



2013 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

Record participation highlights the “RR’s” silver anniversary.

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This year we celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the ARRL RTTY Roundup — 25 years of fun and competition. In the eyes of many operators, the ARRL RTTY Roundup starts the radiosporting year. You know that activity will be wall-to-wall but you never know just what conditions might be and occasionally there is an odd twist of fate.

Everyone who enters the RTTY Roundup is a winner, because this event has something for everyone. Picture this: working new DX, getting another state for the Worked All States (WAS) award, trying out your new demodulator (hardware or software), a new antenna or a new computer. And don’t forget helping out your club or just your team. But most of all there is a fast rate and loads of fun.

Propagation

Solar conditions improved over last year. With the flux in the 140s and nice A and K indices, things couldn’t have been much better. Ten meters was open again this year but the big surprise was that 80 meters showed the better activity increase. With a record number of 1,922 logs submitted and a record number of QSOs, it was interesting to see who was operating where in the bands. Ten meter QSOs were actually down by 25,000 contacts while 40 and 80 saw big increases. The big deal this year on the low bands was the low noise level. Eighty meters was as full as I have seen it in a RTTY contest. Look for analysis throughout the online write-up of how different operators used differing strategies during the contest to take advantage of the propagation.

Unlike other recent RTTY contests with quiet bands during the entire contest, it was fairly

Lead image: This spectrum from 14.077 to 14.123 MHz shows why it was hard to get a character in edgewise. The band was captured and analyzed by Andy Flowers, K0SM/2, using a SoftRock Ensemble II and SDR# software on a low dipole in upstate New York.

difficult for operators to make poor choices in this event. The money band made 20 meters the band of choice. Fairly equal numbers of contacts were logged on 40 and 15 meters. No doubt the single operator, two radio (SO2R) guys placed a radio or a VFO on the band above or below 20 depending on their location. The single operator, multiple radio — up to 6 VFOs (three radios with dual receivers) — probably had something everywhere.

Affiliated Club Competition

Since the Club Competition was added years ago it has added significantly to the RTTY Roundup. The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) once again had over 70 participants and led the Unlimited category. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) had 51 participants this year but trailed in scores submitted by their members, leading to a 2nd place finish in the Unlimited category.

The Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) was 1st in the Medium Club ranks with 43 operators turning in 1.6 million points. Very close behind was the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC), less than 100,000 points off the winning pace. The Arizona Outlaws Contest Club was in the 3rd place spot this year.

Top Ten Scores

Single Operator		Multioperator	
W/V/E	Low Power	W/V/E	Low Power
AA5AU	251,244	K9OM	144,738
N2QT	209,592	WB5TUF	124,928
VA2UP	201,125	K2EN	110,823
N0AT	199,200	AA4NC	101,916
KC4HW	163,683	W4GAC	96,193
K0AD	162,108	W9ILY	95,485
W7YAQ	138,195	W1SLF	92,070
W7ZR	138,137	KA3QLF	87,516
NT0F	137,007	W0RAA	81,696
KE5OG	136,141	K0OZ	74,235
W/V/E	High Power	W/V/E	High Power
K4GMH	310,050	N0NI	265,950
W7RN		W0SD	249,480
(WK6I, op)	309,248	K1SFA	224,250
W1UE	293,862	K9CT	218,115
VE7CC	271,816	WASZUP	204,120
AA3B	268,288	KN5O	196,080
N2WK	264,404	WW4LL	193,225
WK7S		NR4M	192,570
(K6LL, op)	238,497	KB7Q	186,147
AB0RX	233,100	W4RM	177,664
W0LSD	229,068		
AI9T	218,377		
DX	Low Power	DX	Low Power
XE2K	160,608	OQ6A	94,653
VP9/WW3S	150,442	EA2RY	69,372
H13TEJ	145,936	OH8KTN	65,208
CN8KD	144,612	IW1QN	63,838
J35X	116,388	UT8EL	57,252
DL4MCF	116,263	UX4E	54,219
ZZ2T		OM3KWZ	52,866
(PY2MNL, op)	113,850	OK2RVM	44,469
KH6ZM	108,388	KP2D	38,548
HC2/K7MKL	97,545	OE3RTB	32,760
F5BEG	97,114		
DX	High Power	DX	High Power
P49X		WP2NN	269,008
(W0YK, op)	454,860	E17M	219,604
G6PZ		EC4DX/1	189,924
(UT5UDX, op)	278,528	OL7M	176,640
9A5W	213,237	S53M	175,768
SN7Q	198,072	IW4I	175,763
IQ2CJ		UR9BLB	162,756
(IK2NCJ, op)	191,872	S50XX	157,374
OL8M	173,118	MW2I	137,170
KP4JRS	162,737	OH2HAN	125,512
H18PLE	147,828		
EM2G			
(UR7GO, op)	146,133		
KL7RA	137,970		

