

ARRL Phone Sweepstakes 2015 Results

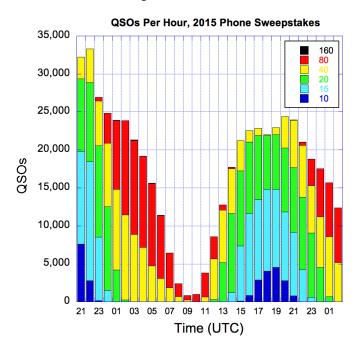
PRINCIPAL AWARDS SPONSOR

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You don't need to break records to have fun!

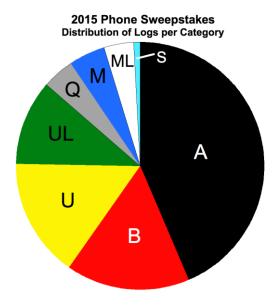
That's right – there were no all-time category records set this year and only a handful of division records fell, yet everyone seemed to have tons of fun! Participation continued to be high, and competition for the top spots was fierce. With a dip in the MUF, there was a shift of activity away from the 10 meter band compared to 2014, but the other bands took up the slack just fine. Figure 1 is a plot of the number of QSOs on each band for every hour of the contest. As always in phone Sweepstakes, the first few hours had the hottest activity, 0800-1100Z were the doldrums, and Sunday had a very steady level of activity. Here are some statistics:

- ✓ During the last 3 hours of the contest, the 15 and 10 meter bands had a combined total of a paltry 9 OSOs.
- ✓ The 15 meter band had the highest hourly number of QSOs 7 times, 20 meters 7 times, 40 meters only 5 times, and 80 meters a surprising 11 times. The 10 meter band never was the hottest.
- ✓ QSOs were made on the 40 meter band during every hour of Sweepstakes (although only 20 contacts during the 1000 UTC hour).



There were 1,826 logs submitted, representing 508,866 QSOs after log checking (more than a half million QSOs, wow!). These totals are down slightly from last year, when a record 1,911 logs were received.

The most popular category by far was the unassisted Single-Operator, Low Power (A), with 795 entries – almost as many as all other categories combined! Single-Operator, High Power (B) was next, at 295, followed closely by Single-Operator Unlimited, High Power (U) at 287. Rounding out the Single-Op categories were Unlimited, Low-Power (UL) with 198 and QRP (Q) at 78. In the Multioperator categories, there were 156 total entries; 85 High Power (M) and 71 Low Power (ML). School clubs (S) submitted 17 logs.

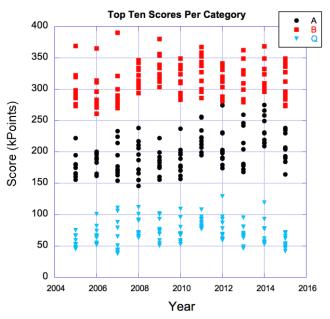


The following graph of unassisted Single-Op Top Ten scores over the last 11 years shows a few interesting things:

- ✓ There has been a clear separation of scores among High Power, Low Power, and QRP categories. In the distant past, the top LP score occasionally overlapped the bottom of the HP Top Ten, but not during this past solar cycle. (2012 got pretty close!)
- ✓ Despite a bump in the total number of multipliers (it went from 80 to 83 in 2012 with the split of VE3-ON into GTA/ONE/ONN/ONS) and a

general increase in activity, scores have been mostly flat.

✓ All three categories have had occasional "high fliers" – scores that are way above the pack.



Accuracy Matters

Everyone (okay, nearly everyone) makes mistakes. Many people are tempted to say we all make about the same number of errors, and QSO rate is king, so we should just try to make QSOs as fast as possible and it'll all come out in the wash, right? WRONG! The ARRL's log-checking process is thorough, and a comparison of claimed scores to final scores shows that there were some significant changes in order of finish.



Congratulations to NWØM, the only station in the contest with 400 or more QSOs and a Golden Log. (Photo credit — Mitch Odneal, NWØM)

In some categories, the #1 slot changed hands after the dust settled. In other categories, stations moved into or out of the Top Ten because of big differences in error rates. The Sweepstakes exchange is the longest and most complex of any of the major contests, so it is the most prone to errors. But because each QSO is precious, it pays to take the time to get it right. If you're not already doing it, get a copy of your LCR or Log Checking Report (www.arrl.org/contest-log-checking-reports), study it, and see what you can do to improve your logging accuracy.

Best Error Rates for More than 400 QSOs

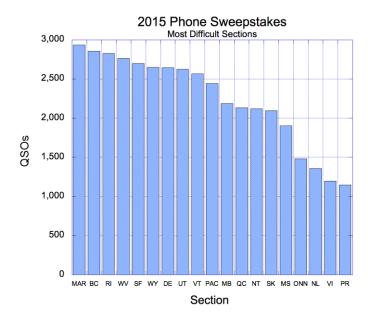
Call	Category	Raw QSOs	Error Rate (%)
NWØM	UĹ	401	0
WA8ZBT	Α	445	0.2
K8BKM	UL	490	0.2
NDØC	Q	427	0.5
K6OK	UH	430	0.5
N2NC	В	615	0.5
NA4K	Α	619	0.5
W3WC	UH	525	0.6
W7ZRC	UL	832	0.6
AA4NC	Q	401	0.7
KØZL	Q	405	0.7
N3KN	UH	430	0.7
KR4YO	Α	442	0.7
VE3RZ	UH	818	0.7
WE9V	UH	1021	0.7
NØHJZ	ML	487	0.8
WBØN	UH	487	0.8
N3QE	UH	511	0.8
K1KNQ	Α	756	0.8
N4BP	Α	801	0.8
KØHC (WØBH, op)	S	1351	0.8
KH6LC (NH6V, op)	Α	1465	0.8
N9JF	UL	467	0.9
KG4W	UH	574	0.9
K1JB	UH	650	0.9
W2ID	Α	774	0.9
W2RQ	Α	917	0.9
WØCN	В	1387	0.9
VA7RR	Α	1439	0.9
K5TA	В	1733	0.9
AA5B	В	1821	0.9
WV1M	UH	404	1.0
NU10	UH	421	1.0
AE7AP	Α	505	1.0
N3YUG	UH	592	1.0
VE6SV (VE4GV, op)	UH	1953	1.0

