

Results, 1992 ARRL RTTY Roundup

More fun than I thought was possible.—Don, KC4TIR/N

By Hal Blegen, WA7EGA, and Billy Lunt, KR1R

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Contest Manager

Two hours before the gun, you could tell from the excited chatter on the band, the little false starts and the pseudo-exchanges as the operators checked their buffers, that the adrenalin was flowing. Solar flux was 250+. A quick sweep of the bands found JJ3YYB with a big signal on 20 meters, while off the back of the beam, AH6IX was S9 on 15. From the West Coast on 10 meters, Colorado, Massachusetts and Florida sounded as if they were local. The 1618Z Boulder K-index dropped to 1. The "Grand Prix of RTTY" was about to begin.

Conditions for this year's Roundup were so good that, for at least some of the operators who may have gleefully compared their 1992 scores with those from previous years, the final standings may be disappointing.

Four of the top-10 high-power single ops smashed a record that had been around since 1989. The top-two low-power singles also broke previous class records, and UZ9CWA, operating as a DX-QRO multiop entry, nearly doubled the previous high score in his class. Records were set in four of the eight possible categories!

The Roundup lived up to its growing reputation for fast action. The 1989 results showed 18 stations with more than 400 QSOs. This year, 55 stations topped the 400 mark. There were seven stations with more than 600 QSOs, and for the first time, two stations broke 1000! "We were able to work the US all 24 hours we were on the air," wrote UZ9CWA, and Laurent, FJ5BL, could hardly believe it, "I made my WAS on RTTY in just 24 hours! The pileup was so big it filled my screen!"

On his first try in QRO single-op, Harry Ward, KG5EG, put his new amplifier to good use, netting the highest Roundup score ever logged! Harry used a KAM, an ICOM IC-765 HF transceiver, a new-for-Christmas Alpha 87 linear amplifier and a Hy-Gain TH7 antenna to bag 1010 QSOs and 99 mults. His DX-spotting setup was an ICOM IC-725 transceiver and a Tele-reader, with a Cushcraft A3 tribander fixed on Europe. On 40 and 80 meters he ran a GAP IV vertical antenna. Harry, who operated as HL9RY in the 1991 Roundup, recently moved to Colorado. His 65-foot

tower gets a 7500-foot terrain boost from a hilltop overlooking Colorado Springs.

Harry did very little band hopping, concentrating on a single band and only QSYing when he found a multiplier. This is a key point. There are two philosophies on the use of a second transceiver. With an electronic lockout to keep all but one transmitter off the air, Hal, WA7EGA, was able to call CQ on two bands, essentially running rate on both, switching bands for every QSO. The theory is that sending on one band while receiving on the other will increase the rate. The trade-off with this idea lies in the small delays and timing glitches that occur when the two bands get out of synch and that, while both rigs are running rate, it's impossible to search for multipliers.

Over 24 hours, the 18-QSO spread between KG5EG and WA7EGA was negligible, but the extra multipliers Harry found by carefully searching the "off" band won the contest. He said that he passed up a couple of mults when pileups were too large. The only state he missed was Montana.

"Although power line noise on the vertical was a problem on receive, 40 meters / most critical band," he said. sed WB2DND's logging program,

having only received WF1B's contest software on the morning of the Roundup. Harry rated persistence as the primary contesting skill.

"My only regret," he said, "was in not breaking 100,000 points. This had to be the most fun I've ever had in a contest!" He had stiff competition—WA7EGA (second), KT1N (third) and KØRC (fourth) submitted record-breaking scores. Congratulations, Harry!

The fourth-highest score in the contest, and the highest score ever received from a DX entry, came from UZ9CWA in the DX, high-power, multiop category. The Roundup places a hard-and-fast 10-minute band-change rule on multiops, but lets the single ops band hop. The effect has been that the top single-operator scores have always been higher than the multis. Considering the RF wall caused by stateside stations working each other with their beams pointed inboard, and remembering that the record US-multiop score is 69k, UZ9CWA's 81,305 points is a feat that deserves high praise!

