

2010-2011 School Club Roundup Results

School power! A look back at the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 SCR's and a look ahead to the next ones in October 2011 and February 2012.

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Although many consider School Club Roundup (SCR) as a contest, it is more an operating event similar to Field Day. Its main objective is to get young people introduced to Amateur Radio and on the air. The October 2010 and February 2011 SCR sessions achieved their goals. Hundreds of youthful operators were reported, averaging about 10 per entry. There were reports of great propagation conditions by some, and terrible conditions by others, with causes ranging from local noise to solar flare events. All of these provided teachable moments. How does the Sun affect radio signals? How can local noise sources be found and what can be done about them? Complete results are online at www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup-scr.

The Numbers

There was a slight decrease in entries year over year with October dropping by 3 to 40 and February to 46 from 47. However, there were 511 reported operators in February, up from 452 last year. There were changes in the distribution of entries in different categories. Elementary schools have dropped to 1 in October and 2 in February. This represents a drop by two-thirds compared to the previous year. Middle school entries by contrast have been steady or increasing with 14 in February 2011 compared to 11 in 2010 and 9 in October 2009 and 2010. College/University, which had grown significantly in recent SCR sessions, hit a bump in February 2011 with only 6 entries, down from 14. By contrast, high school participation has been increasing, with 15 entries in October 2010, 2 more than 2009, and 16 entries in February 2011, up 6 from 2010.

W9GRS (Glen Raymond School Science Club) and K4WBM (William Byrd MS ARC) ranked 1 and 2 in the Middle/Intermediate school category in both the October and February sessions. Among high schools, K5LBJ at the Liberal Arts & Science Academy High School had an outstanding score, topping 133,000 points in October. WB4HS (William Byrd HS) moved up from

second in October to lead in February, but only earned 91,494 points. This may be an indication of the effects of propagation changes during the SCR sessions.

Participation distribution is interesting. We received entries from 28 states and Belgium. States with the most entries include California, Georgia, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia.



From the left, Liberal Arts & Science Academy (LASA) senior Autumn Kervella operates K5LBJ during the October SCR, while her sister, senior Hannah Eddolls, logs contacts.

SOME SOAPBOX COMMENTS

October 2010

We had very bad power line noise at the station so it was pretty much a bust for us. Enjoyed working the handful of stations we could hear. The utility company is working on the noise problem, so hopefully February will be better. — K3NEM

This was our best October event yet. The ionosphere sure helped. All William Byrd Middle School Ham Club members operated. For many other students it was their first time on the air. In all, 46 students participated. — K4WBM

This was a record-breaking year for our club. We contacted more people (577) and more countries (13) than ever before. The SCR has inspired my students to even think about entering Sweepstakes Phone. Thanks to all who

helped us have so much fun this year. — K5LBJ

The conditions were great, the amateur community was great, many hams took the time to visit with the students, and the entire school had a wonderful experience. What a great way to introduce amateur radio to young students. Computer skills, maps skills, communication skills, math skills, electronics, and handwriting were all part of the experience. And the parents were thrilled to see their children's excitement. — Bruce Weaver, K3LTM (at KB3BRT)

February 2011

Had a great time! TX's: Kenwood TS570D, TMD700, ant 3el/3b Yagi & dipoles 80/40m, GP VHF/UHF. — ON4HTI

Our score was just OK but our student participation was the best ever. Much of the credit goes to Iva Daniels, a retired teacher, who worked with the staff and got the kids in. Iva now pursues her ham license. One hundred and six Individual students made 136 visits to the radio room. 97 students made one or more on-the-air contacts. — K4WBM

We had a great time operating in the 2011 February edition of SCR! We had a great time taking advantage of the X Class Solar Flare event as a teachable moment and understanding its effects on radio propagation (or in this case, lack of propagation, hi hi). The students dealt with the noise on phone for a bit but then decided to head to digital and were able to pick up a few that way. — W9GRS

The Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) is helping to sponsor future SCR's. US postal correspondence should go to SCR c/o LIMARC, PO Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756-0392. Donations may be made via PayPal to LIMARC@optonline.net. We expect this new relationship will improve administration of the SCR. Watch for changes in the format for electronic entry submission.

The next SCR sessions are scheduled for October 17-21, 2011 and February 13-17, 2012. Join our yahoo group, SCR-L@yahoogroups.com. Download free logging software: SCR-LOG from home.earthlink.net/~scr-log/; Log It from www.asu.edu/clubs/amateur_radio_society/logit/.

More info is available at www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup or write to us at SCR@limarc.org or Lew at n2rq@arrl.net. 