

2024 Fall Sprints Review and 2025 Sprints Planning

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On Your MARKS

GET READY for VHF Fall Sprints 2024

Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Club

50MHz	Sat August 10th	1800UTC-2400UTC
144 MHz	Monday Sept 9th	7PM - 11PM
222 MHz	Tuesday Sept 17	7PM - 11PM
432 MHz	Weds Sep 25th	7PM - 11PM
902 MHz and Up	Sat Oct 5th	8AM - 2PM

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Fall Sprints Review and Data Comparisons

- 2024 was the maiden run for the Fall Sprints under the management of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club
 - Committee members WA3NUF, W9KXI, WA3EHD, WS3O
- Two major rule changes were made
 - 6M Sprint activity time changed to 1800 – 2200 UTC
 - Low power awards category added
- Close cooperation with the Spring Sprints Committee
- Fall Sprints promotion was a major success thanks to the contributions of Scott Dantis AA2SD
- The following review highlights the successes and lessons learned from this first run of the Fall Sprints

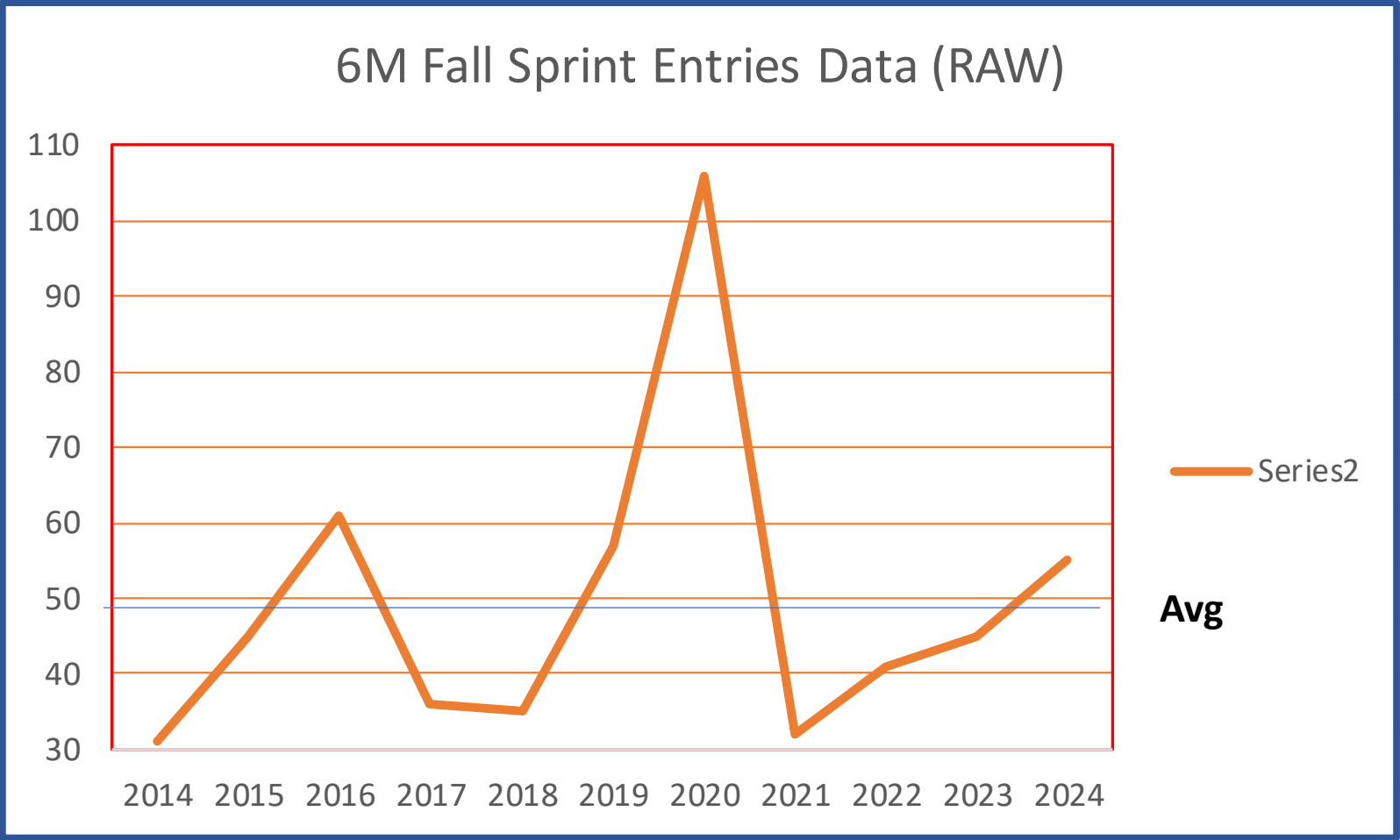
Lessons Learned

- Our most significant problem was date planning
 - Conflict with 6M sprint and the International EME Conference held in Ewing, NJ which drew over 200 attendees including many VHF operators from across the U.S.
 - The selected date of the Microwave Fall Sprint conflicted with the Microwave Update Conference (MUD) held in Vancouver, Canada this year.
 - Many 902 and up operators that would normally participate in the sprint were attending the conference instead
 - 222 sprint was scheduled two days after the Sept VHF Contest
 - **2025 schedule selected to avoid all significant VHF to mW events**

