

2012 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do.” — Mark Twain

Jay Townsend, WS7I, ws7i@arrl.net

The Sun has no equal in giving radiosport a jump-start and 10 meters is back, kicking up RTTY Roundup participation with a solid ten percent increase in submitted logs and 150,000 more QSOs this year. In fact, the 2012 RTTY Roundup set a record with 1803 logs submitted as this fast-growing contest mode continues along its upward path. Propagation conditions for most of the world were not very impressive. The DX wasn’t there unless you were on the East Coast but the activity on 10 meters was certainly very good.

US and Canadian Highlights

In the write-up, I like to highlight a station operator who is either a first-time RTTY operator or someone who has made a special achievement. This year it’s Dave, WV9E from Wisconsin who writes, “First attempt at a RTTY test. It was a blast. Ended up with about 75 Qs and a few DX entities. South Africa on 15 was the highlight of the test for me.”

Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)

This category continues to dominate, making up roughly 54 percent of this year’s RTTY Roundup logs. Don, AA5AU who had a few more than 500 QSOs in 1989 cranked up the Q total to 2,169 this year to win the NM7M Memorial Plaque.

Once again we had a nice geographic distribution in the Top Ten finishers with stations scoring well from the eastern shores to the western shores and from Montana to Arizona. Even the Midwest’s black hole was represented by two Minnesota stations.

Mark, N2QT operated SO2R and finished in second



Three SOHP entries were submitted from the W6YX Stanford University Radio Club station. They all used separate antennas — and some heavy-duty filtering — to avoid interaction and keep the QSOs flowing. Left to right are N6DB, ND2T and K6UFO. [KG6NUB photo]

place. Pete, K2PS gave out DC on 10 meters where he always likes to operate. I’m glad 10 was open so we could work him.

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

Unlike the low-power group, winners in SOHP were determined by the multipliers they snagged. Balancing rate and multipliers is always a tough call — strategy, propagation, and station location create a moving target in the RTTY Roundup.

Winning the Rush Drake W7RM Memorial Plaque was Rick, KI1G. Mike, K4GMH was the overall QSO leader in SOHP but off the

pace on mults. KI1G was 4th in QSOs but nailed the highest number of mults with a contest-leading 141. Both Nevada’s W7RN operated by Jeff, WK6I; and Lee, VE7CC on the Northwest Coast just couldn’t get enough multipliers with poor over-the-pole conditions.

Multioperator, Low Power (MOLP)

Big changes in MOLP occurred in 2012 as scores were up considerably from last year and there were many new calls in the Top Ten. In fact, the only repeating station was W1SLF. Getting “in the box” now takes

nearly twice the score of previous years.

In MOLP we now see many teams of two to four operators as compared to previous years in which the norm was a single operator using the spotting network. Earl, N5ZM and his partner Glenn, N5RN were once again leaders into the clubhouse and won the category.

Multioperator, High Power (MOHP)

Big aluminum farms dominate this category and a large number of records were set. Another impressive finish for the NØNI team secured the victory. It was a very tight race for second and third by the WØSD and NR5M

teams, respectively. WØSD claimed 53 more QSOs but three fewer multipliers. Log checking didn’t change that a bit and the experienced hands at WØSD nailed second place.

Would you believe three Multioperator, High Power entries from the same station? Of course it was the Stanford University Radio Club, W6YX. They had three teams: W6YX ran 1.5 kW,

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 listed below:

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power - W7RM Award	Spokane DX Association	KI1G
W/VE Single Operator Low Power - NM7M Memorial	Jim Reisert, AD1C	AA5AU
W/VE Multioperator High Power	John Lockhart, WØDC	NØNI
DX Single Operator High Power	The NN6NN RTTY Team	P49X (WØYK, op)
DX Multioperator High Power	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY Memorial by WØYK	PJ2N
Delta Division Single Operator High Power	Roland Guidry, NA5Q	K4RO
Pacific Division Single Operator High Power	Northern California Contest Club	W7RN (WK6I, op)
Roanoke Division Single Operator High Power	Mark Sihlanick, N2QT	K4GMH
Central Division Single Operator Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	KD9MS
Midwest Division Single Operator Low Power	In Memoriam of Larry Lindblom, WØETC by Bob Ruvalo, K16DY	NT0F
New England Division Single Operator Low Power	CTRI Contest Group	K1RO
Southeastern Division Single Operator Low Power	Alabama Contest Group	KC4HW
Atlantic Division Multioperator High Power	In Memory of Tony Furfari, K3IEX,	K3MJW
Roanoke Division Multioperator Low Power	Dominion DX Group, K4VAC	AA4NC

To inquire about purchasing an unsponsored plaque, or for information on plaque sponsorship, please contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko KX9X at kx9x@arrl.org or by calling (860) 594-0232. Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping and handling.

