2015 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

Propagation kept things interesting.

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2015 marked the 43rd running of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. What began as an idea from Larry, WØPAN, and Bob, K8IA, in 1973 to generate activity on the band and protect it from commercial interests has turned into a very popular worldwide event. (By the way, both of these folks were on the air during the contest. How's that for long-term commitment?) Over the course of 2 weekend days in December 2015, more than 7300 operators from every ARRL section and at least 119 DXCC countries got on the air, making an estimated 1.1 million QSOs. If evenly spread across the whole weekend, this represents more than 6 QSOs being made every second! To put the number of competitors in context, the 2015 ARRL 10 Meter Contest had more entrants than the total number of players on all NFL, MLB, and English Premier League soccer teams combined.

We have learned over the last 43 years that this contest, more than any other, "lives by the Sun and dies by the Sun." Looking back on the 2015 event, we can see operating conditions were very different than they were in 2014. As the current solar cycle winds down, 10 meter propagation is changing, and so will its namesake contest. After hanging in there for a magical 2014, the decline in solar activity finally caught up with the contest in 2015.

However, there are some aspects of the 10 Meter Contest that are even more enjoyable in low parts of the solar cycles. For example, with reduced propagation the number of stations pounding in over the air is reduced and QRM levels are very low. When band openings do occur, they are often quite localized or, as sometimes described, "spotlight" — meaning the propagation path is open to a relatively small geographic area. When you hear a station and call them, you will likely be one of very few.

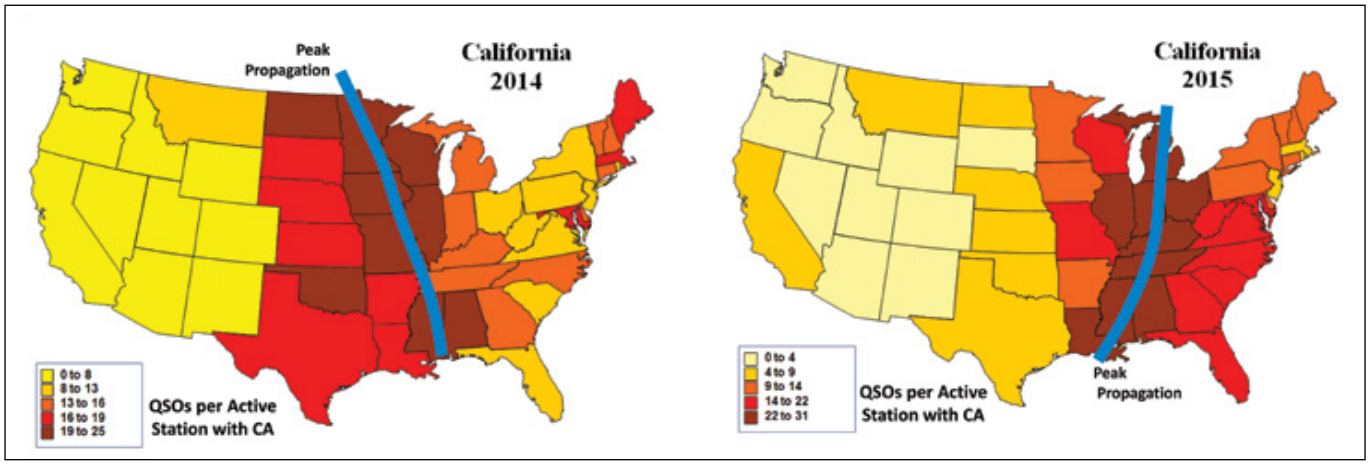
Because of localized propagation, if you call CQ you will often be rewarded with surprise QSOs. In 2015, many operators commented in their Soapbox entries about being called by V51YJ, FW5JJ, VP8NO, 5R8SV, or D44BS "out of the blue." The reason was that these stations were also not hearing as many stations as they did in high propagation years, and they were happy and excited to call you. So, if you are calling CQ, aim your antennas at areas of likely propagation.

These conditions can also provide a great training ground and experience for new contesters and a relaxing environment for the long-timers. With reduced QRM levels and the band not sounding like a madhouse, the 10 Meter Contest in low sunspot years is a welcome place with interesting propagation and clear frequencies for calling CQ.