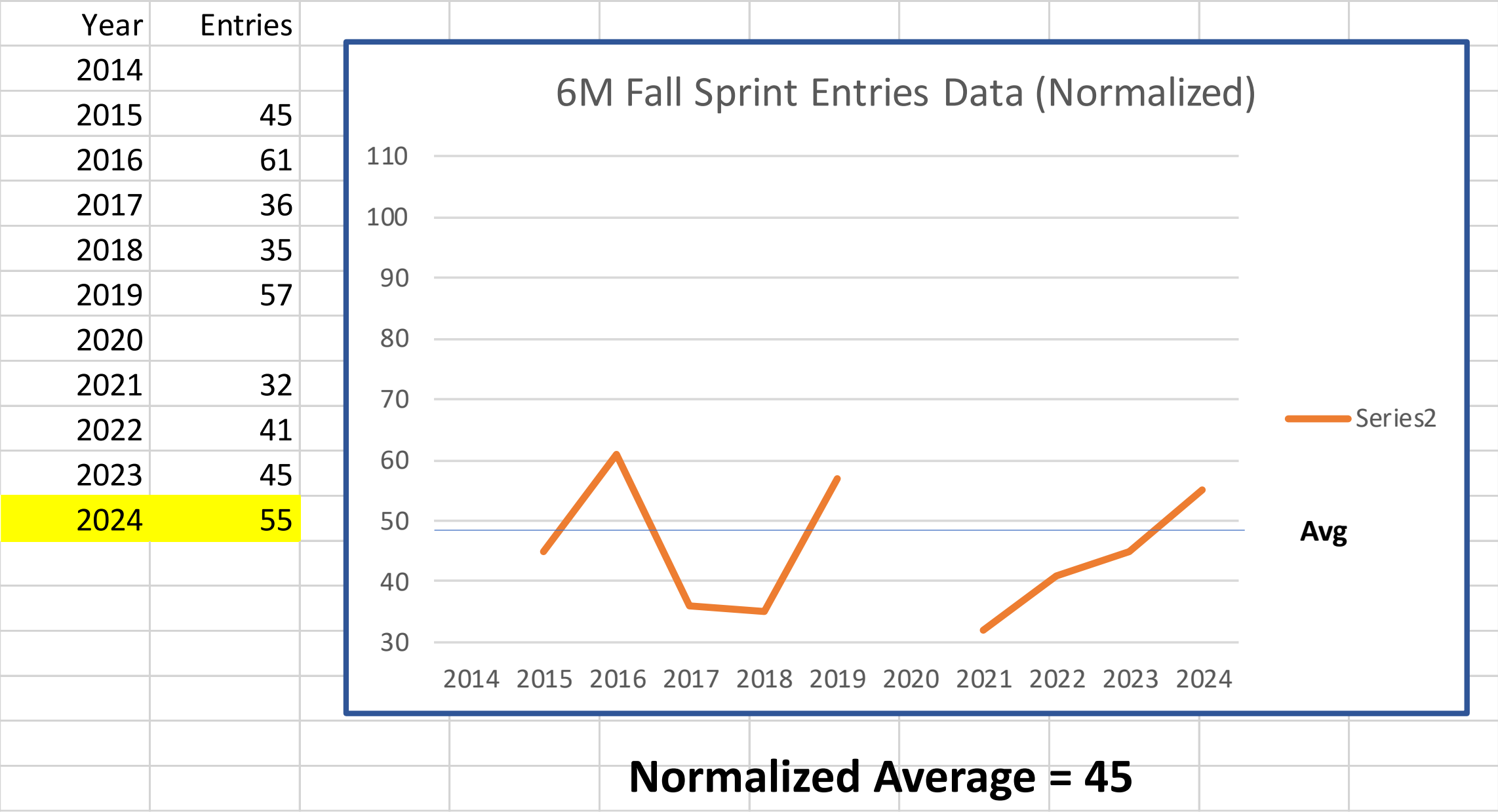
6M Sprint Observations and Statistics

- New change to Saturday afternoon (1800 to 2200 UTC) 8/10/24
- No observable propagation enhancement reported even though solar SFI index at levels of 300 during the month of August
- Comments were majority favorable to new contest time. Rovers especially appreciated the daylight hours.
- Operators complained about the lack of analog and MSK 144 activity. Most operators once again stuck with FT8 only operation
- Even with the EME conference conflict, the results were above average participation: 55 vs 45 avg.

Year	Entries
2014	31
2015	45
2016	61
2017	36
2018	35
2019	57
2020	106
2021	32
2022	41
2023	45
2024	55