Top Ten by Category

Single Operator		Multioperator	
W/VE — Low Power			
AA5AU	274,944	N52M	177,580
N2QT	204,078	K9OM	148,302
K0TI	182,684	K0DU	144,368
N0AT	153,700	WW4LL	125,388
KC4HW	152,915	K9NR	122,148
KB7Q	142,596	AA4NC	113,407
W0BR	141,480	W1SLF	102,144
NT0F	135,035	W4GAC	99,216
W3LL	129,413	KU1YL	96,530
W7ZR	128,968	N9LAH	96,096
W/VE — High Power			
K1G	317,814	N0NI	283,276
AA3B	310,863	W0SD	252,830
K4GMH	303,530	NR5M	251,235
W7RN		K1SFA	221,128
(WK6I, op)	284,548	WA5ZUP	208,940
N2WK	278,256	NK7U	206,700
W1UE	271,416	W4UH	205,692
VE7CC	271,084	NR4M	199,101
W0LSD	244,156	VA2UP	183,662
K4RO	230,736	W4RM	178,486
K6LL	225,810		
DX — Low Power			
VP9/WW3S	181,475	XE2K	163,215
P40YL		EA1DR	129,840
(A16YL, op)	177,480	HG7T	105,534
H13TEJ	158,704	LZ9R	81,848
ZX2B		OH8KTN	72,080
(PY2MNL, op)	151,293	UT8EL	60,970
H18PLE/7	129,472	DF9ZP	59,300
J39BS	115,024	XE2FGC	59,285
EO3Q		US4LPY	59,136
(UR3QCW, op)	107,055	IW1QN	51,393
UA6CE	97,818		
F5BEG	82,500	DX — High Power	
OQ6A		PJ2N	279,554
(ON5MF, op)	78,540	LS1D	186,690
		S53M	171,703
		E17M	171,520
		S50XX	162,274
		IQ1RY	155,610
		UW4I	143,262
		EA5CEF	117,058
		OH1F	102,358
		EA1AKS	100,800
DX — High Power			
P49X			
(W0YK, op)	420,250		
EO4M			
(UR5MW, op)	206,844		
OL8M			
(OK4RQ, op)	188,160		
SN7Q	181,760		
9A5W	170,434		
UW8I			
(UT2IZ, op)	169,645		
YV5KG	167,388		
KH6ZM	163,822		
DL4MCF	160,644		
PZ5RA	145,092		

ND2T hovered around 1 kW, and N6DB worked the event at 500 W. Three sets of equipment and antennas let them compete within the rules.

W/VE Records

With all the activity it was a record-setting year and very few early records remain. Three new W/VE all-time records were set, the first by SOLP winner and long-time holder of the world Single Operator, Low Power record Don, AA5AU. Two other records were established in the high power arena. A new record in Single Operator, High Power was set by Rick, K1IG and the N0NI team from Iowa set a world record in Multioperator, High Power. Over 34 new division records were set and 80 new section records were set!

Canadians set new records from both ends of their country. Lee, VE7CC of British Columbia set one for SOHP and Fabi, VA2UP established a new record for SOLP from Quebec.

Affiliated Club Competition

Club action makes for a lot of fun on the bands and the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) got the message with a nearly

50% increase in logs over 2011. This resulted in a win for the NCCC in the Unlimited Club class and a major milestone as the three-million point mark was passed. The Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) moved down a spot into second place.

The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) took top billing among Medium Clubs with a very nice score of 2.5 million. A tight race ended with the Florida Contest Group (FCG) edging out the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club (AOCC) for second and third.

