2010 ARRL RTTY Roundup

Results

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best." — Tim Duncan

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New Decade Arrives

January for digital radiosporting means just one thing: RTTY Roundup! After the 2009 "Fright" introduced many to RTTY contesting, it was nice to see another modest gain in participation again this year with 1623 submitting logs. We had 564,443 total QSOs during the January 2-3 contest with nearly 7000 different calls. That's an average of over 18,000 QSOs per hour over the 30 hour contest period!

Special Performances

New World and US/VE records were established for Multioperator, Low Power by the team at N0NI. They eclipsed the previous World record by 38,046 by nearly 59,000 points for the new US/VE record. Joining the ranks of RTTY operators notching a Roundup victory is Mike, K4GTM, this year's Rush Drake Memorial Trophy winner for Single Operator, High Power. Rookie of the year is Gary, AL9A, who along with his packet connection entered his first Roundup and managed to secure the first place in the Top 10 DX Multioperator, High Power standings with his new ICOM IC-7600 and his packet connection. Pretty impressive — placing from Alaska!

Single Operator, High Power

We saw some impressive scores by the High Power group. This year Mike, K4GTM took home the trophy. West Coast guys Chris, N6WM in second and Jeff, WKOI in fourth bracketed John, K1PWE. Ralph, KOIR was just off the pace a little bit and finished out the top five. Wayne, N2WX represented the East Coast. Dave, K6FJ, who seemed to have no problems from Arizona, was seventh. The sunspots didn't favor Texas but probably will next year. Texas was well represented with Jim, W5AP and Susan, K5DU. George, AB0RX went Single Operator from the Black Hole at 10th place.

Single Operator, Low Power

New CW contest hall-of-famer Don, AASAU was back to his usual place at number one and said, "The Roundup without 10 meters and a fully open 15 meters is really starting to be a drag. It seems' we've been playing this same strategy too many years in a row." Frank, N2FF related that his log had more QSOs on both 80 and 40 meters than he did on 20 meters. This indicated to him that this Roundup had tough times for the Low Power guys.

Multioperator

It took a new Multioperator, High Power, W/VE World record for the N8RM crew to edge out W0SD who had their all-time best score and set a new record for the Roundup. Running the K1TTT station was the K1SFA team who piloted it to a third place finish this year. Those are some high power stations at the top of the High Power standings.

The N0NI team of N0NI, N0AC and N0XR eclipsed the old records in Multioperator, Low Power. The team at N5ZM was not able to compete with the antenna farm that exists in the Midwest. Earl did set some new personal goals but dropped back one place from first this year.

DX Overview

On the DX side of Roundup in the Single Operator, High Power category it was Ed, P49X again leading the pack into the clubhouse with his fifth victory in a row. Maybe Val, RD3AF will unseat Ed from his Canary Island site. Val won for Europe while setting a new all-time European record and still finished first.

Serge, UTUSDX traveled to Paul, G6PZ's QTH, finding the new four-square antenna gangbusters on 80 meters. Brad, WP2B won the Caribbean and set the new all-time North American record for DX. Back to Europe where the IQ2CI station with Luca, IK2NCJ operating completed the first five places. From Hawaii in the Pacific it was Massimo, KH6ZM in sixth. Another European entry, PI4DX with Eric, PD1DX operating, was next. Mario, IK1HUX piloted IQ1RY for eighth. Hector, XE2K put Mexico on the map again this year and found the new locals with classic TVS. It seems that those new TVS are causing us some pain, but Hector still set a brand new Mexican record. Finishing out the
The second tier of this category was led by LZ8E with Boyan, LZ2BE operating in sixth place. OK3C using his contest call was Ludek, OK32C seventh. Theo, ON4ATW secured the eighth spot. Pasi, OH2MZZ was the last of the Europeans. Our rookie Gary, A1J9A from the tough spot of Alaska was in 10th place.

DX Multioperator, Low Power was won by ZY2B operated by Wanderly, PY2MNL moving up from his 2009 third place finish. Ron and his guys at KP2D were second. RK3MMW was third. Nasko, LZ9R and packet completed the top four. The IW1QN team was fifth. Mireia, Y05CBX followed by YT4RA, UT5EL, IK0CHU and EA2RY completed the top 10.

DX Records

There were five new continental records set this year in the DX division. Most of these scores were quite nice considering the lack of propagation from Europe to US/VE on 15 meters that we had hoped for. 2010 brought new entity or country records to the RTTY Roundup. These were from nearly all continents of the world and show the growing popularity on the DX side of the contest.

Even with the weak conditions, due to the hard work of the SO2R guys there were five new members in the Top DX QSO Totals records. Most came from South America. QSO numbers were down 6% or more this year for the SO2R guys. Two of the same stations that had QSO records joined in having new all-time multiplier records this year.

Affiliated Club Competition

One of the significant changes in Roundup over time has been the impact of the club action on strategy in parts of the country. There were a total of 45 clubs entered in the Club Competition this year. Drawing on their vast resources, the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) was the only club able to get enough logs to enter the Unlimited Club category. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) took top honors in the Medium Club category, narrowly beating the Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA). The Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) made it to third place this year. The Local club competition was won by the Orleans County Amateur Radio Club.

Looking Ahead and Acknowledgments

The 3500-QSO barrier is still there but with 15 back and perhaps some action on 10 it might go in 2011. January 8-9, 2011 will be the next running of the RTTY Roundup. Many thanks to Ken, K1EA for his labor in checking the logs. A tip of the hat to Ken, WMSR who always does the records on short notice. I appreciate the entire ARRL support staff, as well.

Head Online for More

For much, much more on this growing contest, shift over to the extra LTRS and FIGS on the ARRL Web site at www.arrl.org/contests.