Denis Mahoney, VE6ZX, made history. This was the first time he won a contest, he was a new record holder for the US/VE low-power single category and he was the first Canadian station ever to win a major



Juan, EA8AKQ, finished at the top of the single-operator, low-power standings.



Jon, KB9ATR, did a multioperator effort to try to get more people interested in digital communications. Shown are (l-r) John, KC9XT; Chris; Linda, N9LVL; Jon, KB9ATR; Jocelyne, WZ9M; Denny, W9XD; John, N9IOX; George, N9LBJ; and Brian, KB9GRP.

Single Operator Division Leaders

Division	Low Power		High Power	
	Call	Score	Call	Score
Atlantic	NT3B	40,800	W2UP	57,058
Central	W9XU	30,743	N9ITX	68,600
Dakota	NJ0M	54,646	K0RC	74,008
Delta	AA5AU	58,930	WJ5V	17,280
Great Lakes	WB8YJF	48,638	AB8K	50,537
Hudson	KC2FD	25,568	N2DL	63,648
Midwest	K0BX	27,876	NU0P	29,160
New England	KC1YZ	37,350	KT1N	84,840
Northwestern	WB7AVD	54,285	WA7EGA	94,576
Pacific	W8G0AZT	25,200	N6GG	44,968
Roanoke	KA4RRU	38,505	WB4M	61,250
Rocky Mountain	N7GVV	19,668	KG5EG	99,990
Southeastern	KB4GID	48,048	AA4TH	52,954
Southwestern	KE7NF	51,012	AA4M/6	73,358
West Gulf	KI5GX	26,106	WF5E	73,098
Canada	VE6ZX	68,484	VE3XO	71,973

Single Operator Continental Leaders

Continent	Low Power		High Power	
	Call	Score	Call	Score
Africa	EA8AKQ	57,240	CT3BX	48,024
Asia	JA3DLE/1	24,735	JR4GPA	4,590
Europe	G0ARF	32,172	HA6PX	40,940
North America	KG4DD	48,587	FJ5BL	35,926
Oceania	AH6IX	10,400	AH6JF	16,320
South America	4M5RY	43,884	CE3BFZ	2,738

(YV5KAV,op)

category in the Roundup. Denis ran a 10-year-old Yaesu FT-902 HF transceiver and FL-2100 power amplifier. He throttled the power down to 150 watts on the low bands, but with the old tubes, the most he could get on 10 meters was 55 watts out. RTTY came from a HAL PCI-3000 board in his IBM PS/2 and he hand logged the contest. For antennas, he ran a 3-element quad at 60 feet, a wire delta quad on 40 and a half-sloping dipole on 80.

Denis said that, for him, the key to successful contesting was the 10-meter opening. "Up here in Edmonton," he said, "we seldom get 10-meter openings that last all day. This was an unusual weekend."

He said that he couldn't run enough power to work 20 meters, so his band strategy was to start the contest on 10 and alternate between 10 and 15 meters as long as they were open. When asked about logging software, he said, "You have to remember, I'm only two years off a Model 28."

Don Hill, AA5AU, who finished in second place in the low-power single class, rates special mention because his score of 58,930 broke the previous class record. By the end of the contest, when a multiplier was worth 700 points, that 9k spread between first and second was a close race. Don's was a familiar lament: "Where was Montana?"

Although he had the class pretty much to himself, SV1SV and his eight-man crew deserve a tip of the hat for setting a record in the multioperator, low-power DX category.

In the closest finish of the contest, Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B, coached a three-man crew to a 1500-point photo finish against Jim's crew at KC5PO to win the barn-burner section of the US/VE multiop class.

"Our stateside runs were excellent," he said. "This is definitely a fun contest and I was glad to see so many new faces joining the fun."

Ray's effort was run from KING's contest station in Exeter, Rhode Island. When you start listing antennas, it reads like Noah's Ark (two by two up the ramp). He has a pair of towers with monobanders on each for 10-40 meters and dipoles on 80. The gear included more than one Yaesu FT-1000 HF transceiver, an Amp Supply linear amplifier and Kantronics KAMs for RTTY. They, of course, ran the latest version of WF1B's contest software.

