

2015 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

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

Gary Breed, K9AY, k9ay@k9ay.com

“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%

More Openings Online

Full results for this contest including all scores, more tables, and discussions are available at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles.

Affiliated Club Competition

Club Name	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	6,176,891	86
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,210,489	73
Society of Midwest Contesters	3,851,175	68

Medium Category

Frankford Radio Club	4,645,167	47
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,845,864	47
Contest Club Ontario	2,019,644	28
North Coast Contesters	1,224,778	12
Mad River Radio Club	1,191,818	12
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	927,268	23
Alabama Contest Group	758,096	13
Tennessee Contest Group	739,308	17
Northern California Contest Club	729,728	22
CTRI Contest Group	643,071	5
Florida Contest Group	618,466	19
Iowa DX and Contest Club	614,282	3
South East Contest Club	572,531	10
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	520,214	8
Louisiana Contest Club	427,178	6
Western Washington DX Club	417,501	8
Willamette Valley DX Club	382,064	8
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	374,488	4
Kentucky Contest Group	369,056	10
Georgia Contest Group	343,721	5
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	343,148	7
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	330,064	7
DFW Contest Group	292,034	13
Swamp Fox Contest Group	269,469	4
Southern California Contest Club	261,490	14
Big Sky Contesters	200,420	4
North Texas Contest Club	194,809	5
Carolina DX Association	187,354	4
Utah DX Association	171,097	4
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	150,770	6
Orca DX and Contest Club	147,646	3
Radiosport Manitoba	91,822	3

Local Category

Niagara Frontier Radiosport	317,227	6
North Carolina DX and Contest Club	312,913	4
Central Virginia Contest Club	390,879	6
599 DX Association	303,629	3
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	240,254	3
Kansas City Contest Club	214,100	6
Maritime Contest Club	185,216	4
Mall City Contest Group	159,724	3
Bristol (TN) ARC	153,773	4
Spokane DX Association	148,674	4
Delara Contest Team	143,298	3
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	123,299	5
West Park Radiops	85,820	4
Metro DX Club	71,169	6
Meriden ARC	10,276	3



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]

Top Ten

W/VE

Single Operator, QRP	
KV0Q	151,432
N3CZ	62,859
W3TS	61,732
KA1J	58,344
W2MF	51,842
N7IR	46,728
NK8Q	43,906
N8BB	42,804
WT0A (KE5RX, op)	40,089
K9JWV	21,675

Single Operator, Low Power

N4UA	222,255
W2TZ	193,152
K9IG	192,720
N0TT	192,060
K8NVR	171,398
K0TT	166,697
WB8JUI	162,272
K9MMS	157,708
N9NB	156,072
NE9U	154,360

Single Operator, High Power

VY2ZM	610,176
K3ZM	479,364
N03M	431,238
AA1K	417,728
K1LT	354,368
W3BGN	347,510
W0SD (W0DB, op)	319,696
N2YB	304,873
W5DR (N5ECT, op)	285,984
K1KI	276,003

Multioperator, High Power

W2GD	553,656
N0NI	424,446
N1LN	421,767
WB9Z	384,540
N3RR	299,750
K5NA	286,308
W4HZ	216,424
K5KC	212,042
VE2QJ	203,010
K3MJW	178,281

Multioperator, Low Power

N2CEI	194,106
K8UO	81,322
W5WTM	32,565
N3RN	17,934
WA0RBW	10,988
W6OFM	9,988
W3HAC	7,752
NY2NY	6,664
N9MT	3,072
KD7EJ	304

Single Operator Unlimited, QRP

W0GJ	135,576
N9SE	113,520
N2KW	85,690
N4IJ	35,989
N0UR	27,500
W2DPT	18,179
AA4XX	16,550
K8ZT	12,408
K6MI	10,212
WE9R	6,020

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

W4IX	205,412
K8BL	201,275
K0TI	168,744
N9CK	162,810
K8FC	161,210
VE3MGY	161,128
K1PTF	124,558
N3UA	119,048
K3MD	118,080
K4WI	111,144

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

VE3EJ	466,830
K9CT	375,015
W1WMU	362,516
K3WW	360,510
KF3B	355,308
W3UA (NU3C, op)	322,847
W8MJ	275,706
VE3RZ	274,536
N2CU	273,130
N3QE	248,570

DX

Single Operator, QRP

JH4UYB	2
--------	---

Single Operator, Low Power

H18A	5,320
ON7EH	3,304
ON6NA	2,958
XE2ST	2,560
XE1AY	2,184
OK2BMU	1,026
OK1CZ	736
CO8DM	672
DL5CL	600
G3VGZ	162

Single Operator, High Power

XE2X	186,490
PJ2T (KB7Q, op)	102,800
XE2S	83,804
ZF2AH	60,984
OM2VL	28,560
SN5X (SP5GRM, op)	22,792
GM4ZUK	15,752
OK2W	15,750
CT1CJ	8,446
F6GOX	8,342

