

# 2015 ARRL International DX CW Contest Results

**The snow in the US changed the object of this contest from digging out weak ones to just plain digging out.**

**Kelly Taylor, VE4XT, ve4xt@mymts.net**

A massive snowstorm blanketed the northeastern United States over the weekend of February 21 and 22, laying waste to many well-laid contesting plans. Jeff, K1ZM, had planned to travel to Prince Edward Island to activate VY2ZM, but the weather had other ideas. Airports were closed, parking was banned, and forget about taking the bridge across the Northumberland Strait.

“The snow drifts were 15 to 18 feet in the capital (Charlottetown), and all parking was banned for days while they tried to find a place for the snow,” Jeff said. “My biggest surprise was hearing Ken, K6LA, managed to fly in between the storms, and his station is only a short walk from the road.”

While Jeff’s plans didn’t work out, his operation at home did, claiming a win and a record in the W/VE Single Operator, Low Power category.

## Snowy Struggles

Ken, K6LA, meanwhile, said getting to the end of his street wasn’t a problem, if you don’t consider landing at 2 AM with a 1 hour and 15-minute drive remaining a problem. All went well, except for the last few hundred feet, when he discovered his street wasn’t plowed.

“I started hiking through the snow. It was only about 100 yards, but it took 20 minutes because I kept falling into the snow. Finally, I crawled most of the way and there was a thin crust of frozen snow that I could stay on top of,” Ken said.

Kudos to Paul, K1XM, who humbly offered this quote: “The snow played a big part in people’s plans for the ARRL contests in W1 land this year. For me, that is a bigger story than what K1XM and KQ1F did.”

What Paul and Charlotte did, however, was win, for W and VE, the Multi-single, Low Power category. But even they weren’t immune to Mother Nature at their location not far from Boston.

“We spent several hours Saturday shoveling snow off the roof,” Paul said. Then he had to fix the rotator that half died on Friday. “I opened the rotator control box and found the problem was with the rotator itself or with the wiring on the tower. So I disabled the stops and ran the rotator until the top antennas were pointed at

Europe and left it that way. We lost some Caribbean and Pacific multipliers because of this.”

For Dave, N1IX, winner of the W/VE Single Operator QRP category, the snow added a fair bit of work to the task of diagnosing a wonky 80 meter antenna.



The crew at Multi-Two DX winner PJ4X (from left), Hans, PJ4LS; Bob, WA1Z, and Marty, W1MD. [Kelly Jones, N0VD, photo]



US, here we come! The antennas at ZF1A firing toward the US from the Cayman Islands.

“With each snowfall, a little bit more weight pulled on my coax connections,” Dave wrote. “Saturday night, I was getting a very high SWR on my 80 meter antenna. I had to snow-blow a path out to the shed that houses the remote antenna switch. Fortunately, I only had to reseal the PL-259 connector.”

Dave said he had some of the best runs ever while QRP, even if the conditions seemed a bit down.

### Warmer Climates

Gerry, W1VE, had the perfect antidote to the killer storm: go somewhere else. He scurried off to Aruba with Andy, K2LE, to win the DX Multi-Single Low Power crown from P4ØLE, activating the former P49V made famous by the late Carl Cook, AI6V.

That was pretty much the case on the DX side, where, if the winners had snow to deal with, we’d have had much more of a problem than who won a radio contest. All but three winners were located in either the Caribbean or Central America.

At PJ4X, news of their status as the DX winner of the Multi-Two category came as a bit of a surprise. Marty, W1MD, said they were convinced TI5W was pulling away from them.

“At the end of the contest, we thought we were about 25,000 points, or 20 QSOs and one multiplier, behind the TI5 crew. Was it accuracy?” Marty wondered.

Nope. Just plain brute force. While they did finish six multipliers behind TI5W, they had 180 more QSOs. “Wow, QSOs are king,” Marty wrote after being told the score breakdown. Imagine how happy they’ll be to learn they now hold the South American, Multi-Two record.

“One thing I can for sure say is we had a very diverse group, with Martin, G4XUM, from the UK; Hans, PJ4LS, as a ‘local’ on PJ4, and the rest of us from various locations in the US,” he said. “There was no one shining star, but rather the team clicked well together considering we were a new ‘pick-up’ bunch. This was a great group of guys who all chipped in and performed at the top levels of radiosporting competition.”

