

2017 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

Next year, “heavy-duty” devotees will enjoy a new entry category.

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The 2017 running of the January RTTY Roundup on January 7 – 8 saw record snowfall in the west, hindering travel to station locations, and ionospheric conditions that precluded most activity on wavelengths shorter than 20 meters.

I personally experienced that record snowfall while attempting to reach my operating location in Nevada. After a successful transit of the Sierra road passes that took several hours, I emerged from radio silence to hear the news that the road up to the station was impassable. And as far as the ionospheric conditions are concerned, one ham in my club summed it up by saying, “You picked a good one to miss!”

The proof is in the logs. Across all sections, the average was just four contacts on 10 meters, and on 15 meters the average was 50 contacts. The trend is clear; it’s time to root for the E layer.

Participation

Participation in the RTTY Roundup continues to be stable, with growth in Single Operator, Low Power coming at the expense of the other Single-Operator categories. (The participation



Jan, OK2ZAW, is the technical guru behind the OL7M contest station, winner of the Multi-operator, Single Transmitter, High Power category for DX stations. [Jan Sustr, OK2ZAW, photo]

table illustrates the trends.) This is despite the continuing efforts of the big contest clubs to rattle cages and get more stations participating. One only needs to look at the Sweepstakes totals in the Affiliated Club Competition to see what’s possible when the contest clubs make a push. Consider urging your local contest club to get involved and make a big push for the RTTY Roundup. Based on my experience, you’ll enjoy a lot of fun challenges getting your stations up on RTTY, and maybe even score a gavel!

Affiliated Club Competition

It’s probably a bit strong to say that things got weird in the Affiliated Club Competition, but it did seem a little odd. In the Unlimited category, for the first time ever, the Potomac Valley Radio Club took the top spot. Meanwhile, in the Medium category,

Top Ten Scores — W/VE

Single Operator, High Power		Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	
AA3B	243,024	AA5AU	186,192
AC0C	222,372	WB5TUF	153,036
N2WK	194,228	K9OM	105,820
K5DU	173,943	VA3DF	98,382
K6MR	172,172	K9WX	89,930
N6WM	171,444	WW3S	80,333
K5XH	113,905	KU4V	76,296
NR4M	113,791	W9ILY	74,868
W4GKM	113,270	WT9U	64,974
AG4W	109,740	N1EN	63,705

Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	
W4AAA (KK9A, op)	182,700	N0NI	259,870
N9CK	125,000	W0SD	214,110
KA4RRU	117,600	NV9L	180,531
N1XF	103,110	WW4LL	180,048
K0AD	102,194	W4RM	158,301
KD9MS	96,805	KD0S	156,275
WA1FCN	81,589	K7BTW	136,710
KE5OG	78,474	W6IHG	122,752
KI6DY	69,440	AA5B	119,856
W4GO	66,836	W1QA	118,170

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power		Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	
KI1G	271,260	K9NR	103,851
W9SN	253,260	W4TA	85,845
K6LL	227,374	WS9V	78,587
W0LSD	219,906	N5ZM	44,073
K1MK (@K1TTT)	176,020	N1DBL	39,648
W3LL	175,768	K00Z	37,800
K9CT	175,525	NA5NN	30,690
VE7CC	173,555	N9LAH	26,560
N3QE	164,439	W0PC/7	23,877
VE5MX	143,080	WA1F	14,520

Shift Your Letters

The full writeup for the RTTY Roundup is online at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles. There you’ll find more analysis, photos, graphics, and writing about this yearly contest favorite.

Top Ten Scores — DX

Single Operator, High Power		Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	
P49X (W0YK, op)	417,585	S56A	70,092
EA1DR	115,920	IK3TPP	57,230
PZ5RA	94,738	9A7DX	56,133
UR7GO	86,142	DF2F (DF2SD, op)	52,154
IK4GNI	69,776	XE2B	39,425
IV3SKB	61,226	IT9MUO	34,470
DL3BQA	60,030	CT1BXT	33,200
YO3RU	48,240	G8X	30,704
HP3SS	47,124	GM0FGI	28,786
UA6CE	44,608	HI3CC	27,783

Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	
HI3TEJ	142,888	OL7M	149,225
F5BEG	84,530	LZ7A	80,700
SO9M (SQ9UM, op)	70,564	EA2WT	76,258
TM4C (F4GDI, op)	47,432	YV50ARV	73,710
YV5AAX	45,108	EA2VE	71,900
UT5EPP	44,480	S53M	53,486
ON5GQ	42,195	OK1KUW	51,520
CO2AME	35,595	US0AK	39,848
DL3SYA	33,984	PC2Y	34,488
UX1UX	32,604	OL2U	29,376

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power		Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	
4M1K	181,500	LY7Z	45,552
9A5W	174,108	RT2M	28,000
UW1M	151,194	IQ2CU	22,230
P3X (5B4AMM, op)	146,165	UZ2I	19,698
SN7Q	135,090	OK2RVM	13,818
TK5MH	120,428	9A7B	8,987
S57AW	113,256	M0IEP	6,820
IZ4AFW	110,625	KL4SD	3,500
OH8A (OH8WW, op)	90,626	YU7KMN	3,264
KH6ZM	84,600	DF4WC	2,592

the Northern California Contest Club returned with a score of 1.9 million points, which would have been good enough for the top Unlimited spot had they been able to get just a few more stations on the air (they blame the

2014 to 2017 Category Choice (W/VE and DX)

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017
SOLP	843	921	828	857
SOULP	225	229	275	241
SOHP	331	296	295	293
SOUHP	254	258	290	273
MSLP	29	28	25	24
MSHP	40	48	44	45
Total entries	1,722	1,780	1,757	1,733

weather). And in the Local club category, the Orleans County Amateur Radio Club continued their utter domination.