The Sweep

It has always been a goal of Sweepstakes participants to "run the table" working at least one station in every possible section. The so-called "Clean Sweep" not only maximizes an entrant's total point score for a given number of QSOs, but also carries with it a certain satisfaction that comes with having fought and won the good fight. In fact, some consider that quest to be more important than winning or placing in their section, division, or category. There were 296 Clean Sweeps in the 2015 phone Sweepstakes, down a little from 320 the year before. Scores for those entries ranged from a high of 362,710 (#1 in the multi-high category) all the way

down to 13,778, which, by the way, is mathematically the lowest "sweep" score possible (83 QSOs × 2 Points × 83 sections). N6MU in the SOLP (A) category, and K1DG in SOHP (B) scored exactly as such. NDØC, AA4NC, W4IM, N3UR, and K9ARF deserve a special shout-out for being the only QRP entrants in the sweep club. As fun as it might be to work them all, it is in no way a prerequisite to winning. Just down the page is the evidence – NP4G placed first in the most-popular and extremely competitive (A) category with 82 sections. At the 1500-QSO level, the difference between 82 and 83 mults is 3,000 points, which can be "made up" by 19 extra QSOs. It's up to each individual operator to figure out which strategy to follow -- your preference may vary!

The most difficult sections in 2015 are shown in the chart below. KP4 (PR) and KP2 (VI) top the list, with some Canadian sections filling six of the next seven slots! The most common sections in this running of phone SS were MDC (29k QSOs), VA (26k), IL (nearly 24k), and OH then MI (both with a little over 19k).



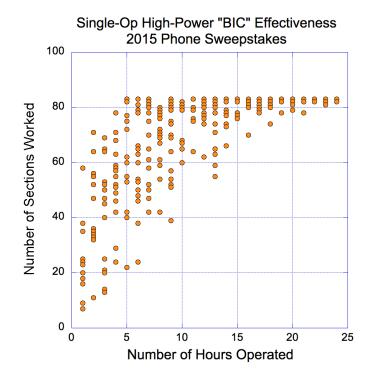
So what's it take to make the coveted Clean Sweep? You might guess that some spotting assistance might help, so operating in the Unlimited or Multiop categories would be an advantage. You might also guess that Butt-In-Chair time would be a big factor – the longer you operate, the more sections you'll log. Let's see if the data supports those theories:

Clean Sweeps by Category

Category	Clean Sweeps	
A	3%	
В	19%	
MH	48%	
ML	27%	
UH	37%	
UL	19%	

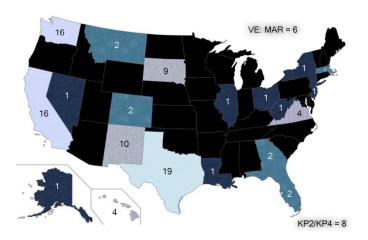
Clearly, the four categories that allow spotting assistance are at an advantage, as expected. But it also helps to have extra operators – the MH and ML (Multiop) categories fared significantly better than the UH and UL (Single-op) categories in getting the Clean Sweep. Furthermore, with or without spotting assistance, transmitter power matters a lot. (A noteworthy data point not in the table: Operators in the Q category attained a Clean Sweep twice as often as operators in the A category; is it because the QRPers usually operate in search and pounce mode and are more likely to find rare mults?)

But what about Butt-In-Chair time? The graph below shows what you probably already knew: In general, the longer you operate, the more likely it is that you'll put more multipliers in your log. But there are plenty of folks who operated only 5 to 10 hours and made a Clean Sweep, just as there are some who operated 20 or more hours and still missed some sections. It's all part of the game.

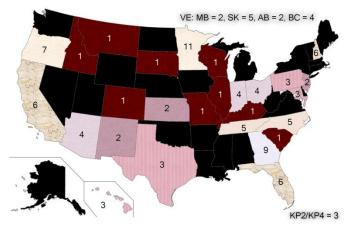


Black Holes and Sweet Spots

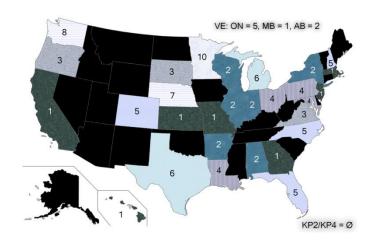
Much discussion has taken place over the years regarding the competitive advantage or disadvantage of certain geographical regions in Sweepstakes. Below are maps showing 11 years (~one sunspot cycle) of Top Ten placements by state, for the Single-op categories B, A, and Q. Originally, the plan was to present just one data set combining all the power levels, but during the analysis we noticed that the distribution of scores was vastly dissimilar among the categories. Generally speaking, High Power stations do better in the west, while the east is good territory for Low Power entries. Perhaps most surprising is Minnesota, which leads the nation in Top Ten placements in both the Low Power and QRP categories, while being totally shut out in SOHP (B).



Top Ten Phone SS Placements in Category B (SOHP), 2005-2015



Top Ten Phone SS Placements in Category A (SOLP), 2005-2015



Top Ten Phone SS Placements in Category Q (SOQRP), 2005-2015

Single-Operator, High Power (SOHP) (B)

For the second year in a row, the top spot in this category went to Dan, W7WA. Remarkable for his consistency, Dan has placed no lower than 6th in the SOHP (B) category for an entire sunspot cycle. His station has changed very little over the past 15 years, and as he remarked in his 3830 soapbox (3830scores.com), "SSB Sweepstakes is one of my favorite contests. It's one of the few contests left where a SO1R station can be competitive."

Single-Op, High Power	(SOHP) (B
W7WA	349,098
N2IC	342,126
NR5M	335,652
VY2ZM	326,854
W6NL (K5TR, op)	311,748
AA5B	296,476
NC1I (K9PW, op)	288,840
K5TA	283,860
N4OX	275,228
KU2M	273,236

An informal survey finds that at least four of the Top Ten finishers did not use a second radio. The other high scores were also from familiar, well-known call signs. Perennial CW winner Steve, N2IC, operated high-power phone for the first time since 2010 and took 2nd, about 40 QSOs behind Dan. George, NR5M, who has been in the Top Ten six out of the past seven years was 3rd, and K1ZM, operating from his VY2ZM superstation, came in 4th. Jeff blamed sub-optimum conditions for his "poor" showing – he may have a point, since he is quite accustomed to being in first position, winning the category in 2010, 2012, and 2013.