### The Bell-Ringers

Back in the land of the free, the crew at K9CT is celebrating its win in the W/VE Multi-Two category, a hard-fought battle considering the location — Trivoli, Illinois.

“Fortunately, it is a competitive, state-of-the-art contest station,” wrote Bill, K3WA, one of the operators. “Unfortunately, it is located in the epicenter of the Black Hole, the place where RF goes to die.”

## Top 10 — W/VE

Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Single Operator, 20 Meters	Multioperator Single Transmitter, Low Power
N2NT 6,531,390	KB3WD 2,906,028	W8TA 439,815	K1XM 3,263,382
K1ZZ 6,433,392	W3KB 2,807,664	K7KU (KØRK, op) 341,952	N2WKS 2,990,016
VY2TT 5,949,420	N1EN 2,705,526	NR6O (DL8CA, op @ N6RO) 335,808	VE9ML 2,501,730
N1UF 5,898,495	W1MSW 2,537,076	K3GW 122,835	N5DO 2,172,576
N9RV 5,471,280	WD4AHZ 2,482,146	AA6KJ 100,725	KØUK 1,296,792
AA1K 5,406,840	W9PA 2,304,159	NF8R 72,708	W3HAC 549,504
N1RR (@ K6ND) 5,258,964	VA3DF 2,278,068	KØPK 65,520	VA7DZ 256,272
K1TO 5,187,492	W1NT 2,037,501	K4TRH 59,961	KA9VVQ 32,004
WXØB (AD5Q, op) 5,140,251	K9PG 1,336,440	N9XX 59,736	KB5ENP 11,766
N4AF 5,037,390	K6WSC 1,335,780	W8GOC 53,130	K6III 10,716
Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator, 160 Meters	Single Operator, 15 Meters	Multioperator, Two Transmitter
K1ZM 5,155,248	W4ZV 33,453	K3RV 714,015	K9CT 11,084,400
W1UE 4,332,825	N4XD 20,829	NY3A 678,252	K8AZ 10,245,528
N5AW 3,644,865	N7GP 11,685	KU2M 643,830	KØRF 10,151,295
N4TZ 3,264,765	W2VO 9,636	N1LN 520,026	WK1Q (@ K1TTT) 8,787,483
NA8V 3,186,522	KM1R 8,256	N5RZ 511,830	WW4LL 8,331,867
N4YDU 2,838,924	NØTT 6,549	W6YA 508,482	W5RU 7,356,456
WØUO 2,296,140	K4EJQ 6,372	K4OAO 431,055	KB1H 5,383,680
K5KU 2,155,740	W2MF 5,148	W2UP 404,766	W2CG 5,181,891
K2TTM 1,777,662	VE3OSZ 4,185	W5WMM 399,048	K4TCG 4,922,268
K1VSJ 1,763,775	WD5R (N5ECT, op) 1,944	N7CW 391,152	K2AX 4,450,446
Single Operator, QRP	Single Operator, 80 Meters	Single Operator, 10 Meters	Multioperator, Unlimited Transmitter
N1IX 1,206,408	W3BGN 156,657	K2SSS 441,288	K3LR 18,276,027
VE3VN 1,062,990	VE3PN 74,088	KD2RD 361,080	W3LPL 17,410,140
VE3KI 1,040,910	K4FJ 67,890	N4ZZ 360,360	WE3C 16,787,709
W9WI 1,029,510	W4PK 66,330	AA5AU 262,818	NR4M 13,998,360
KE8M 793,968	K3PA 61,128	W3EP 243,390	N4WW 13,568,670
N7IR 675,675	K3JGJ 55,632	N4TB 223,488	NØNI 11,490,840
W6JTI 597,513	N5FO 50,286	K7BG 216,600	W4RM 11,179,332
NØKE 520,290	VE1ZA 44,370	N7DR 201,717	WØAIH 9,841,842
AA1CA 509,640	KØKT 33,408	K5ZO 165,087	K1KI 7,310,544
N1TM 480,768	W4DD 24,576	KTØK 152,607	K3TN 6,759,792
Single Operator, Unlimited, High Power	Single Operator, 40 Meters	Multioperator Single Transmitter, High Power	
KØDQ 8,547,984	KØDU (KØCL, op) 336,735	W2FU 10,091,928	
AA3B 7,943,832	K9OM 317,775	K1LZ 9,549,672	
K3WWW 7,303,296	W7WA 308,508	K5TR 6,133,056	
N2IC 7,244,160	K7NJ 271,539	K2QMF 6,079,797	
(VE7ZO, op) 6,017,334	WA6O (@ N6RO) 246,132	K3PH 4,700,178	
AB3CX 5,884,707	K9NR 203,148	K5RX 3,844,992	
VA2WA 5,768,343	W2EG 181,920	W2XL 3,742,260	
N3RS 5,755,932	N7WA 147,609	W8TK 3,517,212	
W1/SP4Z 5,677,872	W1XX 127,224	K6LL 3,457,098	
KØEU 4,941,918	WA1FCN 117,000	K1HI 3,178,182	

