

Results, 1995 Novice Roundup

Not only was the event a lot of fun, but it made me a much better operator.—*David, N9VFR/T*

By Billy Lunt, KR1R and Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J
Contest Manager Assistant Contest Manager

Before we discuss the results of this year's Novice Roundup (NR), let us pause briefly and think back on the history of this event. The Novice Roundup was an event a lot of old-timers (and a fair number of young squirts) look back on with fond remembrances. Everyone has to start somewhere, and the Novice Roundup brings back memories of shaky hands on keys pounding out their first CW QSOs, or nervous beginners afraid to speak up on phone. Experiences like these strike a familiar chord with all of us.

What made the Novice Roundup special was the coming together of newcomers and the experienced old hands. Many looked forward to getting on the air and handing out QSOs to a Novice or Technician who was mustering up the courage to get on the air for the first time. This cycle of experience and mentoring was one of the things that makes this hobby special to so many of us.

On to this year's contest. What we didn't have in propagation, we made up for in enthusiasm. One of ham radio's biggest thrills is the pileup. The NR gave a lot of new hams their first chance to find out what ham radio is like from the *other* end of the pileup. It sure is nice to be wanted! Robert, KC5DUI, reports, "The thrill of finishing an NR QSO and having several more stations call me for a contact is something I'll long remember!" A lot of operators had the same experience as Cheryl, N0WBV, who relates, "I probably made more CW contacts during the NR than in my entire time as a ham!" Many well-known hams today got their start in the NR.

Once this year's Roundup began, it was obvious that 10 meters wasn't going to be the bread-and-butter band. Although some people reported making a fair number of QSOs on 10 meters (Whizzer, KC4WZR, made 500; Julio, WP4LNY, made 264; and

Bob, N4UQD, had 193), the real action was in the CW subbands. Those who took the time to string up the proverbial 40-meter dipole made out like bandits—CW was where it was at!

If you made more than 400 QSOs on CW, you probably won your division. In fact, three operators—Steve, KE4JZG; Nathan, KE4BES; and Grant, KB8UUU—did better than that: They all made more than 500! Overall Technician winner Mike, N9NUN, finished right behind with 493 CW QSOs. We congratulate overall Novice winner Diego, WP4KXV, who worked DX in 13 countries and virtually every section available.

Sure, 400 QSOs in any contest may seem like a lot, but you only have to make them one at a time, and you had 30 hours of fun-packed time to do it in. So don't let the big number scare you. Some preparation beforehand and a lot of careful tuning (known as "search and pounce") fills up those log sheets in no time.

Operating on the air is fun—that's why we became hams in the first place! Just ask anyone who's ever taken part in a Novice Roundup or any other contest. For example, Kenny, KB5SFS, exclaims, "You haven't experienced life until you've experienced

contesting." Darin, KC5AHN, says, "This is the most exciting thing I've ever done!"

So why not try contesting? The League offers many operating events, just to your liking, from VHF to worldwide contests. Many give special recognition to Novices and Technicians, and you can earn great awards and certificates. Check them out; you'll like them. See you in the pileups!

SOAPBOX

This was the first time I ever tried the Novice Roundup, but I certainly enjoyed the time I spent (W6MUV). I'm sad to see this one go, but I have a lot of great memories (N1QME). I can see that participation was minimal. Towards the end of the event it became difficult to find a station I hadn't already worked (W4HZD). I noticed several good operators who are going to become good contesters one day (K3WWP). I just wanted to be part of the last Roundup (K4EIQ). I came home from work every day to find all kinds of openings on 10 meters. I've never been so busy. I learned a lot about working pileups—mainly that I need a lot more practice! (KC4WZR/N). I would have spent more hours in the contest if I didn't have to shovel the snow (KB1KM). I love the idea of CW; there's just something about it that attracts me. Since the NR, I'm now much more experienced and have had a number of regular QSOs (KE6CDC/T). I had a ball in the contest, I just wish I had more time to operate in it (KB2NPR/N). This was my first "serious" contest effort. I had a lot of fun and want to thank all the "big guns" and Extras who took time to work me (KB1AUN/N). I learned a lot and gained valuable experience (N1TZW/T). It was my first NR and a great experience! I worked it all on CW and even had the thrill of a few small pileups (N2WNR/T). I must have sent my call sign a thousand times. I used up all my time and wanted so much more. You haven't experienced life until you've experienced one of these (KB2SFS/T). The experienced operators were fantastic whenever QRS was sent (N2TNN/T). I found it different than Field Day, where you usually work with someone else. I learned a lot about good operating practices (N2YHT/T). We had fun and really didn't know what we were doing until halfway through the week! Thanks to every higher-license-class ham who treated us to a call or another multiplier (KB2NTB/N).

