

The 1993 ARRL RTTY Roundup

Modern technology and affordable equipment have ushered in a "New Age of RTTY Contesting." Why not join in the fun?

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Assistant Managing Editor Contest Manager

In "the good old days," radioteletype was a hobby for tinkerers. RTTY ops would get on the air with clunky mechanical teleprinters (yes, they needed frequent oiling!) and equipment salvaged from one scrap heap or another. The gear was often temperamental—and loud enough to be heard down the block. RTTY operators could be easily spotted at flea markets and swapfests looking for hard-to-find mechanical parts to keep their beloved machines going.

Well, Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore! The wide acceptance of computerized gear has finally consigned the Model 28 teletype machines and the Kleinschmidt perforators (namesake dropping!) to the days of yesteryear. Now, almost anyone can get on the air with a personal computer and a multimode communications processor (MCPs, such as those made by Kantronics, AEA, MFJ and HAL) and find out what all the excitement is about.

The RTTY Roundup is the perfect time to get on the air and make some contacts of your own. During noncontest periods, the digital HF subbands are filled with AMTOR, CLOVER, PacTOR and packet radio signals, but during RTTY contests—especially during the ARRL RTTY Roundup—the "RTTY subbands" are wall to wall with Baudot RTTY signals. Making RTTY

contacts—lots of them—is a snap!

(The new MCPs offer a lot of "non-contest" value, too. The old RTTY machines were largely restricted to operating Baudot RTTY, but the new MCPs give you the chance to experiment with packet, ASCII, AMTOR and other digital modes.)

This Year's Contest

Judging by the results of the Roundup January 2-3, 1993, and the comments we received, more people are finding out how much fun RTTY contesting and operating can be. It doesn't take a "superstation" to get

on the air and have a good time! Larry, N2ELW, sums it up like this: "My time was limited, and I have a modest station, but I had a ball and I worked Fiji to boot! It doesn't get any better than this!" Well said!

Although some "green-key pounders" thought conditions seemed poorer for this year's running—probably because of the decline in the solar cycle—everyone found plenty of stations to work. Several participants remarked about how courteous they thought the other ops were (to their surprise) and how they felt it made for a more pleasurable experience.

From those with a more serious bent than "just making a few contacts," truly phenomenal scores went into the record books.

Ron, KP2N, led the single-op, high-power, DX scorers with a record 113,832 points. The AA6TT high-power multiop effort also broke 100k points.

New all-time scoring records were also set by Don, AA5AU, and Patrick, HH2PK, in the low-power, single-operator categories. Well done! Congrats to the seven new Division and the seven new continental record holders.

Tips for the Next Roundup

A good operating plan is important if you want to maximize your score. With poorer conditions on the higher bands, the need for

Single-Operator Top 10

WVE—Low Power

Call Sign	Score
AA5AU	82,280
W7LHO	48,709
NM3E	48,048
N3SL/0	47,808
AA4M/6	45,360
W1BYH	41,490
WB5IGF	40,964
VE6ZX	37,698
WB8YJF	37,516
N4IQ	32,760

DX—Low Power

Call Sign	Score
HH2PK	74,802
4M5RY (YV5KAJ,op)	52,272
HP1XBH	31,844
HK1LAQ	26,216
G0ARF	21,975
JA3DLE/1	15,980
WH6I	12,636
IK1HSR	10,726
DL9GGA	10,000
HP1AC	9,900

WVE—High Power

Call Sign	Score
N2LT	92,295
NV1G	82,300
KG5EG	79,711
AE6E	68,890
WF5E	60,720
NN2G	60,093
WA7LNW	59,570
WA7FAB	57,975
AB8K	57,268
NO2T	54,379

DX—High Power

Call Sign	Score
KP2N	113,832
ZD8LI (G0LLI,op)	70,585
HC5K	66,815
5U7M (JH4NMT,op)	42,924
UB4HQ	39,600
UH8EA	32,364
LU8FDZ	29,835
A22BW	20,250
AH6JF	20,040
HA6PX	19,608

Multioperator High Scores

WVE—Low Power

Call Sign	Score
AB5EB	32,319
W5VZF	28,900
VE3FJB	24,080
N1JEB	22,134
KF0LZ	19,525
KB9ATR	16,579
VE3UR	12,450
KO0Z	11,123
WB4WOR	10,302
N5SAO	9,800

