

# 2016 ARRL November Sweepstakes — CW

In one of the oldest contests, anyone can join in the fun.

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Read between the line scores of some of the operators who didn't finish in the Top 10, or who didn't even break 20 contacts, and you'll get a great deal of insight into what makes Sweepstakes — and CW Sweepstakes in particular — so popular, even among non-contesters. The ARRL CW Sweepstakes, held on November 5 – 7, 2016, gave plenty of operators the chance to join in the fun.

## On the Air

Ryan, AG4ZP, didn't make a lot of contacts, but he wasn't going to let his lack of an antenna stop him from operating. He said, "I tuned up some abandoned RG-6 coax running up the side of my building. Thanks to all the patient ears out there." He wasn't a powerhouse, running only 5 W, but managed to eke out a dozen contacts and work 10 sections.

Jim, AB5FS, got on for "the first time I operated this century, I think." Despite his rusty code, he managed 90 contacts and 51 sections using a hand key. He said, "I've been off the air too much, but after 2 hours, sending was okay, I think."

## Full Results Online

The full results include all of the scoring tables, division winners, regional leaders, and more photos and graphics. You can find them online at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles), along with the line scores, records, and links to the full database of scores.

Bill, K8TE, said, "I got to play for about 8½ hours and had a lot of fun. Running low power, non-assisted, made finding elusive sections challenging. It's always fun to work old friends and sit in amazement over big QSO numbers."

Rick, K9GDF, made an impressive 313 contacts and found 77 sections, running low power. This doesn't seem too out of the ordinary, until you hear that his antenna "is the rain gutter and downspouts."

John, N6HI, didn't win the QSOs-per-watt title, but he might be the contest's most determined operator. He managed his 62 contacts and 29 sections on ½ W

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— 10 times less than the maximum allowed for QRP — to a 20-foot wire thrown into a tree from his window.

As a domestic contest, anyone can join — even those

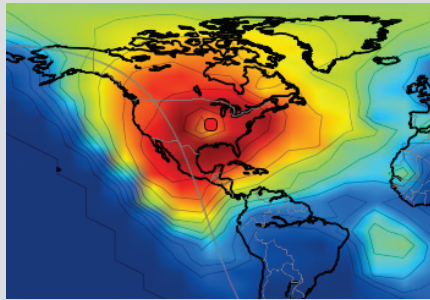
loading up abandoned coax (see the sidebar, "A Low Dipole — The Sweepstakes Secret Weapon"). With a challenging exchange, it attracts those who love CW, and those who might be bored with contests having simpler, sometimes automatic, exchanges. With its one-QSO-per-station rule, those who can't operate on Saturday know they gain by being fresh meat during the "Sunday doldrums," as the regulars call them.



John, W2GD, piloted KP2M to the Single Operator, QRP win from this mountaintop location in the US Virgin Islands. [John Crovelli, W2GD, photo]

## A Low Dipole — The Sweepstakes Secret Weapon

One of the secrets to Sweepstakes fun is that simple antennas are quite effective. You don't need an enormous antenna farm to have fun in domestic contests — a low dipole works just fine! This coverage area map from VOACAP ([www.voacap.com/area/index.html](http://www.voacap.com/area/index.html)) shows why. This is the received signal strength of a 100 W, 40-meter signal from a 33-foot-high dipole in November at 0000 UTC with a smooth international sunspot number of zero — not bad! With one low piece of wire, a low-power station in the midwest can have a solid 40-meter signal across the country, and similar results can be obtained at different times from the east and west coasts, too. Similar coverage is available from 20- and 80-meter dipoles at the appropriate hour. Hams from the coasts and northern locations might look into simple two-element wire Yagis for even better results.



### Top Scores

Among those who went all-out, the biggest surprise might be thanks to Steve, N2IC. The surprise isn't that he's in his usual spot in the winners' circle, but from where. Sam, N5FO, joined Steve at his mountaintop station in New Mexico to not only win Multioperator, Low Power, but to set the record as

well. "It was a combination of doing something different and low-hanging fruit for a record," Steve said. "Neither Sam nor I could get enthused for Single Operator this year."

Steve and Sam's operation racked up 1,301 contacts and 82 sections for 213,364 points — an impressive score even in the High Power categories.

They've made it a tough record to beat.