Speaking of new and experienced operators, Joe, W7QN, 94 years young and operating with a BigIR vertical antenna on the roof of his apartment, managed to make 257 QSOs. The ET3AA club station used the contest to

The Band is Open Online

Check out the full results of the contest at **www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles**. There you will find full line scores from this contest as well as more insights on the 2015 contest, analysis of past contests and propagation, strategies for the future, and other interesting topics. If you like the added content for this article, make sure to check past years as well. They are all available online.



During 2015, changes in solar conditions meant California stations more commonly worked stations farther away from them than during 2014. More interesting maps are available in the full results online at **www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles**.

Top Ten

US

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

K1KI	1,545,774
K1WHS (K1BX, op)	1,381,330
W6YI (K6AM, op)	940,500
W6YX (N7MH, op)	924,288
N8II	860,064
N9RV	698,544
K3ZU	672,810
W3EP	666,072
N6NF	571,744
KØTT	505,960

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

KI6RRN	512,256
N6ZFO	444,276
WAØMHJ	354,576
K2PS	281,504
N7LOX	268,830
WB8WKQ	234,740
NA8V	213,864
KTØK	198,492
N6YEU	163,000
AC5O	158,844

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

WA6FGV	104,220
KA7T	49,080
WB2AMU	45,100
KH6KG	30,360
NS7K	21,944
W7GB	14,652
N4TOL	13,764
N4ELM	12,584
N9JR	10,374
AE6JV	10,080

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

NR5M	282,384
K7YK	227,840
K5TR (WM5R, op)	210,944
N7AU	186,620
N4OX	179,332
KE2DX	170,856
WA8UEG	136,944
AG4W	119,320
W2RD	116,848
W1SJ	116,662

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

K4FCG (K1KNQ, op)	107,008
WR5O	59,272
KI6QDH	57,620
N7FLT	56,400
N8CWU	47,180
N2HMM	46,768
WA8QYJ	45,904
K4PZC	43,690
K4DMR	38,216
WD4IXD	38,122

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

W6QU (W8QZA, op)	25,916
KB5KYJ	13,904
NDØC	8,118
KS4GW	7,636
WB6CZG	4,650
KA5PVB	3,944
NO4FX	3,132
KIØII	3,024
K9JK	3,000
N2WN	2,592

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

KD4D	830,220
K1TO	807,868
K5NA	563,568
NR4M	490,912
WJ9B	460,224
AA3B	443,424
W6PH	425,856
W1QK	423,120
K4FJ	397,800
N5FO	394,304

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

KH7M (KH6ZM, op)	604,032
N4WW (N4KM, op)	339,184
KH6CJJ	237,600
WB4TDH	213,384
N4ZI	211,068
K9QVB	184,040
WN6K	183,580
WD4AHZ	174,636
W3BGN	172,688
W2UP	167,400

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

W6JTI	130,640
W7YAQ	90,024
AA1CA	72,048
N5OE	62,744
N1IX	41,800
K2YAZ	33,152
N8AP	23,220
K2SM	20,976
N7IV	20,928
NQ2W	18,240

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power

N8OO	1,124,928
K3WW	914,354
W4ML (W4MYA, op)	890,460
W8MJ	811,640
NH7AA	672,660
K6SRZ	638,768
W3JX	493,892
NR3X (N4YDU, op)	473,396
N2TU	455,512
KY7M	428,120

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power

KD2RD	412,452
KS1J	204,078
K9OM	199,626
N7IR	190,032
W6AWW	156,550
K2DFC	155,184
NK3Y	123,926
AA4LR	119,944
N8VV	103,270
AAØAW	102,270

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, QRP

N5DO	187,620
WO4O	163,344
N1CC	84,088
K2GMY	70,664
N5EIL	31,388
KU4A	21,424
W7TR (KH2TJ, op)	19,404
W2OL	8,236
KC9LVT	520

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, High Power

K3EST	370,800
WB9Z	316,758
W3LL	269,352
W5PR	229,320
W7WW	146,160
KIØE	112,056
KI7M	99,824
KA1ZD	85,446
AC8G	69,936
N8PCN	55,566

