



ARRL RTTY Roundup

2019 Full Results

By Jeff Stai, WK6I (wk6i.jeff@gmail.com)

Remember the W6SX Prime Directive: “The first rule of contesting is to have fun!”

The ARRL Contest Program apologizes for the delay in producing this writeup of the final results. An error in calculating the final scores was not detected until the author had already written most of the article, requiring him to restart the process. These FINAL results supercede earlier published Preliminary, and QST Summary, Results.

Last year the story, as it always seems to be, was all about the dismal conditions: nothing doing on 10 meters. Or 15 meters. And where is JA? Where is EU? And so on. This year — oddly enough — there was very little whining about ionospheric conditions... well, except for one poor ham: “(This was my) first RTTY contest as a Tech on 10M, I felt like I was on a deserted island with my only friend Wilson the volleyball. – NØALL” (Let’s help the Techs upgrade!)

As for the terrestrial weather, in all of the soapbox comments and on 3830scores.com, there were only four mentions of “snow”! (And the mentions of “ice” were not even worth mentioning...)

Most snow complaints were limited to the West Coast, where we got more than our share this year, thank you very much. Yours truly was once again unable to reach a completely snowed-in-for-days W7RN station in Nevada. Meanwhile, on Mt. Lemmon in southern Arizona, Bill, KO7SS noted that: “The snow and wind started up Saturday evening just as it was time to get serious about 80M, and the noise was S9+. Since the storm was expected to last the whole night (and it did), I turned the radio off. 8 feet of new snow on top of the 4 feet on the ground.”

Bob, K6NV up by Lake Tahoe: “What a pleasant way to spend a stormy weekend, especially operating and watching the snow blow horizontal.”

Shelli, K6SRJ was drawn in by FT8: “This was my first contest and also the first day of snow up here in the mountains of northern California! It was fun making FT8 qsos while watching the snow outside beyond my computer screen. Pretty good day's work for a 72 year old YL (or is that XYL?)”

And Hank, W6SX on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevadas: “Twenty-meter SWR went high Saturday afternoon. Out into the storm to find and replace a spreader that had arced over. Very pleased with myself to complete in only 26 minutes and avoid taking an off-time when I didn't want it. Later in the evening, another SWR fault on twenty. Dark and stormy so repair in morning, hopefully before Euro window (which never happened here). 1-1/2 feet new snow overnight. I slept for 4:46, so for off-time management, needed to make repair in 1:14 or less. Everything much harder and slower with the fresh snow. Another arced spreader. Finished repair in 1:12. Whee!

“It wasn't over. Ferocious, gusty winds twisted the inverted-V fan legs and I had to go out again around noon. This one was easy--only 20 minutes lost.

“After breaking my fast Monday morning, I took a good look outside. Ho Boy! Huge, ferocious winds overnight, even worse than Saturday and Sunday. Three feet of new snow. Only parts of antenna still intact are the flattop (#10 copperweld and Mastrant) and west 80-meter dogleg. The inverted-V fan legs are a terrible combination of broken wires, broken spreaders, with whatever wires left twisted multiple times. At least I (sorta) got through RU. AND! at least we got snow!”



Here is Hank, W6SX — yes, he’s really in California! — waist-deep in the fresh snow. He claims that he followed his Prime Directive, though. (Photo courtesy of Hank Garrettson, W6SX)

What Are You in the Mode For?

But you didn't come here for the weather report, did you? The real story of the 2019 RTTY Roundup wasn't even about RTTY, it was about the new up and coming mode, FT8, which made its first appearance in a major ARRL contest. (You can find out more about contesting with FT8 in the January 2018 *QST* article by Barry Feierman, K3EUI or in the *NCJ* column "Digital Contesting" by Ed Muns, WØYK. The [final section](#) of this writeup includes the author's opinions on FT8 and RTTY contesting, as well.) I hope you like statistics! Let's start as always with the yearly QSO totals:

Yearly QSO Totals, by Band

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
80 Meter QSOs	67,015	65,133	83,832	91,966	91,935
40 Meter QSOs	125,537	146,679	132,277	150,648	201,136
20 Meter QSOs	145,994	191,328	204,593	210,821	250,967
15 Meter QSOs	160,868	153,983	62,229	36,233	38,554
10 Meter QSOs	95,436	31,850	5,364	50	253
Total QSOs	595,971	588,973	488,295	489,718	582,845

If you didn't know better you'd have to say that clearly something was up, with almost 100,000 more QSOs than in the previous year. In fact, FT8 QSOs accounted for over 130,000 QSOs in 2019. Pretty nice for a brand new mode! (The 5× increase in 10 meter QSOs is likely due to the better conditions.) But wait there's more - let's look at category choice!

2015 to 2019 Category Choice (W/VE and DX)

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Any or All FT8
SOLP	921	828	857	762	617	0
SOULP	229	275	241	233	1,342	1,058
SOHP	296	295	293	277	224	0
SOUHP	258	290	273	269	382	163
MSLP	28	25	24	35	36	18
MSHP	48	44	45	44	41	13
Total entries	1,780	1,757	1,733	1,620	2,642	1,252

The big story is the leap in Unlimited category participation (SOULP & SOUHP), especially in low power. Even though FT8 is a weak-signal mode, as opposed to a low power mode, many ops are finding they can get the contact with 100W or even less. Maybe it's finally time for a RTTY Roundup QRP Category?

So, did people switch modes during the contest? Take a look here:

Mode Choice

Choice	Logs
All FT8	944
All RTTY	1,384
Mostly FT8	107
Mostly RTTY	206

Note: Logs could be submitted with QSOs marked as "RY" for RTTY contacts and "DG" for other digital contacts, including FT8. Since this was a first time for FT8 and this logging convention, the statistics for FT8 contacts will not be completely accurate. But when considered as a whole with over 2000 participants, I think we get a sense of what happened. So: "Mostly FT8" means 50% or more QSOs were logged as DG and presumably FT8, "Mostly RTTY" means less than 50% Qs logged as DG/FT8.

It turns out most operators decided to stick with one mode or the other. In fact only about 12% overall decided to make at least one QSO in the "other" mode, and only 107 logs were received from those who favored FT8 and also did at least one RTTY QSO. Actually half of those 107 logs made less than 20 RTTY Qs, and similarly over half of RTTY-favoring logs registered less than 30 FT8 Qs.

Whether this had anything to do with the challenges of changing software or whether conditions were good enough — "this is working, why mess with it?" — will become evident as the software matures and operators get used to it.