In the Multioperator, High Power category, Kevin, N5DX; Chuck, KØRF, and George, WØUA, took over K5GO in Arkansas from Kevin's father, Stan, and ran it to victory with 231,902 points — 1,397 contacts, and 83 sections — just ahead of W6YI (plus K6AM, N5ZO, N6AN, N6MJ, and N6KI), who scored 226,258 points, with 1,363 contacts in 83 sections.

John, W2GD, headed to Saint Croix in the US Virgin Islands again and took KP2M to the top of the Single Operator, QRP category. His 971 contacts and 83 sections were head and shoulders above the pack. Dan, VE6EX, took 2nd place with 688 contacts and 82 sections. The decline in sunspot numbers was evident here, perhaps more than elsewhere.

"It is a simple fact that propagation becomes more and more difficult as a solar cycle wanes," John said. He chose QRP with the hope of breaking the record set in 2002 by Tree, N6TR, operating at Louisiana powerhouse W5WMU. It would have been a second consecutive record-setting year (he set the Single Operator, Low Power record from KP2M in 2015). It wasn't meant to be. He said, "Unlike 2015, when 10 meters was open nationwide the first few hours, in 2016, 10 meters was stone dead."

That made 15 meters the place to be at the start, but even that started to falter. John continued, "After just an hour, the signs of the MUF [maximum usable frequency] dropping became very evident. Even 20 meters closed quickly, just after local sunset."

That spelled a slower year for 2016, and teaches a lesson for the next few years to come, he said. "In the QRP game, everything slows down when you hit 40 and 80 meters. I suppose we should all be getting prepared for the 'new normal,' which will put more emphasis on low-band operation as the cycle continues to head toward its bottom sometime in the next few years."

### Top Ten

Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator, QRP KP2M (W2GD, op)	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power
N9RV 229,910	161,186	N4ZZ 181,936	N2IC 213,364
W7RN (N6TV, op) 225,096	VE6EX 112,832	AJ9C 155,376	K5CM 171,558
NR5M (K5GA, op) 219,950	NØAX 98,438	WP3Q (KB7Q, op) 144,088	W2FU 169,652
K5TR (K5OT, op) 216,132	N7IR 97,848	WØZA 139,644	NX6T 148,072
N7NG (N6TR, op) 214,638	K4QPL 88,800	KØVBU 134,152	NM5M 128,982
WØSD (WØDB, op) 212,978	WF7T 86,560	N3HEE 127,428	VE4EA 118,572
N4OGW (KL9A, op) 208,164	NØUR 84,992	K3AU (K2YWE, op) 122,508 (tie)	W8TK 118,260
K7JR (KL9A, op) 208,164	W1QK 82,080	K8BKM 122,508 (tie)	VY2TTT 116,316
K5ZD 206,670	N9SE 80,352	VE5MX 119,520	WU4NC 107,092
N8OO 202,852	W6JTI 80,032	VA3DF 119,188	N4FR 96,714
Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	School Club
K7BG 173,470	KØEU 219,452	K5GO 231,902	KØHC 170,980
K7GK (@W6JZH) 171,644 (tie)	NØXR (@NØNI) 204,346	W6YI 226,258	W3YI 43,776
NAØN (@WØZT) 171,644 (tie)	K6LL 200,528	ABØS 195,880	W4UAL 34,768
W6YX (N7MH, op) 168,656	N4BP 189,406 (tie)	KY7M 192,892	W8SH 19,760
W4AAA (KK9A, op) 168,324	K9CT 189,406 (tie)	W4RM 184,758	W1AF 15,872
WJ9B 167,328	N4QS 179,612	N6ZFØ 155,376	K9IU 15,400
NP3A 160,024	VE7CC 179,446	K7RI 136,452	W8EDU 798
KØAV (@WØDLE) 159,692	KH6NF 172,200	AD4ES 123,164	
W1NN 155,874	WR3Z 171,312	N6WM 110,208	
N7XU 154,380		W4YY 107,912	

## Regional Leaders

Boxes list call sign, score, and class: MSHP = Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power; MSLP = Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power; S = School Club; SOHP = Single Operator, High Power; SOLP = Single Operator, Low Power; SOGRP = Single Operator, QRP; SOUHP = Single Operator Unlimited, High Power, and SOULP = Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power.