Average = 49

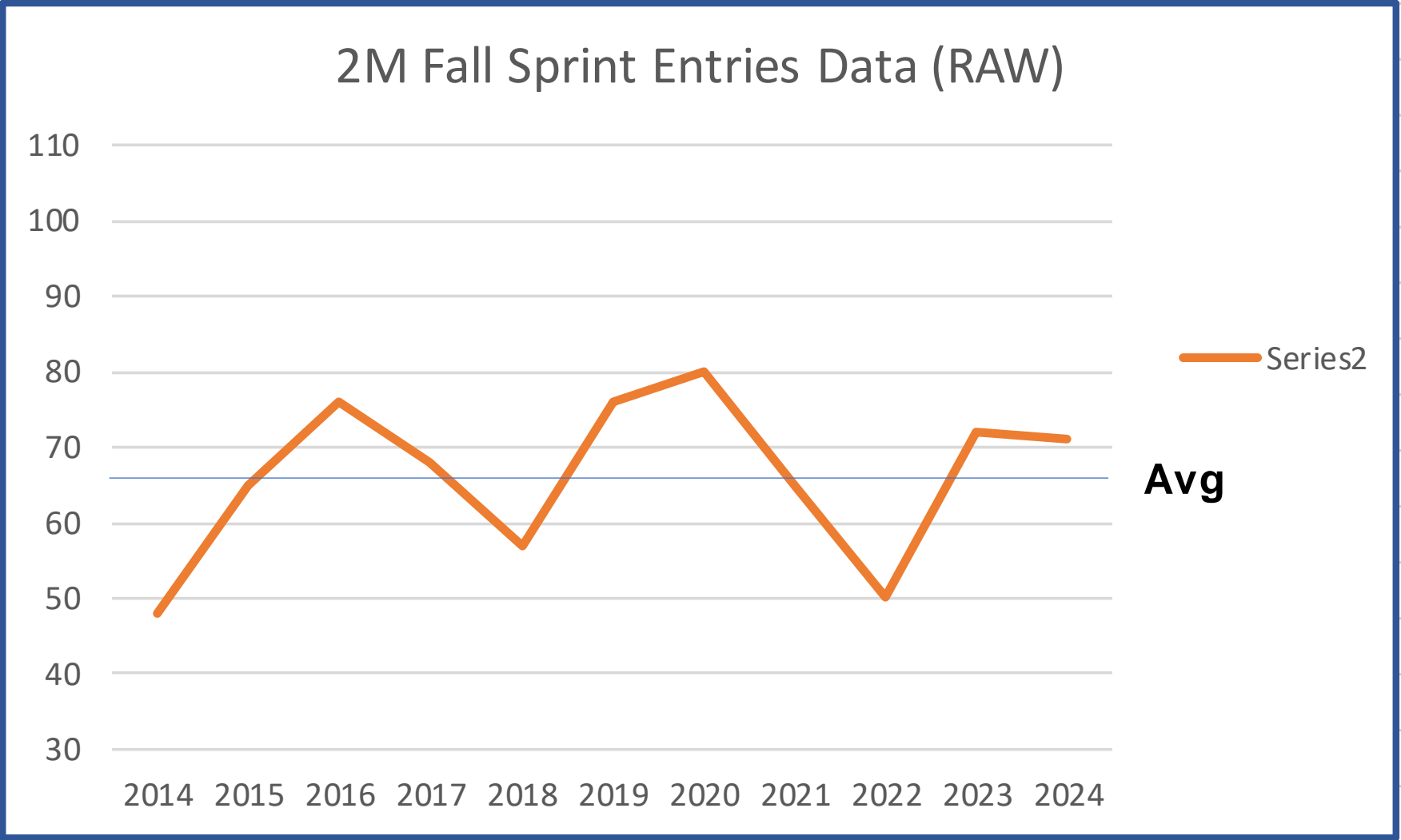


2M Sprint Observations and Statistics

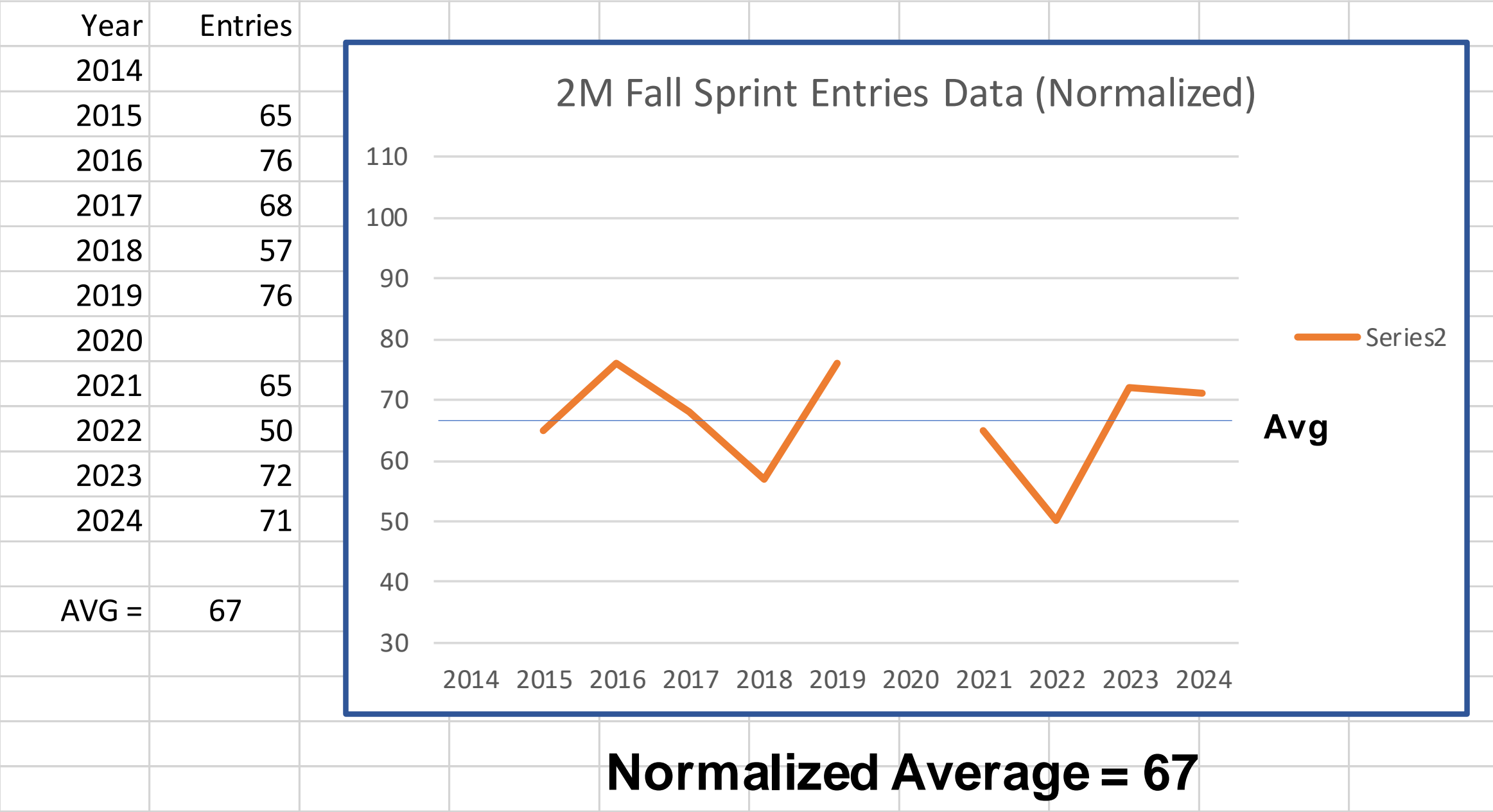
- The 2M sprint remains the most popular in the sprint series
- High number of SSB / CW contacts with FT8 used to work more distant stations
- While not matching the participation seen during the early pandemic, the 2024 results were on pace with the highest activity years outside of the pandemic