Be that as it may, the soapbox made it clear that FT8, and even sometimes good-old RTTY, brought in a bunch of first-time testers:

Great fun entering my first-ever ARRL contest. I think the WSJT-X software is amazing! --G4NRT

FT8 mode only. This was the first time I've ever entered the RTTY Roundup, and I had a great time using FT8. 73! --KD6X

Obviously first time with FT8 in a HF contest but seemed to work very well indeed. It was interesting to note the number of participants in a very small piece of Amateur Radio spectrum. And real signal reports to boot! --K4SQC

This is my very first Contest! I can't wait for the next one! --KC1IFK

First contest I have done. Lots of fun. Learned a lot. Looking forward for more. 73 --KE5YTA

First time I've ever submitted for a contest. Usually band conditions are trashy but FT8 cuts through most of it here in an urban setting. --KDØIOE

My first ham contest ever. Thanks to the ARRL for organizing the competition. The instructions were clear and excellent. The best thing was to learn new things. 73's Mika / OH6XO

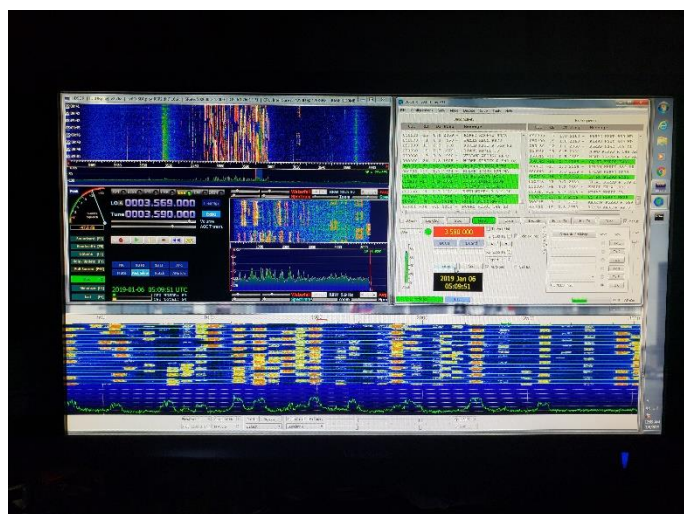
Sorry first contest all ft8 hoping everything is entered correctly :) --VE6BTC

This was my first-ever time using RTTY. It was very fun. I look forward to more contests and DXpedition chasing using RTTY. --WA7CPA

It was a lot of fun switching between RTTY and FT8 --AE6JV

Only worked a few hours but still had fun. Tried FT8 mode in a contest for the first time - can't say that I liked it too much --AE8TF

The bottom line best news about all this is a whole bunch of operators who had never contested before joined the fray and in many cases, did well using a mode that doesn't necessarily favor the most powerful station. And that is pretty darn cool!



N2LO sent this screenshot showing RTTY and FT8 coexisting quite well on the 80 meter band. (Graphic courtesy of Bob Evans, N2LO)

New W/VE and DX Records

This is the place where we usually publish the table of new Division and Continental records. Despite the better propagation and higher turnout — and records in the relatively new Unlimited categories still being ripe for the taking — we have only one new record for each. Craig, K9CT, has the distinction of setting the Central Division SOUHP record with 213,934 points (100% RTTY contacts). And, because he thought maybe FT8 would be more productive in his last couple hours of operating, Ed WØYK at P49X was bumped into Unlimited instead of his usual SOHP, so he set the new World (and South America) record for SOUHP at 309,348 points (9% FT8 contacts).

US and Canada Results

Top Ten – United States and Canada

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

ACØC	241,794
AA3B	232,780
N1IXF	150,570
K8IA	150,392
ABØRX	139,977
N6WM	138,880
KK6P (W7IV, op)	134,728
AI9T	133,666
W4GO	127,920
K5XH	118,146

Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)

W4AAA (KK9A, op)	183,924
WE9V	129,948
KØTI	121,805
WA1FCN	97,572
KC4HW	92,163
K3AJ	91,826
K9WX	86,016
KTØDX	80,136
K6JO	78,767
N5KWN	72,424

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power (SOUHP)

KI1G	250,356
K9CT	214,406
WØLSD	195,803
VE5MX	195,782
K6LL	174,096
K1MK (@K1TTT)	165,798
N3QE	165,370
VE3CX	164,590
N2WK	162,837
W9KKN	145,254

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power (SOULP)

AA5AU	192,348
WW3S	115,328
KI6DY	109,736
VA3DF	92,214

WT9U	92,192
K7TQ	55,476
K1JT	53,664
WB5TUF	51,490
KU4V	50,463
VE3MGY	48,888

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power (MSHP)

NØNI	210,790
WØSD	189,810
WW4LL	158,585
W7WW	150,048
NV9L	149,386
KB8O	139,752
W3GH	132,762
AB5EB	115,346
AA5B	112,230
N1MGO	107,738

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power (MSLP)

N8LRG	109,557
K9NR	103,740
W4TA	88,788
W1QK	86,802
W4MLB	78,518
KOØZ	54,531
N4SVC	44,322
NØUR	42,028
N9SJ	36,639
WD4LBR	29,705



This is KEØHQZ and NØLAN operating at WØSD in MSHP. "Great Contest. Score was up from last year, thanks in part to converting over to SO2V operating and the addition of FT8, which came in handy when we needed to get those multipliers that were hiding." (Photo courtesy of Ed Gray, WØSD)

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	Entries
Unlimited		
Northern California Contest Club	2,233,702	63
Potomac Valley Radio Club	1,985,245	69
Minnesota Wireless Assn	1,117,019	52
Medium		
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,788,349	49
Frankford Radio Club	1,037,642	28
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	941,583	27
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	878,715	28
Florida Contest Group	635,208	23
Contest Club Ontario	607,209	22
Western Washington DX Club	432,557	15
Kansas City Contest Club	356,084	5
Willamette Valley DX Club	342,628	15
Tennessee Contest Group	342,576	8
Southern California Contest Club	321,605	20
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	320,077	7
Swamp Fox Contest Group	292,213	10
Alabama Contest Group	286,059	9
Louisiana Contest Club	279,947	6
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	264,276	5
Orca DX and Contest Club	250,149	8
Kentucky Contest Group	215,865	12
DFW Contest Group	215,502	8
Mad River Radio Club	213,399	6
Carolina DX Association	211,219	7
North Coast Contesters	182,252	6
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	160,832	3
Skyview Radio Society	159,101	3
Spokane DX Association	87,778	8
Texas DX Society	82,308	5
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	77,541	3
South East Contest Club	75,211	8
New Providence ARC	72,223	5
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	40,465	4
Jayhawk ARS	5,823	3
Local		
Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	492,003	8
CTRI Contest Group	304,075	4
New Mexico Big River Contesters	245,883	4
Pizza Lovers 259	242,230	4
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	148,631	9
Central Virginia Contest Club	86,560	5
Metro DX Club	81,287	4
Bristol (TN) ARC	65,203	3
Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society	29,246	5
North Fulton ARL	19,420	3
The Villages Amateur Radio Club	18,362	5

The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) continued their domination of all things RTTY with another impressive win in the Unlimited Club category. Similarly, the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) continued their hold on the Medium Club, and the Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC) extended their Local Club winning streak.