West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern, and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia, and NT Sections)	Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)	Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario East, Ontario North, Ontario South, and Greater Toronto Area Sections)	Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke, and Southeastern Divisions)	Northeast Region (New England, Hudson, and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)
N9RV 229,910 SOHP	NR5M (K5GA, op) 219,950 SOHP	K1LT 174,798 (tie) SOHP	N4OGW 209,326 SOHP	K5ZD 206,670 SOHP
W7RN (N6TV, op) 225,096 SOHP	K5TR (K5OT, op) 216,132 SOHP	W9RE 174,798 (tie) SOHP	N8OO 202,852 SOHP	N2NT (N2NC, op) 202,520 SOHP
K7JR (KL9A, op) 208,164 SOHP	N7NG (N6TR, op) 214,638 SOHP	W5MX 153,716 SOHP	N4AF 196,876 SOHP	AA3B 186,584 SOHP
K6LA 199,366 SOHP	W0SD (W0DB, op) 212,978 SOHP	N9NE 136,776 SOHP	NX4N 190,070 SOHP	KD4D 174,964 SOHP
WC6H 183,928 SOHP	N5RZ 202,686 SOHP	VE3ZI 122,010 SOHP	K4BAI 172,142 SOHP	K1RM 172,142 SOHP
K7BG 173,470 SOHP	NA0N (@W0ZT) 171,644 SOHP	W1NN 155,874 SOHP	W4AAA (KK9A, op) 168,324 SOHP	W2LK 148,748 SOHP
K7GK (@W6JZH) 171,644 SOHP	K0AV (@W0DLE) 159,692 SOHP	W8WTS 136,080 SOHP	NP3A 160,024 SOHP	K3UA 144,918 SOHP
W6YX (N7MH, op) 168,656 SOHP	K0AD 150,728 SOHP	W8CAR 135,456 SOHP	N4KM 150,562 SOHP	K1TR 124,092 SOHP
WJ9B 167,328 SOHP	W8FN 140,548 SOHP	VE3KI 128,816 SOHP	N9NB 148,570 SOHP	W1AO 118,584 SOHP
N7XU 154,380 SOHP	N0AX 98,438 SOHP	K9UIY 117,260 SOHP	N4PN 143,258 SOHP	K2TW 112,320 SOHP
VE6EX 112,832 SOGRP	N0UR 84,992 SOGRP	N9SE 80,352 SOGRP	NP3A 160,024 SOHP	W1QK 82,080 SOGRP
N7IR 97,848 SOGRP	K5NZ 66,456 SOGRP	VA3SB 79,868 SOGRP	N4KM 150,562 SOHP	SOGRP 88,800 SOGRP
W6JT1 80,032 SOGRP	N1CC 64,124 SOGRP	KT8K 63,180 SOGRP	N9NB 148,570 SOHP	WF7T 86,560 SOGRP
W7YAQ 77,900 SOGRP	WD0T 58,984 SOGRP	K9SE 45,276 SOGRP	N4PN 143,258 SOHP	K7BV 59,752 SOGRP
W7QDM 51,528 SOGRP	K0EU 219,452 SOHP	K9FO 23,814 SOGRP	N4CF 57,000 SOGRP	WS2E 58,144 SOGRP
K6LL 200,528 SOUHP	N0XR (@N0NI) 204,346 SOUHP	K9CT 189,406 SOUHP	N4BP 189,406 SOUHP	WR3Z 171,312 SOUHP
KO7SS 181,438 SOUHP	N0AT (N0KK, op) 161,212 SOUHP	N4QS 179,612 SOUHP	K5KG 165,170 SOUHP	AB3CX 164,174 SOUHP
VE7CC 179,446 SOUHP	K1KD 152,520 SOUHP	N9CO 152,720 SOUHP	K0LUZ 151,372 SOUHP	W1SJ 159,858 SOUHP
KH6NF 172,200 SOUHP	VE4GV 138,610 SOUHP	VE3CX 147,600 SOUHP	N1LN 142,760 SOUHP	WB4FDT 144,088 SOUHP
K6SRZ 167,494 SOUHP	W0ZA 139,644 SOUHP	VE3RZ 144,918 SOUHP	W4MYA (W4ML, op) 142,096 SOUHP	K3RA 143,590 SOUHP
K7QA 100,278 SOULP	K0VBU 134,152 SOUHP	AJ9C 155,376 SOULP	N4ZZ 181,936 SOULP	N3HEE 127,428 SOULP
K6PO 77,112 SOULP	VE5MX 119,520 SOULP	K8BKM 122,508 SOULP	WP3Q (KB7Q, op) 144,088 SOULP	K3AU (K2YWE, op) 122,508 SOULP
WA6KHK 61,500 SOULP	WA7LW 117,450 SOULP	VA3DF 119,188 SOULP	KY4F 115,204 SOULP	KM1X 116,532 SOULP
K6JS 57,348 SOULP	NW0M 115,702 SOULP	KC9EE 110,556 SOULP	N4UW 102,060 SOULP	N2KW 101,188 SOULP
WQ6X 42,750 SOULP	AB0S 195,880 MSHP	K9WX 109,060 SOULP	W4MPS 96,280 SOULP	K2ZR 85,490 SOULP
W6Y1 226,258 MSHP	N2IC 213,364 MSHP	W9YK 60,258 MSHP	K5GO 231,902 MSHP	N1QD 105,742 MSHP
KY7M 192,892 MSHP	K5CM 171,558 MSHP	KK9V 74,700 MSLP	W4RM 184,758 MSHP	W3LL 103,812 MSHP
N6ZFO 155,376 MSHP	NM5M 128,982 MSHP	KA9VVQ 51,680 MSLP	AD4ES 123,164 MSHP	K2NNY 99,932 MSHP
K7RI 136,452 MSHP	VE4EA 118,572 MSHP	N9MT 12,862 MSLP	W4YY 107,912 MSHP	K3CCR 74,418 MSHP
N6WM 110,208 MSHP	W0EA 75,696 MSHP	W8SH 19,760 S	W4TA 34,830 MSHP	K0OO 32,704 MSHP
NX6T 148,072 MSLP	K0HC 170,980 S	K9IU 15,400 S	WU4NC 107,092 MSLP	W2FU 169,652 MSLP
W8TK 118,260 MSLP		W8EDU 798 S	N4FR 96,714 MSLP	VY2TTT 116,316 MSLP
KL4SD 67,308 MSLP			W4TG 55,380 MSLP	KE3X 73,372 MSLP
K7MK 720 MSLP			WR4I 21,996 MSLP	KE2D 52,124 MSLP
			W4UAL 34,768 S	W1FM 31,442 MSLP
				W3YI 43,776 S
				W1AF 15,872 S