Ray said that although they got more multipliers on 15 meters, 40 was the best stateside band. On the first QSO of the contest, they blew up the 10-meter amplifier. Because of the operating position layout, this made 10 meters a barefoot operation for most of the contest and severely limited their QSO total on that band. They missed North Dakota and Montana.

WF1B wasn't the only station with gremlin trouble. There's something about contest RF that seems to seek out the weakest point in a system and destroy it. Glenn, AE0Q: *RF ruined the serial ports on my new computer, but I still had a blast.* James, WB6SMX: *I'm getting tired of being a foster home for Murphy during the contest.* Michael, WB9YJF: *I managed 200 more QSOs than last year, even though my computer kept crashing.*

You could almost hear the sigh when Warren, KC3ST, wrote, "This is a great contest for the little guy. Now if I could keep everything working for 24 hours...."

It's Not All in the Equipment

KG4DD took the honors for low-power

DX and, in the process, allowed a lot of new operators to add Guantanamo Bay to their RTTY country list. 4M5RY nosed out KP4FP for second place, with only an 8k point spread between first and third.

When examining strategies and listing the stacks of equipment that seem to be required to reach the winner's circle, it's refreshing to be reminded that in the Roundup, a major category can still be won by sheer exuberance.

To illustrate the point, Jon Slough, KB9ATR, and his crew of mostly brand-new RTTY ops won this year's US/VE multiop, low-power category. Jon ran a Kenwood TS-140S transceiver to a 3-element tribander at 62 feet. He has a dual-band inverted V for 40 and 80 meters. For RTTY, they used an AEA PK-232MBX with no special filters and they hand logged the contest.

Although the people at OSHA probably would have shut him down, Jon should probably be nominated for this year's "Press On, Regardless" award. With 45 minutes to go, they blew the rig's power supply. He said it took 11 minutes to tear it down and get it running again, and they finished the contest with it breadboarded on the operating bench (shudder!).

"There was a lot of activity above 28.100 MHz in the Novice subband. It's a real mistake to forget the Novices and Techs," he said.

Their best US band was 40 meters, with the most multipliers on 10. They missed Montana and Nevada. Of the 13 operators involved in the effort, only three, including Jon, had ever worked RTTY before.

"Our only goal," he said, "was to have a good time and to beat last year's score."

KB9ATR didn't have a monopoly on new RTTY ops. Bob, VS6AI: *It was my*

TOP TEN

Single Operator, High Power, W/VE

Call	Score
KG5EG	99,990
WA7EGA	94,576
KT1N	84,840
K0RC	74,008
AA4M6	73,358
WF5E	73,098
VE3XO	71,973
A17B	71,949
WF5T	70,296
N9ITX	68,600

Single Operator, High Power, DX

Call	Score
CT3BX	48,024
HA6PX	40,940
OH2LU	37,890
FJ5BL	35,926
AL7LD	33,086
RC2AZ	29,568
J37WA	21,024
AH6JF	16,320
SM5FUG	12,736
I2SVA	10,816

Single Operator, Low Power, W/VE

Call	Score
VE6ZX	68,484
AA5AU	58,930
NJ0M	54,646
WB7AVD	54,285
KE7NF	51,012
WB8YJF	48,638
KB4GID	48,048
NT3B	40,800
NM3E	40,590
KA4RRU	38,505

Single Operator, Low Power, DX

Call	Score
KG4DD	48,587
4M5RY	(YV5KAJ,op)
KP4FP	43,884
G0ARF	40,504
E8AKQ	32,172
JA3DLE/1	25,902
UA9CI	24,735
PA3DBS	23,700
G4SKA	23,380
LA7AJ	22,599
	14,950



David, WB0QIR, beat his antenna restrictions by running coax out to the antenna on his car, making 153 QSOs in the process.