The crew has been at this a while, with host Craig, K9CT; Ryan, KB9OWD; two Steves (N5AC and N9CK); Ralph, K9ZO; Jim, N9TK, and Bill, K3WA, getting quite familiar with the station.

The four Elecraft K3s, two Alpha 87s, five-element 160 meter array, 80 meter foursquare, stacked 4/4 on 40 meters, 6/6/6 on 20 meters, 7/7/7 on 15, and 8/8/8 on 10 helped, but what Bill pointed to as a key piece of technology dates back centuries: a simple bell.

“Like many multiop teams, we announce working a new mult by ringing a bell,” Bill wrote. “On Sunday afternoons, we accompany the bell ringing with a round of applause. And the ops at K9CT kept applauding and applauding while keeping their runs going.

“The bell goes on 24 hours a day for the contest,” Bill said. It is a happy sound that we all respond to, even during sleep periods.”

John, K6AM, admits to being ready to give up

trying to work a 48-hour contest solo. So, he assembled a dream team and headed to the Cayman Islands. There, ZF1A won the DX Multi-Single, High Power category. The team



Jean-Robert, HH2JR, struggled to keep the generator working throughout the contest. [Dale Long, N3BNA, photo]

## Top Ten — DX

Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Single Operator, 40 Meters	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power
6Y2T (VE3DZ, op) 6,351,696	V26M (N3AD, op) 5,119,752	HK1R 308,700	ZF1A 7,408,452
CR3A (OM3RM, op) 5,436,675	SP7GIQ 3,177,000	C6AWW (NX4N, op) 292,320	P40L 6,530,958
YW4D (YV1DIG, op) 4,571,847	S50A 3,057,873	4O/E77W 234,000	KP2M 6,318,288
CR6K (CT1ILT, op) 4,514,940	EF7T (EA7OT, op) 2,540,160	S50C (S53RM, op) 215,940	NP4Z 5,433,729
NP2N (W2VJN, op) 4,312,203	UA2F (UA2FB, op) 2,448,600	S52AW 211,869	EI7M 4,718,418
E7DX (E77DX, op) 3,848,022	S57AL 2,387,385	S57Z 201,426	LX7I 4,340,952
G4A (G4TSH, op) 3,466,053	UW2M (UR0MC, op) 2,154,450	S51YI 198,360	IR4M 4,155,294
FM5BH 3,418,680	S59ABC (S51DS, op) 2,032,512	YT7A (YU7DW, op) 193,320	EC2DX 3,984,000
GM7R (GM0NAI, op) 3,404,940	DL2CC 2,022,111	SN3A (SP3HLM, op) 188,613	WH7M 3,792,360
EA6URA (EA3AIR, op) 3,337,686	HB9FAP 1,960,560	9A2L (9A2VJ, op) 163,515	IR4X 3,667,356
Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Single Operator, 20 Meters	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power
V31AT (K5PI, op) 4,865,205	HR2J (AA4NC, op) 3,146,292	FY5KE (F6FVY, op) 397,980	P40LE 3,591,945
VP9/W6PH 4,202,388	NP2P (N2TTA, op) 3,083,328	CR2X (OH2PM, op) 379,800	ZW8T 1,469,160
HI3K 3,941,595	CO8ZZ 2,278,248	CS2C (OK1RF, op) 339,840	OL1C 1,272,297
CT3EE (OM3GI, op) 3,631,878	PJ7/WJ2O 2,103,672	TM5Y (F8DBF, op) 329,580	YU1EXY 758,808
EF8R (EA8RM, op) 2,946,216	II9P (I28JAI, op) 1,725,621	OH8L (OH8LQ, op) 295,911	LZ9R 651,900