Year	Entries
2014	48
2015	65
2016	76
2017	68
2018	57
2019	76
2020	80
2021	65
2022	50
2023	72
2024	71

AVG = 66

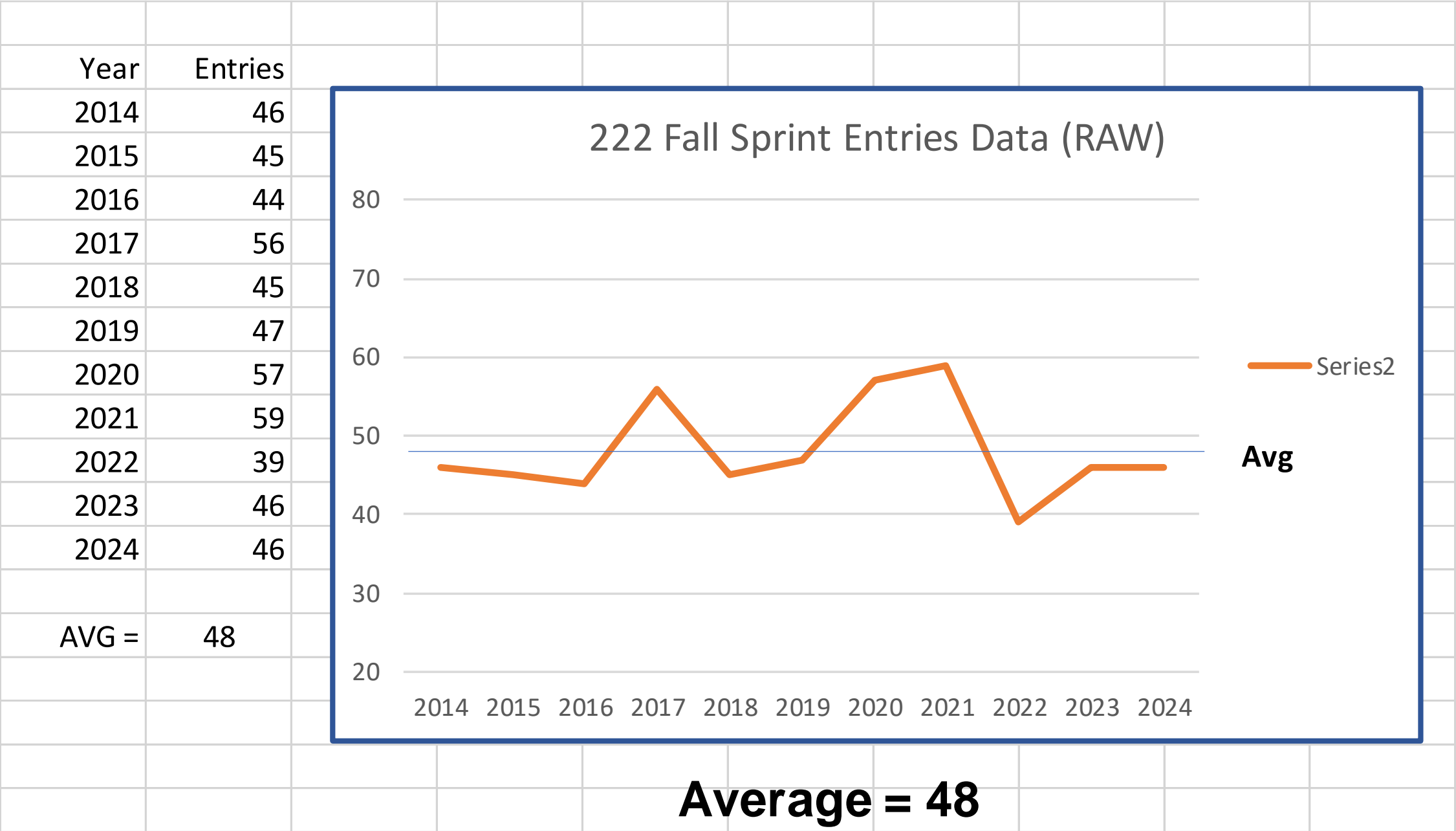


Average = 66



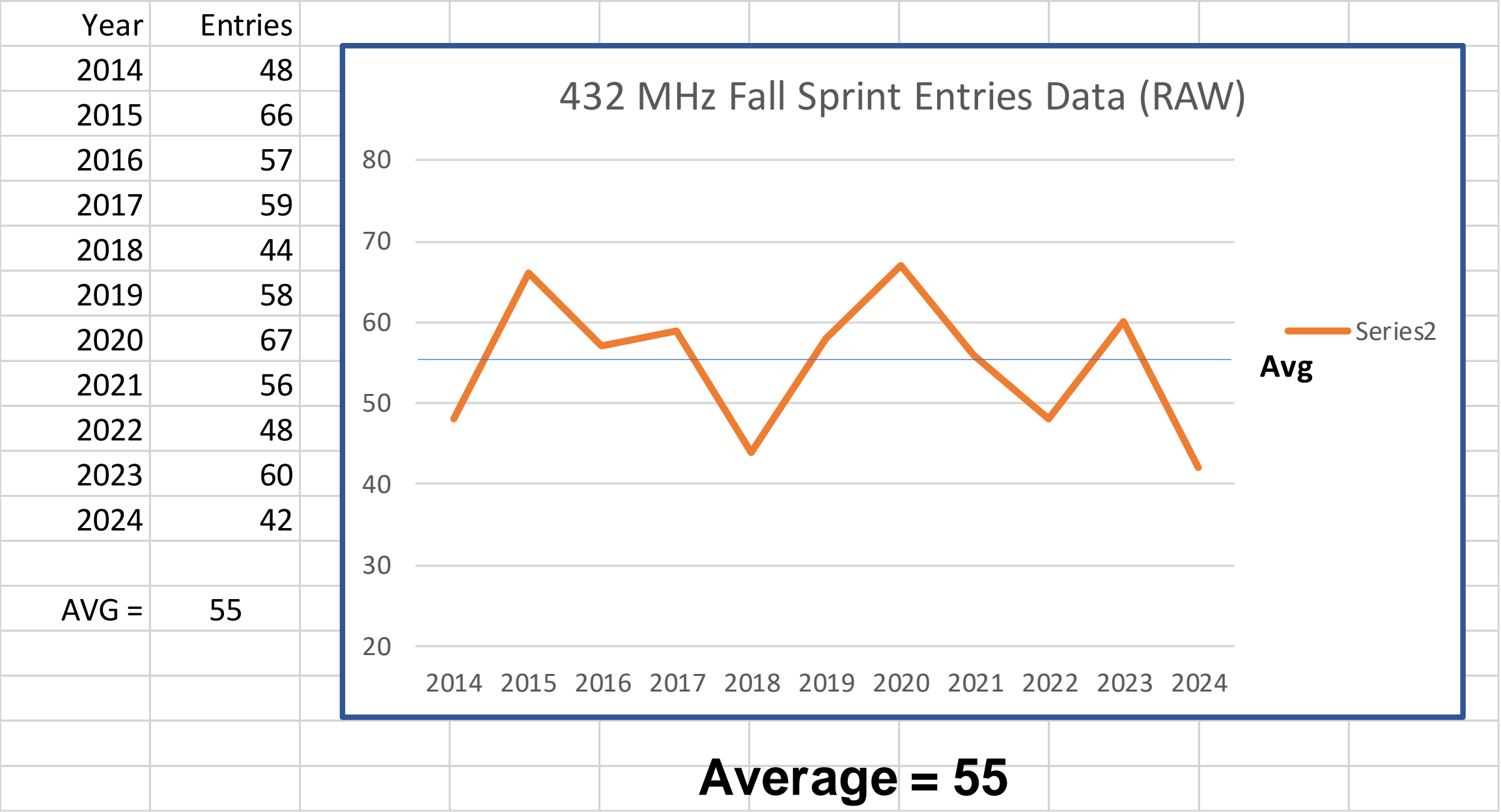
222 Sprint Observations and Statistics

- Maintaining an average level of participation in the 2024 event was most likely due to the 222 Activity Night enthusiasm that has grown in the past year
- Higher level of SSB / CW stations on the band kept it interesting
- Activity was decent for the first 2 hours or so then tailed off