I did a little extra poking into the scores for the club winners, to see how FT8 factored into them. For the NCCC, fully two-thirds of the points came from stations that focused solely on RTTY, and only 3.5% of the points came from FT8 majority stations. SMC was even more lopsided with 95% RTTY-only and just 2% from FT8 majority stations. And the eight logs from OCARC were 100% RTTY. These numbers undoubtedly reflect a strategic decision in those clubs to stick with RTTY because of the higher rates relative to the current state of FT8. As the FT modes move to more contest-ready formats, I bet we will see more interesting shifts from RTTY.

Affiliated Club Gavel Winners, 2004 to present

Unlimited

Year	Club	Logs	Score
2019	NCCC	63	2,233,702
2018	NCCC	74	3,486,901
2017	PVRC	62	1,929,695
2016	NCCC	67	3,809,079
2015	Minnesota Wireless Assn	56	1,891,478
2014	NCCC	65	3,202,878
2013	NCCC*	71	4,044,558
2012	NCCC	73	3,715,609
2011	Minnesota Wireless Assn	64	2,183,630
2010	NCCC	60	2,502,251
2009	NCCC	86	3,307,797
2008	no winner		
2007	no winner		
2006	no winner		
2005	no winner		
2004	no winner		

Medium

2019	SMC	49	1,788,349
2018	SMC	47	1,811,579
2017	NCCC	43	1,879,145
2016	Frankford RC	19	1,178,489
2015	PVRC	47	2,406,478
2014	SMC	28	1,524,519
2013	Minnesota Wireless Assn	43	1,607,832
2012	PVRC*	49	2,500,870
2011	PVRC	37	1,833,820
2010	PVRC	40	1,813,567
2009	PVRC	37	1,778,086
2008	PVRC	35	1,440,226
2007	PVRC	37	1,966,378
2006	PVRC	28	1,355,040
2005	NCCC	31	1,231,336
2004	NCCC	35	1,439,443

Local

2019	Orleans County ARC	8	492,003
2018	Orleans County ARC	10	455,258
2017	Orleans County ARC	6	475,347
2016	Orleans County ARC	7	748,161
2015	Orleans County ARC	6	533,555
2014	Orleans County ARC	10	655,255
2013	Orleans County ARC*	10	1,065,283
2012	Orleans County ARC	10	936,547
2011	Dominion DX Group	10	639,851
2010	Orleans County ARC	6	449,103
2009	Orleans County ARC	4	294,392
2008	Maritime Contest Club	4	297,018
2007	Alabama Contest Group	7	453,854
2006	Maritime Contest Club	5	262,279
2005	Spokane DX Assn	3	131,022
2004	Dauberville DX Assn	3	125,534

Regional Highlights

Evidence of the “FT8 effect” abounds in the Regional Participation as well as the Participation by Section. All regions enjoyed a significant surge in participation, but curiously the percentage of stations that favored FT8 in each region pretty much settled out at one-third, no one region was a clear standout there.

Domestic Participation, Logs Received by Region

Region	2018	2019	All or Mostly FT8
Central	171	268	89 33%
Midwest	197	284	89 31%
Northeast	213	326	115 35%
Southeast	201	342	115 34%
West Coast	228	364	115 32%
Total	1,010	1,584	523 33%

At the section level, and despite the FT8 effect, we still have not yet enjoyed 100% Section participation. It was very nice to see so many stations from Puerto Rico, but sadly the neighbors in the US Virgin Islands were not represented this time. And then there’s those darn Northwest Territories....

But it’s clear something FT8 happened in a few sections, with Western Washington, Arizona, and Georgia shooting up the charts with a bullet! I took a peek at the log counts for each of those sections and the difference from last year is substantially the number of FT8-favoring logs submitted.

2019 Domestic Participation, by ARRL Section

Section	Logs Received	2018 Rank	2018 logs
VA	70	1st	52
IL	64	3rd	44
MN	61	2nd	48
OH	59	6th	31
WWA	53	13th	23
AZ	45	10th	24
EPA	41	7th	30
MDC	41	4th	35
NC	40	5th	31
GA	35	34th	12
STX	34		
SCV	33	8th	
MI	31		
MO	31		
NFL	31		
NTX	31		
OR	31		
WNY	31	9th	
TN	30		
CO	29		
SV	29		
WI	28		
CT	27		
AL	26		
IN	24		
WCF	23		
WPA	23		
KY	22		
SC	21		
NNJ	20		
QC	20		
EMA	18		
LAX	18		
SDG	18		
SFL	18		
KS	17		
BC	16		
ENY	16		
NLI	16		
SNJ	16		
UT	16		
ID	15		
NH	15		
ONS	15		
EB	14		
EWA	14		
ONE	14		
ORG	14		
SJV	14		
IA	13		
MS	13		
LA	12		
NM	11		
OK	11		

SB	11
AB	10
AR	10
GTA	10
NV	10
WMA	9
PR	8
DE	7
ME	7
SF	7
VT	7
WTX	7
MT	6
SD	6
MAR	5
WV	5
RI	4
WY	4
AK	3
ND	3
NE	3
NNY	3
PAC	3
SK	3
MB	2
ONN	2
NL	1
NT	0
VI*	0

* DX Section

West Coast Region

(Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NT Sections)

K8IA	150,392	SOHP
N6WM	138,880	SOHP
KK6P (W7IV, op)	134,728	SOHP
K6TD	74,410	SOHP
N6WT	71,640	SOHP
K6JO	78,767	SOLP
N6ZFO	58,534	SOLP
K6GHA	52,640	SOLP
W8WOM	50,853	SOLP
WN6K	44,718	SOLP
K6LL	174,096	SOUHP
W9KKN	145,254	SOUHP
N6IE	128,398	SOUHP
W6YX (N7MH, op)	128,340	SOUHP
KA6BIM	115,818	SOUHP
K7TQ	55,476	SOULP
VA7KO	45,990	SOULP
AA2IL	45,900	SOULP
VE7KW	36,696	SOULP
W7CD	35,640	SOULP

W7WW	150,048	MSHP
K7RU	105,072	MSHP
KT7E	95,760	MSHP
W6DR	77,142	MSHP
K7RI	58,995	MSHP
W6TOI	4,224	MSLP
KI7PPV	3,783	MSLP

Let's go West, young ham (sorry). K8IA took the top spot here for SOHP and 4th overall, perhaps with a little help from old Murphy at N6RO. Chris, N6WM has been making serious scores from N6RO for about 10 years, but "...this is the first time Murphy struck both my radio, and then the station, resulting in the lowest scoring effort I have ever done from here." A corrupted virtual audio channel and a fried 220V circuit took their toll. But persistence paid off and the rest of the Flex-based station did its job, good enough for 6th overall. Meanwhile W7IV operating KK6P observed "On RTTY, no one can hear you cough. Sick all week - maybe this is why we don't have Phone contests during Cold and Flu season."