Top 10

Novice		Technician	
WP4KXV/N	71,570	N9NUN/T	108,373
KA3JZS/N	70,005	KE4JZG/T	100,282
KA2SJG/N	61,056	KE4BES/T	92,976
KA9TBW/N	53,728	KB8UUU/T	78,192
KB5MSN/N	47,478	KD6KKP/T	73,040
WA6SPA/N	47,300	N9VEX/T	66,030
KA4DVI/N	46,092	WB2VBV/T	64,306
KC4WZR/N	45,000	N1SOH/T	63,000
WB6SZZ/N	39,424	N0TXN/T	62,776
KB1AUM/N	32,300	KB80XK/T	57,834



Ryan, KD4LUS, reports, "The bands were down from last year, but I enjoyed the contest."



Cheryl, N0WBV, says, "I sure found that contacting South America and New Zealand on 10 meters was a lot of fun."



Nine-year-old Jenny, KD6KKP, won her division and finished in the top 10 for the second year in a row.

ARRL Novice Roundup: Then and Now

The Novice Roundup has been around for a long time (since 1952, to be exact) and is near and dear to the hearts of many of today's hams. Its objective was to help beginners build operating skills and code speed. Between the years of 1951 and 1978, the Novice license was nonrenewable. You had to upgrade within a year (within two years, after 1967) or lose your license. As you can imagine, the Novice Roundup was useful in helping Novices with the skills they needed to upgrade.

Then in 1978, along came the renewable, or permanent, Novice license. This changed things. The Novice Roundup still provided the opportunity to build operating skills and code speed necessary for upgrading, but the urgency to quickly upgrade diminished and the Novice Roundup started to suffer.

Since 1991, with the latest restructuring of the Amateur Radio entry level license classes, the Technician license has become the preferred means of entry into Amateur Radio. New licensees began to lose interest in the Novice Roundup because they couldn't enjoy the contest to the fullest.

With the decline of new Novice licenses being issued, and the preferred entry class into Amateur Radio today being Technician, the Novice Roundup as we've known it in the past has been fading. The number of entries kept slipping year after year.

The graph at the right tells the story.

We had to make a tough decision whether to let the Novice Roundup slowly die a painful, certain death or to put it to sleep painlessly. We chose the latter. We hope everyone got a chance to participate and enjoy "The Last Roundup."

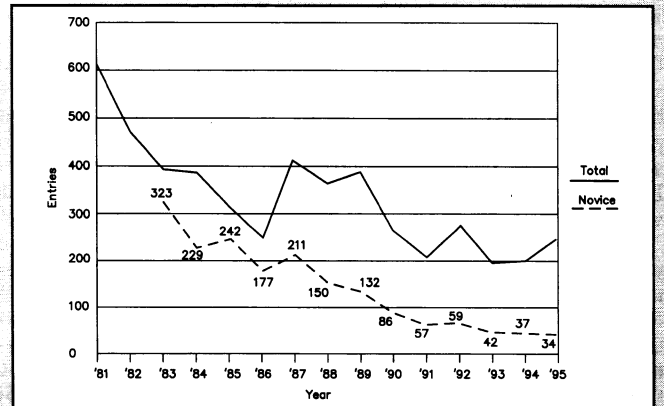
Meanwhile, you have other great opportunities for contesting. Field Day offers an excellent training ground for beginners. With club station entries, there's a Novice/Technician station available. This station should be set up and operated by Novices and Technicians using Novice subbands and privileges. Most of today's contesters got their start in Field Day.

The opportunities don't stop there. Over the past few years we've added slow-speed CW band segments to almost all ARRL-

sponsored HF contests, which include the Novice subbands. We recognize Novices and Technicians in the score listings and with certificates. The International DX Contest even offers plaques for the top-scoring Novice/Technician on CW, phone and combined score. In the 10-Meter Contest, Novice and Technician CW QSOs carry a premium 8-point QSO value, as opposed to only 4 QSO points for other CW contacts. These incentives have increased Novice and Technician participation in many contests, especially the 10-Meter Contest and November Sweepstakes.

Technicians (with or without HF privileges) can enjoy full privileges in the entire ARRL VHF/UHF Contest Program. We offer seven VHF/UHF contests, ranging from VHF QSO Parties to highly specialized EME competitions and 10-GHz Cumulative Contests.