TOP TEN

Multioperator, High Power, W/VE

Call	Score
WF1B	67,144
KC5PO	65,653
VE7ZZZ	49,734
KY1F	48,204
N7FYT	40,596
WA0VQR	39,285
K17T	15,400
W3/VK1GN	12,992
N3FTI	6,396
N8ASI	2,590

Top Multioperator Scores, High Power, DX

Call	Score
UZ9CWA	81,305
J3YBB	40,572
NL7HP	32,494
LZ2KIM	29,625

Top Multioperator Scores, Low Power, DX

Call	Score
SV1SV	15,555

Multioperator, Low Power, W/VE

Call	Score
KB9ATR	30,340
K00Z	21,655
W5VZF	21,389
VE3JUR	12,036
AB4TC	8,957
N5SAO	8,556
W8UMD	7,228
WA3YON	7,038
WB4WOR	4,368
WA3BAT	3,458

first contest. Geoffrey, KH6LP: *I had never made a contact on RTTY before the contest started.* Tom, N8IYV: *This was my first RTTY contest.* Patrick, ON5SV: *I really enjoyed this, it was my first RTTY contest.* Mark, N2IRY: *This was my first time operating RTTY and now I'm hooked!*

A big factor in the popularity of the Roundup is the ability of the "little guy" to have as much fun as the "big guns." In the nine hours that he worked the contest, Joe, NI1L, worked 74 QSOs and 34 mults. That may not sound like a big deal, except for his comment that "All my contacts were made with five watts to a dipole in the attic." Bruce, WA7BNM, was also surprised: "I didn't think it was possible to

work RTTY with a vertical and 100 watts," he said.

Overall, the activity continues to build, as most of the comments indicated. David, N2DL: *I couldn't believe the number of stations on the air. I worked 25 states in the first two hours, and worked all but 5 by the end of the contest.* Barry, W2UP: *I still had a great rate going at 1 AM!* Michael, N9ITX: *It was another great contest, with participation definitely up. I almost tripled last year's score.* Jack, NT3B: *This has got to be the best RTTY contest going. The call signs come out of the woodwork for this one.*

About 400 logs were submitted, which is up 25% from last year. As always, these numbers don't include the operators who join in for a few hours just for fun. Low-power ops outnumbered the QROs by more than three to one. The wall-to-wall activity cooled a little between 0400-1300 UTC (six-hour rest breaks), but during peak hours the only limits were operator efficiency and the receiver passband. "What a difference a 500-Hz filter makes," wrote Ronald, K00Z, "I doubled last year's score." Daniel, KA1BNO, posed a good question, though: "Where do all the stations go after the Roundup is over?"

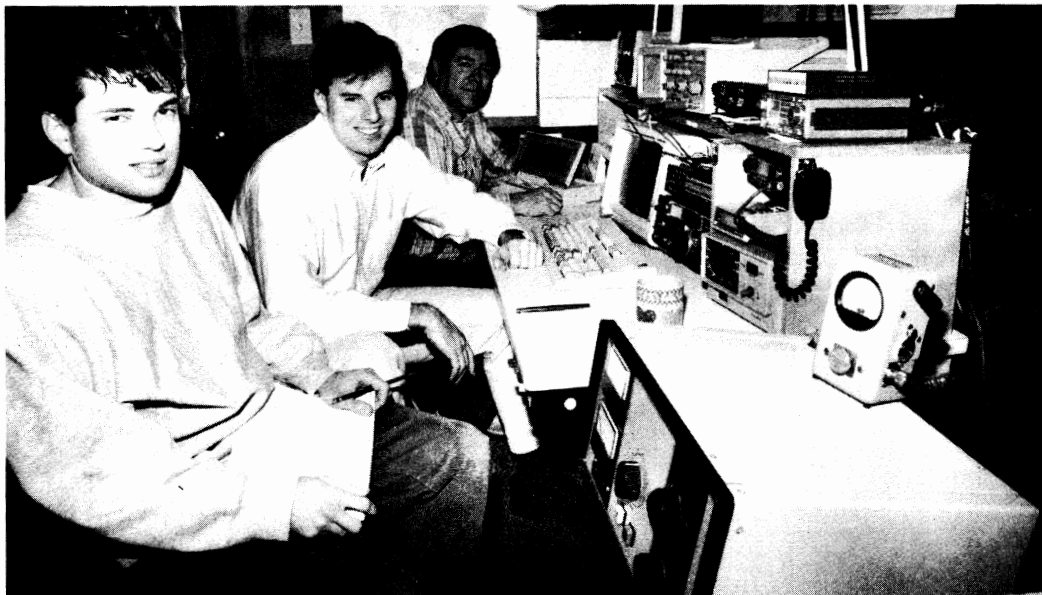
Contesting is a good test of your equipment layout. "I never knew how uncomfortable it was to run my station until now," wrote James, N9MWU, after eight hours on the keys. Another year is coming up. With the summer weather, this is the time to get those antennas ready, fix that chair and relocate the keyboard. Keep the first weekend in January open. Michael,

KA4RRU, sez, "I can't wait for the next one!"

