

2016 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

How was the weather at — and above — your station this year?

Jeff Stai, WK6I, wk6i.jeff@gmail.com

Success in the RTTY Roundup is not only achieved by overcoming obstacles regarding your station, your RTTY setup, and your chosen (but frustrating) software, but also the weather way up there in space and down closer to the ground. For some parts of the country, the “way up there” weather came through on January 2 and 3, providing a bunch of contacts, while for other parts, the “closer” weather made staying on the air a challenge in itself.

Tales from 10

Let’s take the space weather, for example. While perusing the scores in preparation for this article, I couldn’t help but notice the disparity in 10 meter QSOs. Some stations had hundreds, and others almost none. I started to notice a pattern and decided to sort the score database by ARRL section and average number of 10 meter QSOs. The table shows the results (omitting sections with fewer than five entries or an average less than 30). Sure enough, you can see that 10 meters was very much favored all the way up in the Canadian northwest, down the West Coast and Nevada, and through the Desert Southwest and Mississippi Delta.

Ken, WØLSD, in Colorado was happy with conditions on 10 meters:

Propagation seemed to be decent and I had a third radio dedicated to 10 meters that was networked with the station. I would check 10 occasionally, and at times there seemed to be enough activity to run, which I did. In the last several contests, I noticed 10 was acting almost like 6 meters, in that there would be propagation to a very narrow part of the country and you would work that area dry pretty quickly. But in the RTTY Roundup, propagation on 10 meters for me in the mountains seemed to be much more general, thus offering more states and ham population centers.



The RTTY tests are a favorite of Mike, W7VO, and this was his first time ever in the Roundup. Mike placed first in the SOHP category from Oregon. [Mike Ritz, W7VO, photo]

Whither the Weather?

Meanwhile, “safely” back in the troposphere, let’s take a look at the Great White North and the folks at WL7F. I received a note from one of the operators, Wes, WL7B, where he talked about having to climb the tower every time they wanted to rotate the antenna. I wondered why the antenna wasn’t rotated from the ground, with a rope tied to one end of the boom. I figured there must be a reason for

that. Indeed there was. According to Wes, WL7F, “Deep snow, for one, and I have the mast pinned at the top. Walking around with rope in deep snow sucks...and if I tie the ropes off and they freeze, the knot would be difficult to get apart.” The snow where I operated at W7RN in northern Nevada only gets a couple of feet deep, so I guess I’d better stop complaining.

Across the deep blue sea, one of my favorite multipliers, Phil, GUØSUP, was dealing with rain and gale-force winds. He said:

Heavy rain and strong winds made starting on the low bands impossible, so I

Average 10 Meter QSOs by Section

Section	Average QSOs	Entries
NV	70.8	6
WTX	66.8	5
SCV	65.1	24
SF	64.5	10
SJV	62.7	9
EB	57.3	10
BC	53.3	13
SV	48.5	23
AZ	48.4	28
LAX	45.3	7
LA	45.0	6
OR	44.5	16
MS	38.8	5
ORG	37.8	6
SDG	37.3	14
EWA	36.2	13
AB	35.5	6
CO	34.3	19

More Results Available Online

The full results for RTTY Roundup 2016 are online at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles, including detailed discussion of the regional results and of taking full advantage of RTTY Skimmer stations.

Top Ten Scores — W/VE

Single Operator, Low Power		Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	
VA2UP	199,953	W0LSD	271,586
N9CK	184,575	W9SN	256,053
KA4RRU	157,409	N6WM	250,328
NR4M	142,945	K6LL	244,000
K0AD	138,932	N2WK	241,617
K2PO	123,740	W4DXX	229,274
N0AT	119,004	A19T	210,375
KE5OG	107,352	K1MK (@K1TTT)	
N1XF	104,790		207,281
NT0F	104,700	VE3CX	203,522
		N6IE	193,842
Single Operator, High Power		Multioperator, Low Power	
AA3B	299,776	N8LRG	93,492
NN1SS	295,864	K9NR	83,556
W7RN (WK6I, op)		KN5S	78,624
AC0C	273,552	K4FT	75,068
AB0RX	219,340	N0HJZ	70,136
K5DU	193,494	N9LAH	61,318
K1RO	191,874	W0FRC	45,276
K8IA	186,224	K7MKL	44,326
W5AP	179,094	K0OZ	42,930
AB4GG	178,750	AA9L	28,152
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power		Multioperator, High Power	
AA5AU	230,160	N0NI	255,750
WB5TUF	174,360	NR5M	243,945
K9OM	159,427	W0SD	229,440
W3FIZ	115,020	W4RM	199,936
W9ILY	108,720	KD0S	178,048
VE2EBK	102,816	K6SU	173,072
VA3DF	100,570	K10F	155,414
AB4SF	80,325	W4ML	151,032
KU2M	77,066	NJ3I	149,677
AB1J	67,640	K6UFO (@W6YX)	
			143,316

got up early on Sunday morning, and it was still raining and blowing, plus there were strong static crashes, so the low bands were out for me. My dipoles were banging around in the gales, and the resulting SWR was very poor on both. On both 40 and 80 meters, I had S9+ of noise, and could hear very few stations.