Fifth place went to the recently-peripatetic K5TR, who, after 30+ years of contesting from Texas has decided to try out some new locations – last year Montana and this year the windy hilltop QTH of W6NL. AA5B and K5TA

finished 6th and 8th from their mostly-wires SO1R stations a couple of miles apart in New Mexico, while NC1I (K9PW, op) and N4OX (another one-radio station) finished 7th and 9th from WMA and NFL.

An interesting thing happened at the bottom of the Top Ten, where Peter, KU2M, in his first attempt at SOHP, stood at 11th place in the claimed scores, but due to an excellent accuracy rate, moved up to number 10 after log checking. Congratulations to all.



KU2M, a frequent Top Ten finisher in the A category (Single-Op, Low Power), moved to the B category this year (Single-Op, High Power) and was very successful in cracking the Top Ten. Peter's comparison of the two: "High power keeps your shack warmer during cold weather!" (Photo credit — Peter Bizlewicz, KU2M)



30% of the SOHP (B) category Top Ten (George K5TR, Scott K5TA, and Bruce AA5B), along with a couple members of the New Mexico Big River Contesters club (Gary K5TQ and Duffey KK6MC). The photo was taken during a recent NM visit by George and his son Matthew. The little green guy is AL1EN, and Matthew says they picked him up while driving through Roswell. (Photo credit — George Fremin III, K5TR)

Single-Operator, Low Power (SOLP) (A)

Despite missing a multiplier, NP4G hung on to win the Single-Operator, Low Power category by the equivalent of just 10 QSOs – a good argument for keeping your butt in the chair! Otis again operated from the well-equipped KP3Z Los Chachos club station (he finished 3rd from there last year – his first serious effort in this contest), but operated as SO2R (single-op, two radios) for the first time in SS this year and found it to his liking.

Single-Op, Low Powe	r (SOLP) (A
NP4G (@KP3Z)	238,292
KH6LC (NH6V, op)	236,716
VA7RR	234,890
K2PO	230,242
KW8N	206,836
K9WZB	204,180
WDØT	192,560
K3UA	189,748
VE5SF	184,008
NØKK (@NØAT)	164 008



NP4G used the fine antennas at the KP3Z club station to help him win the Single-Op, Low Power category. (Photo credit — Jose Vicens, NP4G)

"The 40 meter band proved to be the money band. Propagation was fantastic, especially to the West Coast once all East Coasters went to 80 and QRM was less noticeable. It was nice to work a few West Coast QRP stations on 40 the first night. The new 40 meter

2-element full size Yagi is working great! I worked both K2PO and KH6LC early in the contest and they both gave me a higher serial number that I gave them." Where was his last section? Right next door: "My last worked section was NP2X. Worked him Sunday morning on 15 meters."

At the western end of Sweepstakes territory, NH6V piloted KH6LC's station to 2nd place, with just an 11-QSO margin over 3rd place VA7RR, another familiar call in the Top Ten.

K2PO, winner of this category in 2013, was 4th this year and the only station in the tight top-4 group located in the continental U.S. (Portland, OR) Bill got his start in Phone Sweepstakes in the early 1970s as a teenager, but then was away from ham radio for nearly 30 years before jumping back in a big way. He embraces SO2R operating, saying, "I ran SO2R, which naturally helps. When responses to my CQs slowed, I could tune the second radio on a second band and pick up the occasional station." Despite that, "89% of my QSOs were made in response to my own CQing. It's sometimes discouraging to call CO with low power – being crowded by big guns, and not certain where your signal is reaching. But with a recorded CQ message that loops 5-6 times a minute, even a low percentage of success to any one CQ adds up to a lot of contacts over the course of 24 hours."



Bill, K2PO, finished 4th in a very tight race in the Single-Op, Low Power category. (Photo credit — Bill Conwell, K2PO)

Bill's antennas are perhaps a cut above the typical low-power station: "Monobanders on 10/15/20 at 35', 45' and 55'. Those are the bands that really matter from this remote corner of the country – contributing 190, 413 and 494 QSOs, respectively, to my tally. On 40 and 80 meters, I worked 216/123 QSOs, respectively. I have a 2-element 40 meter Yagi at 135 feet, and a rotatable, short 80m dipole at 145 feet. But my workhorse antenna for

the low bands in Sweepstakes is a duo-band sloper with the center at 35 feet. Most of my low-band contacts were West Coast, where the low sloper is the antenna of choice." Bill's last section was Virgin Islands, but "Eastern Washington had me worried. It's next door, but was my third-to-last mult."

Single-Operator, QRP (SOQRP) (Q)

Operating QRP on phone can be brutal, often much more difficult than on CW. Despite that, 78 brave souls battled it out in the QRP category in 2015's Phone SS. Scores were down a bit this year, but the competition was fierce – the top four stations finished within 10k points of each other!

Single-Op, QRP	' (SOQRP) (O
VE6EX	72,000
NDØC	70,384
AA4NC	65,902
KØZL	61,908
VE3KI	54,400
NK8Q	52,152
N1CC	48,762
W4IM	46,646
N3UR	45,982
W2JRO	42,276

Dan, VE6EX, missed 3 sections but still finished at the top of the heap thanks to his 450 QSOs. His posting on the 3830 reflector said, "Great opening on 10 meters [65 QSOs], but the low bands were hopeless. Huge improvement over last year's QRP effort. Did 24 hours tho' lots of 1 Q per hour stints. Bigger "Q" scores out there yet to come. Operated mostly on 15m where there was some room." Dan's city lot in Calgary includes a Mosley TA-33 three-element tribander and inverted vees for 40 and 80 meters.

VE6EX was followed closely by NDØC, AA4NC, and KØZL. Randy, NDØC, missed the 2014 Sweepstakes, but came back this year ready for action. Randy says "As usual with QRP, this was pretty much just slogging away, S&Ping, and looking for the elusive mults since I wasn't able to get much going for runs. It really seemed like the activity was down overall. 15 and 20 were equally good depending on the time of day and area of the country. At times, I seemed to be heard pretty well on the low bands, but at other times the other station just CQed in my face. Such is life with QRP!"

