

1976 Novice Roundup

February 7-15 Results

By Jim Cain,* WA1STN

Today's Novices are tomorrow's Elmers. Another crop of newcomers have completed their Novice careers and moved on into the ranks of permanently licensed amateurs, capping their Novice careers with the 1976 Novice Roundup. 392 Novices reported their NR successes (and failures) to Headquarters this year, down markedly from 495 last year. Surmounting such problems as the almost useless condition of 15 meters and the total absence of any worthwhile activity on ten, our Bicentennial Rounduppers still made the usual gains in operating proficiency, code speed and Worked-All-States totals.

Alabama was the scene for this year's victory, WN4KKN, rounding out his career with a substantial margin over Connecticut's number-two man, WN1UWR. Almost every successful Novice has someone in the background,

*Asst. Communications Mgr., ARRL

Perhaps the neat and functional layout of WN9SBC's station allowed him to rack up a respectable 26k, while leading the Illinois section.



Judy Regennitter, WN0PMA/4, came in second in the North Carolina section. Her 3-element beam on 15 meters and dipole on 80 meters enabled Judy to work 53 sections and 6 countries to score 15k.

giving advice. Trey Garlough, WN4KKN was lucky to have long-time contestester W8FAW (now living in Alabama) as his teacher, and it showed. Young Trey (he



John O'Mara, WN4NFS, and his Heath HW-101, which, coupled to a 2-element beam on 15 and dipoles on 80 and 40 meters, were good for 424 contacts and 23,436 points to lead the Virginia section.

can't even call himself a teenager yet) jumped from second place in 1975 to the top spot this year.

Seven different call areas are represented in the Top Ten, reminiscent of the last few November Sweepstakes contests. Five U.S. ARRL sections conspicuously had no Novice entrants: San Francisco, Hawaii, Nevada, Alaska and North Dakota. Michigan again lead the country in quantity and overall score of all Novice entries, followed by Ohio, North Texas, South Texas, and Connecticut. It looks like those sections will continue to be the hotbeds of contest activity that they have traditionally been.

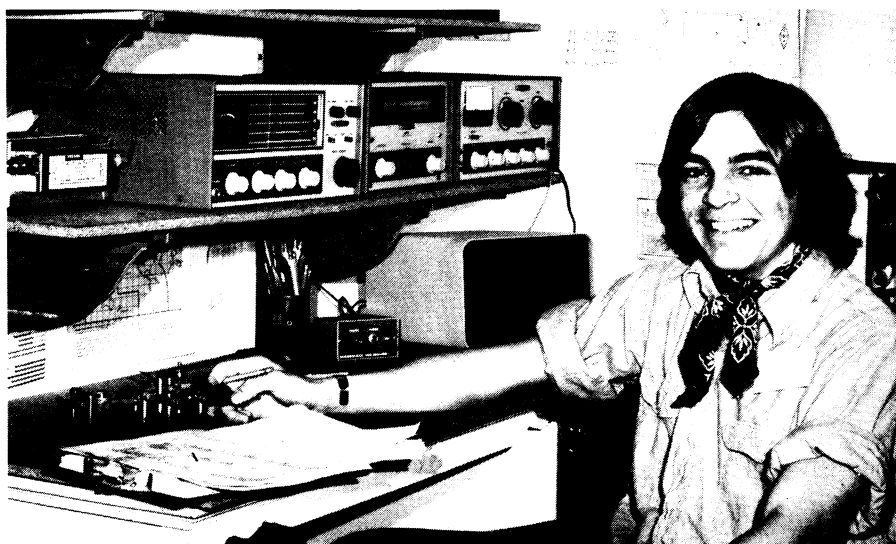
Our award for most persistent operator has to go to WN8TXE, who operated as a Novice using the call sign W8LT, hardly one recognizable as being a beginner. That's a tough way to go about it, since a large proportion of most Novices' logs are made up of non-Novice contacts. Quite possibly "most popular Novice" was WN7ZTA, who handed out 258 contacts from rare Wyoming. We'll be looking for that call sign in future contests and hoping he stays in Rock Springs for a while. Novice appreciation award to Extra-Classer WA1WEM, who stuck it out to

work an even 300 Novices. And, of course, thanks to *all* the old fogeys who ventured into the Novice segments and turned down their keyers. It does take some kind of patience!

The 1977 Novice Roundup will be different. Next Novice Roundup Novice licensees will be allowed an increased-power level (250 watts). Combined with their VFOs, such power capability will make many Novice stations something to be reckoned with. In addition, *all* licensees operating in the Novice segments will be allowed a maximum of 250 watts. Finally, Technician class licensees will have Novice license privileges, and activity in the Novice bands will undoubtedly pick up.

