest-log-submission.arrl.org or e-mail your Cabrillo-formatted electronic logs to junevhf@arrl.org (paper logs will still be accepted if mailed to: ARRL June VHF Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111). All logs must be e-mailed/uploaded or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC Wednesday, July 13.



Mel Larson, KCØP/R, showing his battery-charging power source (2 kW generator) and his mobile array for his multiband operation June 2015 while roving west of Hinckley, Minnesota in grid EN36LA. [Carol Larson, NØHZO/R, photo]

## Complete rules and entry forms can be found at www.arrl.org/june-vhf