Randy has this advice for QRP operators: "If there is a huge pile-up and the guy I'm calling isn't very strong, I just note the frequency and check back later. On the other hand, sometimes I can still get him with QRP if there are few callers. Listening carefully and using good

timing is essential since I know I'm definitely not going to be the strongest caller. I can't depend on brute force! Doing a lot of tuning to find the mults before the cluster pile-ups descend on them is key, as well as knowing and using the propagation. And running QRP requires the persistence and tenacity to hang in there."

Randy probably knows what he's talking about, because he's been using QRP for all of his DXing and contesting since 1980 – he just enjoys the challenge and reward associated with it. For multipliers this year, "I was very fortunate that I found VY1 in the second hour. I finally picked up Nebraska for the sweep with just over an hour left. I was really starting to sweat it!" His station is a Yaesu FTdx3000 feeding a TX-38 tribander at 40 feet, along with an inverted vee for 40 and 80 meters.



NDØC took 2^{nd} place in the Single-Op, QRP (Q) category. (Photo credit — Randy Shurbroun, NDØC)

Single-Operator Unlimited, High Power (SOUHP) (U)

This category, like many of the others, was filled with repeat performers, many of whom have been consistent Top Ten finishers for years. The exception was the winner - Randy, KØEU, who put in his "first serious SS phone effort in quite a while," according to his 3830 post. "The money bands for me were 20 and 40 meters. I didn't even try 10 or 15 the first day." And how did he navigate on Sunday? The same as many other successful top operators: "Spent a lot of time Sunday explaining the SS exchange to casual ops that wanted to give me a QSO. I encouraged them all to seek out others that were calling CQ and add to their scores as well. Not sure if they followed through, but I hope they gave it a shot." His score would have placed him 2nd in the SOHP (B) category, which is uncommon – the top (B) scores have been typically 10% or so higher than their (U) counterparts. Also, his error rate of 1.4% was the best of all stations in the 2000+ QSO range, regardless of category.

Single-Op Unlimited, High Power (SOUHP) (U)

KØEU	342,624
VE6SV (VE4GV, op)	319,550
N800	300,294
N5ZC	294,816
W1SJ	279,710
W7RN (WX5S, op)	269,916
NØXR (@NØNI)	249,664
VE3CX	235,720
W4MYA	220,946
K9CT	220,614

Moving up from third last year to second place this year, with an even-better error rate of 1.0%, but with 139 fewer net QSOs, was Rob, VE4GV, operating from VE6SV near Edmonton, AB. N8OO, N5ZC, and W1SJ, all Top Ten finalists from last year, rounded out the top five



Randy, KØEU, winner of the SOUHP category on both modes. (Photo credit — Randy Martin, KØEU)



VE4GV, operating VE6SV's very fine station outside of Edmonton. Rob used the hardware and quiet location to great advantage, finishing 2^{nd} in the SOUHP category. (Photo credit – Rob Kaufmann, VE4GV)

Single-Operator Unlimited, Low Power (SOULP) (UL)

Lu, W4LT, entered the Unlimited ranks for the first time ever on phone and took home the First Place plaque, thanks to nearly 700 contacts on 20 meters and a final 10-QSO margin over second-place N4PN. The next four stations (K8BL, KE7X, NA5NN, and WB2P) all finished within 24 QSOs of each other. Close races like this emphasize the importance of logging accuracy and butt-in-chair time. Of the 11 stations in the Top Ten (there was a tie for 5th place), 9 had Clean Sweeps.

Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power (SOULP) (UL)

W4LT	182,932
N4PN	181,272
K8BL	151,226
KE7X	149,896
NA5NN (K2FF, op)	147,740 tie
WB2P	147,740 tie
NT5V	143,922
W7ZRC	136,452
VA3DF	132,136
WB40MM	125,164
VE3MGY	121,196

"Sweepstakes is my favorite contest, and it was the second contest I ever operated in back in 1976," says Lu. "Since then, I have made it a point to be available for both the CW and the SSB SS even though my wife's birthday often falls on SSB weekend."

"My station is marginally competitive in international contests," he states. But the relatively low antennas might work to his advantage in stateside events. "My small city lot, 4-and-a-half miles northwest from the north end of the main runway at Tampa International Airport, is a challenging location. I'm limited to 40 feet of tower and a tribander, and my lot – including the front yard - barely fits an 80 meter dipole diagonally. I'm plagued by the usual man-made RF racket generated by a zillion wall warts, Internet routers and plasma TVs in the neighborhood. While I have operated SS SSB from other area stations that have better antenna facilities with good success, there is nothing like staying at home, with ergonomics you instinctively know and systems you thoroughly trust. I play the technical cards I'm dealt and do the best I can with what I have."



W4LT, winner of the Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power category on his very first try! (Photo credit — Lu Romero, W4LT)

"In 2015, I decided to try using the spotting network (Unlimited category) for the first time. It was great on CW, since the skimmers (*CW Skimmer* by VE3NEA) really offer a lot of fish in the barrel to shoot at. However, it was not much of an advantage in SSB, due to the fact that few SSB ops seem to take the time to spot stations to the cluster during SS. I found that 75% of the time, I was using the big center knob just as much as I was used to in the 'A' category."

"The key to competitiveness in SS for me here in WCF is to stay in the chair and use my 24 hours efficiently. From Florida in general and WCF in particular, with a modest station such as mine, one needs to maximize QSOs on 20 and 40." He did that quite well, with nearly a thousand contacts logged on those two bands. "The 15 meter band is saved for Sunday morning for California, VY1, Alaska and Hawaii. When 10 meters is hot, you work it as best you can, but when it's hot, 20 will be hotter, and that's really where you should be Saturday afternoon and evening up to 9 PM local on 20, then do the best you can on 40 and 80 overnight until the sun rises in California and pick up the CA sections plus AK, PAC and VY1 on 15, take a break during football, then head back to 20 and 40 while tuning 10 for mults."