WVE—High Power

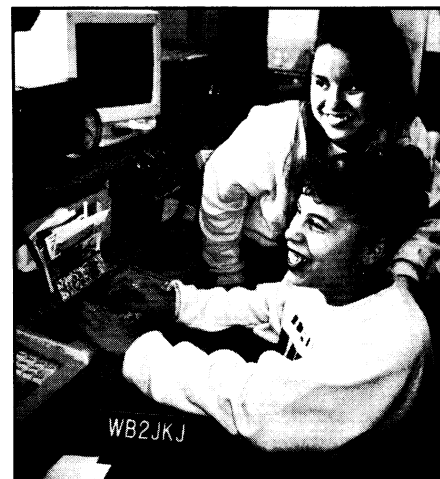
Call Sign	Score
AA6TT	101,840
K1IU	89,900
WB7AVD	85,002
K9RS	84,474
KI5TI	69,445
W4AQL	68,595
WU3V	57,378
KY1F	47,971
WA0VQR	19,240
WB2JKJ	11,270

DX—High Power

Call Sign	Score
OH2AG	23,177
VQ9CR	18,282
JJ3YBB	15,836
NL7HP	11,704
SV1SV	9,724



Pasquale, YV5KAJ, operated 4M5RY, and although he didn't beat his previous year's score, he still finished in second place in the single-operator, low-power category worldwide.



Jessica (top) and Vanessa (seated) have fun operating RTTY from WB2JKJ, the club station of JHS 22 in New York City.

Single-Operator Division Leaders

Division	Low Power		High Power	
	Call	Score	Call	Score
Atlantic	*NM3E	48,048	W2UP	50,876
Central	WB9CEP	22,272	N4CC	45,835
Dakota	NT0V	28,975	K0RC	50,820
Delta	*AA5AU	82,280	*WA4MCZ	19,558
Great Lakes	WB8YJF	37,516	*AB8K	57,268
Hudson	KC2FD	27,560	*N2LT	92,295
Midwest	*K0BX	29,749	K6WZ	33,624
New England	W1BYH	41,490	NV1G	82,300
Northwestern	W7LD	22,686	WA7FAB	57,975
Pacific	W8AKS	15,000	N6GG	50,920
Roanoke	N4IQ	32,760	AB4MJ	50,685
Rocky Mountain	*W7LHO	48,709	KG5EG	79,711
Southeastern	KK4DK	32,480	KL7TF/W4	38,760
Southwestern	AA4M/6	45,360	AE6E	68,890
West Gulf	KI5GX	25,984	WF5E	60,720
Canada	VE6ZX	37,698	VE7KD	44,096

*Division Record

Single-Operator Continental Leaders

Continent	Low Power		High Power	
	Call	Score	Call	Score
Africa	7Q7XX	2,920	*ZD8LII (G0LII,op)	70,585
Asia	JA3DLE/1	15,980	*UH8EA	32,364
Europe	G0ARF	21,975	UB4HQ	39,600
North America	*HH2PK	74,802	*KP2N	113,832
Oceania	*WH6I	12,636	*AH6JF	20,040
South America	4M5RY (YV5KAJ,op)	52,272	*HC5K	66,815

*Continental Record

a good signal on 80 and 40 meters was more important than in past Roundups, which took place closer to the sunspot-cycle peak.

Don, AA5AU, kept one radio on 40 meters for the entire contest and used a second rig to check out other bands. "I figured on 10 meters being poor," he noted, "and 40 and 80 meters being good, and it turned out to be the case." Eighty meters seemed especially good. Jeff, K1IU, worked all but five states on the band.

So if you've wondered about those bleeps, beeps and burps you've heard in the digital subbands, or if you simply want to try something new, the RTTY Roundup may be just what you've been looking for.