HC1WDT (W0OR, op) 2,729,100	EC4TA 1,393,902	MM3T (GM0ELP, op) 228,420	DL0UM 646,140
OE3K (OM7JG, op) 1,990,170	HI3TT 1,375,170	OL6P 214,020	OM3KWZ 462,840
D44EE (OZ1BII, op) 1,740,942	F4DXW 1,312,479	CO8CY 187,266	3Z1K 305,280
DL1IAO 1,730,040	PJ7AA 1,303,560	YT1X 169,560	SP9KAT 174,264
CO8DM 1,699,500	Single Operator, 160 Meters	DK3QZ 151,740	UR4RWW 66,555
Single Operator, QRP	Single Operator, 15 Meters	Multioperator, Two Transmitter	
GJ2A (MJ0ASP, op) 1,093,935	SJ2W (SM2LIY, op) 348,120	PJ4X 8,638,215	
F/E72T 641,556	TM6M (F1AKK, op) 320,067	Ti5W 8,608,767	
OA4SS 494,079	F6ARC 316,041	KH7XX (@ KH6YY) 5,659,920	
G3SXW 323,664	9A5X 242,841	ED7P 5,423,826	
HB9BMY 319,218	CO8LY 240,189	KL7RA 5,328,375	
JH1OGC 240,345	DR4A (DL6WT, op) 226,371	EF8U 5,258,304	
HG3M (HA3MY, op) 223,146	SN8B (SP8CUR, op) 205,692	OL4A 4,962,060	
OK2FD 207,438	NH2DX (KG6DX, op) 204,612	DP9Z 3,940,692	
LZ2RS 197,925	MM2N (MM0GPZ, op) 204,300	DL1A 3,887,100	
DM2M (DK3WE, op) 196,650	OH6AC (OH6CS, op) 201,666	HG7T 3,826,914	
Single Operator, 80 Meters	Single Operator, 10 Meters	Multioperator, Unlimited Transmitter	
XE2X 168,258	LO5D (LUBEOT, op) 276,660	PJ2T 9,048,096	
DL3DXX 99,216	YV1KK 217,440	KH6LC 6,732,747	
IK2CLB 78,351	PY2MC 186,048	9A1A 6,189,369	
YT0A (YU1XX, op) 67,320	C6AUM (K4RUM, op) 163,725	IR1Y 5,270,184	
OK2EW 58,752	DK3T (DK3DM, op) 145,365	OL7M 5,096,409	
OM2Y 57,405	JA1BPA 143,982	CE3CT 4,863,921	
Z35T 50,181	LW8DQ 143,640	JA3YBK 3,771,885	
YT4A 45,924	9A3TR 143,046	LZ9W 2,655,000	
ON7EH 33,744	JG1ILF 138,510	RT0C 2,542,446	
KH6/WB4JTT 26,208	IT9VDQ 124,488	LY2IJ 1,292,814	

consisted of no less than reigning WRTC champ Dan, N6MJ, while another op was Dan's runner-up, Kevin, N5DX, and, of course, John. They were set to "take an all-out assault on the multi-single record."

"Conditions were just fantastic," John wrote. "All bands were quiet and signals were very loud. I got the feeling we were loud, too. We set a goal of 7000 QSOs, 350 multipliers, and 7.5 million points. The contest ended about five minutes too soon."

Still, their 6939 QSOs and 358 multipliers were good for the record, with 7.4 million points.

### A Worthwhile Risk

The battle of the titans, the granddaddy of all categories, Multi-Multi, on the W/VE side, at least, often falls to the Maryland powerhouse, W3LPL. But Tim, K3LR, as always, was ready for the challenge, even taking a risk by dropping a new radio on the boys just as the contest was starting.

That new radio was an Icom IC-7850. "So there was some risk on 20, with the new radio. The IC-7850 worked flawlessly and provided an advantage with its narrow roofing filter and clean transmit, which helps with two-radio sharing," Tim wrote.