Me, too, Mike. See you then.—WA7EGA

SOAPBOX

I have a modest station and my score shows that anyone can be a contester (WB7AVD). The bands were interesting, but not spectacular (CT3BX). Band conditions were poor the first 12 hours. There were few or no signals on 80 meters (K4IBP). It was good to see so many new RTTY ops (W8PBX). Where were Montana and Nevada? (NM3E). This contest is fun! (N8FEH). It was an enjoyable contest! I wish there had been more DX signals, but I managed to work some new states—such as Delaware—that had been elusive (WN1G). Propagation was good during the few hours we had daylight (SM5FUG). For a poor typist, I had a great time (K2PF). The bands were up and down all day (WA8FLF). I had strong wind conditions Saturday night and was afraid to turn the beam because of potential wind damage (N6GG). We had a blast this year! We tried for 25 minutes to work a Maine station (NL7HP). Although I wasn't in the contest to win, I had a good time (W8PHG). I did much better this year. I tried to call CQ more often, but with 100 watts, it was hard to find a clear frequency. It seemed like there were many more stations on this year. (AH6IX). The DX wasn't as good this year as it was last year, but there were plenty of stateside ops on, and I worked a few more for my RTTY WAS (AL7MK). There were plenty of stations to work, although DX multipliers were in short supply (NJ0M). I missed one QSO to make 200; next year I won't sleep as much (VE2OWL). Conditions were good on 10 meters and I made 60 W/VE contacts on 40 meters! (HA6PX). It was a fast-paced contest (4M5RY). I had a lot of fun, even if I didn't have a lot of operating time (WA3RRS). I learned a lot from the super operators. I worked a number of new states, which was my primary objective (W4MTE). The level of activity was excellent (K17T). It's a pity more people don't know about this contest! (I2SVA). I wish I'd had my beam back up instead of the vertical (WA6VZI). I was nervous in the beginning, but as I got into the contest, the strain wore off (WB6VSE).



With the family home for the holidays (l-r), Jerry, N7FYS; Dave, N7FYT; and Allen, N7FYU; decided to give the RTTY Roundup a whirl. They finished with 597 contacts—good enough for fifth place, Multioperator, High Power.



Hector, KC1YZ, won a tight race in Eastern Massachusetts by only a handful of multipliers.



Al, RC2AZ, designed and built all his equipment for the contest. He exclaimed, "This was my first ARRL RTTY contest and it was a great one!"



Ed, AA4TH, claims, "This contest has taken over as the best of all RTTY contests."



Scores

Scores are listed by continents, DXCC countries and ARRL/Canadian Sections. DX stations are listed first, then the US and Canada. Within each country or Section, single-operator scores are listed first, then multioperator scores. Each line score lists call sign, final score, number of QSOs, number of multipliers, hours operated and power (A = less than 150-W output; B = more than 150-W output).