Despite being limited to just 50 watts on 80 meters and a decided lack of EU stations to work, K6JO had a great time and made the top SOLP spot and 9th overall. 2nd-place N6ZFO spent his birthday in the Roundup, making a good contribution to the NCCC score with help from an FT1000MP borrowed from K6LRN. Bill writes "Nearly lost the low band antennas after a gale-force wind on Friday night broke a tree branch which collapsed onto the 40m DE Zepp -- fortunately the wire held this rather massive branch which hooked itself onto the wire and I was able to lower the antenna and remove the wood Saturday morning." Whew!

K6LL noted that even though "Band conditions were really poor to Europe, so my country multiplier is way down. I didn't even work Spain or Germany..." He did however find a great rate and "good fun" working US and Canada, including 75 in the last hour, enough for 5th overall in Unlimited HP. Second-place West and 10th overall W9KKN has been "gradually adding capabilities such as SO2R and remote over the last six months or so to the NW6P station." With those new capabilities he was able to enjoy "2 Bands Synchronized Interleaved QSOs (2BSIQ)... once I got the QLF-rate under control, and my second or third wind, I was trucking along, hitting rates I had never experienced before in RTTY -- fueled by pure adrenaline and fun!"

On the multiop side, the crew at W7WW set out to earn a bunch of points for "the GREAT ARIZONA OUTLAW CLUB.... This is the highest score ever done in the RTTY Roundup at the great RTTY station at W7WW and we are

already talking about next year!" A 4th-place overall in MSHP was the GREAT result! Over at the appropriately chosen callsign K7RU they "wanted to be ready for anything, so we were prepared to operate both RTTY and FT8. Most of the team members have used FT8 before, so all are familiar with the mode's capabilities. If it helps the rate, or increases the score, we're all for trying something new." Their "use of FT8 was specialized: we kept a station on FT8 on 'the other open band' looking for multipliers that we've not worked or rarely worked before in the ARRL RU. We perceive that we worked perhaps 6 multipliers on FT8 that we wouldn't have with just RTTY." And after the contest, "we discussed how much fun it might be to do this contest next year from one of the Caribbean venues where we'd be really popular as the only station on the air. Or maybe North Dakota." Heh.

Midwest Region

(Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)

ACØC	241,794	SOHP
ABØRX	139,977	SOHP
N7WY	88,020	SOHP
KØJJR	65,025	SOHP
AD5XD	60,480	SOHP
KØTI	121,805	SOLP
KTØDX	80,136	SOLP
N5KWN	72,424	SOLP
KE5OG	60,014	SOLP
NØAT	55,648	SOLP
WØLSD	195,803	SOUHP
VE5MX	195,782	SOUHP
W7RY	140,256	SOUHP
N5HC	119,438	SOUHP
NG7M	113,985	SOUHP
KI6DY	109,736	SOULP
WB5TUF	51,490	SOULP
NXØI	46,200	SOULP
NT5V	38,924	SOULP
WA7YAZ	37,453	SOULP
NØNI	210,790	MSHP
WØSD	189,810	MSHP
AB5EB	115,346	MSHP
AA5B	112,230	MSHP
KIØF	104,652	MSHP
NØUR	42,028	MSLP
WØGJT	27,378	MSLP
WØFRC	17,013	MSLP
W5PDO	9,435	MSLP
KEØOR	8,464	MSLP

While the West struggled with finding any DX multipliers, the usual "dead zone" in the Midwest managed to score six "podium" winners - that's 1st, 2nd, or 3rd - and two overall 1st places. ACØC was one of those 1st-place finishers, in the SOHP category, noting "rates the first few

hours were great. RU is always a blast with tons of activity the first day especially. Local band conditions were quiet with no local rains... Decent 15m openings both days but I did not see 10m pop at all here.” (It’s beginning to be apparent to this writer that a good operator with a little 15m luck is a winning combination.) KØTI reached the overall 3rd step on the LP side.



Jim, ACØE notes, “The bands were full and the conditions were very good here at DM97NX.” He loaded up a 40 meter loop on 80 meters and made QSOs from coast-to-coast. (Photo courtesy of Jim Douglass, ACØE)

There was a great horse race for the 3rd step of the podium in the Unlimited HP. VE5MX edged out WØLSD by a mere 185 points, or if you prefer, 0.0945%! While many people consider the Roundup to be a rate contest, taking a look at the QSOs and multipliers for this matchup tells another story. Even though WØLSD had over 60 more QSOs than VE5MX, VE5MX had just 3 more multipliers, and that made the difference (both ops had almost exactly the same log checking result so that didn’t play here.) And on the Unlimited LP side, KI6DY observed “More Q’s than last year but less mults = lower score.” The moral is that, while rate and a good QSO total matters, you gotta find those mults too!

The Midwest also ruled the HP Multiop with a 1-2 overall podium, with NØNI taking the top step ahead of the crew at WØSD. In the MSLP category, NØUR took the regional 1st, while 2nd-place WØGJT compiled a great score in their very first contest.

“Where was ND??” - KK6P

“ND was not to be found.” - N8LRG

“Couldn’t find ND or VE4.” - K9NR

“If only I could snag ND as a call-in or as I stumbled around in S&P, alas it wasn’t to be.” - N1IXF

While VE4 (Manitoba) is notoriously rare in RTTY contests, North Dakota was also quite elusive this year. Turns out exactly three stations submitted logs from North Dakota, for a total of 15 RTTY QSOs and 83 FT8 QSOs. Now you know where ND was! (Want to be the station everyone wants? Plan your next portable operation for North Dakota, Dead-of-Winter 2020!)

Central Region

(Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario East, Ontario North, Ontario South, and Greater Toronto Area Sections)

AI9T	133,666	SOHP
N8BJQ	98,175	SOHP
N7US	80,472	SOHP
KT9L	67,140	SOHP
ND9G	46,656	SOHP
WE9V	129,948	SOLP
K9WX	86,016	SOLP
N9CK	58,080	SOLP
W4LC	51,210	SOLP
N9TF	44,793	SOLP
K9CT	214,406	SOUHP
VE3CX	164,590	SOUHP
W9IU	102,116	SOUHP
VE3RZ	78,000	SOUHP
W9ILY	76,082	SOUHP
VA3DF	92,214	SOULP
WT9U	92,192	SOULP
VE3MGY	48,888	SOULP
K9DJT	44,548	SOULP
NI8Z	33,280	SOULP
NV9L	149,386	MSHP
KB8O	139,752	MSHP
N8LRG	109,557	MSLP
K9NR	103,740	MSLP
KOØZ	54,531	MSLP
N9SJ	36,639	MSLP
VE3KTB	15,736	MSLP

With a couple of notable exceptions, the Central region didn’t fare as well as the Midwest, but still managed to put four calls on the podium. AI9T had his amplifier give up the ghost at 1500Z on Sunday and had to finish with low power, but still managed to earn the top Central spot in Single Op, HP. Meanwhile WE9V — fresh off the plane after six months in China! — almost matched AI9T’s score to take 2nd overall in Single Op, Low Power, and he did it all in just over 19 ½ hours, “Note to self for next year: Operate full time!!!!”