Multioperator, **High Power** (MH)

Theoretically, a high-power multioperator station should be able to work just about everybody in this contest. The number of participants is not infinite, and the one-QSO-regardless-of-band restriction further limits the possible total. So it is fitting that the winner in this category made more contacts than any other station in the competition. The ops at W6YI (K6AM, N6AN, N6KI, N6MJ, and W6YI) defended their 2014 title with a total of 2185 QSOs, beating the best single-op score by 82 contacts.

Multioperator,	High Power (MH) (M)
W6YI	362,710
W5RU	325,858
K4OV	317,890
WØNO	285,354
N6WM	246,842
NV9L	243,522
N3OC	241,198
NOMA	240,700
NJ1F	229,910
N6BV	229,412

It's always amazing to work these multis midway through the contest, and receive a serial number way higher than your own. Boy, if only that rate could last... Another repeat performance was posted by the Louisiana group W5RU (@KN5O) in second place with 1963 Qs. K4OV, WØNO, and N6WM were third, fourth, and fifth, respectively.

Multioperator, Low Power (ML)

This relatively new category (2011 was its inaugural year) seemed to hit its peak with 84 entries in 2014 (after 74 in 2013). There were 71 entries this year – still a healthy number. The crew at WZ8P in OH repeated at the #1 spot, with a 10k point advantage over N5DO in WTX, followed very closely (4 QSOs!) by K7IR in WWA. The top nine stations all had Clean Sweeps.

Multioperator, Low Power (ML) (M)			
WZ8P	202,022		
N5DO	192,228		
K7IR	191,564		
K8TE (@WØLSD)	157,534		
KØUK	153,716		
W6YX	149,068		
N7IV	142,096		
W2TZ	140,768		
KØFVF	137,614		
WN1G	132,840		

The WZ8P story is interesting. Everett says, "For over 15 years my wife and I drove all around Muskingum County looking for that perfect spot to construct a station. Then

one day we found it, a nice spot on top of a hill 300' above the average elevation. Thus started the construction of my dream station."

"We started working November SS Phone in 1995. That first year we had several operators from the local radio club. We managed to work a Clean Sweep and about 600 QSOs with a 1000MP radio and several dipoles. Each year we worked to improve the antennas and look for ways to make more QSOs faster. Then we found out about using DVK and that helped a lot, too."

"Several of our club members are actively working with students and formed an elementary school club to teach Amateur Radio as an after-school activity. We invited some of the new Novices and Technician students to come operate. No one is turned away. We will let anyone sit in the chair and make QSOs. Of course by now we know how to teach them to make QSOs very fast and accurately. Our operators range from 10 to 86 years of age. The students do a great job and can cause quite a pile up with their unique voices."



The WZ8P antennas have come a long way since 1995! (Photo credit — Everett H Jackson, Jr, WZ8P)

School Club Category (S)

School Club (S)			
кøнс	221,444		
W4AQL	181,272		
W1AF	138,776		
W1YK	83,040		
W4UAL	82,004		
W9UIH	52,456		
WØEEE	34,932 tie		
W5YM	34,932 tie		
W9JWC	31,200		
K2CC	26,320		
KØVVY	25,568		

For the third year in a row, the top School Club score belongs to the crew at Hesston College in Kansas, operating under the call sign KØHC. Their 1334-QSO total was 22% better than the nearest competitor, and they were the only entry in this category to appear on the accuracy honor roll, with an error rate of 0.8%, truly amazing for a multioperator effort. The team was led by the club trustee Bob, WØBH, and included four unlicensed students. Second place went to Georgia Tech, (W4AOL), with Harvard (W1AF), Worcester Polytechnic (W1YK) and the Crimson Tide (W4UAL) rounding out the top five.

The Youth Element

Attend any gathering of hams – on or off the air – and you're bound to notice that the average age seems to be creeping up, so it's always great to hear about efforts to recruit kids into our ranks. We've already had a few other mentions of young folks operating in this year's phone Sweepstakes, and here's another.

Marty, KC1CWF, says, "After creating the Eastern Mass Contest Club early in 2015, we were eager to get the club callsign on the air (KC1ENE). We also hoped to get some youth who didn't have HF experience up and contesting. The goal of the club is to get youth on the air, in an environment led by other youth. We thought SS would be a great way to get kids on the air. I volunteered to host the contest at my very modest station. I am a teenager, and my station is in my 'office' in the back of my bedroom. I have verticals for 10-20 meters and dipoles for 40/80, but we wanted more flexibility for the contest, so KC1AHI brought a portable vertical which we deployed in the front yard of the house with great success. I forgot to mention one key detail: we had multiple stations! SS only allows for Multi-Single, but we wanted to entertain as many kids as possible, so we had two stations using two different call signs on the air - KC1CWF amd KC1ENE. We had the chance to have multiple youth come to my OTH, and give contesting a try, everyone had fun, and multiple new contesters were born. Everyone struggled through a first contact, and then got excited to make more. Everyone had fun! The kids even got pizza, what could be better?"



Putting QSOs in the log as KC1ENE, Ken, KC1AHI operated along with Nathan, KB1RD and Marty KC1CWF. Check out the QRZ.com profiles for Ken and Marty – active operators! (Photo credit – Marty Sullaway, KC1CWF)

"As for me, going into the contest, the goal was to train/educate as many kids as possible about contesting. I think we were successful, as the club was able to get multiple kids who had never been on HF before making his own contacts. For me however, I only ended up operating for a little bit in a not-so-serious way. I made a few QSOs but was mainly playing GOTA-coach-person. It seems as though kids enjoy learning from other kids, and what we are doing really works. For me, it is now a matter of balancing stuff like this with serious efforts."

Records

There were no all-time records set in any category this year, and only 11 Division records fell! On the other hand, there were 55 Section records set, with well over half of them being in the Multiop and Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power categories. You can find all of the records, new and old, at www.arrl.org/contest-records.

See You in November!

What surprises will the bands bring in 2016's running of the phone Sweepstakes? Tune in on November 18-20 and find out!