Records and Plaques

There weren't any records set this contest because of the rough conditions.

But in the Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power category, NØNI made it interesting, getting close to their 2014 record. And let's not forget the dependable plaque sponsors who keep the awards coming whether the metal is heavy, light, or not even metal at all — thanks!

Heavy Metal Teletype

If you are truly paying attention, you'll recall that last year Dave, W5DT, worked 208 stations on his venerable Teletype Model 33. This year, Dave worked 362. He said, "I have decided to submit my log this year, even though I know it will fall far short of an award. I am doing so as part of a lobbying effort

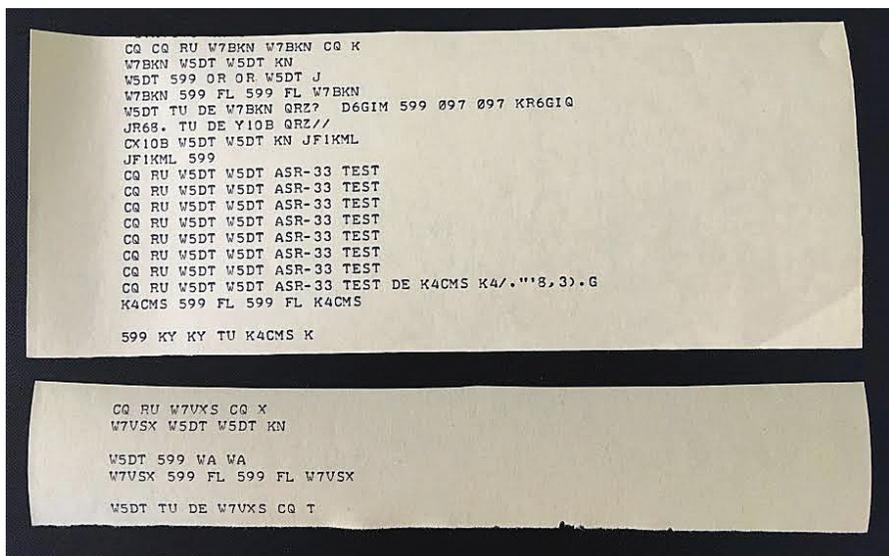
in the hope that a future new award category will be created for the contest, for entrants using a *real* Teletype."

I wondered why we don't have a special category for those who choose to make their RTTY lives even more challenging by operating using vintage Teletype equipment, so I asked the ARRL Contest Branch. The response was "Why not, indeed?" And so, with the stipulation that we not create a bunch of extra work for the Contest Branch, a new overlay has been approved for the 2018 RTTY Roundup, something I've been calling the "Heavy Metal RTTY Roundup Award."

Simply put, Dave has agreed to sponsor a special plaque to be awarded to the station that can show the best score while operating exclusively via electro-mechanical means. No PC-based encoding or decoding is allowed, and everything must be printed on the paper roll to qualify for this special recognition. Paper tape macros are, of course, permitted for repetitive tasks like calling CQ, as well as computers for logging and station control. [*There is no truth whatsoever to the imagined suggestion that logs in this category will have to be submitted on paper tape — Ed.*]

I have agreed to compile the entries and determine the winning entry. Like much of what we do in contests, qualifying for this overlay will be dependent on the honor system; however, we will ask for modest proof that you really did print contacts the old-fashioned way.

Stay tuned later this year for detailed rules, and how to enter and submit proof of print. In the meantime, if you have general interest in old iron, or maybe even have a classic teleprinter gathering dust in the garage, you'll find a lot of help on the GreenKeys mailing list, at mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/greenkeys. As for finding teleprinter oil, paper tape, freshly inked ribbons, and yellow paper, you're on your own!