The Single Operator, High Power winner was Pat, N9RV, with 1,385 contacts, 83 sections, and 229,910 points. This is impressive, but it, too, shows the effects of waning sunspots. In 2009, record-holder N2IC scored 255,520 points, or nearly 300 contacts more than Pat's 2016 effort.

An inordinate number of tied scores remain, even after exhaustive efforts in log-checking to double-check all ties. The Single Operator, Low Power category was won by Matt, K7BG, with 173,470 points. Denis, K7GK, and Pat, NA0N, tied for 2nd place at 171,644 points each.

In the Single Operator Unlimited, High Power category, Randy, K0EU, won



Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power winner Don, N4ZZ, has operated in nearly every Sweepstakes since 1959, putting the Tennessee section in a lot of logs with his big signal from the Nashville area. [Don Binkley, N4ZZ, photo]

with 219,452 points, followed by Dean, N0XR, and Dave, K6LL. But 4th place was split between Bob, N4BP, and Craig, K9CT, both at 189,406 points.

Finally, the Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power category was won by Don, N4ZZ, with 181,936 points. There was yet another tie, for 7th place, between Dan, K2YWE (@K3AU), and Tom, K8BKM, both at 122,508 points.

The School Club category was again won by Bob, W0BH, operating at K0HC in Kansas, with 170,980 points, 1,030 contacts, and 83 sections. Next in line was W3YI, with 43,776 points, 288 contacts, and 76 sections.

### Records and Looking Forward

The new Multioperator, Low Power

## Sponsored Plaque Winners — CW

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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@arri.org](mailto:w9jj@arri.org). Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping charges.