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, Low Power

K2DRH	114,144
KT4ZB	73,752
KG9Z	64,408
NY6DX	58,860
KK4LGC	43,680
N2MUN	41,984
N3ALN	20,196
KC1BOH	15,232
KG7LKI	14,304
KD2CVR	13,924

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, QRP

K7ATN	17,376
WBØTEV	12,628
NA5NN (K2FF, op)	7,480
N2GBR	5,180
WB3D	1,850
W2MF	1,620
N9NBC	264

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, High Power

K2SSS	672,600
N2MM	590,352
N4BP	545,424
NY3A	535,140
K6LL	532,560
K3UA	506,352
N6SS	474,832
W5MX	465,248
NW6P (DG1CMZ, op)	417,060
K8IA	414,540

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, Low Power

N2KW	315,744
W7ZR	268,092
KE7X	216,108
W9XT	203,904
K8AJS	150,144
K6WSC	144,600
WB5EIN	122,880
AB1J	89,100
KØQC	87,848
K5KJ	73,372

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, QRP

K1GU	137,180
KØLUZ	73,872
KU7Y	29,808
NØUR	14,356
KØPIR	6,600
NA5Q	5,320
K4YND	3,520
K8ZT	1,872

Multioperator, High Power

KC1XX	2,139,000
N3RR	1,276,928
AA1JD	1,069,596
W1NA	890,274
K4MM	839,952
W1DX	648,736
K7RI	531,200
K7JR	473,964
W4HZ	451,350
W4TMO	397,026

Multioperator, Low Power

W7TVC	550,074
NØNI	461,340
N4SVC	428,274
K4FT	208,320
N3ZV	144,648
WL7F	110,252
WA1F	91,200
W1FM	85,692
W7PU	78,684
NØHJZ	74,868

DX

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

EF5Y (EA5FR, op)	1,080,654
ZT6T	445,536
CT7ACG	441,762
JA6GCE (JH5GHM, op)	261,080
G4FKA	237,010
HB9CVQ	207,576
LZ1GU	200,070
F6GOX	185,878
LY9Y	179,828
F5JY	157,820

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

OA4SS	659,940
EF8O	428,064
HSØZIA	403,000
VR2ZQZ	381,282
LU1ICX	343,758
PR4C (PY2TI, op)	294,150
YT8A (YU1EA, op)	221,760
RU7A	210,760
EA6SX	177,016
HH2/N5JR	158,414

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

PY2NY	123,504
HG3M (HA3MY, op)	33,660
EB1RL	27,456
VU2UR	25,480
EW8OG	12,558
UT5EOX	11,234
JH7UJU	10,218
IZ2JPN	9,828
KP4LE	6,270
RW3AI	4,136

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

HK1T	882,376
PX2B (PY2LED, op)	788,436
PP5JD	777,708
CR2X (OH2BH, op)	746,560
PJ4DX	704,304
KP2XX	341,376
CR6K (CT1CJJ, op)	320,796
CX1AV	318,562
CV7S (CX7SS, op)	275,776
LQ7E (LW3DN, op)	263,520

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

EA8AH	482,482
CA7CAQ	332,080
HK6F	196,536
HI8JSG	193,060
WP4PGY	181,560
TG9ANF	180,306
PY5FO	161,424
PU5CSF	152,818
PU2WDX	145,436
LU2FGL	133,826

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

TG9ADQ	93,600
CT7AIX	26,334
I5KAP	13,566
PU1MHZ	11,900
R7NA	8,832
PY2BI	7,380
PP5XA	7,128
UY2IF	6,634
PY3FOX	6,110
VK4FAAS	5,120

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

PY2ZXU	1,253,760
VK2IA	1,236,000
HK1MW	584,176
EA8/IK1PMR	568,912
PJ6/G3TXF	522,100
YT5W (YU1AU, op)	469,536
A93JA (KE5JA, op)	375,580
CE3DNP	366,464
ZM2B	360,824
C4Z (5B4AIZ, op)	301,000