New Division Records in 2015

Call Sign	Score	Category	Division
K4OV	317,890	M	Roanoke
W2LV	90,692	ML	Hudson
W6YX	149,068	ML	Pacific
K8TE	157,534	ML	Rocky Mountain
W4AQL	181,272	S	Southeastern
VE6SV (VE4GV, op)	319,550	U	Canadian
N8OO	300,294	U	Delta
KØEU	342,624	U	Rocky Mountain
N5ZC	294,816	U	West Gulf
NA5NN (K2FF, op)	147,740	UL	Delta
W4LT	182.932	UL	Southeastern

New Section Records in 2015

New Scotlon Resords III 2010					
Call	Score	Category	Section		
KW8N	206,836	A	OH		
		В	ONS		
VE3YT	123,670				
W5JJ	212,812	M	AR		
VE3MIS	158,916	М	GTA		
K4OV	317,890	M	NC		
VE8EV	208,496	M	NT		
VE3FU	45,522	M	ONE		
VA3ZV	122,010	M	ONS		
K8TE	157,534	ML	CO		
W1FM	49,966	ML	EMA		
W3ZGD	83,000	ML	EPA		
K7IR	191,564	ML	EWA		
WA1F	56,938	ML	GA		
KDØLHI	14,000	ML	ID		
NU4X	125,952	ML	KY		
N7IV	142,096	ML	ND		
K3WTT	19,840	ML	NFL		
VO2AC	13,568	ML	NL		
W2LV		ML	NNJ		
	90,692				
N5UM	102,754	ML	OK		
WW4SF	40,172	ML	SC		
W6YX	149,068	ML	SCV		
K2AA	46,904	ML	SNJ		
W3KWH	40,508	ML	WPA		
K7SS	69,044	ML	WWA		
K2GMY	28,700	Q	EB		
VE3KI	54,400	Q	ONE		
KL7DG	1,904	S	AK		
W1AF	138,776	S	EMA		
W4AQL	181,272	S	GA		
VE6SV (VE4GV, op)	319,550	U	AB		
KØEU	342,624	U	CO		
KV7N	129,560	U	ID		
N8ZFM	118,524	U	KY		
N8OO	300,294	U	LA		
NM2O	131,306	U	NNY		
N5ZC	294,816	Ü	WTX		
VA7VF	45,708	UL	BC		
N4PN	181,272	ÜĹ	GA		
W7ZRC	136,452	ÜĹ	ID		
KØVBU	12,324	ÜL	KS		
W6AWW	52,728	ÜL	LAX		
K8BKM	81,174	UL	MI		
NA5NN (K2FF, op)	147,740	UL	MS		
		UL	NLI		
NY6DX NT5V	90,802	UL	NTX		
	143,922	_			
AF5Q	24,750	UL	OK		
KU7K (KA7ARC, op)	41,610	UL	OR		
KCØMCK	47,002	UL	SC		
WBØULX	24,138	UL	SD		
KK6NON	49,928	UL	SDG		
VE5MX	19,470	UL	SK		
WB2P	147,740	UL	SNJ		
W4LT	182,932	UL	WCF		
KC2LRC	63,744	UL	WNY		

Affiliated Club Competion

By the ARRL Contest Branch

The competition between clubs remains intense as always, with every member encouraged (putting it mildly) to get on the air and submit both CW and Phone scores. Winning totals usually come from the club that can generated the most medium-sized entries: the biggest total from the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) was built from an average score of just over 60k points.

Gavels are awarded to the top-scoring club in each category: Potomac Valley Radio Club (Unlimited – more than 50 logs), Mother Lode DX/Contest Club (Medium category – more than 10 logs), and the Pizza Lovers 259 or "PL259" (Local – up to 10 logs).

PVRC really beat the bushes this year, getting every eligible member on the air and pushing their total entries over 300. Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) also increased participation over 2014 hitting the 200 mark on the nose but PVRC has really dominated this category recently.

The winning performance by PVRC reinforces that the Affiliated Club Competition is at its best when all members get on the air, increasing activity and raising scores for every Sweepstakes station. This year, be sure to encourage every member on the club roster to operate and credit the club.

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Catagons

Score	Entries
18,789,084	311
8,931,090	200
7,500,650	119
5,444,516	100
4,356,958	55
4,146,242	74
3,880,422	52
3,668,356	54
3,968,346	47
3,491,852	41
3,417,206	47
3,151,264	50
2,680,896	33
2,004,198	19
1,946,614	27
1,908,690	23
1,742,254	22
1,475,528	22
1,327,376	22
1,322,990	19
1,285,982	22
1,249,774	16
1,158,824	13
1,075,310	15
971,038	13
937,598	16
	8,931,090 7,500,650 5,444,516 4,356,958 4,146,242 3,880,422 3,668,356 3,968,346 3,491,852 3,417,206 3,151,264 2,680,896 2,004,198 1,946,614 1,908,690 1,742,254 1,475,528 1,327,376 1,322,990 1,285,982 1,249,774 1,158,824 1,075,310 971,038

lowa DX and Contest Club	927,212	7
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	842,208	11
Orca DX and Contest Club	835,732	12
North Texas Contest Club	705,044	10
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	596,868	16
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest		
Society	496,550	12
Utah DX Association	496,046	5
	-	
Contest Group du Quebec	456,694	9
Saskatchewan Contest Club	451,318	5
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	419,496	8
Oklahoma DX Assn	381,020	4
Carolina DX Association	305,858	7
Hampden County Radio Assn	285,194	13
South Jersey Radio Assn	284,992	9
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	260,382	7
Swamp Fox Contest Group	222,960	8
Radio Club of Redmond	131,242	3
Motor City Radio Club	-	5
•	117,822	
Magnolia DX Assn	40,672	3
Local Category		
Pizza Lovers 259	1,539,126	10
New Mexico Big River Contesters	1,451,186	9
Kansas City Contest Club	957,334	10
Sussex County ARC	813,248	8
Redwood Empire DX Assn	775,804	9
Louisiana Contest Club	-	5
	679,022	
CTRI Contest Group	603,834	10
Midland ARC	585,110	6
599 DX Association	534,934	4
Bishop ARC	534,862	4
Panhandle DX and Contest Club	467,226	5
Bristol (TN) ARC	306,336	6
Lincoln ARC	291,978	5
Spokane DX Association	273,342	4
Maritime Contest Club	257,206	7
	-	
Dupage ARC	230,166	6
Central Oregon DX Club	228,748	3
Hilltop Transmitting Assn	221,040	7
Mt Vernon (OH) ARC Contesters	209,074	5
Maui ARC	167,016	3
Bergen ARA	137,496	6
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society	136,900	9
Meriden ARC	126,606	5
L'anse Creuse ARC	115,968	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service		5
	112,798	
Delara Contest Team	109,010	4
Peterborough Amateur Radio Club	102,328	4
West Allis RAC	95,252	4
NorDX Club	90,158	6
Winona ARC	88,704	3
Southern Berkshire ARC	83,788	6
Metro DX Club	78,630	5
Clark County Amateur Radio Club	69,448	4
West Park Radiops	69,236	5
Tallahassee ARS	61,346	5
	•	
Great South Bay ARC	48,696	4
Milford (OH) ARC	44,396	4
Alexandria Radio Club	26,762	3
Granite State ARA	26,448	4
Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association	12,912	3
Sterling Park ARC	1,768	3