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	# of Logs
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Unlimited Club

Northern California Contest Club	4,044,558	71
Potomac Valley Radio Club	2,777,845	52

Medium Club

Minnesota Wireless Assn	1,607,832	43
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	1,542,597	34
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	1,332,572	22
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,216,348	21
Frankford Radio Club	1,006,537	17
Tennessee Contest Group	902,234	19
Contest Club Ontario	779,468	18
CTRI Contest Group	539,899	11
Alabama Contest Group	527,153	15
Western Washington DX Club	526,744	10
Florida Contest Group	499,691	16
Louisiana Contest Club	494,195	5
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	491,525	8
DFW Contest Group	480,050	8
Southern California Contest Club	466,810	11
Contest Group Du Quebec	445,081	6
Willamette Valley DX Club	419,693	9
ORCA DX And Contest Club	331,332	6
Saskatchewan Contest Club	299,626	3
Maritime Contest Club	280,637	5
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	262,766	4
Georgia Contest Group	250,069	3
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	240,119	3
North Coast Contesters	238,190	6
Carolina DX Association	222,783	4
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	217,228	5
Mad River Radio Club	202,850	5
Utah DX Assn	197,237	4
South East Contest Club	156,336	4
Kentucky Contest Group	142,942	5
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	106,387	3
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	83,335	4
Radio Club of Redmond	74,434	3

Local Club

Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	1,065,283	10
Spokane DX Association	498,633	10
Iowa DX and Contest Club	273,864	3
Dominion DX Group	207,654	3
Metro DX Club	165,938	4
Midland ARC	154,782	5
Bergen ARA	152,017	3
Kansas City DX Club	146,876	3
Bristol (TN) ARC	114,182	5
Boeing Employees ARS — St. Louis	92,142	4
Low Country Contest Club	87,340	4
Sterling Park ARC	8,577	3

On the Local Club level the Orleans County Amateur Radio Club showed just over a million points, with 10 radiosporting members submitting scores. They waxed the Spokane DX Association who also had 10 operators submitting but their score was 500,000 behind. The Iowa DX and Contest Club placed 3rd with only three operators submitting scores for a valiant effort.

DX Highlights

RTTY Roundup has grown from 295 logs submitted in 1989 to 1922 logs in 2013 — a major increase in participation. The most significant increase in participation has come from the DX side. From only 60 DX logs in 1989 it has grown to 936 logs in 2013. In fact, while US/VE logs decreased slightly this year DX logs showed a healthy increase of more than 15% over last year.

The 2013 RTTY Roundup had good balance

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to list the winners of the sponsored RTTY Roundup plaques below:

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power — W7RM Award	Spokane DX Association	K4GMH
W/VE Single Operator Low Power — NM7M Memorial	Jim Reisert, AD1C	AA5AU
W/VE Multioperator High Power	John Lockhart, W0DC	N0NI
DX Single Operator High Power	The N6NN RTTY Team	P49X (W0YK, op)
DX Multioperator High Power	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, Memorial by W0YK	WP2NN
Pacific Division Single Operator High Power	Northern California Contest Club	W7RN (WK6I, op)
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	W2JGR Memorial by Don Hill, AA5AU	N0AT
Delta Division Single Operator Low Power	Roland Guidry, NA5Q	AA5AU
Midwest Division Single Operator Low Power	In Memoriam of Larry Lindblom, W0ETC, by Bob Ruvalo, K16DY	NT0F
New England Division Single Operator Low Power	CTRI Contest Group	W1CCE
Roanoke Division Single Operator Low Power	Mike Sims, K4GMH	N2QT
Roanoke Division Multioperator Low Power	Sheila Blackley, K4WNW	AA4NC

To inquire about purchasing an unsponsored plaque, or for information on plaque sponsorship, please contact the ARRL Contest Branch at (860) 594-0232. Plaques cost \$75 each, which includes all shipping and handling costs.



Jeff, WK6I, operated using six VFOs simultaneously but received no assistance from the rubber chicken in making a West Coast record score. [Tom Taormina, K5RC, photo]

with nearly equal log numbers coming from US/VE and the DX locations. The breakdown in increased operation is: Africa 1.4%, Asia 18.6%, Europe 70.2%, North America (outside W/VE) 3.2%, Oceania 2.8% and South America 3.8%. By entry category the logs were 511 SOLP, 203 SOHP, 97 MSLP, and 90 MSHP. This distribution is pretty much in line with the distribution in the US/VE logs as well.