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

NP3A	870,480
EA8CN	608,000
CQ8CQ (CU3AA, op)	505,440
LU5FF	354,960
5R8SV	337,440
XR2K	325,480
J6/K4ZGB	285,200
CR5U (CR7AJL, op)	230,776
XV9NPS	199,160
PX1M (PY1MK, op)	182,208

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

PY4XX	49,104
F6HBI	32,148
OK5WF	27,244
US5VX	26,688
PY2QI	20,580
RT4W	20,008
HA3HX	19,488
4X1IF	18,212
JA1YNE (JR1NKN, op)	17,280
VR2UU (KØUU, op)	16,320

expose new operators to the sport. As on-site coach Ken, K4ZW, said, "For most of them, this was their first contest. Some got the knack of it quickly and others will need some time. But they had a blast and are ready to do it again. I've said this before but I'll repeat it: I've done some cool stuff in Amateur Radio, but this ranks right up there!"

Finally, these years with low sunspots can also mean that time spent looking for that last state for Worked All States (WAS) or another award will be profitable. When you find them, you will work them. For example, Milt, AD5XD, managed to nab Nebraska to complete both his 10 meter WAS as well as his 5 Band WAS. That's a pretty good QSO.

Affiliated Club Competition

Club competition continues to be a popular and fun aspect of this contest. Operators get a chance to be part of a team while still operating from their home QTH. For many of us, it is motivating to get on the air to make some points for our club or to compete for honors against fellow club members. This is just another way to have some fun on a December weekend.

In 2015, a total of 1049 operators submitted logs that were also credited towards ARRL Affiliated Club Competition. This means that 52% of the W/VE operators were part of one of the 84 different clubs that participated. Both the participation percentage and number of clubs are up nicely from 2014. Way to go, club organizers!

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power

NP2P (N2TTA, op)	1,426,156
EF7X	1,327,784
DL2SAX	629,100
OK7M (OK1DIG, op)	484,872
RJ4P	464,512
DK2OY	353,444
TK5MH	345,708
ZS6WN	287,180
RL4A	237,886
RU3FM	234,256

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power

HI3CC	450,146
S52NR	210,388
PA3EVY	190,944
UX1AA	186,796
RW4WA	170,772
IZ8EYP	168,990
RX9SR	145,544
R7MM	141,702
PE2HD	105,618
PY1GQ	99,220

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, QRP

OK2FD	99,938
UT3IT	14,520
LU5DX	10,164
RUØLAX	10,044
WP4DT	9,520
JK1TCV	7,440
PU5UAI	2,576
PY1CMT	336
PY4WJ	280
SP3CMX	160

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, High Power

LU1FKR	679,360
ZY2B	553,520
TM7G (F4CWN, op)	286,760
DL2ARD	275,536
IQ9UI (IT9EQO, op)	265,202
PY5IN	190,920
EA7ATX	170,852
IZ8EPX	148,824
PZ5RA	144,378
IZ8TDP	143,868

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, Low Power

LU7DH	211,044
TOØR	199,356
L77D	177,250
VP9/KU9C	143,276
LU4DJB	123,280
LZ2HM	104,400
ZV2K (PY2SHF, op)	68,952
PY8WW	67,040
MIØSMK	63,536
PU2UAF	50,596

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, QRP

USØMS	4,814
YY4KCV	2,300
G7KXZ	528
TA3UDK	234
PD5WL	204
EW4RF	144

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, High Power

LR1E (LW6DG, op)	1,160,568
KP2Q (K3TEJ, op)	968,240
NP2X (K9VV, op)	810,840
CX9ØIARU (CX2BR, op)	759,708
ZM1A (ZL3CW, op)	704,900
TM1X (F8CMF, op)	547,552
EA4TX	518,848
DL1IAO	473,064
EA5BY	415,756
PY2MC	409,920

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, Low Power

PP1CZ	458,304
KP4EJ	442,800
LZ4TX	436,500
PY1KS	299,404
PP5NY	262,080
LU4EG	199,680
PY1NX	147,960
S53X	132,308
5W1SA	131,984
IØUZF	131,760