Iowa DX and Contest Club

927,212

Regional Leaders														
SOQRP/LP/HP = Single-Op All-Band; SOULP/HP = Single-Op Unlimited; MSL/MSH = Multioperator, Single Transmitter														
Northeast Region			Southeast Region			Central Region			Midwest Region			West Coast Region		
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections			Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions			Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section			Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections			Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections		
Call Sc	ore (Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat	Call	Score	Cat
NC11 (K9PW, op) KU2M KD4D 233 KK6L 187 KS3UA 188 WR3R 162 W2RQ 150 W2ID 126 K3KU 94 NK8Q 52 N3UR 45 W2JRO 42 AA2VK 27 KV1J 18 W1SJ 279 N2MM 218 W3LL 200 N3RR 199 K3DNE 193 WB2P 147 NY6DX 90 K2DFC 82 N2SQW 70 N3AM 66 N3OC 241 NJ1F 225 W2XL 175 K1KP 176 W2TZ 146 N2GZ 97 W2LV W3ZGD 83 N3CRT 94 N1F 198 W1SJ 198 W2TZ 144 N2GZ 97 W2LV W3ZGD 83 N3CRT 54 W14F 138 W17K 83 K17C 84 W14F 138 W17K 85 W17K 86 N3CC 26 N3CC 87 N4F 88 N3CC 97 W2LV 90 W3ZGD 83 N3CRT 54 W14F 138 W17K 83 K17C 84 W14F 138	9,710 3,776 5,172 9,366 3,390 7,740 9,802 2,834 9,810 9,910 9,114 9,910 9,114 9,910 9,114 9,910 9,116 9,910 9,116 9,176 9,	BBB B BAAAAAQQQQJJJJJJJJJJJZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ	N4OX N4ZZ K4JPD (N4OO, op) W4RM (N3AHA, op) WØCN NP4G N4BP K1KNQ N5EE K7SV AAANC W4IM N4TOL AC2N KO4PM N8OO W4MYA N1LN KG4W N4FX W4LT N4PN NASNN (K2FF, op) WB4OMM N4CF W5RU K4OV W5JJ N8VCF W4MLB WN1G KF3N N2VA W4TG W4TG W4AQL W4VAL W5YM	275,228 270,272 268,920 241,530 224,024 238,292 128,466 110,852 119,556 114,374 65,902 46,646 9,700 4,880 3,850 300,294 220,946 196,212 94,454 93,292 182,932 181,272 147,740 125,164 67,728 325,858 317,890 212,812 143,258 139,072 132,840 106,904 97,908 90,528 56,938 181,272 82,004 34,932	ВВВ В ВАААААООООООООООООООООООООООООООО	K9BGL ND4Y K1OU K9ZO WA8Y KW8N WZ8T N8CWU W8PEN VE3SD VE3KI N9SE K9ARF K78K W9VQ VE3CX K9CT WE9V N2BJ VE3RZ K8BL VA3DF VE3MGY VE3VSM K8BKM NV9L K9SF (@K9XD) K8CC N9SJ KD9ST WZ8P NU4X AA9BL N9VI N8YXR W9UIH W9JWC W8SH W8EDU W9GRS (W9KVR, op)	215,966 202,022 177,288 147,906 139,236 206,836 136,784 120,184 78,000 75,768 54,400 39,780 35,690 16,758 235,720 220,614 168,158 158,696 134,626 132,136 134,626 132,136 134,626 132,136 134,626 132,136 121,196 118,026 81,174 243,522 225,594 202,022 125,952 38,704 36,036 31,536 52,456 31,200 17,784 16,988	BBB B BAAAAAQQQQQJJJJJJJJJJJJJJHHHHHHMMMMMMSSS S S	N2IC NRSM AA5B KSTA VE4VT (VE4EAR, op) WDØT VE5SF NØKK (@NØAT) N7NKD (N7MZW, op) WD5K NDØC KØZL N1CC KJ5RM WAØBJR KØEU NSZC NØXR (@NØNI) WBØTEV KSLLA NT5V KØOB NWØM AD1C NØYQ WØNO NØMA NNSV KØGND WY7SS NSDO K8TE KØUK N7IV KØFVF KØHC (WØBH, op) WØEEE KØVVY	342,126 335,652 296,476 283,860 247,968 192,560 184,008 164,008 135,432 133,630 70,384 61,908 48,762 32,412 24,840 342,624 294,816 249,664 190,402 185,754 143,922 83,332 66,566 48,000 285,354 240,700 223,602 194,668 162,016 192,228 157,534 153,716 142,096 137,614 221,444 34,932 25,568	BBB B BAAAAAQQQQQJJJJJJJJJJJJHHHHHHKKKKSSS	W7WA W6NL (K5TR, op) WC6H K6LA N6RK KH6LC (NH6V, op) VA7RR K2PO K9WZB N7LOX VE6EX K2GMY KK7EL W7PT NE4RD VE6SV (VE4GV, op) W7RN (WX5S, op) W1SRD N6NZ W1RH KE7X W7ZRC NC6B WA6KHK W6AWW W6YI N6WM N6BV K7RI W6PZ K7IR W6PZ K7IR W6PZ K7IR K6YX NX6T K7SS KD7RCJ KL7DG (KL7DG, op)	349,098 311,748 271,7078 230,076 217,128 236,716 234,890 230,242 204,180 133,824 72,000 27,406 26,270 17,640 319,550 269,916 194,054 180,608 161,352 149,896 136,452 67,064 55,610 52,728 362,710 246,842 229,412 227,420 225,428 191,564 149,068 120,350 69,044 32,832 1,904	BBB B BAAAAAQQQQGEEEEEEEEEEBBBB B BAAAAAQQQQGEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

2015 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes – Sponsored Plaque Winners

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.