Winner	Division	Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner	Division	Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor
N9RV	Overall	Single Operator, High Power	Trey Garlough, N5KO	K5ZD	New England	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
K7BG	Overall	Single Operator, Low Power	Radiosport Manitoba — VE4VV Memorial	K1TR	New England	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
KP2M (W2GD, op)	Overall	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	W1QK	New England	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
K0EU	Overall	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	W1SJ	New England	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
N4ZZ	Overall	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	KM1X	New England	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
K5GO	Overall	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	N1QD	New England	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
N2IC	Overall	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America	W1FM	New England	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
K0HC (W0BH, op)	Overall	School Club	Icom America	W1AF	New England	School Club	Icom America
AA3B	Atlantic	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	N9RV	Northwestern	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
K3UA	Atlantic	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	K7BG	Northwestern	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
WR3R	Atlantic	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	W7YAQ	Northwestern	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
WR3Z	Atlantic	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	W7KF	Northwestern	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
N3HEE	Atlantic	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	K7QA	Northwestern	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
W3LL	Atlantic	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	K7RI	Northwestern	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
W2FU	Atlantic	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America	KL4SD	Northwestern	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
W3YI	Atlantic	School Club	Icom America	W7RN (N6TV, op)	Pacific	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
W9RE	Central	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	K7GK (@W6JZH)	Pacific	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
K9UIY	Central	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	W6JTI	Pacific	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
N9SE	Central	Single Operator, QRP	Sean Kutzko, KX9X	KH6NF	Pacific	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
K9CT	Central	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	K6JS	Pacific	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
AJ9C	Central	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	N6ZFO	Pacific	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
W9YK	Central	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	W0CN	Roanoke	Single Operator, High Power	Potomac Valley Radio Club
KK9V	Central	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	Roanoke	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
K9IU (K7JOE, op)	Central	School Club	Icom America	K4QPL	Roanoke	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
W0SD (W0DB, op)	Dakota	Single Operator, High Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	N1LN	Roanoke	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
NA0N (@W0ZT)	Dakota	Single Operator, Low Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	W4MPS	Roanoke	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
N0UK	Dakota	Single Operator, QRP	Tod Olson, K0TO (SK)	W4FM	Roanoke	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
N0AT (N0KK, op)	Dakota	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	WU4NC	Roanoke	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
K0MPH	Dakota	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	N7NG (N6TR, op)	Rocky Mountain	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
N4OGW	Delta	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	K0AV (@W0DLE)	Rocky Mountain	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
N5EE	Delta	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	KR0U	Rocky Mountain	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
WF7T	Delta	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	K0EU	Rocky Mountain	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
W4NZ	Delta	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	W0ZA	Rocky Mountain	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
N4ZZ	Delta	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	N2IC	Rocky Mountain	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
K5GO	Delta	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	NX4N	Southeastern	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
N4FR	Delta	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America	NP3A	Southeastern	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
K1LT	Great Lakes	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	KP2M (W2GD, op)	Southeastern	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
W1NN	Great Lakes	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	N4BP	Southeastern	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
KT8K	Great Lakes	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	WP3Q (KB7Q, opp)	Southeastern	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
N4QS	Great Lakes	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	AD4ES	Southeastern	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
K8BKM	Great Lakes	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	W4UAL	Southeastern	School Club	Icom America
W8SH	Great Lakes	School Club	Icom America	K6LA	Southwestern	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
N2NT (N2NC, op)	Hudson	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	W9CF (@K8IA/N7RQ)	Southwestern	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
W2LK	Hudson	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	N7IR	Southwestern	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
WS2E	Hudson	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	K6LL	Southwestern	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
W2VQ	Hudson	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	K6PO	Southwestern	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
K2DFC	Hudson	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	W6YI	Southwestern	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America
AB2DE	Hudson	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	NX6T	Southwestern	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
NS0R	Midwest	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America	NR5M (K5GA, op)	West Gulf	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
N7WY	Midwest	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America	W8FN	West Gulf	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
N0AX	Midwest	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America	K5NZ	West Gulf	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
N0XR (@N0NI)	Midwest	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America	W5NE	West Gulf	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
K0VBU	Midwest	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America	N5ZC	West Gulf	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
AB0S	Midwest	Multioperator, High Power	Icom America	K5CM	West Gulf	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America
KB5ENP	Midwest	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America	VE7AAA (KL7SB, op)	Canada	Single Operator, High Power	Icom America
K0HC (W0BH, op)	Midwest	School Club	Icom America	VE3KI	Canada	Single Operator, Low Power	Icom America
				VE6EX	Canada	Single Operator, QRP	Icom America
				VE7CC	Canada	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Icom America
				VE5MX	Canada	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Icom America
				VE4EA	Canada	Multioperator, Low Power	Icom America

record was the only overall record set in 2016, but seven division and 28 section records were broken. According to records-keeper Larry, K5OT, of those 28 broken section records, 17 were prior records broken by a different oper-

ator, nine were broken by the same operator, and two were brand new.

While the MUF may stay low for a while, take heart in news of the sighting of Solar Cycle 25's first sunspot late last year. During next year's Sweepstakes,

November 4 – 6, 2017, the low bands will still be the place to be, but with a few solar freckles, maybe the high bands could open up for some Sweepstakes fun. See you on the first weekend in November!