In the Unlimited categories K9CT racked up an impressive score using “a FlexRadio 6600 with Maestro and the PGXL amplifier in SO2R. Of course, there were many antennas involved,” good enough for a new Division record! In Unlimited LP, VA3DF observed “As usual, it’s

a jungle out there...” and in another super close race, just edged out WT9U by 131 points. Once again, multipliers made the difference.

Unlike the Midwest, the multiop strength in this region seems to be on the low power side, with N8LRG and K9NR taking the top two overall podium steps (despite both of them missing North Dakota). In high power, we have NV9L in the top spot. Second-place Jay KB8O enthused, “RU continues to be one of our favorite contests - good participation and a 24 hour period make it almost perfect for 2 people to keep a station running.... Everything in the shack worked as it should, we stress tested the new Acom 2100 with no ill effects, and we did not run out of beer - put those in whatever order of importance you want.”

Southeast Region

(Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)

W4GO	127,920	SOHP
K5XH	118,146	SOHP
W4GKM	98,208	SOHP
WV4P	87,615	SOHP
W56X	69,954	SOHP
W4AAA (KK9A, op)	183,924	SOLP
WA1FCN	97,572	SOLP
KC4HW	92,163	SOLP
AA2MF	70,470	SOLP
WV8SW	60,286	SOLP
N4IQ	136,681	SOUHP
N2TU	128,790	SOUHP
AD4EB	99,704	SOUHP
W4JAM	94,340	SOUHP
K4XL	79,329	SOUHP
AA5AU	192,348	SOULP
KU4V	50,463	SOULP
WQ5L	44,895	SOULP
AB4SF	42,042	SOULP
KG4IGC	40,678	SOULP
N1MGO	107,738	MSHP
AC8Y	84,882	MSHP
W4TA	88,788	MSLP
W4MLB	78,518	MSLP
N4SVC	44,322	MSLP
WD4LBR	29,705	MSLP
W4BNO	16,864	MSLP

On “one radio, an amplifier, and a lot of wire in the trees,” W4GO managed to get the top regional spot in Single Op, HP — even after spending 4 hours repairing said amplifier! KK9A at W4AAA — in only his third Roundup — took first place overall in Single Op, LP, “The first half of the contest was really fast moving, after 12 hours of running two transceivers I had 1100 QSOs in my log.

During the second half my run rates slowed significantly and I even had to search and pounce at times.”

All around RTTY Guru and nice guy Don AA5AU — if you are reading this and you haven’t ever visited rttycontesting.com, what are you waiting for? — assumed his usual position at the top of the Unlimited LP heap. “Nice to have my Cushcraft D40 rotatable dipole back in service after not having it for nearly 8 years. It made a big difference on 40 meters. Missed North Dakota.” Happens to the best of us.

N4IQ was “surprised by the good band conditions, especially 15 meters. This is my favorite contest. This was my high RTTY RU score and my all time best.” That included “nine FT8 DX contacts, all for multipliers,” good enough for the top spot in the Southeast Unlimited HP.

The gang of many at W4AAW operating using the call of Gordon, N1MGO ran a “totally remote operation. Operation of the equipment was flawless! We had great fun.” Jim, W4TMO added, “Found 20M open just after 7AM east coast time as I realized I’d set my alarm for 6:30PM and bolted out of bed to the computer. Trying to catch everyone calling AND get to the coffee pot challenged my early morning skills.” Skills that got them 10th place overall in MSLP. Speaking of many operators, it took a cast of thousands - or at least 12 - to propel W4TA to a 3rd-step podium finish.

Northeast Region

(New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)

AA3B	232,780	SOHP
N1IXF	150,570	SOHP
WA2TMC	110,355	SOHP
NE3H	53,640	SOHP
WZ2MM	52,373	SOHP
K3AJ	91,826	SOLP
NY6DX	58,394	SOLP
VE2BVV	55,752	SOLP
W1HBR	37,884	SOLP
N2CU	33,575	SOLP
KI1G	250,356	SOUHP
K1MK (@K1TTT)	165,798	SOUHP
N3QE	165,370	SOUHP
N2WK	162,837	SOUHP
N2MM	128,800	SOUHP
WW3S	115,328	SOULP
K1JT	53,664	SOULP
W3KB	46,948	SOULP
K2DFC	38,250	SOULP
WA2QAU	32,320	SOULP
WW4LL	158,585	MSHP
W3GH	132,762	MSHP
W2ORC	60,632	MSHP

N3DPB	58,560	MSHP
N1FD	50,592	MSHP
W1QK	86,802	MSLP
NJ1F	13,396	MSLP

The Northeast enjoyed a double podium finish in SOHP, with AA3B in 2nd overall and Rich, N1IXF 3rd. Rich said, “That just felt like the most fun I’ve had in a RTTY contest... I think my reaction is a combination of missing out on this contest last year, being well rested, and keeping things simple by deciding to enter SO1R, unassisted, and using the HP category with about 800 watts from the SB-221.” He used online contest score reporting to stay motivated, “ACØC and AI9T pulled ahead early but that kept me thinking, ‘What can I do to close the distance.’ I’m sure that helped me do my best to stay focused on rate and keep my head in the game. I’ll definitely do this in future contests.” Single radio operation was also enough for K3AJ to reach the top of the regional board in SOLP. Second spot NY6DX apparently had the luck to work ND! “Thanks to all who worked me. Especially KT3R for Delaware and RTTY WAS.”

Rick KI1G ran away with the overall top spot in Unlimited HP: “40 and 80 were fun, was nice to wake up from my middle of the night nap to work DU3LA on 40 meters beaming dead south.” WW3S scored 2nd overall in Unlimited LP, even with taking, “2+ hours off Saturday afternoon for my first grandson’s first birthday !!!” Congrats! Second regional and 7th overall Joe K1JT — running FT8 exclusively, naturally, with just 100 W and a single 80-foot dipole 50 ft high, fed with open wire feedline and a remote tuner. Joe also noted, “A pleasant surprise: there was very little (close to zero) inter-mode QRM between RTTY and FT8 signals.”

Multiop HP saw WW4LL take the top regional spot over W3GH, while W1QK took LP.

Did the Winners Use FT8?

One of my post-contest correspondents Steve KØGUZ (MSLP@WØGJT) lamented, “...that the ARRL didn’t score the FT8 contacts separately from RTTY, because when we’re lumped together, RTTY always wins.” So, I took the regional results and joined in the percentage of contacts logged as FT8 (that DG stuff I mentioned earlier). It turns out that quite a few stations using FT8 placed in their regional Top 5: I counted 27. And four stations made it using 100% FT8, including Joe Taylor, K1JT — which should not be surprising to anyone!