Division / Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor SPONSOR
Overall		
Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Multioperator High Power Phone Multioperator Low Power Phone	W7WA NP4G VE6EX KØEU W4LT W6YI WZ8P	Dan Henderson, N1ND ARRL Contest Branch - Ken Adams, K5KA Memorial QRP Amateur Radio Club International Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
School Club Phone	кøнс (wøвн, ор)	Bart Jahnke, W9JJ
Atlantic Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Multioperator High Power Phone Multioperator Low Power Phone	KD4D K3UA NK8Q N2MM WB2P N3OC W2TZ	Icom America Potomac Valley Radio Club Icom America
Central Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Multioperator High Power Phone Multioperator Low Power Phone School Club Phone	K9BGL KD9MS N9SE K9CT W9QL NV9L AA9BL W9UIH	Society Of Midwest Contesters Society Of Midwest Contesters Sean Kutzko, KX9X Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America Icom America
Dakota Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Multioperator High Power Phone Multioperator Low Power Phone School Club Phone	KØTT WDØT NDØC KØCN KØOB KØJA N7IV KØVVY	Minnesota Wireless Association Minnesota Wireless Association Tod Olson, KØTO Minnesota Wireless Association Tod Olson, KØTO In Memory of Jim Dokmo, KØFVF Minnesota Wireless Association Icom America Tod Olson, KØTO
Delta Single Operator High Power Phone Single Operator Low Power Phone Single Operator QRP Phone Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Multioperator High Power Phone Multioperator Low Power Phone School Club Phone	N4ZZ N5EE KI4CVU N8OO NA5NN (K2FF, op) W5RU WD5CCA W5YM	Icom America

Great Lakes

Single Operator High Power Phone ND4Y Mad River Radio Club Single Operator Low Power Phone KW8N Mad River Radio Club Single Operator QRP Phone KT8K Mad River Radio Club Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone N8ZFM Icom America Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone K8BL Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone K8CC Icom America

WZ8P

W8SH

Icom America

Icom America

QRP Club of New England

Hudson

School Club Phone

Multioperator Low Power Phone

Single Operator High Power Phone KU2M Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone W2RQ Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone W2JRO Icom America Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone WS2E Icom America Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone K2DFC Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone NY6DX Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone W2LV Icom America School Club Phone N2TUX (KC2ASA, op) Icom America

Midwest

Single Operator High Power PhoneKØDEQIcom AmericaSingle Operator Low Power PhoneN7WYSociety Of Midwest ContestersSingle Operator QRP PhoneKØZLIcom AmericaSingle Operator Unlimited High Power PhoneNØXRIcom America

Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone
NØXR
Icom America
NWØM
Icom America
Multioperator High Power Phone
MØNO
Icom America
Multioperator Low Power Phone
KB5ENP
Icom America
School Club Phone
KØHC (WØBH, op)
Icom America

New England

Single Operator QRP Phone

Single Operator High Power Phone NC1I (K9PW, op) Icom America
Single Operator Low Power Phone N1DID Icom America

Single Operator Unlimited High Power PhoneW1SJIcom AmericaSingle Operator Unlimited Low Power PhoneWT1AIcom AmericaMultioperator High Power PhoneNJ1FIcom AmericaMultioperator Low Power PhoneN2GZIcom America

School Club Phone W1AF Michael McKaughan, K1DM

KV1J

Northwestern

Single Operator High Power Phone W7WA Icom America
Single Operator Low Power Phone K2PO Icom America

Single Operator QRP Phone W7PT Barbara Yasson, AC7UH

Single Operator Unlimited High Power PhoneKV7NIcom AmericaSingle Operator Unlimited Low Power PhoneKE7XIcom AmericaMultioperator High Power PhoneK7RIIcom AmericaMultioperator Low Power PhoneK7IRIcom AmericaSchool Club PhoneKL7DG (KL7DG, op)Icom America

Pacific

Icom America Single Operator High Power Phone W6NL (K5TR, op) KH6LC (NH6V, op) Single Operator Low Power Phone Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone K2GMY Icom America Icom America Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone W7RN (WX5S, op) Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone WQ6X Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone N6WM Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone W6YX Icom America

Roanoke

Single Operator High Power Phone W4RM (N3AHA, op) Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone K7SV Icom America Single Operator ORB Phone AAANC Popular Popul

Single Operator QRP Phone AA4NC Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone W4MYA Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL

Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone N4CF Icom America

Multioperator High Power Phone K4OV Ronnie Reams WA4MJF & Sherry Reams KB4EXL

Multioperator Low Power Phone KF3N Icom America

Rocky Mountain

Single Operator High Power Phone N2IC Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone N7NKD (N7MZW, op) Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone N1XIH/7 (GWØNVN, op) Icom America Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone KØEU Icom America Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone AD1C Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone NN5V Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone K8TE Icom America

Southeastern

Single Operator High Power Phone N4OX Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone NP4G Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone N4TOL Icom America Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone W4XO Charlie Wooten, NF4A Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone W4LT Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone W4MLB Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone WN1G Icom America School Club Phone W4AQL Icom America

Southwestern

Single Operator High Power Phone K6LA Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone K9WZB Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone KK7EL N6HE and W6DLD W7WW Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone Icom America Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone NC6B Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone W6YI Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone NX6T Icom America

West Gulf

Icom America Single Operator High Power Phone NR5M Single Operator Low Power Phone WD5K Icom America Single Operator QRP Phone N1CC Icom America Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone N5ZC Icom America Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone NT5V Icom America Multioperator High Power Phone N5AA (K5NA, op) Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone N5DO Icom America

Canada

VY2ZM Single Operator High Power Phone Icom America Single Operator Low Power Phone VA7RR Icom America Frank Merceret, NA4CW Single Operator QRP Phone VE6EX Single Operator Unlimited High Power Phone VE6SV (VE4GV, op) Icom America VA3DF Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Phone Icom America VE8EV Multioperator High Power Phone Icom America Multioperator Low Power Phone VE3UZ Icom America School Club Phone VE9UNB Icom America