Speed-bump Selfies

Some entrants create their own obstacles so that they have the challenge of over-



No, it's not a form of data compression, just the miniature wireless keyboard and mouse combo that Scott, N0IU, used when leaning back in his chair and calling CQ. [Scott Schultz, N0IU, photo]

Top Ten Scores — DX

Single Operator, Low Power		Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	
ZF2LL (WW4LL, op)		SP7GIQ	190,350
	144,200	6Y4K	168,222
F5BEG	94,930	TK5MH	139,376
UR2Y (US0YW, op)		OH2HAN	106,436
	71,208	IT9MUO	96,136
IU4CHE	61,610	DL3BQA	95,484
CO8ZZ	59,598	DJ6QT	94,996
YV5AAX	56,762	G3ORY	90,310
UT5EPP	51,832	YT2U	88,818
M7V (M0VAA, op)		SV2BFN	78,144
	51,256		
SP9H	50,819		
UC6A	50,086		
Single Operator, High Power		Multioperator, Low Power	
UR7GO	138,666	IQ2CU	52,650
PZ5RA	122,208	WL7F	33,341
LU5VV	115,992	OT6M	28,086
EM0I (UT2IZ, op)		SP3PJY	26,112
	115,696	OK2RVM	24,822
G8DX	107,968	E1E	14,820
SG5Z (SM5GMZ, op)		PD2LH	13,224
	89,252	DF4WC	11,926
IK4GNI	78,780	JJ2YKZ	680
EU6AF	78,432		
OK6RW	78,431		
DK0EE (DL4MDO, op)			
	77,740		
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power		Multioperator, High Power	
YV1KK	167,388	9A5Y	196,413
XE2K	139,314	OL7M	191,380
IT9BLB	122,428	LZ7A	98,475
KH6ZM	98,212	EA1AP	85,330
IK3TPP	79,686	YU3AWA	72,000
DF2F (DF2SD, op)		EA2RY	70,840
	72,822	ON8AJ	63,555
EA1DR	62,208	JH4UTP	38,285
XE1HG	54,777	SP5SR	7,800
SP1C	44,560	SK3W	5,676
LZ1FCN	37,080		

coming them. As Dave, W5DT, explained in his own words:

I won't get any awards or plaques, but I managed to make 208 contacts on 15 and 10 meters all with the [Teletype] Model 33. She ran straight for 12 hours today (I oiled her on the fly around 4 PM with a syringe). Didn't drop a single bit — what

a workhorse! I even got to run some punch tape macros — they worked great!

Just remember this next time you are puzzling through a RTTY software issue! [If you ever get the chance to watch a mechanical teleprinter in action, take it! — Ed.]

Operating right after New Year's Day undoubtedly caused some headaches for many operators (at least, for those who didn't get their headache via the festivities). In fact, in the Soapbox comments, one operator complained:

Why was everyone calling me 'Honey?' After receiving 'HNY' several times and doing some fruitless Google searches of 'HNY CW PROSIGN' and the like, I finally figured it out. Maybe a second cup of coffee would have helped.

Affiliated Clubs

After a year off, the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) got back into the gavel-collecting business with an Unlimited Club score second only to their record-setting performance in 2013. NCCC President, Bob, W1RH, noted that a big push was made to get new RTTY operators set up and on the air. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) ran a solid 2nd, the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) climbed into Unlimited for the first time, placing 3rd, and the Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) was 4th. In fact, this year was the first time we had four of the major contest clubs submit the 50 or more logs required to qualify for the Unlimited Club Category. Let's have more next year!



RTTY operator Alex Rhybkova, OK1RS, running a pileup as part of the Multioperator effort at OL7M. The team placed second in the DX Top Ten for Multi-Single, High Power from their very impressive station. [Pavel Pridhoda, OK1MU, photo]

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous support of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to list the winners of the Sponsored RTTY Roundup plaques below. 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@arrl.org. Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping charges.

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power	Preston Radio Club, W7PRC	AA3B
W/VE Single Operator Low Power	Ray Day, N6HE	VA2UP
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited High Power	W9GX Software	W0LSD
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	Frank Fallon N2FF	AA5AU
W/VE Multioperator High Power	John Lockhart, W0DC	N0NI
W/VE Multioperator Low Power	Dan Karg, K0TI	N8LRG
DX Single Operator High Power	Rick Tavan, N6XI	UR7GO
DX Single Operator Low Power	Rich Cady, N1XF	ZF2LL (WW4LL, op)
DX Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Charles Anderson, KK5OQ	SP7GIQ
DX Multioperator High Power	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, Memorial by W0YK	9A5Y
DX Multioperator Low Power	Jeff Stai, WK6I	IQ2CU
Hudson Division Single Operator High Power	Frank Fallon, N2FF	W2CG
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	The New Providence ARC Digital Group	WB2COY
Midwest Division Single Operator Low Power	Sand Hills Amateur Radio Club of Southwest Kansas	NT0F
New England Division Single Operator High Power	CTRI Contest Group	NN1SS
Northwestern Division Single Operator High Power	Hank Lonberg, Jr, KR7X	W6AEA/7
Pacific Division Single Operator High Power	Northern California Contest Club	W7RN
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	Dick Wilson, K6LRN, and Carolyn Wilson K6TKD	K6GHA
Pacific Division Multioperator High Power	Steve, W1SRD, and Doris, K0BEE	K6SU
Roanoke Division Single Operator Low Power	Mike Sims, K4GMH	K44RRU
Roanoke Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Mark Sihanick, N2QT	W4PK
Canada Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Tom Haavisto, VE3CX	VE3CX
South America Single Operator Low Power	Ron Dohmen, N0AT	VY1KK