Africa					Alaska					W2YRH					7,896 141 56 14 B					K4KVI					18,090 270 67 24 A					W8VQI					1,456 56 26 6 B																													
Madeira Is					AL7LD					K2MYD					1,161 43 27 10 A					W5TTE					3,386 99 34 13 A					N8IRS/T					1,232 56 22 11 A																													
CT3BX					48,024 522 92 24 B					K2WVYE/T					960 40 24 13 A					K5FSB					2,555 73 35 6 B					W8UMD (KB8s INF,KNC,LO,N8s KDJ, LJP,NRV,NSA,OB6,AL,WB8ZUJ, KAUJTW,ops)					7,228 139 52 21 A																													
Canary Is					E8AAKQ					25,920 360 72 24 A					KB2BYQ/T					760 38 20 12 B					N5MOC					1,780 55 32 14 A																																		
Ascension Is					ZD8LII					11,220 170 66 24 A																																																						
Asia																																																																
Japan																																																																
JA3DLE/1					24,735 291 85 18 A																																																											
JA1AYC					11,628 171 68 14 A																																																											
JE2UFF					7,598 131 58 9 A																																																											
JR4GPA					4,580 102 45 24 B																																																											
JA1WYQ					1,850 50 37 24 A																																																											
JJ3YBB (JA3s FHL,LHL,PJL,JE3TXA, JH3s PQF,UHG,ops)					40,572 441 92 20 B																																																											
Asiatic Russia																																																																
UA9CI					23,700 300 79 24 A																																																											
UZ9CWA (UA9s CFV,CGA,UV9CAF, ops)					81,305 707 115 24 B																																																											
Hong Kong																																																																
VS6AI					2,090 95 22 10 A																																																											
Europe																																																																
Germany																																																																
DL9MBZ					12,740 196 65 24 A																																																											
Y26GA					5,586 147 38 21 A																																																											
DF3NA					3,564 81 44 24 A																																																											
DL2D8S					1,980 60 33 24 A																																																											
DL8HCO					1,595 55 29 24 A																																																											
DF5BX					1,134 42 27 24 A																																																											
DK5KJ					806 31 26 24 A																																																											
Balearic Is																																																																
EA6ZS					550 25 22 24 A																																																											
England																																																																
G8ARF					32,172 383 84 22 A																																																											
G4SKA					22,596 279 81 21 A																																																											
G4MKO					10,380 173 60 9 A																																																											
G4XDD					6,050 110 55 24 A																																																											
Wales																																																																
GW8ANA					10,443 177 59 21 A																																																											
Hungary																																																																
HA6PX					40,940 480 89 24 B																																																											
Italy																																																																
I25VA					10,816 208 52 24 B																																																											
K1P2ZC					7,245 115 63 24 A																																																											
IO6KHP					5,832 108 54 11 A																																																											
Norway																																																																
LA7AJ					14,950 230 65 20 A																																																											
LA5RBA					3,293 89 37 24 A																																																											
LA6BX					2,108 68 31 13 A																																																											
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LZ2KIM (LZ2s AF,LJ,ops)					29,625 375 79 24 B																																																											
Finland																																																																
OH2LU					37,890 421 90 22 B																																																											
OH2GI					7,300 146 50 19 A																																																											
OG1TD					440 22 20 24 A																																																											
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KO2BXW					1,950 50 39 24 A																																																											
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ON5SV					660 30 22 3 A																																																											
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OZ1FGS					2,760 69 40 24 A																																																											
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PA3DBS					23,380 334 70 18 A																																																											
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SM5FUG					12,736 199 64 9 B																																																											
SM4LLP					1,488 48 31 13 A																																																											
SM5EIT					999 37 27 24 A																																																											
SM3MID					266 19 14 24 A																																																											
Poland																																																																
SP3SUN					4,400 100 44 24 B																																																											
SP3BGD					4,300 100 43 24 A																																																											
Greece																																																																
SV1SV (SV1s AAW,AHV,AMX,ATS, BDO,BJV,BKE,TN,ops)					15,555 255 61 24 A																																																											
Ukraine																																																																
RY0H (RB0HZ, op)					6,510 155 42 24 B																																																											
UB4HQ					6,016 128 47 24 A																																																											
Byelorussia																																																																
RC2AZ					29,568 352 84 21 B																																																											
UC2SF					946 43 22 24 A																																																											
Moldova																																																																
UO5OLW					3,772 82 46 24 B																																																											
Yugoslavia																																																																
YU3MJ					2,491 53 47 24 A																																																											
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FJ5BL					35,926 506 71 23 B																																																											
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HP1AC					2,310 66 35 24 B																																																											
Dominica																																																																
J37WA					21,024 288 73 24 B																																																											
Guantanamo Bay																																																																
KG4DD					48,587 631 77 20 A																																																											