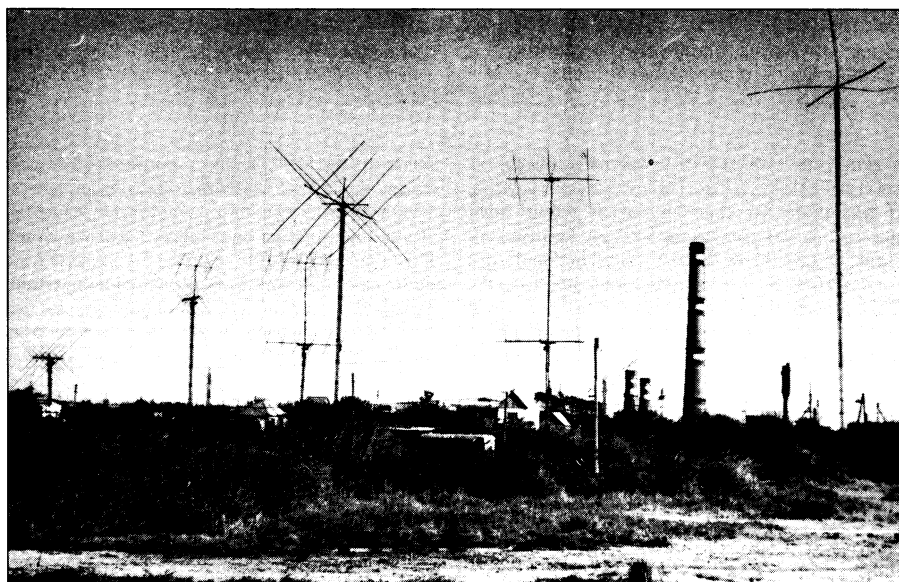
Today's technology makes it easy to put a RTTY signal on the air, and once you make a few contacts, you'll be hooked! And compared to most contests, it's even easy to get an award for your effort—certificates are issued for everyone who makes at least 50 QSOs.

If you've got your contesting sights set on bigger game, check out the scores from this year's contest. You'll see who your rivals are, and you might discover a good location from which to operate next year's RTTY Roundup. Some parts of the country witness ferocious competition, while others simmer along at a slow boil. Be in the right place at the right time and *bingo!* you're a winner!

Win, lose or otherwise, don't miss your chance to have some RTTY fun—the next RTTY Roundup is January 8-9, 1994.

SOAPBOX

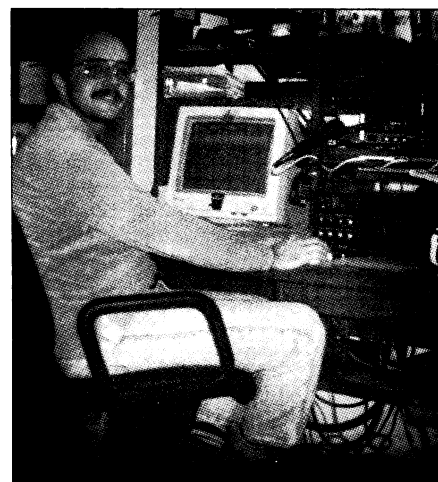
Conditions were poor and it was hard to work the US, but it was still a lot of fun (GM0/WN1G). The 10-meter band was so slow I actually had time to watch the football playoffs! (N2KAW/T). This was my first try at the RTTY Roundup and I had a blast! Next year I hope to be on for a longer period (WA2ASQ). It was another great RTTY Roundup! I used an all-band inverted doublet and a handful of watts. I made plenty of QSOs, but where was Canada? (WB4ABY). It was a great contest, but the sounds of RTTY were still ringing in my ears when I went to bed Sunday evening (KD0AV). I found the band conditions good (N0LAQ). I've been hamming since 1950, but this was my first contest. It was a



Victor, UH8EA, used this impressive system of antennas to hand out rare Turkmenistan and finish in third place overall in the single-operator, high-power category.



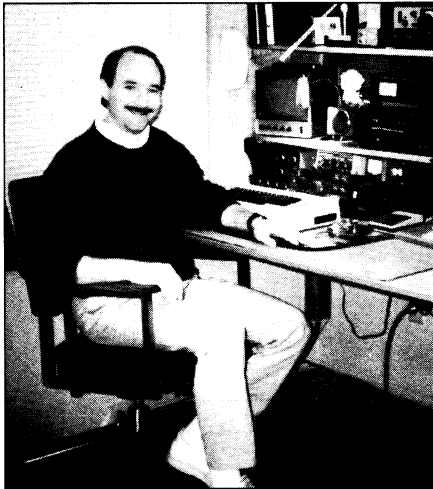
Despite the distraction of his two junior ops, Barry, W2UP, finished with the first-place high-power score from Eastern Pennsylvania.



