2012 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do.” — Mark Twain

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The Sun has no equal in giving radiosport a jump-start and 10 meters is back, kicking up RTTY Roundup participation with a solid ten percent increase in submitted logs and 150,000 more QSOs this year. In fact, the 2012 RTTY Roundup set a record with 1803 logs submitted as this fast-growing contest mode continues along its upward path. Propagation conditions for most of the world were not very impressive. The DX wasn’t there unless you were on the East Coast but the activity on 10 meters was certainly very good.

US and Canadian Highlights

In the write-up, I like to highlight a station operator who is either a first-time RTTY operator or someone who has made a special achievement. This year it’s Dave, W79E from Wisconsin who writes, “First attempt at a RTTY test. It was a blast. Ended up with about 75 Qs and a few DX entities. South Africa on 15 was the highlight of the test for me.”

Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)

This category continues to dominate, making up roughly 54 percent of this year’s RTTY Roundup logs. Don, AASAU who had a few more than 500 QSOs in 1989 cranked up the Q total to 2,169 this year to win the NM7M Memorial Plaque.

Once again we had a nice geographic distribution in the Top Ten finishers with stations scoring well from the eastern shores to the western shores and from Montana to Arizona. Even the Midwest’s black hole was represented by two Minnesota stations. Mark, N2QT operated SO2R and finished in second place. Pete, K2PS gave out DC on 10 meters where he always likes to operate. I’m glad 10 was open so we could work him.

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

Unlike the low-power group, winners in SOHP were determined by the multipliers they snagged. Balancing rate and multipliers is always a tough call — strategy, propagation, and station location create a moving target in the RTTY Roundup.

Winning the Rush Drake W7RM Memorial Plaque was Rick, KI1G. Mike, K4GMH was the overall QSO leader in SOHP but off the pace on mults. KI1G was 4th in QSOs but nailed the highest number of mults with a contest-leading 141. Both Nevada’s W7RN operated by Jeff, W6YX and Lee, VE7CC on the Northwest Coast just couldn’t get enough multipliers with poor over-the-pole conditions.

Multioperator, Low Power (MOLP)

Big changes in MOLP occurred in 2012 as scores were up considerably from last year and there were many new calls in the Top Ten. In fact, the only repeating station was W1SLF. Getting “in the box” now takes nearly twice the score of previous years.

In MOLP we now see many teams of two to four operators as compared to previous years in which the norm was a single operator using the spotting network. Earl, NSZM and his partner Glenn, NSRN were once again leaders into the clubhouse and won the category.

Multioperator, High Power (MOHP)

Big aluminum farms dominate this category and a large number of records were set. Another impressive finish for the N8NI team secured the victory. It was a very tight race for second and third by the W0SD and N95M teams, respectively. W0SD claimed 53 more QSOs but three fewer multipliers. Log checking didn’t change that a bit and the experienced hands at W0SD nailed second place.

Would you believe three Multioperator, High Power entries from the same station? Of course it was the Stanford University Radio Club, W6YX. They had three teams: W6YX ran 1.5 kW,
ND2T hovered around 1 kW, and N6DB worked the event at 500 W. Three sets of equipment and antennas let them compete within the rules.

**W/VE Records**

With all the activity it was a record-setting year and very few early records remain. Three new W/VE all-time records were set, the first by SOLP winner and long-time holder of the world Single Operator, Low Power record Don, AA5AU. Two other records were established in the high power arena. A new record in Single Operator, High Power was set by Rick, K11G and the N0NI team from Iowa set a world record in Multioperator, High Power. Over 34 new division records were set and 80 new section records were set!

Canadian sets new record from both ends of their country. Lee, VE7CC of British Columbia set one for SOHP and Fabi, VA2UP established a new record for SOLP from Quebec.

**Affiliated Club Competition**

Club action makes for a lot of fun on the bands and the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) got the message with a nearly 50% increase in logs over 2011. This resulted in a win for the NCCC in the Unlimited Club class and a major milestone as the three-million point mark was passed. The Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) moved down to a spot into second place.

The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) took top billing among Medium Clubs with a very nice score of 2.5 million. A tight race ended with the Florida Contest Group (FCG) edging out the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club (AOCC) for second and third.

In the Local Club class the Orleans ARC again won the gavel with a total score nearly 50% higher than the Spokane DX Association (SDXA) which moved into second place this year. Last year’s Local winner, the Dominion DX Group, was in third place this time out.

**DX Highlights**

One world record and nine continental records were set this year by DX stations. Sixty-nine countries around the world saw new records established. Several stations changed power levels to set a different record in their country.

The Caribbean and South America had propagation into North America and could reach out and work Africa and Europe for the multipliers. The first six scores in the SOLP Top Ten box are from those areas. The top score of Europe was Ruslan, EO3Q from the Ukraine who set a new country record. Another new record was set by Julio, NJ3CW who “came back to RTTY contesting after [having] been distant for many years.” Steve, ZC4LI set a new Asia continental record this year, too.

P49X (operator W0YK) led the SOHP group once again, setting a world record. As in previous years, the Europeans took the next five spots — quite a switch from the SOLP category. Max, KH6ZM set a new Oceania all-time record in SOLP as more hours on the high bands seemed to have helped him. Norman, SB4AIF was in with a new Asia all-time record giving out the appreciated Cyprus multiplier.

Hector, XE2K moved into MOLP after last year’s victory in Multioperator, High Power and took home the honors. The rest of the Top Ten were all from Europe as KP2D was missing this year. Oscar, EA1DR set a new Spanish record and placed second.

South America struck this year as PJ2N set a new South American MOHP record and was the Caribbean and South America again get some serious openings around the world. Will 10 meters still be a factor? Will we once again get some serious openings around the world? Use the rest of this year to plan your strategy for the next Roundup on January 5-6 in 2013.

**Looking Ahead to Next Year**

Next year will be the 25th running of the RTTY Roundup. It’s hard to believe that so much time has passed in RTTY Radiosporting. Mike, AB1OD summed things up nicely, “Man, this RTTY stuff is addictive!” Will the 4000-QSO barrier be challenged in 2012? Will 10 meters still be a factor? Will we once again get some serious openings around the world? Use the rest of this year to plan your strategy for the next Roundup on January 5-6 in 2013.

**Acknowledgments**

Sean, K9X9, is the ARRL Contest Branch Manager who gets me the data and tables from the log checker and he always does a great job. It was nice to see my editor, Ward, N0AX, in the contest this year. As always, my initial editor is Betsy, WV7Y — my bride of many years. Ken, WMSR does the records for RTTY Roundup and is always improving them.

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**Extended Version Online**

If you’d like an extra helping of LTRs and FIGS, check out Jay’s extended version of this article at [www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles](http://www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) for more analysis and more photos. If you own a smartphone, just scan this QR code.