New W/VE Division Records

Call	Division	Category	Score	QSOs	Mults
N2WK	Atlantic	SOUHP	241,617	1893	129
A19T	Central	SOUHP	210,375	1695	125
W9SN	Delta	SOUHP	256,053	1894	137
K8UT	Great Lakes	SOUHP	65,890	607	110
KU2M	Hudson	SOUHP	77,066	685	113
AC0C	Midwest	SOHP	273,552	2275	123
W4RM	Roanoke	MSHP	199,936	1592	128
W0LSD	Rocky Mountain	SOUHP	271,586	2068	133
W4DXX	Southeastern	SOUHP	229,274	1730	134
K9OM	Southeastern	SOUHP	159,427	1235	131
K6LL	Southwestern	SOUHP	244,000	2010	122
WB5TUF	West Gulf	SOUHP	174,360	1462	120

Meanwhile in the Medium category, with the extra efforts of the PVRC and SMC to make Unlimited, the Franklin Radio Club — with only 19 logs submitted — edged out the Yankee Clipper Contest Club and the Arizona Outlaws to score their first-ever Roundup gavel! And for the Local Clubs — those submitting 10 logs or fewer — the Orleans County Amateur Radio Club continued their domination of the category with a score more than twice that of their nearest rival for a fifth win in a row.

Thank You, Plaque Sponsors

Every year, I put out the word about plaque sponsorship to all RTTY enthusiasts and contest clubs around W/VE-land and the world. The response is always wonderful

and overwhelming, or as ARRL Contest Manager Bart, W9JJ, put it, “These things are going like hotcakes!” Please take a look at the table to see who has stepped up to help. And if you have received a plaque, please take a moment to thank the sponsor!

The Last Word

That concludes my summary of this year’s Roundup. If there is anything here you’d like to comment on or discuss with me, I would be happy to hear from you. I can be reached by e-mail, or you can find me lurking on any of several contesting-oriented e-mail reflectors, including rtty@contest-ing.com, cq-contest@contesting.com, and my home club nccc@contesting.com. See you on January 7 and 8 next year!

Affiliated Club Competition

Category	Entries	Score
Unlimited		
Northern California Contest Club	67	3,809,079
Potomac Valley Radio Club	52	2,259,463
Society of Midwest Contesters	53	2,123,402
Minnesota Wireless Association	71	1,794,309
Medium		
Frankford Radio Club	19	1,178,489
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	26	1,155,765
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	22	1,017,457
Tennessee Contest Group	10	634,525
Florida Contest Group	13	610,921
Contest Club Ontario	19	593,028
DFW Contest Group	14	522,090
Kentucky Contest Group	12	477,934
Contest Group du Quebec	7	472,533
Alabama Contest Group	12	419,579
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	6	401,501
Louisiana Contest Club	5	399,441
Iowa DX and Contest Club	3	350,653
Orca DX and Contest Club	7	338,510
Western Washington DX Club	8	326,865
Georgia Contest Group	5	314,963
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	5	287,071
Willamette Valley DX Club	9	268,440
Southern California Contest Club	12	255,745
Texas DX Society	3	190,880
CTRI Contest Group	4	190,184
Carolina DX Association	3	175,055
South East Contest Club	6	156,854
Radiosport Manitoba	3	155,596
Swamp Fox Contest Group	5	155,154
Mad River Radio Club	4	137,100
Big Sky Contesters	3	110,586
North Texas Contest Club	3	94,848
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	5	94,469
North Carolina DX and Contest Club	3	80,605
Utah DX Association	5	70,608
North Coast Contesters	3	58,896
Columbia-Montour ARC	3	58,703
New Providence ARC	3	41,619
NORDX Club	4	32,568
Local		
Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	7	748,161
Boeing Employees ARS — St Louis	4	312,968
Spokane DX Association	8	256,959
Metro DX Club	6	240,966
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	4	163,042
Skyview Radio Society	4	153,993
Midland ARC	3	101,735
San Diego DX Club	3	39,264
Maritime Contest Club	3	35,070

Feedback

In the “The Doctor is In” column, July 2016 *QST*, p 53, Figure 1 has the incorrect pin designations shown. The correct RS-232 9-pin assignments are as follows:

Pin	Signal Name
1	Data Carrier Detect (DCD)
2	Receive Data (RD)
3	Transmit Data (TD)
4	Data Terminal Ready (DTR)
5	Signal Ground (SG)
6	Data Set Ready (DSR)
7	Ready to Send (RTS)
8	Clear to Send (CTS)
9	Ring Indicator (RI)