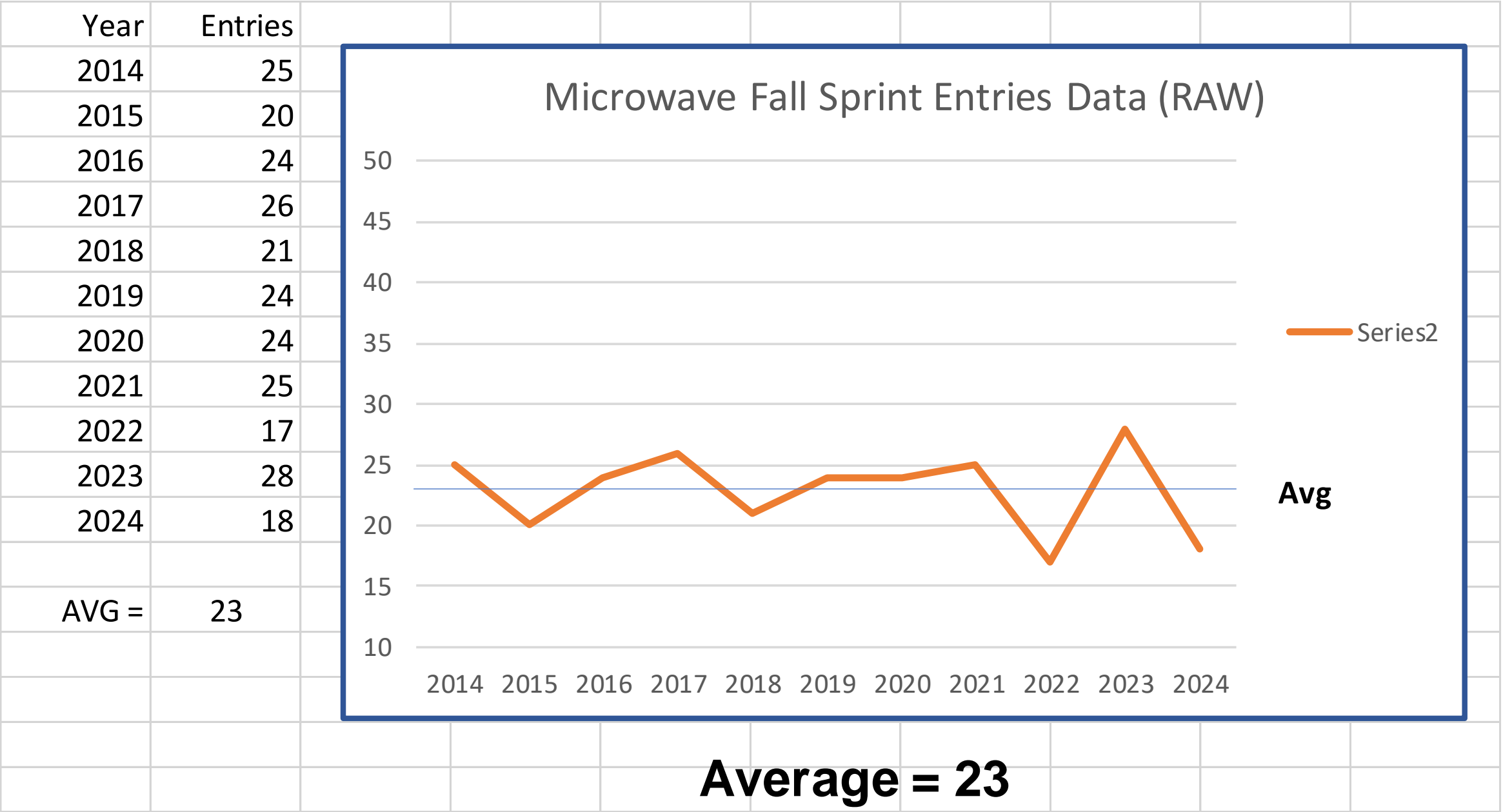
432 Sprint Observations and Statistics

- Lowest participation in 10 years
 - Weather issues in the south
- Activity shifted to FT8 after the first 90 minutes
- Lower level of SSB / CW stations on the band



uW Sprint Observations and Statistics

- The uW sprint has not attracted a large following since the late 90's
 - Our sub par participation numbers, are still within the median range even with the poor date selection situation
- Finding new participation incentives should be the #1 goal for this sprint going forward



2024 Fall Sprint Winning Scores

6M Fall Sprint

SOHP

- W4MW 1,768 pts
- N2NT(N2NC) 1,679

SOLP

- WA2VNV 748 pts
- KO9A 560

ROVER

- NV4B/R 825 pts

2M Fall Sprint

SOHP

- K1TEO 2,340 pts
- K1RZ 1,760

SOLP

- N3RG 1,296 pts
- WA2VNV 746

ROVER

- NV4B/R 1,218 pts

222 MHz Fall Sprint

SOHP*

- K1RZ 1,508 pts
- K1TEO 1,456

SOLP

- WA3NUF 738 pts
- WA2VNV 510

ROVER

- NV4B/R 924 pts

432 MHz Fall Sprint

SOHP

- K1TEO 1,200 pts
- K1RZ 888

SOLP

- VE3DS 345 pts
- W3LL 299

ROVER

- NV4B/R 272 pts

902 + Fall Sprint

SOHP

- K1RZ 7,505 Total
- K1TEO 7,229

SOLP

- N3RG 4,354 Total
- WZ1V 2,230

ROVER

- NV4B/R 1,801 Total

Plans for 2025 Fall Sprints

- Fall Sprint dates are more spread out in order to avoid conflicts
- Maintain Saturday afternoon schedule time for 6M Fall Sprint
- Adopt Spring Sprints dual point scoring for analog and digital contacts
- **Planning to extend dual scoring of analog and digital contacts for the Microwave 902 and above sprint**
- **Comments are welcome on the above changes or any new suggested improvements to the Fall Sprints**

Get Ready

Announcing the VHF Fall Sprints 2025

Sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Club

50MHz	August 9th	1800UTC-2200 UTC
144 MHz	September 22nd	7PM - 11PM
222 MHz	September 30th	7PM - 11PM
432 MHz	October 8th	7PM - 11PM
902 MHz	October 25th	8AM - 2PM
and up		

Short Seat Time - Promote Weak Signal - Check Your Equipment



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