Several thoughts come to mind when the above changes are considered. First, sentiment has been greatly in favor of doing away with the usual admonition that non-Novices avoid calling "CQ" during the Roundup. All indications point to the conclusion that such CQing, used in moderation, is beneficial to the Roundup, and most Novices and upperclassmen alike are in favor of it. Additionally, all higher classes will be running the same power allowed to Novices, so there seems little reason to retain the unofficial rule about non-Novices calling CQ NR.

At this time, the position of Technicians in the NR is uncertain; the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee is awaiting comments and suggestions upon which to base a recommendation. While the Techs are, in essence, Novices when they operate in those frequency bands, most of them are hardly "beginners." Even if they are put on an equal competitive basis with the Novices, they would be at a disadvantage, since they do not have Novice call signs. Probably the best approach (editorial) would be to place them in a separate class, competitive with each other but not with



A DX-60B and dipoles on 40 and 15 meters accounted for 461 contacts and a score of 24,752 for Howard Kraus, WN2AUD, in Western New York.

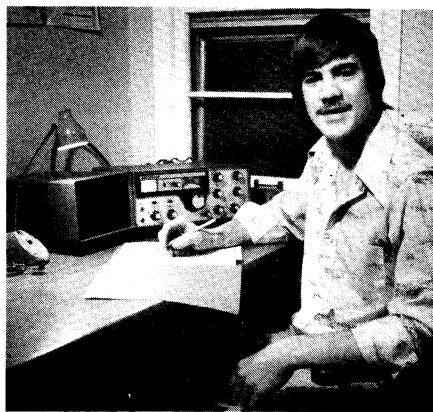
the Novices. As such, they would be eligible for awards, same as the Novices. Write to the CAC, c/o ARRL headquarters, if you have strong feelings on the matter either way.

Soapbox

Received my license Thursday, set up my station Friday, and jumped into the NR Friday evening. Quite a way to start out in ham radio! — (WN4HCC) I thought there was supposed to be incentive licensing. This (NR) makes you want to stay a Novice! — (WN2DFO) Only 12-watts input and a small antenna, I did not work many stations. . . I had only one QSO before the NR, so I had a lot to learn. . . P.S. Lee's just making excuses for such a poor showing in the Novice Roundup. — (WN3BCF, P.S. by his XYL) Many thanks to the higher-class licensees who made up a majority of my contacts. — (WN9QVY) Had terrible QRN from leaky power line, so I called the power company. . . they came out and repaired it. . . the day after the NR was over. — (WN0OHJ) The top of a DX-60 makes a nice pattern on toast. — (WN1UZK) After 5 hours of operation had to use the 1000-watt dryer to cool the finals in the transmitter. — (WN6HEU) Sure wish a KL7 had visited the Novice bands! — (WN5MHO) Working on log sheets was harder than the contest. — (WN3YIR) I had to quit after Wednesday because my Advanced ticket came in the mail. — (WN4MGF) Been on the air for 6 months and am now firmly convinced that North Dakota is a figment of someone's imagination. — (WN5PGH) Did not start in NR until I got an OO Card. Then I knew my xmtr was getting out. — (WN8UEH) Good news — your new Heathkit came. Bad news — you have 24 hours to build it before the NR.

— (WN9SAK) Contest was fun, but my new rig catching fire and burning shack wasn't. — (WN8VBW) I am brand new at this game but I find NR a challenge, a little frustrating, but good for the ear. — (WN2CPH) It was a real thrill to be informed in the middle of the contest,

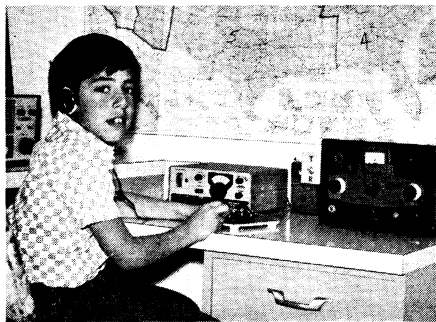
The happy look on WN3ALS's face is for a good reason. Pete's 51,048 not only took top score in the Western Pennsylvania section, but also gave him third place nationwide.



Minnesota section leader, WN0OHJ, at the controls of his Tempo One xcvr. Using an inverted vee on 80 meters and dipoles on 40 and 15 meters all at 50 feet, Bill managed 361 contacts in 26 hours.

WN2PRG's logs were as neat as her station; Pat is the 1976 NR Gold Pencil award winner.





WN6JGK, ten years old, took third place in the Santa Barbara section.