This is the “motley crew” at WW4LL that took 3rd place nationally and 1st in the Northeast region in the MSHP category. Operators (L to R) include AA4CF, NN9DD, WW4LL, and K1ZZI with N9SN not shown. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Arnold, K4NV)

FT8 Regional Winners, 10% or more FT8 contacts

Call	Score	Category	Pct FT8	Region	Place
K1JT	53,664	SOULP	100.0%	Northeast	2nd
W7CD	35,640	SOULP	100.0%	West	5th
WØFRC	17,013	MSLP	100.0%	Midwest	3rd
W6TOI	4,224	MSLP	100.0%	West	1st
W5PDO	9,435	MSLP	64.7%	Midwest	4th
AA2IL	45,900	SOULP	22.2%	West	3rd
VE7KW	36,696	SOULP	21.7%	West	4th
WW4LL	158,585	MSHP	21.4%	Northeast	1st
KA6BIM	115,818	SOUHP	20.9%	West	5th
WA7YAZ	37,453	SOULP	20.3%	Midwest	5th
WQ5L	44,895	SOULP	17.3%	Southeast	3rd
VA7KO	45,990	SOULP	16.4%	West	2nd
NØUR	42,028	MSLP	14.9%	Midwest	1st
AB4SF	42,042	SOULP	12.8%	Southeast	4th

Golden Logs

A Golden Log is arbitrarily defined as a log with no errors and with at least 100 QSOs. With the inclusion of an error corrected mode in the Roundup one might expect a surge in the number of Golden Logs, but oddly that was not the case. The top logs have always had around 350-400 QSOs and this year continued that trend. Congratulations to this year’s top Golden Log, submitted by Don, AD5LU with 377 QSOs and a respectable 24,128 points in the Single Op LP category. And more congratulations are in order for two stations with a repeat appearance in this listing. Last year VE6QO and K9NW also had Golden Logs with 222 and 125 QSOs, respectively. Keep up the good work!

Call	Category	QSOs	Score	Mode mix
AD5LU	SOLP	377	24,128	All RTTY
VE3FH	SOLP	327	20,928	All RTTY
WB9HFK	SOLP	325	23,075	All RTTY
KW9U	SOLP	318	21,942	All RTTY
W1DYJ	SOLP	298	22,052	All RTTY
KØGEO	SOLP	250	12,500	All RTTY

AB8OU	SOLP	224	12,992	All RTTY
UN6TA	SOULP	214	9,416	All FT8
K3PP	SOHP	202	12,120	All RTTY
W6RKC	SOLP	193	8,685	All RTTY
KF6MIQ	SOLP	190	9,500	All RTTY
KD8AJK	SOLP	179	9,487	All RTTY
N6LL	SOLP	178	9,968	All RTTY
SM7CIL	SOULP	177	10,443	Mostly RTTY
7N2UQC	SOLP	175	8,575	All RTTY
WB7CYO	SOLP	172	7,224	All RTTY
PAØWRS	SOUHP	157	10,205	Mostly RTTY
K6GFJ	SOLP	155	6,665	All RTTY
WA8OJR	SOLP	155	7,595	All RTTY
VE5KEL	SOULP	154	6,006	All FT8
AEØEE	SOLP	151	6,191	All RTTY
W4TIJ	SOLP	151	7,399	All RTTY
9L1YXJ	SOULP	150	9,150	All FT8
WA4AFJ	SOULP	147	6,027	All FT8
VE6QO	SOLP	141	5,499	All RTTY
AE1P	SOLP	137	5,891	All RTTY
K4RUM	SOLP	130	6,890	All RTTY
K9NW	SOULP	128	6,656	All RTTY
PD7RB	SOULP	128	6,016	All RTTY
PDØMHZ	SOLP	120	5,160	All RTTY
AC5AA	SOLP	118	4,956	All RTTY
OH2LU	SOULP	118	4,248	All FT8
SM5S	SOLP	111	4,218	All RTTY
KC9K	SOUHP	109	4,687	All RTTY
R9SN	SOULP	109	4,033	All FT8
WØQL	SOUHP	108	4,644	All FT8
K6UM	SOUHP	105	4,200	All RTTY
N6NU	SOUHP	103	4,326	All RTTY
PA3GDG	SOULP	103	3,296	All RTTY
N8HRZ	SOULP	102	4,080	All FT8
KD5J	SOLP	100	3,900	All RTTY

DX Highlights

Like everything else, FT8 caused a huge bump in DX participation. It's easy to see from the table that the difference from 2018 is all about the FT.

In one simple decision later in the contest to try some FT8 QSOs, P49X (WØYK, op.) hopped from his perennial top spot in SOHP right over to SOUHP to dominate the competition there — and to set a new record to boot. “The telegram is that I planned to run RTTY only this year, but wound up making about 10% of the total contacts on FT8 during the last 3 hours of the contest.” We can suspect 1st-place SOHP OK7W must be delighted with this result (IQ1RY, maybe not so much), though their only soapbox comment was simply “It was fun due to SO2R. Our new 20m system worked great.” Awesome!

DX Participation, by Continent

Continent	2018 logs	2019 logs	All or Mostly FT8	
Africa	5	8	5	63%
Asia	117	209	127	61%
Europe	490	683	283	41%
North America (non W/VE)	22	18	8	44%
Oceania	33	69	51	74%
South America	26	71	55	77%
Total logs	693	1072	529	49%

Top Ten - DX

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

OK7W	148,482
PZ5RA	131,325
KH6ZM	72,829
DL3BQA	66,248
OZ11A	54,468
IV3SKB	52,207
EW8DX	39,220
IZ2FOS	35,026
YO3RU	33,912
DF8XC	32,038

Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)

HI3T	109,242
EA4BAS	42,456
ON5GQ	40,740
UT5EPP	34,476
DL3SYA	33,336
TI2OY	33,232
EI3JE	29,325
IK2RZG	27,846
TA3ON	25,063
IC8TEM	25,056

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power (SOUHP)

P49X (WØYK, op)	309,348
IQ1RY (IW1AYD, op)	156,870
PY2SHF	99,678
YO9HP	97,317
ER4A (5B4AMM, op)	93,900
S53X	82,124
GWØA (GW4SKA, op)	66,862
HB9CAT	61,798
LY9Y	61,728
OH2HAN	59,461

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power (SOULP)

YV1KK	143,982
UR7GO	98,792
F5BEG	87,859
PY2MNL	78,584
UX1UX	53,295
DF2F (DF2SD, op)	50,731
F4GDI	48,139
IK3TPP	45,410
EA4URE (EA4AOC, op)	44,826
SK6AW (SA6CBY, op)	42,432

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power (MSHP)		
S53S		124,136
S51A		102,580
UZ2I		49,770
IQ2CU		38,480
OK2EA		28,864
PC2L		19,779
IQ2MG		17,875
RK3DXW		17,545
VR2CC		17,100
RY9C		2,600

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power (MSLP)		
J42L		52,710
9A7T		14,475
DKØMA		13,923
DX3H		9,288
9A7B		7,500
CB3ET		2,368
XE2N		2,242
OZ8MW		1,428
SNØUNESCO		1,075
JK2VOC		476

On the Low Power side, HI3T took the top SOLP spot again with a score that exceeded his 2018 1st-place effort, despite during “the first 10 hours, only one radio due to a *Writelog* problem on the second screen”. Lest you suspect he snuck in some FT8 QSOs, he was pretty emphatic: “Thanks for all the qsos , but I will not take the FT8 fever into the RTTY CONTEST, absolutely NO, NOT WAY FOR ME. “GET BACK TO WHERE IT BELONGS, RTTY ONLY IS THE ONLY WAY”.