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, QRP

LT7H (LU7HZ, op)	248,864
3Z9DX (SP5MXZ, op)	162,408
JR3RWB	18,944
YO8WW	18,512
RD7K	6,336
BG7TJA	5,928
GØTPH	4,560
9A2KO	4,416
F5IRC	3,760
JH6QIL	2,584

Multioperator, High Power

CW5W	3,519,642
PP5JR	3,206,772
PR2F	3,089,088
PJ2T	2,836,416
P4ØS	2,332,688
LU5FC	2,009,840
PT3T	1,777,912
PS2T	1,643,460
CE3CT	1,504,500
CX4AT	1,386,432

Multioperator, Low Power

FY5KE	2,151,660
NP2N	812,036
ZY5A	266,602
T48T	262,320
IT9YVO	257,320
CW1DC	232,394
TM2M	182,776
ZV5D	162,554
VK2GGC	141,540
LU1BJW	91,980

VE

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power

CJ3A (VE3AT, op)	895,648
VE3KZ	442,638
VE3TW	53,298
VE9CB	27,600
VE3JM	27,324
VA6UK	16,800
VE3HED	12,078
VE3MT	60

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

VC1E (VE1ZA, op)	85,120
VE3FH	58,480
VE7KW	51,136
VE4VT (VE4EAR, op)	43,836
VE3CWU	31,354
VE2QY	29,770
VE2AWR	25,520
VE6VS	21,984
VE5SF	19,176
VE3BR	17,934

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP

VA3RKM	5,356
VE5DLD	1,862

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

VE2GSO	36,210
VA6MA	19,488
VA3TIC	11,280
VE1JS	3,484
VA3MTT	2,400
VE2HAY	1,428
VE2JM	1,116

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

VA7JW	45,200
VE7AS	20,140
VE2HIT	17,818
VE6FI (VE6AQ, op)	16,240
VE2PDT	14,144
VE7CKZ	6,596
VE3WPV	6,080
VA3KVI	5,576
VE3KTB	4,144
VE4DDW	4,056

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

VE3CBK	812
VE3BKM	572
VE7CBZ	8

Single Operator, CW Only, High Power

VE9AA	266,304
VE3PN	238,480
VE5UF	178,932
VE3FGU	98,260
VY2LI	65,552
VE7JKZ	32,448
VE2FU	21,168
VE3EY	19,620
VE8EV	1,960

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

VE6WQ	221,616
VA3EC	91,728
VE2ZT	72,352
VA7EU	42,488
VO1QU	36,608
VA3ATT	34,768
VE3OM	34,336
VO1BQ	18,400
VE3ZY	17,440
VA7MM	16,728

Single Operator, CW Only, QRP

VY2OX	75,140
VA3AMX	8,400
VE7ETS	2,240
VA3RJ	1,764

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power

VE3EJ	339,692
VE4GV	160,500
VE2EBK	90,576
VE1JBC	65,800
VE3YT	38,988
VE3JDF	25,568
VA2QR	7,650

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power

VA3DF	270,864
VE3IAE	61,576
VE7AHT	39,220
VE3GFN	33,534
VE3XAT	27,830
VE3BW	27,744
VE9ML	20,972
VE9OA	15,824
VE2BWL	15,386
VE6AX	13,632

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, QRP

VE3KI	130,416

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, High Power

VE6KD	41,654
VE6CMV	21,320

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, Low Power

VA7IR	19,300
VE2GT	2,650
VE4TV	810

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, High Power

VO1MP	279,864
VE1OP	228,664
VE2FK	204,340
VA3DX	183,480
VA7ST	176,400
VE7XF	159,120
VE3MM	53,600
VA2WA	44,312
VE7IO	11,648

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, Low Power

VA3MJR	39,744
VE3NZ	39,440
VO1HP	32,696
VE3JAQ	13,448
VO2AC	10,140
VE5MX	6,048
VE3UTT	5,888

Multioperator, High Power

VE3YAA	389,440
VE3AD	161,112
VE6AO	70,928

Multioperator, Low Power

VA7BEC	358,290
VE3LS	5,040

Mexico

Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power

XE1USG	64,260
XE1SVT	55,104
XE1ZTW	25,960
XE1SOV	2,750
XE1AHP	638

Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power

XE1B	374,714

Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power

XE1CWJ	67,098
XE2O	51,960
XE1CQ	37,312
XE1J	36,512
XE1H	21,696
XE1CTJ	15,480
XE2TZP	9,728
XE2OK	9,360
XE2PDZ	4,088
XE2TH	3,960