Lance, AB6CX, reported developing new tricks for his contesting toolkit.

stimulating and tiring effort, but I haven't had so much fun in a long time. I was impressed with the courteous atmosphere throughout the whole 30-hour period. (W5SBH). The aural beauty in this contest approaches that of an all-out CW contest. This was my first time in this great affair, but not my last (AA7BG). I found the conditions for working DX to be poor, but I had a lot of fun! (A17B). It was a fun contest. The format was

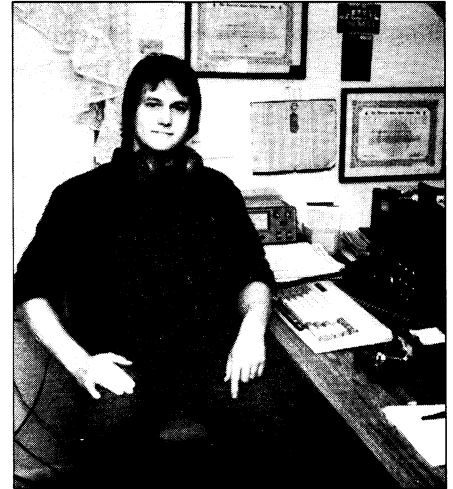
great for my latest chase: RTTY county hunting! I'll be looking forward to the next one (KM1C). This was my second RTTY contest (AB6CX). I couldn't participate fully, but I had fun for about 17 hours (N4CC). I enjoyed the contest. It's one of the few where you can run low power and have



Jack, WA7LNW, seems happy with his Section-leading effort from Arizona.



John, SV1AHV, operates from SV1SV, the official HQ station of RAAG. (SV1BDO photo)



Jon, WB8YJF, notes, "Two-finger typing on two computers at once is a chore!"

a good time (WB9CEP). It seems as though as soon as I get started, the contest is over! (KØRC). It was more fun than any of us would have guessed! It was good to see so many familiar call signs, and we thank all who waited in the pileups for us (VQ9CR). I enjoyed the contest! (NØKDI). This contest was hard because of the poor band conditions (JA3DLE/1). We put the 80-meter shortened dipole up the day before the contest, and we were glad we did, because 80 meters was our best band! We're all looking forward to next year (N1JEB). Thank you for having this contest. It was my first contest! I'm looking forward to the next one (N2IEC). It was a great contest, but where was Vermont? The DX stations were far and few between, but there were a lot of stateside stations to work (WF5E). I found conditions to Europe were poor, even on 20 meters, but there was a lot of stateside activity (AE6E). This was my first RTTY contest, and I enjoyed it very much. I'll be back for the next one! (VE3EVV). I had a lot of fun, even though I couldn't spend the time I wanted to in the contest. Maybe next year I'll find more time (W4IF). This contest gets better every year! (WKØF). This is my first RTTY contest and I had a good time (LY1FF). This was my second RTTY Roundup, and it was great fun again. I more than doubled my score from last year. If only I had an 80-meter antenna! What happened to the DX? (NN2G). The software worked beautifully, it was a pleasure to use (N6GG). The contest was a blast! (KM6HB). Band conditions were bad for us up north. We didn't hear much DX and we didn't have propagation to Europe over the pole! (NL7HP). Finally, I worked a Hawaiian station during the

contest! (AH6IX). We only got into the contest during the last seven hours. In retrospect, I guess I was afraid that the station wouldn't measure up. If we'd had just an hour more, I feel we would have made at least the required 50 contacts for a certificate (N2IKR). Conditions seemed particularly bad for me; in fact, I felt that everyone had their beams pointing in the opposite direction, but I'll be back next year (GW4KHQ). It was a great contest, but where were all the DX stations? (N9NMC). I ran out of steam working W/VE stations in this contest! (N3UN). There was an increase in stateside activity, but the DX countries were lacking (KP2N). I just couldn't stay concentrated this year (N1HOQ). This was my first RTTY contest and it was fun. It was a good experience and I learned a lot. I don't know where the VE stations were, but not many were around (WV7P). I got in with a couple of new hams to let them get their feet wet in a RTTY contest! (WAØQIT). This is my third year participating in the RTTY Roundup. It's a great contest (KA4RRU). Murphy stopped by and left the flu bug, so I didn't feel much like contesting, but just wait until next year! (KC3ST). It seems from here like every ham in Ohio must be on RTTY! This was my third RTTY Roundup and I have yet to work West Virginia! (AB4SF). This was my first RTTY contest. There wasn't much DX heard here, but what fun—I can't wait until next year (AG5S). It was another great contest! The biggest thrill was working ZD8LII on Ascension Island with only 22 minutes left in the contest. It took a night of sound sleep to clear my brain of warbling sounds. Every fan and appli-

