

Results, 1980 ARRL Novice Roundup

Only the beginning. . . .

By Tom Frenaye,* K1KI

Things have changed a bit since the very first Novice Roundup in 1952. In that year just five of the 92 Novice entrants managed to surpass the 100-QSO mark — and the NR was a 40-hour contest back then. This year, for the first time, two stations broke the 1000-QSO mark! Of course the new crop of Novices have it a little different. Back in 1952 the Novice license was good for just one year and not renewable, and they had 2-meter privileges. In addition, they didn't have 10 meters, had to run less than 75-watts input and could not use a VFO.

Most Novices had homebrew transmitters (6L6s were popular at about 10 watts), while

today nearly everyone owns commercial gear. Oh yes, 532 logs were received this year from 383 Novices, 46 Technicians and 102 "upperclassmen." This was a slight decrease from last year's 561. Just over 82% of the Novice/Technician entries indicated a transceiver was used, 17% chose the transmitter-receiver route, and one person used a converted CB rig on 10 meters. Looks like homebrew equipment and contest operators don't go together too well these days. The one person who used homebrew gear indicated that he wasn't going to submit a score because he didn't enjoy the NR.

On the other hand, Novices seem to put a lot of their energy into antenna experimentation. Dipoles were by far the most popular antennas, with 68% having at least one of them up. Beams were second on the list with 27% reporting their use. Farther down the list were trap verticals (15%), verticals (11%), inverted vees (9%), long wires (8%), trap dipoles (6%) and ground planes (1%). At least one person reported using an inverted L, double bazooka, Windom, loop, V beam or sloper. Many people changed or rebuilt their antenna systems part way through NR week as they found out how well their existing systems did or did not work.

Many of the General class and higher participants commented on the wide variation in code speeds heard during the NR. Some people were obviously on the air for the first time, while others were doing so well it seemed they shouldn't be Novices any more! The five-year renewable Novice license may give the slow starters a better chance to upgrade but also gives you fast talkers an excuse not to. Most people who spent more than a few hours in the NR were able to build up their code speed considerably. Don't stop now; do some more studying and upgrade as soon as you can. After all, the DXing and contesting is much more fun outside the Novice bands!

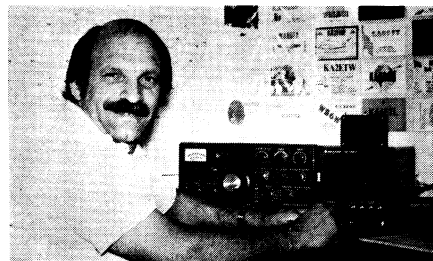
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FEEDBACK

Last year's writeup contained a couple of errors: Third place in Colorado went to WB0GXR, fourth place in Idaho went to KA7CKE; and KA2BNF and KA4AUR should have been listed in the less-than-two-years-licensed category.



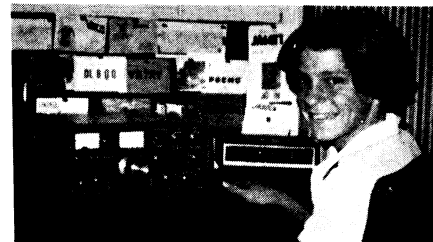
In her first contest, KA9FWD/T gathered in 208 QSOs and her first DX QSO. (WD8QJB photo)



KA6EUS/N looks like he's on his way to a completely QSL-covered wall with that patented smile of his.



With his code speed increased by more than 5 wpm, KA4KIZ/N should be well on his way to upgrading.



It only took 15 hours for KA6EWF/N to make the 200-QSO mark. Looks like he just added a new state to his collection, judging by the big smile.



KA0DOO/N can now claim the honors as top Novice scorer from Minnesota.

Top Ten Novices

WD5COV	108,253
KA2BNF	95,920
WD0HCG	76,440
WB5LVL	71,148
KA9BSD	69,065
KA2CLQ	65,484
WB1FFP	64,768
WD8NKC	61,050
WB1AOG	58,368
WD8BHE	51,450

Top Five Technicians

KA2CMC	87,010
KA8FDW	61,072
KA0DNI	47,064
WB2DNP	44,916
WB3JIW	18,960

Division Leaders

Novice

KA3DCT	Atlantic
KA9BSD	Central
WD0BWH	Dakota
WD5JZL	Delta
WD8NKC	Great Lakes
KA2BNF	Hudson
WD0HCG	Midwest
WB1FFP	New England
KA7FPP	Northwestern
KA6GDB	Pacific
KA8BIZ	Roanoke
WD5COV	Rocky Mountain
WD4AHZ	Southeastern
KA6FAP	Southwestern
WB5LVL	West Gulf

Technician

KA2CMC
KA9FWD
N0BHC
N5AVN
KA8FDW
WB2DNP
KA0DNI
WB1EIH
KA7DRN
WA6HKP
WD4KEP
WD5IWP
KA4GSK
N6CJA
WD5CSQ