We'll miss the Novice Roundup, but the opportunities and fun are still there. Enjoy them.



Scores

Score listings indicate call sign, score, number of QSOs, multipliers (number of ARRL Sections + DXCC countries) and total hours. Division leaders are in bold.

State	Call Sign	Score	QSOs	Multipliers	Total Hours
1	Connecticut				
	N1PKK/T	4,278	69	31	25
	N1SVG/T	2,805	55	33	22
	N1SLT/T	60	10	6	6
	WB1DMK/T	24	4	3	6
	Eastern Massachusetts				
	N1SOHT	63,000	459	70	29
	KB1AUM/N	32,300	238	68	14
	N1QVN/T	115	23	5	16
	New Hampshire				
KA1ZYH/T	35,392	279	64	28	
N1TZW/T	752	24	16	10	
Rhode Island					
N1MND/T	608	20	16	21	
Western Massachusetts					
N1EWT/T	2,688	48	28	14	
2	Eastern New York				
	KB2NPR/N	30,810	237	65	14
	N2YXC/T	29,964	227	66	29
	NYC-Long Island				
	WB2VBV/T	64,306	407	79	19
	WB2LOS/N	9,540	90	53	18
	KA2JAK/T	3,264	51	32	20
	N2RYZ/T	24	12	2	6
	Northern New Jersey				
	N2WNR/T	27,666	256	53	29
KB2SFS/T	15,520	194	40	24	
KB2SHK/T	7,220	95	38	20	
N2ZAQ/T	4,130	62	35	30	
N2TNN/T	2,850	51	30	12	
N2YHT/T	1,924	37	26	30	
KA2BVP/N	330	15	11	2	
N2VER/T	152	10	8	4	
KB2NTB/T (+KB2HJD)	13,056	136	48	30	
Southern New Jersey					
N2QWR/T	24,064	221	64	28	
WB2YEH/T	1,160	29	20	7	
Western New York					
KA2SJG/N	61,056	477	64	30	
N2JNZ/T	16,920	180	47	28	
KB2LIF/T	8,010	89	45	5	
N2YQL/T	6	3	2	10	
3	Delaware				
	KA3EPG/N	14,892	136	51	13
	Eastern Pennsylvania				
	KA3JZS/N	70,005	530	65	30
	N3RVG/T	10,752	128	42	18
	N3TUA/T	6,084	78	39	30
	N3TMO/T	960	30	16	6
	N3GK/T	112	8	7	3
	Florida				
	N3EKH/T	18	3	3	6
Maryland-DC					
N3TCK/T	2,160	40	27	11	
N3NFW/T	1,218	29	21	4	
KB3BCF/T	1,056	33	16	10	
N2TYC/T	462	40	11	21	
Western Pennsylvania					
N3PYH/T	44,220	330	67	30	
KB3AZK/N	26,880	240	56	30	
KB3BFP/N	20,124	234	43	29	
4	Alabama				
	KE4HMM/T	18,142	193	47	30
	N4JZG/T	9,850	193	50	12
	KB4CAY/T	1,392	29	24	12
	Georgia				
	N4UXY/T	52,920	420	63	30
	N3FTL/T	8,500	100	43	13
	KE4PIN/T	286	18	13	8
	KE4QVH/T	220	20	11	10
	WL7CBN/N	128	10	8	9
Kentucky					
KA4VKJ/T	2,200	44	25	19	
North Carolina					
KE4JZT/T	100,282	551	91	30	
KE4BES/T	92,776	596	78	26	
KE4KQX/T	390	39	10	20	
Northern Florida					
KA4VIN	46,092	324	69	30	
KA4WRZ/N	45,000	500	90	26	
KB4FOS/N	26,455	222	65	30	
Puerto Rico					
WP4XN	71,570	421	85	24	
WP4LNY/T	13,230	267	49	15	
Southern Florida					
KE4MIQ/T	2,024	39	23	21	
Tennessee					
KB4NVD/T	3,744	70	32	14	
KA4ZRA/T	364	14	13	5	
Virginia					
KD4LUS/T	51,084	387	66	30	
KD6TKZ/T	2,028	39	26	13	
KD4WQD/T	1,872	39	24	16	
KE4MVI/T	1,188	33	18	16	
KD4IGP/T	1,122	35	22	11	