Single Operator, Phone Only, QRP

XE2NRG	4

Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power

XE1MM	212,496
XE2S	161,040
XE1AY	150,480
XE1CT	24,576
XE3WMA	13,056
XE3WAO	6,588
XE2MVY	6,300
XE1TD (XE1GXG, op)	3,952

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power

XE2B	828,704

Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power

XE2AU	108,108
XE2JS	82,492

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, High Power

XE1/N4DMH	212,160
XE1OGG	57,708

Single Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, Low Power

XE3N	77,964
XE1RF	47,850
XE3MAS	7,200
XE2MWY	616

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, High Power

XE2CQ	229,416

Single Operator Unlimited, CW Only, Low Power

XE2X	60,208
XE1EE	54,528
XE2FGC	34,128
XE2ST	27,520

Multioperator, Low Power

XE1SIX	37,050
XE2N	4,620

In the Local category, the Central Virginia Contest Club (CVCC) took top honors among 43 clubs. In doing so, they repeated their 1st place finishes from 2013 and 2014. They have now won this category in 4 out of the last 5 years. Their seven entrants combined for almost 2 million points. Though well down from their more than 5 million points in 2014, it was enough for a solid victory. CVCC triumphed again with their tried and true formula for success — high scoring members. A couple of clubs had more operators, but CVCC's roughly 270,000 points per member was best of all clubs and this carried them to the top.

In the Medium category, 36 clubs fought it out. In the end, the 41 members of the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) eked out a narrow victory over the 40 members of 2nd place Arizona Outlaws Contest Club (AOCC). NCCC's success came from participation. They had the most entrants of any Medium club. This allowed them to overcome the challenge of being on the West Coast, far away from multiplier-rich Europe. In fact, their average score per member was only tenth among all Medium clubs. An honorable mention needs to go out to the AOCC, who, for the third year in a row, finished in 2nd place. In 2015 they were "oh so close." Their total score was less than 1% behind NCCC's. Had they gotten one more member to submit a score, or made a few more QSOs here or grabbed a few more multipliers there, they easily could have closed that gap.

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited	Entries	Score
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	67	10,915,880
Potomac Valley Radio Club	89	9,669,722
Florida Contest Club	53	6,390,820
Minnesota Wireless Assn	101	4,223,122
Society of Midwest Contesters	65	2,636,336
Medium		
Northern California Contest Club	41	4,651,666
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	40	4,614,916
Frankford Radio Club	33	4,096,752
Contest Club Ontario	37	3,866,716
Southern California Contest Club	25	2,908,820
Mad River Radio Club	15	2,165,108
Western Washington DX Club	16	1,933,462
Carolina DX Association	15	1,932,836
Big Sky Contesters	10	1,538,336
Tennessee Contest Group	18	1,437,662
DFW Contest Group	24	1,407,320
South East Contest Club	13	1,229,426
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	12	1,203,428
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	14	1,182,478
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	11	1,158,662
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	15	1,141,684
Kentucky Contest Group	10	1,111,280
North Coast Contesters	6	847,064
Orca DX and Contest Club	8	839,822
Alabama Contest Group	17	776,818
Georgia Contest Group	4	660,720
Willamette Valley DX Club	12	564,424
Hampden County Radio Assn	13	543,526
Utah DX Association	5	432,978
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	4	416,364
Contest Group du Quebec	8	404,458
North Texas Contest Club	4	392,188
Texas DX Society	4	384,812
Louisiana Contest Club	5	353,920
Radiosport Manitoba	5	283,744
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	8	257,942
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	7	213,276
Saskatchewan Contest Club	3	204,156
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	3	77,826
Six Meter Club of Chicago	8	41,390
Swamp Fox Contest Group	5	40,368
Local		
Central Virginia Contest Club	7	1,882,522
Redwood Empire DX Assn	10	1,646,192
599 DX Association	5	1,206,300
CTRI Contest Group	6	942,242
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society	5	718,466
Maritime Contest Club	8	632,768
Albuquerque DX Assn	3	564,118
Bishop ARC	3	530,154
Spokane DX Association	6	479,528
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	5	408,768
Sussex County ARC	7	334,184
Lincoln ARC	4	224,960
Murgas ARC	3	210,540
Bristol (TN) ARC	4	209,300
Winona ARC	4	208,102
Kansas City Contest Club	7	201,552
Columbia-Montour ARC	4	197,992
North Carolina DX and Contest Club	3	182,188
Mall City Contest Group	5	175,056
Delara Contest Team	5	172,394
Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation	4	111,472
Midland ARC	3	106,744
NorDX Club	4	93,722
Meriden ARC	6	90,680
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	5	68,100
Metro DX Club	3	58,776
West Allis RAC	3	55,596
Ventura County Amateur Radio Society	3	53,274
Granite State ARA	3	47,500
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	3	45,992
West Park Radiops	4	41,904
Skyview Radio Society	5	38,594
North Fulton ARL	3	36,826
Pottstown Area ARC	6	35,786
Great South Bay ARC	5	30,264
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society	3	25,574
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club	4	24,176
Mt Vernon (OH) ARC Contesters	7	24,112
Sierra Nevada ARS	3	18,434
Athens County ARA	3	12,868
Clark County Amateur Radio Club	3	9,182
Sterling Park ARC	6	6,686
Snohomish County Hams Club	3	6,374

