2015 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

History meets the future at the bottom of the ham radio spectrum.

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“200 meters and down” was the range of wavelengths assigned to Amateur Radio in the Radio Act of 1912. Each year, the ARRL 160 Meter Contest provides a reason for all hams to revisit the band that best represents this early history of our hobby. With the allocation of, and upcoming permission to operate, two new lower frequency (longer wavelength) bands (600 meters and 2200 meters), this contest is an excellent way to get better acquainted with the unique propagation and equipment challenges found in the lower part of the spectrum.

Having Fun the Old-Fashioned Way
One enthusiastic participant who embraced ham radio history for the 2015 contest is Mike Dormann, W7DRA, of Seattle, Washington. Mike’s station is a lot like those assembled by many hams soon after World War II.

Mike said, “I put together a rig for the ARRL 160 Meter Contest; a brand new Hallicrafters S-40 with a roofing filter and a BC-453 Q5er along with an ARC-5 VFO and a 6AG7/2x807 MOPA. The final plates have 243 volts at 25 milliamps, giving a rousing 6 watts input…I ended up with 52 contacts and 23 sections — for me, a good effort.” You can read more about Mike’s station online in the complete Web writeup.

At the other end of the technology continuum, the W2GD crew took full advantage of everything available, including diversity reception, spotting networks, a terrific oceanside location, excellent transmitting and receiving antennas, and a great crew of operators to win the Multioperator class again.

The Unlimited categories added in 2014 allow Single Operator entrants to use spotting networks. In the 2015 contest, more than 41%

You don’t need a super station to enjoy a contest. Mike, W7DRA, had a lot of fun using this vintage station in the 2015 160 Meter Contest. [Mike Dormann, W7DRA, photo]
There is plenty of time until December 2–4, 2016, when the next ARRL 160 Meter Contest will fill the medium wave spectrum with signals. Get your equipment and antennas into proper shape. Consider your choice of entry category. Will you adopt a classic attitude and eschew assistance in favor of your own ears and experience, or will you embrace current technology and operate an Internet-connected station with modern testing software that lets you “point and shoot” instead of “search and pounce?” Either way, there is a place for you. Just show up and enjoy a weekend exploring the fascinating realm of low-frequency ham radio!

of the submitted Single Operator logs claimed the use of assistance! The other 59% opted to find stations with their own ears, radios, and antennas.

The Importance of Contest Clubs

Contest clubs exist to provide both camaraderie and mutual assistance among members. New and experienced contestants have a place to mingle and learn from each other. You can see the list of clubs in the Club Competition results table. Over 50% of the entrants in the contest were members of Affiliated Clubs.

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