KE4KJF/T	640	20	16	9	
KE4UKY/N	60	6	5	8	
KE4UKX/N	40	5	4	4	
5	Arkansas				
	KB5MSU/N	47,748	347	69	17
	KB5DUU/T	10,738	122	44	29
	KB5AHN/T	8,512	112	38	18
	KB5VWV/T	2,432	66	32	26
	Louisiana				
	KC5DAJ/T	1,825	66	25	27
	KC5DAH/T	207	23	9	14
	New Mexico				
	KC5KEG/N	4,464	57	36	12
KB5RFN/T	286	13	11	5	
KC5FKK/T (+NET)	253	13	11	5	
North Texas					
KC5HMU/T	2,320	40	29	11	
NS0SG/T	1,500	30	25	16	
Oklahoma					
KC5ASD/T	31,780	227	70	29	
KC5VY/T	3,799	67	29	16	
South Texas					
KC5AMA/T	31,602	237	69	14	
KC5JRP/T	1,472	32	23	13	
KC5IIP/T	364	14	13	21	
6	East Bay				
	WB5ZZ	39,424	293	64	30
	Los Angeles				
	KE6LHX/T	480	21	12	12
	KD6NDF/T	114	10	6	10
	KE6KKV/T	14	4	3	2
	Pacific				
	WH6LL/T	1,320	32	22	28
	Santa Barbara				
	KD6YIX/T	35,310	260	66	29
KE6CDC/T	792	22	18	10	
KE6EUI/T	27	6	3	10	
Santa Clara Valley					
NE6G/T	7,812	93	42	30	
KE6MPC/T	810	31	15	9	
KE6PR/T	276	22	12	17	
San Diego					
KE6MWA/T	21,830	181	59	21	
KB6DCA/N	5,106	69	37	29	
San Joaquin Valley					
KD6KKP/T	73,040	491	80	30	
Sacramento Valley					
KE6OFZ/N	8,514	99	43	29	
KD6DNY/N	1,188	44	27	28	
KD6AEH/T	560	20	14	17	
7	Alaska				
	WL7PV/T	1,880	47	20	13
	Arizona				
	N7VBN/T	8,208	146	48	19
	KC7ZET/T	3,038	49	31	27
	KC7FWM/N	2,160	40	27	9
	KC7GLJ/N	1,794	36	26	9
	KC7AKW/T	576	18	16	8
	Idaho				
	N7YFB/T	504	22	12	7
Montana					
KB7SDE/T	448	16	14	14	
Nevada					
KC7BNG/T	7,650	91	45	12	
Oregon					
KA7OAJ/T	45,828	342	67	30	
WB7TIR/N	5,312	166	32	24	
KB7KLT/T	1,674	39	27	17	
N7WMC/T	630	21	15	30	
Utah					
WA6PUT/T	12,144	132	46	30	
KB4ZDU/N	4,752	66	36	30	
Western Washington					
KC7HYV/T	330	15	11	30	
KA7OES/T	49	7	7	1	
8	Michigan				
	KB8OXK/T	57,834	459	63	30
	KB8QPQ/T	14,758	157	47	10
	N8TDH/T	133	10	7	9
	Ohio				
	KB8UUV/T	78,192	543	72	30
	KB8OZV/T	42,671	302	71	29
	KB8RLM/T	16,074	171	47	30
	KB8RHG/T	8,500	125	34	8
	West Virginia				
N4PUV/T	34,200	285	60	15	
KB8UPO/T	5,616	67	36	15	
9	Illinois				
	KA9TBW/N	53,728	368	73	30
	KB9LJA/N	14,276	166	43	26
	N9VFR/T	10,246	109	47	29
	N9REP/T	6,878	94	38	22
	N9ZOP/T	6,232	76	41	20
	Indiana				
	N9VEX/T	66,030	465	71	29
	KB9IVB/T	3,060	55	30	14
	N9NVL/T	320	20	8	9
Wisconsin					
N9NUN/T	108,373	578	101	30	
KA9ZCF/T	34,320	264	65	28	
N9ZPE/T	5,644	86	34	18	
N9YTV/T	2,912	52	28	13	
10	Colorado				
	N0WBV/T	3,520	95	32	21
	KB0NNC/T	1,242	27	23	8
	KB0LMQ/T	756	21	18	30
	Iowa				
	KB0LFS/T	14,672	131	56	24
	N0UJZ/T	8,900	95	43	23
	KB0QAS/T	2,116	46	23	13
	N0LPA/T	25	5	5	9
	Kansas				
N0HKT/T	50	5	5	3	
N0TZZ/T	32	4	4	2	
Minnesota					
KB0GGV/T	32,332	269	59	23	