RTTY Roundup — Past Years

RTTY Roundup was first held in 1987 and it changed RTTY contesting forever, yet the current contest barely resembles the days of old. Hal, WA7EGA, stated in *QST* after the first event, “The popularity of the Roundup could have been predicted. Where else can you find a fast-paced, worldwide RTTY contest with a schedule that allows the con-

testant to take the XYL out to dinner Friday, have a leisurely breakfast the next morning, get six hours of sleep Saturday night and be finished in time to watch *60 Minutes* on Sunday?”

The Roundup was the first RTTY contest “for folks who do not heat their homes with their final tubes” and Low Power entries became the majority. “‘Barefooters’ competed in their own group in 1987 and ‘peanut whistles’ out-numbered ‘barn-burners’ by nearly three to one!” WA7EGA wrote. QSO totals were in excess of 700 the first year and now we exceed that in the first seven hours. Rates now average 100 contacts plus per hour for the entire RTTY Roundup.

Don, AA5AU, won the Single Operator, Low Power category in 1987. After the RTTY

Roundup Silver Anniversary we wondered where he was and what he was running back in 1987. Don was 30 years old back then and was very active in RTTY DXing. Along with many others Don could be found nearly every evening on 20 meters ragchewing with RTTY operators from around the world. He ran a ground-mounted five-band vertical from Louisiana back in 1987.

The rules that Hal and I wrote all those years ago have withstood the test of time. The intent was to equalize station advantages and disadvantages so that stations could win the contest from anywhere across Canada and the United States, as well as making DX an important part of the contest.

It seems to have worked. We have winners from the “Black Hole,” the “West Coast” and all over the continent. Look at any Top Ten

box and you will see W1, W3, W4, VE7, W0, W9 and W5 all in the winner’s circle. What other contest has NØNI and W0SD beating out K1SFA, W4RM or NR5M?

RTTY Roundup — Next Year

The great unknown next year will be the propagation and what it might bring to the table for the RTTY Roundup. In a recent webinar Carl, K9LA, presented his thoughts on what Cycle 24 might bring the rest of this year and of course the next Roundup — it looks like it might be a double peak cycle but we won’t know for a while.

I think next year will bring another round of nice band conditions and yet another increase in participation. The 150 QSO per hour mark may well be beaten, as operators become more efficient with the use of multiple radios and VFOs.

Use the rest of this year to plan your strategy for the next Roundup, January 4-5, 2014.

More LTRS and FIGS Online

There is more — much more — in the online version of this write-up at www.arrrl.org/contest-results-articles: new records, complete regional and continental listings, stories from participants, the origin of *2Tone* by its author and a review by Don, AA5AU. Shift online and check it out!

Sean’s Picks

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, kx9x@arrrl.org, ARRL Contest Branch Manager

State QSO Parties this month: Hawaii, Kansas, Maryland-DC, Ohio

■ **QRP Contests this month:** NJQRP Skeeter Hunt (Aug 11), NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint (Aug 15), Flying Pigs Run for the Bacon (Aug 19).

■ **ARRL UHF Contest (Aug 3-4):** There’s plenty of activity on 222 MHz and up. Go set up on top of the tallest hill around and work some stations!

■ **North American QSO Party — CW (Aug 3-4):** One of the friendliest CW contests around. Exchange is just your first name and state. A great CW event for beginners.

■ **Worked All Europe, CW (Aug 10-11):** Sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), “WAE” is considered one of the most challenging on-air

competitions out there. The addition of QTC — sending a station a portion of your log — makes this contest unique and intense. If you *really* love CW, this contest may be your cup of tea.

■ **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest — Round 1 (Aug 17-18):** Ready for the challenge of the microwaves? Head for the hills and set up your dish; portable operating for this contest is encouraged!

■ **North American QSO Party — Phone (Aug 17-18):** The Phone version of the NAQP CW, held two weeks earlier. All information is the same, only the mode has changed.

SARTG WW RTTY Contest (August 17-18): Three separate 8-hour operating periods (with two 8-hour mandatory rest periods) make this event easy on your weekend and easy on your sleep

schedule. Everybody works everybody in this digi-fest! Exchange is a signal report and a sequential serial number, starting with 001.

August 2013 W1AW Qualifying Runs

W1AW Qualifying Runs are held at 10 PM EDST on Wednesday, August 7 (0200 Z, August 8) and at 4 PM EDST (2000Z) on Thursday, August 22. The West Coast Qualifying Runs will be transmitted by station K9JM at 3590 and 7047.5 kHz at 9 PM PDST on Wednesday, August 14 (0400Z August 15). Unless indicated otherwise, sending speeds are from 10 to 40 WPM.