A 3-element beam on 15, an inverted vee on 40, and a dipole on 80 meters, helped Jeff Smith, WN7BBQ, to 9.9k and fourth place in the Washington section.

that due to an FCC computer error I had been issued the wrong call sign. — (WN4DIW now WN4ERM) I have just one question to ask after 30 hours of wearing headphones and listening to cw. Does anyone know how long it will be before the ringing in my ears goes away and I quit hearing cw from the television, refrigerator etc.? — (WN2AZH/5) To average over 100 points per hour with only 5-watts input shows how good the Novice operators are to pull me through the QRM. — (WA4GRO) . . . the contest gave me the practice. I picked up 15 new states and got my code speed up past 13 wpm. I think I will go take my General test now. — (WN4DBK) Just one question, was there anyone participating in the contest from the great and apparently rare state of Maine? — (WN3AHV) Heard many excellents fists. — (WN2AUD) With the XYL and children gone for the whole week, I thought that I might really do great, but having to answer their phone calls, fix my own meals and pack my lunch bucket, it seems that I made the wrong decision. — (WN8SNO) I would think that a weekend contest would be better, unless it is the intent for this to be an endurance as well as an operating contest. — (WN0OQV) I'm kicking

myself for not having a 40-meter antenna. 80 was poor in the daytime and 15 only popped in once in a while. — (WN8STZ) I worked almost half the states running 2 and 3 watts with a couple of dipoles — one strung up in the kitchen. — (WN6EDQ) Short CQs (2x1) very effective in getting higher-class license answers and half of my score. — (AK2CFN) It was so much fun, I wish it could have lasted longer. — (WN8VBG) Was only able to get on for 10 hours due to a broken leg. — (WN4CYN) This was my first contest and my first run-in with old Mr. Murphy. — (WN8VEF) Being both a ragchewer and a contest fan, I can sympathize with those who are literally put "out of business" on the crowded weekends. — (WN6DCL) . . . turned out to be quite rewarding, picked up 7 states, including Wyoming and 1 new country. — (WN7CBA) I loaded up on 80 meters through my picture-window frame. I'm gonna have to get my act together for these things. — (AK6FFI) I'm hooked!!! Can't wait to pass my General so I can participate in more contests. — (WN1VGP) Would like to have had a higher score — no such luck. (If it were raining soup, I'd be locked outdoors with a fork!) — (WN3ZLV) Fifteen meters did not seem to be open or used that much; 40 meters seemed to be all QRM with some QRN at times for an added attraction . . . did not have an 80-meter antenna, so did not try that band. Maybe it would have helped some. — (AK5NRH) My girlfriend said that I need the experience. — (WN8TJO) Went through two and a half pens making out QSL cards! — (WN5PVL) How about next year asking all schools to abolish homework during Novice Roundup? — (WN8UXD) Great way to round out my Novice career, as I just passed my General exam. But I'll be back! — (WN0PMA/4) . . . it was almost one week after the end of the NR before I could bear to look at a key again. — (WN4SVC) I was delighted to already receive a QSL from 9-year-old YL, WN0QLB. — (K4EJG) My most notable experience was working 3 stations in one minute while eating dinner and listening to my mother nagging about the noise! — (AK6BFL) I was sick the first weekend of the contest, and the band was sick the second weekend. — (WN5PGE) I enjoyed the contest very much, but once a year is enough. — (WN5POP) I wanted the NR to not only be my last activity as a Novice, but also my best. And it certainly was! — (WN1UWR) Thirty hours is a lot of rounding up! — (AK1UUF) Wait 'til next year! — (WN9SEI)

Certificates will be mailed to 1976 Novice Roundup section winners around September 15. See you in the Sweepstakes!



A vertical antenna on 40 and 15 meters, driven by the HT-40 in this photo, gave Judy, WN2ZRC, 10.9k and fourth place in the Southern New Jersey section.



Doug Stevens, WN2BBS/7, section leader in Montana.

TOP TEN

WN4KKK	63,920
WN1UWR	52,836
WN3ALS	51,048
WN5POP	49,533
WN5NXQ	48,519
WN5PGH	46,531
WN5MWQ/7	44,238
WN8RTJ	42,910
WN6DYZ	42,705
WN5QDX	40,880

DIVISION LEADERS

Atlantic	WN3ALS
Central	WN9RZS
Dakota	WN0OHJ
Delta	WN5POP
Great Lakes	WN8RTJ
Hudson	WN2YYT
Midwest	WN0PAT
New England	WN1UWR
Northwestern	WN7AHS
Pacific	WN6DYZ
Roanoke	WN8SNO
Rocky Mt.	WN0PEA
Southeastern	WN4KKK
Southwestern	WN5MWQ/7
West Gulf	WN5NXQ
Canadian	—

Novice Round Scores

Scores read, left to right, call, score, contacts, multiplier, and number of hours of operation.

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