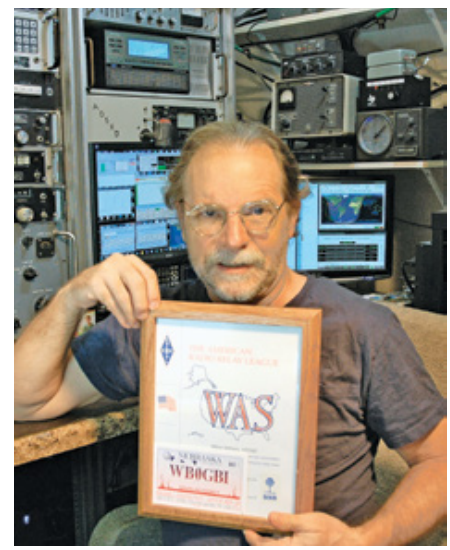
The ET3AA station in action, operated by (from left to right) Robel Hayelom, Biniam Kassahun, and Efrim Dessalew. [Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, photo]

In the Unlimited category, five clubs stepped up, organized themselves, and put together an entry. The big news in 2015 was that the 67 members of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) came out on top by a comfortable margin. This ended the 4-year winning streak of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), who fell to 2nd place. YCCC's usual strategy of high scoring members was finally enough to overcome the PVRC's advantage in members submitting logs. Congratulations to all the clubs and their organizers.

Predictions for 2016

The 44th annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest will be held on December 10 and 11, 2016. What might we expect this year? History has shown that 10 meters "turns on" with widespread long distance propagation when the solar flux rises above 100. And with next year's SFI forecast of around 90 it is a totally different ball game.

An ability to operate CW will become more important for Mixed Mode entries or those Single Operators interested in maximum QSO counts. CW is a much more effective emission mode in times of marginal propagation. Searching out other propagation modes than traditional F2-layer ionosphere refraction are going to be key. For instance, backscatter, meteor scatter, trans-equatorial, and sporadic E will become more important. As David, WKØP, put it, "One minute you hear stations halfway around the world and the next only those in your backyard."



A happy Milt, AD5XD, with his WAS certificate, earned during the contest! [Milt Withers, AD5XD, photo]

My recommendation is to commit yourself to actual seat time using that big knob on the front of the radio to tune the band yourself to see what you can hear. If you don't hear anything, then get up and walk away — but not for too long. Come back in 15 or 30 minutes and check again. By doing this, at some point you will catch a band opening and have some fun. Thus, the key to a successful operating strategy in 2016 will be as much to catch the opening as it will be to work it.