Copy from Heavy Metal plaque sponsor Dave's, W5DT, own RTTY station. Note that Dave added "ASR-33" to his CQ, indicating that this is the real deal! [Dave Turney, W5DT, photo]

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Entries	Score
Unlimited		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	1,929,695	62
Medium		
Northern California Contest Club	1,879,145	43
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,648,227	48
Minnesota Wireless Assn.	1,028,575	45
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	1,028,558	25
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	932,154	31
Frankford Radio Club	691,449	17
Florida Contest Group	629,407	14
Contest Club Ontario	534,983	18
Tennessee Contest Group	529,288	14
CTRI Contest Group	399,746	5
Southern California Contest Club	384,736	17
Alabama Contest Group	380,692	12
Carolina DX Association	369,630	11
Willamette Valley DX Club	362,530	13
Mad River Radio Club	345,519	11
DFW Contest Group	339,971	10
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	339,222	10
Kentucky Contest Group	318,035	10
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	309,678	6
Western Washington DX Club	296,316	7
Texas DX Society	276,942	4
Swamp Fox Contest Group	252,632	9
Louisiana Contest Club	233,043	3
Georgia Contest Group	200,238	3
Contest Group du Quebec	152,397	5
North Coast Contesters	133,038	6
Orca DX and Contest Club	104,111	7
South East Contest Club	103,462	5
Rochester (NY) DX Assn.	92,185	6
Utah DX Association	61,808	4
Big Sky Contesters	47,297	3
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	46,201	4
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society	45,643	4
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	30,135	3
Local		
Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	475,347	6
Kansas City Contest Club	294,412	3
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	239,459	7
Spokane DX Association	182,130	6
Metro DX Club	123,649	5
North Carolina DX and Contest Club	122,566	3
Boeing Employees ARS — St. Louis	79,920	4
New Providence ARC	44,317	3
XRX Amateur Radio Club	17,129	5
Hilltop Transmitting Assn.	16,159	4

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@arri.org. Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping charges.

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Multioperator, High Power	John Lockhart, W0DC	N0NI
W/VE Multioperator, Low Power	Dan Karg, K0TI	K9NR
W/VE Single Operator, High Power	Preston Radio Club, W7PRC	AA3B
W/VE Single Operator, Low Power	Robert E. Darlington III, N3XKB	W4AAA (KK9A, op)
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	WQ6X Software	K1IG
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	SMECC Communications	
DX Multioperator, High Power	Museum (AZ), KF7RWW	AA5AU
	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY,	OL7M
	Memorial by W0YK	
DX Multioperator, Low Power	Jeff Stai, WK6I	LY7Z
DX Single Operator, High Power	Rick Tavan, N6XI	P49X (W0YK, op)
DX Single Operator, Low Power	Rich Cady, N1XF	H13TEJ
DX Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	4M1K
DX Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Michael Trowbridge, KA4RRU	S56A
Canada Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Tom Haavisto, VE3CX	VE7CC
Central Division Multioperator, High Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	NV9L
Central Division Multioperator, Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	K9NR
Central Division Single Operator, High Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	W9IE
Central Division Single Operator, Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	N9CK
Dakota Division Multioperator, High Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	W0SD
Dakota Division Single Operator, High Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	K0JJR
Dakota Division Single Operator, Low Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	K0AD
Dakota Division Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	K0CN
Dakota Division Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Minnesota Wireless Association	AA0AW
New England Division Single Operator, High Power	CTRI Contest Group	K5ZD
Northwestern Division Single Operator, High Power	Hank, KR7X	N7QT
Pacific Division Single Operator, High Power	Northern California Contest Club	K6MR
Pacific Division Single Operator, Low Power	Dick Wilson, K6LRN,	K6GHA
	and Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD	

Watch a Mechanical Marvel

If you've never seen one of the electromechanical teleprinters in action, prepare to be amazed! There are many YouTube videos of teleprinters and RTTY operation. For an example, check out www.youtube.com/watch?v=11Bcfr8zBvg.

The Possibilities of 2018

Aside from the new Heavy Metal overlay, the next contest is always different — and always has the potential to be a great one. The 2018 RTTY Roundup will take place on January 6 – 7, so prepare to thaw some of the holiday leftovers, clean off the keyboard, and get ready to operate.

New Products

BCS-200 Speaker Mic from BridgeCom Systems

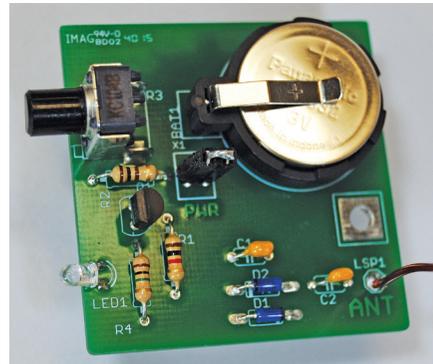
The BCS-200 speaker mic from BridgeCom Systems is designed for use in rough weather conditions. It features “windporting” to lessen background



noise from high winds and other severe weather conditions. The mic is water resistant, and audio can pass through the speaker grill even when the microphone port is blocked by water. The BCS-200 is compatible with BridgeCom's BCH-220 handheld, as well as many models from other manufacturers. Price \$30. For more information, visit www.bridgesystems.com.

Pacific Antenna Field Strength Indicator Kit

The Field Strength Indicator kit from Pacific Antenna visually monitors RF field strength through the brightness of an LED. It will respond to nearby RF signals from approximately 1 MHz to more than 500 MHz and includes an on-board sensitivity adjustment.



Components mount on a 1.75-inch-square PC board. The kit can be powered from the provided coin cell battery or external power. Price: \$15. For more information or to order see www.qrpkits.com.