## New Records

The year 2015 turned out to be one for the record books. If it wasn't a record snowfall in the Northeast, it was records falling all over the contest.

Eleven continental records and 34 W/VE records were set in 2015, including a South American Multi-Two record at PJ4X, a W9 record at Multi-Two W/VE winner K9CT, a W1 Multi-Single Low Power record by winner K1XM, an Asian Multi-Multi record at JA3YBK, among, obviously, 41 others.

Ron, VE3VN, who had been silent for a number of years, is back with a splash not only as the new holder of the VE QRP record, but also coming close to beating N1IX for the category. Welcome back, Ron.

Behind that IC-7850, and multiple IC-7800s, an IC-7700, and several 8877 single-band amplifiers, was an impressive crew, comprising Phil, K3UA; John, VE3EJ; Greg, N3SD; Doug, K1DG; Ward, N0AX; Bob, W5OV; Lali, VE3NE; George, N3GJ; John, N2NC; Bill, W2RQ, and Ed, VE3RA.

"Still, it's 48 hours in the hyper-competitive Multi-Multi category — anything can happen," Tim wrote.

Like the stations to the east, the snowstorm was also a factor, with both W3LPL and K3LR hammered by snow static. "The noise blankers were out in force!"

In the end, K3LR outlasted W3LPL by 275 QSOs and 11 multipliers for the win.

K3LR's counterpart, the DX winner of the Multi-Multi category, was the crew at PJ2T.

### Visits from Mr Murphy

Down in Belize, the Single Op, Low Power DX winner had a number of issues to deal with, not the least of which was not operating in his usual category of Multi-Single. Rob, K5PI, didn't let other plans by WC0W and Mark, AG9A, stop him from heading to his haunt on the border with Guatemala and building, by himself, this year's V31TP.

"We've got a good system to set up our antennas in pretty short order, but this year, it was just me (and some hotel staff)," Rob wrote. "So over the course of 3 days, I put up the A3S tribander, 80/40 inverted V and a 160 meter inverted L (a modified Butternut HF2V).

## Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to announce the winners of a sponsored ARRL DX CW plaque. The ARRL wishes to thank the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible. Un-sponsored plaques may be purchased by the plaque winner. If you wish to purchase an un-sponsored plaque or order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, at (860) 594-0232 or by e-mail at [w1msw@arri.org](mailto:w1msw@arri.org). The cost for plaques is \$75 (includes shipping).

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power CW	Frankford Radio Club	N2NT
W/VE Single Operator Low Power CW	Ed Sawyer, N1UR	K12M
W/VE Single Operator QRP CW	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	N11X
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited, High Power CW	Harold Ritchey, W3WPG, Memorial	KØDQ
W/VE 1.8 MHz CW	Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z	W4ZV
W/VE 7 MHz CW	Drew Vonada-Smith, K3PA	KØDU (KØCL, op)
W/VE 21 MHz CW	Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA	K3RV
W/VE 28 MHz CW	Richard Bennett, KØXG	K2SSS
World Single Operator High Power CW	North Jersey DX Association	6Y2T (VE3DZ, op)
World Single Operator Low Power CW	The CW Operators' Club	V31AT (K5PI, op)
World Single Operator QRP CW	Gerald (Jerry) Griffin, K6MD/DK6MX	GJ2A (MJØASP, op)
World Multioperator Single Transmitter, High Power CW	John Patterson, WCØW/V31TP	ZF1A
World Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power CW	John Patterson, WCØW/V31TP	P4ØLE
World Multioperator Two Transmitters CW	Frankford Radio Club — K2TD Memorial	PJ4X
World Multioperator Unlimited CW	H Stephen Miller, NØSM	PJ2T
World 1.8 MHz CW	Fred Race, W8FR, in Memory of DL1FF	C6AKQ (N4BP, op)
World 3.5 MHz CW	W1FJ, in Memory of W1BIH & N4XR	XE2X
World 14 MHz CW	Jeff Hartley, N8II	FY5KE (F6FVY, op)
World 21 MHz CW	Caribbean Contesting Consortium	SJ2W (SM2LIY, op)
World 28 MHz CW	W7EW / W7AT	LO5D (LU8EOT, op)
Asia Single Operator QRP CW	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	JH1ØGC
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power CW	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	JAØQNJ
North America Single Operator High Power CW	Potomac Valley Radio Club	6Y2T (VE3DZ, op)
Europe Single Operator High Power CW	Jim George, N3BB	CR6K (CT1ILT, op)
Caribbean Single Operator Low Power CW	9Y4VU Memorial — Friends of the Frankford Radio Club	HI3K
Canada Single Operator Low Power CW	Contest Club Ontario	VE3XB
Seventh Call Area Single Operator High Power CW	Willamette Valley DX Club	N9RV
Central Division Single Operator High Power CW	Northern Illinois DX Association	W9OP
Great Lakes Division Single Operator CW	North Coast Contesters	K1LT
Hudson Division Single Operator High Power CW	HVCDX & AARA John Naberezny, WE2F, Memorial	N2NT
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power CW	Central California DX Club, Inc. W6MEL	K6LRN
Pacific Division Single Operator 20 Meters CW	Jim Davis, NN6EE	NR6O (DL8CA, op@N6RO)