In the Local Club class the Orleans ARC again won the gavel with a total score nearly 50% higher than the Spokane DX Association (SDXA) which moved into second place this year. Last year's Local winner, the Dominion DX Group, was in third place this time out.

DX Highlights

One world record and nine continental records were set this year by DX stations. Sixty-nine countries around the world saw new records established. Several stations changed power levels to set a different record in their country.

The Caribbean and South America had propagation into North America and could reach out and work Africa and Europe for the multipliers. The first six scores in the SOLP Top Ten box are all from those areas. The top score out of Europe was Ruslan, EO3Q from the Ukraine who set a new country record. Another new record was set by Julio, NP3CW who "came back to RTTY contesting after [having] been distant for many years." Steve, ZC4LI set a new Asia continental record this year, too.

P49X (operator W0YK) led the SOHP group once again, setting a world record. As in previous years, the Europeans took the next five spots — quite a switch from the SOLP category. Max, KH6ZM set a new Oceania all-time record in SOLP as more hours on the high bands seemed to have helped him. Norman, 5B4AIF was in with a new Asia all-time record giving out the appreciated Cyprus multiplier.

Hector, XE2K moved into MOLP after last year's victory in Multioperator, High Power and took home the honors. The rest of the Top Ten were all from Europe as KP2D was missing this year. Oscar, EA1DR set a new Spanish record and placed second.

South America struck this year as PJ2N set a new South American MOHP record and was just a little off the pace from the N0NI team for the world record. LS1D was in second with all

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Logs	Score
Unlimited Club Category		
Northern California Contest Club	73	3,715,609
Minnesota Wireless Assn	59	2,389,349
Medium Club Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	49	2,500,870
Florida Contest Group	17	1,230,065
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	24	1,205,840
Society of Midwest Contesters	23	1,193,563
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	30	1,183,320
Willamette Valley DX Club	15	907,438
Tennessee Contest Group	17	841,847
Frankford Radio Club	10	836,306
CTRI Contest Group	9	727,796
Alabama Contest Group	13	705,458
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	8	634,243
Contest Club Ontario	17	599,454
Western Washington DX Club	7	432,763
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	7	378,939
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	4	376,193
Louisiana Contest Club	6	375,065
Contest Group Du Quebec	4	328,387
Southern California Contest Club	11	297,448
South East Contest Club	7	168,559
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	4	139,591
Carolina DX Association	5	124,257
Saskatchewan Contest Club	3	122,575
Kentucky Contest Group	3	108,200
Allegheny Valley Radio Assn	3	96,460
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	3	95,524
North Coast Contesters	4	65,471
Western New York DX Assn	3	59,829
Mad River Radio Club	3	23,594
Local Club Category		
Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	10	936,547
Spokane DX Assn	8	641,772
Dominion DX Group	7	635,799
ORCA DX And Contest Club	7	388,698
Lone Star DX Assn	5	286,524
Boeing Employees ARS - St Louis	4	281,927
Midland ARC	3	255,440
Metro DX Club	4	218,379
Bergen ARA	4	203,967
Bristol (TN) ARC	7	144,283
Black Diamond Amateur Radio Club	3	76,371
Sterling Park ARC	5	43,468
Nanaimo Amateur Radio Assn	3	36,991
Gloucester Co ARC	3	30,798

the Europeans filling in the rest of the box.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

Next year will be the 25th running of the RTTY Roundup. It's hard to believe that so much time has passed in RTTY radiosporting. Mike, AB1OD summed things up nicely, "Man, this RTTY stuff is addictive!" Will the 4000-QSO barrier be challenged in 2012? Will 10 meters still be a factor? Will we once again get some serious openings around the world? Use the rest of this year to plan your strategy for the next Roundup on January 5-6 in 2013.

Acknowledgments

Sean, KX9X, is the ARRL Contest Branch Manager who gets me the data and tables from the log checker and he always does a great job. It was nice to see my editor, Ward, N0AX, in the contest this year. As always, my initial editor is Betsy, WV7Y — my bride of many years. Ken, WM5R does the records for RTTY Roundup and is always improving them.

Extended Version Online

If you'd like an extra helping of LTRS and FIGS, check out Jay's extended version of this article at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles for more analysis and more photos. If you own a smartphone, just scan this QR code.

