

2015 ARRL November Sweepstakes Results — CW

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

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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."

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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.arri.org/contest-results-articles and look for the 2015 folder. Updated records are available at www.arri.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 old-fashioned 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.

Division / Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor	Division / Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
Overall			New England		
Single Operator High Power	N2IC	Trey Garlough, N5KO	Single Operator High Power	K5ZD	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	KP2M (W2GD, op)	Radiosport Manitoba — VE4VV Memorial	Single Operator Low Power	K1XM	Michael McKaughan, K1DM
Single Operator QRP	N0AX	QRP Amateur Radio Club International	Single Operator QRP	K8CN	Mark Olsen, KF1V
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K0EU	Joe, KH6GA, & Victoria, N4WV	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	W1SJ	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K6LL	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	W1UJ	Icom America
Multioperator High Power	K5GO	Icom America	Multioperator Low Power	W1FM	Icom America
Multioperator Low Power	W0DLE	Icom America	Northwestern		
School Club	K0HC (W0BH, op)	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	N9RV	Icom America
Atlantic			Single Operator Low Power	K7BG	Icom America
Single Operator High Power	AA3B	Icom America	Single Operator QRP	W7QDM	Phil Yasson, AB7RW
Single Operator Low Power	K3UA	Potomac Valley Radio Club	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K7CF	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	WR3R	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K7GA	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	WR3Z	Icom America	Multioperator High Power	K7RI	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K3AU (K2YWE, op)	Icom America	Multioperator Low Power	K7SS	Icom America
Multioperator High Power	W2FU	Icom America	Pacific		
Multioperator Low Power	K2AA	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	W7RN (N6TV, op)	Icom America
Central			Single Operator Low Power	K7GK	Robert A. Wilson, N6TV
Single Operator High Power	W9RE	Society of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator QRP	W6YX (N7MH, op)	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	N9CK	Society of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	WA6O (@N6XG)	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	K9ZO	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K9JM	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K9CT	Icom America	Multioperator High Power	N6RO	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	WE9V	Icom America	Roanoke		
Multioperator High Power	KE0L	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	N4AF	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Multioperator Low Power	KA9VVQ	Icom America	Single Operator Low Power	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	Icom America
School Club	W9UIH	Icom America	Single Operator QRP	N4CF	Icom America
Dakota			Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N1LN	Icom America
Single Operator High Power	NE0U	Minnesota Wireless Association	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	AA4NC	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	NA0N (@W0ZT)	Minnesota Wireless Association	Multioperator High Power	W4RM	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	KE0G	Tod Olson, K0TO	Multioperator Low Power	W4TG	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	KT0A	Minnesota Wireless Association	School Club	K4KDJ	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K0MPH	Icom America	(KK4BSM, op)		
Multioperator High Power	W0SD	Minnesota Wireless Association	Rocky Mountain		
School Club	N0T	Tod Olson, K0TO	Single Operator High Power	N2IC	Icom America
Delta			Single Operator Low Power	N5FO	Icom America
Single Operator High Power	K0EJ	Icom America	Single Operator QRP	K0AV	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	NA5NN (N4OGW, op)	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K0EU	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	WF7T	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	AD1C	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N8OO	Icom America	Multioperator Low Power	W0DLE	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	W9SN	Icom America	Southeastern		
Multioperator High Power	K5GO	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	NX4N	Icom America
Multioperator Low Power	KW4JS (K14WXI, op)	Icom America	Single Operator Low Power	KP2M (W2GD, op)	Icom America
Great Lakes			Single Operator QRP	K3TV	Icom America
Single Operator High Power	K1LT	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N4BP	Charlie Wooten, NF4A
Single Operator Low Power	N8SS	Mad River Radio Club	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	N4PN	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	KT8K	Mad River Radio Club	Multioperator High Power	N4GI	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N4QS	Icom America	School Club	W4UAL	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K8BL	John S. Comella, N8AA	Southwestern		
Multioperator High Power	W5MX	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	K6LA	Icom America
School Club	W8EDU	Icom America	Single Operator Low Power	AA6PW	Icom America
Hudson			Single Operator QRP	N7IR	N6HE and W6DL
Single Operator High Power	N2NT (N2NC, op)	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K07SS	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	W2LK	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K6LL	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	WS2E	Icom America	Multioperator High Power	W6Y1	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	W2VQ	Icom America	Multioperator Low Power	W8TK	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K2DFC	Icom America	School Club	W6RFU	Icom America
Midwest			West Gulf		
Single Operator High Power	K0DEQ	Icom America	Single Operator High Power	NR5M (K5GA, op)	Icom America
Single Operator Low Power	N0NI (AG9A, op)	Society of Midwest Contesters	Single Operator Low Power	W8FN	Icom America
Single Operator QRP	N0AX	Icom America	Single Operator QRP	N1CC	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N0XR	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited High Power	N5ZC	Icom America
Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K0VB	Icom America	Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K5CM	Icom America
Multioperator High Power	K0WA	Icom America	Multioperator Low Power	NM5M	Icom America
Multioperator Low Power	KB5ENP	Icom America	School Club	N5XU (AA5BT, op)	Icom America
School Club	K0HC (W0BH, op)	Icom America	Canada		
			Single Operator High Power	VE3KI	Icom America
			Single Operator Low Power	VE2CWT (VE2FU, op)	Icom America
			Single Operator QRP	VE6EX	QRP Amateur Radio Club International
			Single Operator Unlimited High Power	VE2ZM	Icom America
			Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	VE5MX	Icom America
			Multioperator High Power	VE3MIS (VE3NE, op)	Icom America
			Multioperator Low Power	VE2TTT	Icom America

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	SOLP	340
W1MJ	SOLP	120
AD2KA	SOLP	114
K6CTA	SOLP	85
K0JPL	SOHP	83
K10J	SOLP	79
W5KI	SOUHP	37
VE3VSM	SOLP	30
K0VG	SOHP	27
N6KW	SOLP	26
W0CZ	SOQRP	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!



Radiosport

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, KC0P/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, N0HZO/R, photo]

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