I brought my K3 and used a TS-690 as a second radio.”

Of course, Murphy will find you, even if you're out of the way in the wilds of Belize. If anyone wondered where Rob went in mid-exchange, his switching power supply had its own ideas of when to start up and when to shut down. “The other big disappointment was my brand-new triplexer, which failed a half-hour before the start of the contest.

“I had to rethink my antenna strategy, but I pressed the 40/80 antenna into service on 10/15/20 on the second radio, and it seemed to work reasonably well,” Rob said.

Scott, KØDQ, had a good outing for the first ARRL DX he's done since turning 70, but he, too, had to contend with the snowstorm. He played at the home of Paul, K8PO, in southern Maine.

“I managed to sneak into the Portland (Maine) airport and arrive at Paul's Thursday afternoon,

between two major storms,” he wrote. “There was a foot of snow in his driveway on Monday as I left.

“The weather had also done some significant antenna damage earlier in the winter with a major ice storm breaking off the tips of several of the parasitic elements.”

How'd he do as a newly minted septuagenarian? How's being the W/VE winner of the Single Operator Unlimited, High Power category sound?

“The fact you can participate and remain competitive in a sport from pre-teenager years into your eighth decade is a wonderful thing and fairly rare in any sport,” Scott commented.

### The New England Nightmare

If K9CT has the Black Hole, KØDQ had the “New England Nightmare.”

“Stations farther south are working Europe but we can't hear them in New England (or at least in Maine),” he explained.

“That happened this year, most notably on 10 meters Saturday morning and again Sunday morning on 20, where openings for us were significantly delayed.”

So while he won the category (last year he was narrowly beaten by K11G), he fell short of the Unlimited record. Though he calls himself a “dyed-in-the-wool unassisted operator,” he said he actually enjoys operating Unlimited, particularly with his new skills at using the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN).

“It was less stressful, especially on Sunday afternoon. Concerns over being on the wrong band or missing a rare mult are significantly reduced with the RBN data in front of you.

“And, I took off four hours and didn't feel guilty.”

### An Unexpected Victory

Never give up. That's the lesson from Will, AA4NC, who, as HR2J, won the DX Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power category. “Winning this contest was completely unexpected, because I did not get to operate the last 10 hours of the contest on Sunday due to equipment failure,” Will wrote.

Though he had two radios (an Elecraft K3 and a Kenwood TS-440) and several power supplies, when the second supply died, it “let the smoke out” of the K3, rendering it inoperable. No problem, fire up the Kenwood, he thought. Except there was no computer-keying interface. So, he struggled through several QSOs using a Bencher paddle as a straight key before packing it in and exploring the Honduran mountains.

From this, he got two lessons: Always prepare all your equipment before the contest, and never give up when you think you're behind, “because you can never tell when their radio may go down in flames!”

Check those rotators, get the snow shovels handy, make sure you can key all your radios, and join the fun next year. The 2016 ARRL DX CW contest takes place February 20 and 21.

## Work the Full Results

The full results of the contest are available online at [www.arri.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arri.org/contest-results-articles). You'll find detailed analysis and more play-by-play along with the full line scores. Improve your skill by reviewing your log checking report, too!