Multioperator, High Power

JA3YBK	3,240
DL7AU	672
OH2BCI	408

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

C6AUM (K4RUM, op)	105,300
HA4XH	8,050
KP2DX (KP2BH, op)	1,220
OL1A (OK1CW, op)	1,188
UT7VR	850
V31MA	338
G3RLE	286
G4DBN	240
JA1KVT	234
EU2EU	200

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

KP2Q (K3TEJ, op)	155,190
VP9/N3AD (N3AD, op)	125,356
TI5W (N3KS, op)	122,634
GW3YDX	38,584
KP3W	22,302
OK7M (OL6X, op)	21,168
EI2CN	19,834
EA7KW	15,768
S51V	15,190
DK2FG	6,364

Division Winners

Division	Call	Score
Single Operator, QRP		
Atlantic	W3TS	61,732
Central	W9SE	19,788
Dakota	NN0Q	8,272
Delta	W6UB	20,682
Great Lakes	N8BB	42,804
Hudson	K2JT	6,990
Midwest	WT0A (KE5RX, op)	40,089
New England	KA1J	58,344
Northwestern	W7DRA	1,936
Pacific	K6EI	5,628
Roanoke	N3CZ	62,859
Rocky Mountain	KV0Q	151,432
Southeastern	W5NZ	6,460
Southwestern	N7IR	46,728
West Gulf	N5OE	17,974
Canada	VE7VV	19,175
Single Operator, Low Power		
Atlantic	W2TZ	193,152
Central	K9IG	192,720
Dakota	K0TT	166,697
Delta	K3IE	65,625
Great Lakes	K8NVR	171,398
Hudson	K2TTM	78,884
Midwest	N0TT	192,060
New England	N1JD	110,208
Northwestern	AI7H	42,770
Pacific	N6RK	78,001
Roanoke	N4UA	222,255
Rocky Mountain	W0DLE	150,612
Southeastern	WA1FCN	111,150
Southwestern	AC7A	39,830
West Gulf	W0UO	102,816
Canada	VE3CFK	112,632
Single Operator, High Power		
Atlantic	N03M	431,238
Central	W0AIH (K0TG, op)	202,500
Dakota	W0SD (W0DB, op)	319,696
Delta	W5DR (N5ECT, op)	285,984
Great Lakes	K1LT	354,368
Hudson	K2TTT	185,427
Midwest	KI0I	157,035
New England	K1KI	276,003
Northwestern	WJ9B	166,754
Pacific	N6NF	79,404
Roanoke	K3ZM	479,364
Rocky Mountain	K7IA	95,940
Southeastern	N4PN	182,868
Southwestern	N7GP (N5IA, op)	241,947
West Gulf	K5WA	92,046
Canada	VY2ZM	610,176
Multioperator, High Power		
Atlantic	W2GD	553,656
Central	WB9Z	384,540
Dakota	K0JE	33,880
Midwest	N0NI	424,446
New England	K1VR	175,136
Pacific	W7RN	80,975
Roanoke	N1LN	421,767
Southeastern	WX4MLB	14,092
Southwestern	W7FSL	61,760
West Gulf	K5NA	286,308
Canada	VE2OJ	203,010

Division	Call	Score
Multioperator, Low Power		
Atlantic	N3RN	17,934
Central	N9MT	3,072
Dakota	WA0RBW	10,988
Great Lakes	K8UO	81,322
Hudson	NY2NY	6,664
Northwestern	KD7EJ	304
Pacific	W6OFM	9,988
Southeastern	N2CEI	194,106
West Gulf	W5WTM	32,565
Single Operator Unlimited, QRP		
Central	N9SE	113,520
Dakota	N0UR	27,500
Great Lakes	K8ZT	12,408
Hudson	W2DPT	18,179
Midwest	W0GJ	135,576
New England	N2KW	85,690
Pacific	K6MI	10,212
Roanoke	AA4XX	16,550
West Gulf	N4IJ	35,989
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power		
Atlantic	K8FC	161,210
Central	N9CK	162,810
Dakota	K0TI	168,744
Delta	W4TTM	40,176
Great Lakes	K8BL	201,275
Hudson	WA2JQK	45,658
Midwest	K0JPL	56,441
New England	W1WBB	101,655
Northwestern	K7LFY	59,840
Roanoke	W4IX	205,412
Rocky Mountain	K0RI	38,690
Southeastern	K4WI	111,144
Southwestern	W8KA	29,146
West Gulf	K5KJ	32,637
Canada	VE3MGY	161,128
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power		
Atlantic	K3WW	360,510
Central	K9CT	375,015
Dakota	K0IDX	176,928
Delta	N5CW	176,831
Great Lakes	W8MJ	275,706
Hudson	N2GC	210,800
Midwest	K2DSW	136,400
New England	W1WMU	362,516
Northwestern	KA6BIM	168,168
Pacific	NR6O (JG3KIV, op)	141,869
Roanoke	K2AV	232,200
Rocky Mountain	K7SCX	114,136
Southeastern	AA4CF	175,721
Southwestern	KY7M	99,674
West Gulf	K5ZO	165,120
Canada	VE3EJ	466,830

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 contesters 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.

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 contesting 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!