ance sounded like a RTTY signal! (WB8SVK). There were times where there was very little DX coming through, but I had a ball! (KA1S). It was interesting to easily work DX on RTTY at 100 watts that would require higher power and effort on another mode (K9OSH). This was our first RTTY contest, but not our last! What started out as a just-for-the-fun-of-it effort will now be a yearly effort. We operated on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters, and although band conditions weren't good, we snagged a lot of DX (K15TI). This was my first RTTY contest. Conditions weren't good for a 100-watt station using a vertical antenna! (KN4TX/HK3). I worked all but five states on 80 meters. Low-band conditions were good. If only there had been more DX on the band (K1IU). This was a great contest! I doubled my QSOs from last year and tripled my score (WA4VQD). We didn't do as well as last year and didn't hear a lot of DX, but we had great fun! (WU3V). It was a good contest, and I had a lot of fun! (WA6VZI). This was my first RTTY contest and first RTTY QSOs (KC6VVT/T). I'm hooked on RTTY contests! There's a good group of operators out there (N7GVV). This was my first time using RTTY and I had a great time. I'm hooked now (VE3VET). My goal for the contest this year was to double last year's score, and I made it! This is one of the best weekends of the year, one of the few legal ways to have so much fun in 24 hours! (KB6WIJ). This was my first time in the RTTY Roundup and I enjoyed it very much (DL9YAJ). I had fun in the RTTY contest! (KØØZ). I found conditions to be poor. This is my first contest where I didn't work any JA, VK or any European stations! (VE6ZX).

Scores

Scores are listed by continents, DXCC countries and ARRL/RAC Sections. DX stations are listed first, then the US and Canada. Within each country or Section, single-operator scores are listed first and 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				Chagos Islands				JA1DFQ				1,372	49	28	24	A	Europe				Spain																										
Niger				VQ9C (+VQ9s BB,KC)				JA1AYC				975	39	25	4	A	Portugal				EA2CNT																										
5U7M (JH4NMT,op)				18,282				277	66	24	B	JA4GPA				836	38	22	24	B	9,204				118	78	24	A																			
42,924				511	84	19	B	Ascension Island				JA1WYQ				504	28	18	24	A	CT1AUR				9,130				110	83	24	A															
Lesotho				ZD8LII (GØLII,op)				J33YB (JA3s FHL,PJL,JH3s FOF, UHG,J3SERV,ops)				15,836	214	74	24	B	Federal Republic of Germany				EC1DJU				315				21	15	24	A															
7P8SR				70,585				743	95	24	B	Turkmenistan				DL9GGA				10,000	125	80	22	A	England				GØARF				21,975	293	75	18	A										
Malawi				7Q7XX				2,920				73	40	24	A	UH8EA				DL3VBN				4,080	68	60	11	A	G3XTT				9,044	133	68	21	B										
Botswana				A22BW				20,250				270	75	18	B	Kazakhstan				DL9YAJ				3,276	78	42	24	B	G4XDD				4,512	94	48	24	A										
1,612				52	31	24	A	Japan				UH8EA				32,364	558	58	24	B	DF5BX				1,952	61	32	24	A																		
2,920				73	40	24	A	JA3DLE/1				UL9P				4,500	125	36	24	A	DK7FP/P				1,568	49	32	24	A	Scotland				GMØ/WN1G				9,880	130	76	15	A					
3,182				74	43	9	A	JA3LDF												DL8DUL				665	35	19	24	A																			
3,182				74	43	9	A	JA3LDH																DJ2YE				420	21	20	24	A															
1,440				45	32	24	A																	DK5YE				90	10	9	24	A															