In SOULP, YV1KK echoed HI3T: “One of my favorite contests, in this occasion in low power my amplifier is in repair, my score last year in high power was 204,400 a big difference really miss my amplifier this weekend is my fifth consecutive year making this contest 99% RTTY 1% FT8 only work multipliers in FT8 that I could not copy in RTTY, a lot of activity in FT8 but I will not change 5 QSOs per minute in RTTY for 2 QSOs per minute in FT8.” The multiops had S53S atop MSHP and J42L ran away with MSLP.

Continental Winners

Africa		
Single Operator, Low Power	EA8PT	21,978
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	TR8CA	5,535
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	EA8AQV	14,552

Asia		
Single Operator, High Power	JF1OPL	22,265
Single Operator, Low Power	TA3ON	25,063
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	UN3G	17,582
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	7Z1IS	22,617
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	VR2CC	17,100

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	JK2VOC	476
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Europe		
Single Operator, High Power	OK7W	148,482
Single Operator, Low Power	EA4BAS	42,456
	IQ1RY	
	(IW1AYD, op)	
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power		156,870
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	UR7GO	98,792
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	S53S	124,136
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	J42L	52,710

North America		
Single Operator, Low Power	HI3T	109,242
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	J35X	40,629
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	XE2N	2,242

Oceania		
Single Operator, High Power	KH6ZM	72,829
Single Operator, Low Power	DU3LA	5,880
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	NH6Y	18,605
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	VK5GR	11,480
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	DX3H	9,288

South America		
Single Operator, High Power	PZ5RA	131,325
Single Operator, Low Power	PY2CX	14,310
	P49X	
Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	(WØYK, op)	309,348
Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	YV1KK	143,982
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	CB3ET	2,368

How About FT and RTTY Together in the Same Contest?

As I write, there is a spirited discussion going on on the NCCC email reflector about the place of FT modes in RTTY contests. Many are pointing out that the Roundup has always been a multi-mode contest, excluding only some very specific wide-band modes. This is very true but the fact is that since the excitement over PSK31 died down, the Roundup has been 99.9% pure RTTY. So is there a long term place for FT modes in the RTTY Roundup?

I have to say I have mixed feelings about it. The RTTY Roundup is my favorite contest, and I love the high rates you can get with two-radio (SO2R) operation. While SO2R is certainly possible in FT modes, they don't mix well with RTTY on the other radio. Maybe you can make it work with the new mode FT4 with its 7.5-second transmit window, but that's some pretty tight timing for a RTTY exchange and you will miss your window with some regularity in the face of repeats, long call signs, and creative messaging from your QSO partners. (Maybe a

little longer if you really push into the end of transmit in the previous cycle. Maybe.)

Also, under the current rules the net result of including FT modes is to create two basic groups: Mixed Mode (you switch off to some extent), and Pure RTTY. All FT users get put into the Unlimited category due to the multiple decoding of messages. If you simply choose to operate Unlimited, it would be silly to not include FT modes in your toolkit. Similarly if you want to do FT modes, you ought to have RTTY handy to pick up the RTTY-only crowd.

Someone in those recent NCCC discussions (K7XC, I think) made an interesting point about FT contesting in light of the recent (fun!) WW-DIGI event. FT modes are not rate modes, they are designed to complete QSOs under challenging conditions over great distances. The WW-DIGI event based scoring on the distance rather than simple QSO point counts. I think he's right - I think the future fun of FT contesting is in distance-based scoring.

What do you think? Join the discussion in your favorite contest group! And most importantly, remember the W6SX Prime Directive: "The first rule of contesting is to have fun!"

Plaque Category	Winner	Plaque Sponsor
W/VE Single Operator High Power	ACØC	Preston Radio Club, K7RU
W/VE Single Operator Low Power	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	Robert E Darlington III, N3XKB
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K11G	Steve Dyer, W1SRD and Doris Wong, KØBEE
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	AA5AU	Kevin der Kinderen, K4VD
W/VE Multioperator High Power	NØNI	John Lockhart, WØDC
W/VE Multioperator Low Power	N8LRG	Dan Karg, KØTI
DX Single Operator Low Power	HI3T	Rich Cady, N1IXF
DX Single Operator Unlimited High Power	P49X (WØYK, op)	Steve Dyer, W1SRD and Doris Wong, KØBEE
DX Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	YV1KK	Kevin der Kinderen, K4VD
DX Multioperator High Power	S53S	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, Memorial by WØYK
DX Multioperator Low Power	J42L	Jeff Stai, WK6I
Atlantic Division Single Operator Low Power	K3AJ	Mike Jacoby, N3MA
Central Division Single Operator High Power	AI9T	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Single Operator Low Power	WE9V	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	K9CT	Society of Midwest Contesters
Central Division Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	WT9U	Society of Midwest Contesters
Dakota Division Single Operator High Power	KØJJR	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	KØTI	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	KØMD	Minnesota Wireless Association
Dakota Division Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	AAØAW	Minnesota Wireless Association
Northwestern Division Single Operator High Power	N7QT	Hank/KR7X
Northwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	W8WOM	Brian Moran, N9ADG
Northwestern Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	KA6BIM	Brian Moran, N9ADG
Northwestern Division Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	K7TQ	Brian Moran, N9ADG
Pacific Division Single Operator High Power	N6WM	Northern California Contest Club
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	N6ZFO	Dick Wilson, K6LRN & Carolyn Wilson K6TKD
Pacific Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	W9KKN	Northern California Contest Club
Roanoke Division Multioperator Low Power	WD4LBR	Sheila Blackley, K4WNW
Roanoke Division Single Operator Low Power	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	Kevin der Kinderen, K4VD
Europe Single Operator High Power	OK7W	Kresimir Kovarik, 9A5K, Memorial by K6MR
Canada Single Operator Unlimited High Power	VE5MX	Tom Haavisto, VE3CX

On the other hand, with the current bottom of the cycle conditions, being able to squeeze 10 or 15 meters for some extra QSOs when only one other band is nominally open seems like a real plus. This would sure make the afternoon doldrums less doldrum-y.

This is not to say we shouldn't have FT contests - we should have more! But I remember many arguments again within the NCCC as to whether RTTY should be included in the California QSO Party. The prevailing feeling is adding the mode would be fun but would require the contenders to dilute their efforts across three modes. Does FT dilute the Roundup?

Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous support of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to list the winners of the Sponsored RTTY Roundup plaques below. Remember, you too can be a plaque sponsor, and you can sponsor any available outcome - or make up your own for a contest within the contest. For more information on plaque sponsorship or to order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE at 860-594-0232 or n1sfe@arrl.org. Plaques cost \$75, which includes all shipping charges.

Division Winners

Single Operator, High Power

Atlantic	AA3B	232,780
Central	AI9T	133,666
Dakota	KØJJR	65,025
Delta	K5XH	118,146
Great Lakes	N8BJQ	98,175
Hudson	N2CJ	17,262
Midwest	ACØC	241,794
New England	N1IXF	150,570
Northwestern	N7QT	65,860
Pacific	N6WM	138,880
Roanoke	W4GO	127,920
Rocky Mountain	K6XT	41,665
Southeastern	N4TB	55,088
Southwestern	K8IA	150,392
West Gulf	AD5XD	60,480
Canada	VE2GSO	40,194

Single Operator, Low Power

Atlantic	K3AJ	91,826
Central	WE9V	129,948
Dakota	KØTI	121,805
Delta	AA4DD	51,040
Great Lakes	W4LC	51,210
Hudson	NY6DX	58,394
Midwest	WØPC	51,759
New England	W1HBR	37,884
Northwestern	W8WOM	50,853
Pacific	N6ZFO	58,534
Roanoke	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	183,924
Rocky Mountain	KTØDX	80,136
Southeastern	WA1FCN	97,572
Southwestern	K6JO	78,767
West Gulf	N5KWN	72,424
Canada	VE2BVV	55,752

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Atlantic	N3QE	165,370
Central	K9CT	214,406
Dakota	KØMD	74,640
Delta	AD4EB	99,704
Great Lakes	W8JWN	57,670
Hudson	N2RC	44,988
Midwest	W7RY	140,256
New England	KI1G	250,356
Northwestern	KA6BIM	115,818
Pacific	W9KKN	145,254
Roanoke	N4IQ	136,681
Rocky Mountain	WØLSD	195,803
Southeastern	N6AR	72,795
Southwestern	K6LL	174,096
West Gulf	AC4CA	102,790
Canada	VE5MX	195,782

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

Atlantic	WW3S	115,328
Central	WT9U	92,192
Dakota	AAØAW	24,960
Delta	AA5AU	192,348
Great Lakes	NI8Z	33,280
Hudson	K2DFC	38,250
Midwest	KI6DY	109,736
New England	N1API	16,629
Northwestern	K7TQ	55,476
Pacific	K7XC	31,533
Roanoke	KU4V	50,463
Rocky Mountain	WA7YAZ	37,453
Southeastern	N4BP	30,942
Southwestern	AA2IL	45,900
West Gulf	WB5TUF	51,490
Canada	VA3DF	92,214

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power

Atlantic	W3GH	132,762
Central	NV9L	149,386
Dakota	WØSD	189,810
Great Lakes	KB8O	139,752
Hudson	NY2NY	850

Midwest	NØNI	210,790
New England	WW4LL	158,585
Northwestern	K7RU	105,072
Pacific	W6DR	77,142
Roanoke	N1MGO	107,738
Rocky Mountain	AA5B	112,230
Southwestern	W7WW	150,048
West Gulf	AB5EB	115,346
Canada	VE7SSD	8,648

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power

Central	K9NR	103,740
Dakota	NØUR	42,028
Delta	KN4DUA	14,518
Great Lakes	N8LRG	109,557
Hudson	NJ1F	13,396
New England	W1QK	86,802
Roanoke	WD4LBR	29,705
Rocky Mountain	WØGJT	27,378
Southeastern	W4TA	88,788
Southwestern	W6TOI	4,224
Canada	VE3KTB	15,736



“The RTTY RU was my very first RTTY contest ever. I’ve been a ham for 40 years and just recently started participating in any contests of any type. The last time I did any RTTY was about 20 years ago. Altogether I put about 10 hours in the contest. I operated S&P and I was little intimidated for the first hour. I then found my groove (so to speak), and went with the flow. I finished with 161 Q’s, worked 44 states and 3 DX.

“I learned a couple of things right off the bat.
1: learn how to make adjustments to the macros (N1MM+)
2: make sure your monitor is in front of you and not off to side like mine was. I had a nice kink in my neck by the 2nd day.

“All in all I had a great time and look forward to working more RTTY — 73 Jeff WB9DAR”

Like WB9DAR, are you ready for the 2020 RTTY Roundup? Hope to see you on the air, whatever you’re in the mode for on January 4th and 5th!

Green Key Night!

Just before the Roundup, January 1st saw the inaugural “Green Key Night”, a.k.a. GKN. The term “Green Key” comes from the distinctive color of the keys on some vintage teletypewriters. (You may remember a few of the green-keyers participated in the Roundup last year in the “Heavy Metal” category!)

GKN started out slow for most ops and some threw in the towel early. Ionospheric conditions seemed to be the big challenge. For instance, from Nick K4NYW: “Russ WA3FRP booming into NC. Also worked Steve KA4RSZ. Steve N4TTY strong at times but the 40m band is really up and down.” And Steve N4TTY (great call!) responded: “Well at least Nick heard me! I’ve been lurking since early this morning and finally heard Russ, WA3FRP, and Steve, KA4RSZ, who lives just a few miles from me. Although I only saw Russ’s side of the conversation. Then I heard Nick, K4NYW, and Steve, KA4RSZ, again only one side of the QSO. And finally heard both sides of the QSO between Russ and Nick. Moved down the band and found where Russ had moved to, but he was unable to copy me! I hope it is band conditions and nothing has gone awry with my setup. Maybe Santa should have brought me an amp.”

And Russ WA3FRP: “Made five contacts. Three stations were participating in the event. Of the other two stations, one was making his first RTTY contact running QRP and the other was making his first non-contest RTTY QSO in preparation for RU.”

Jim W1RO had another perspective: “I participated in GKN 2019 with newer equipment: IC706MKIIG, *fldigi* software, West Mountain NOMIC interface. My interest in participating comes from my earlier career as a U.S. Navy Radioman. I used to sit at a Model 28 KSR 53 hours a week in port or at sea typing messages. After about a year I complained to the teletype repairman about the keyboard sticking. He told me to slow down my typing as the keyboard was only good for 107 WPM. LOL Fun Event.”

But at the end of the event, Nick K4NYW summed it up best: “Thanks to Jeff WK6I and others for instigating and promoting GKN. It was definitely a goal that forced me to finally get some equipment restored, debugged, and operating for my first RTTY contacts. I know that it was a similar motivator for others also. Well done!

“These machines really are marvels. Levers and gears to electricity to radio and back again 100’s of miles away. Sheer magic. Let’s make it our collective New Year’s resolution to get more Heavy Metal Machines on the air this year.”