



School Club Roundup 2017-2018 School Year Results

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*"It was a pleasure feeling the enthusiasm of the youth."
— KD2KEH*

School Club Roundup (SCR) takes place twice during each school year, in October and February. The SCR is not primarily intended to be a contest. Its main purpose is to acquaint school age students with the fun of Amateur Radio. Participation in the October 2017 SCR included about 600 operators and in February 2018 about 650 operators took part. 32 of 123 school or club entries listed 10 or more operators each. These eight stations reported 30 or more operators each; W1SYE (45), K5LMS (40), N1SAS (30), WØBHS (77), K38FWT (35 in Oct, 40 in Feb), W8EDU (40 in Oct, 50 in Feb), KD8NOM (34), and K4WBM (56).

How do some clubs get so many students to participate? Some coordinate with a parents' night at the school. Some bring in food. Some have support from school principals or department heads. In all cases, the emphasis is on having fun by getting on the radio. We also see clubs appearing repeatedly, building a tradition of SCR participation that encourages students to get on the air.

We really appreciate college entries, regardless of size. Their prestige can be used to motivate students, especially high school students. An active radio club at a university can also serve as an attractive feature to a high school student with a ham license who is trying to decide where to go to school. We also greatly appreciate all of the non-club hams who made QSOs with the student clubs throughout the week – DX hams are especially welcome!

The final scores for this school year's SCR can be found at www.b4h.net/arrlscr. Click on the event, February or October, with the scores you want to look at. They are sorted by category and score, including information on where the club is located, how many QSOs and multipliers

they logged, and a breakdown of how they got their score. If your club enters SCR, this is also the web page (click the "Submit Score" link) to access the forms for getting listed on the scoreboard.

After the SCR sponsor LIMARC (Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club) checks your QSOs and score calculations, the preliminary scores are changed to final. The full details of the entry along with any comments from the club can be viewed by clicking on the call sign of the club. These are referred to as "soapbox" comments and a few are included below.

There were several repeat leaders from the 2016-2017 season in a number of categories. For example, the top four Elementary School scores in February 2018 were from the same clubs as February 2017 — KM4RE was at the top. In the Middle School category the top two clubs, N4SMS and K5LMS, were repeats although their scores were a bit lower.

Although scores of the top High School entries were also lower, K9SOU moved up to the top from second place last year. The largest category is Colleges and Universities. Case Western Reserve — W8EDU, and Purdue — W9YB, took the top two spots, swapping places in October and February.

Total February entries dropped from 87 to 75 with 6 fewer from individuals. However, from October 2016 to 2017 Colleges and Universities entries went from 16 to 28. This was an increase of 75% and our largest college showing ever! (This may be due to increased promotion on the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative](#) page on Facebook. There was a lot of discussion about SCR this year — Ed.)

The Fall 2017 session surged to more than 90 entries, but the February 2018 session received only 75 entries. The February 2018 college numbers were about the same as

W5AC in School Club Roundup

"We had 7 operators for this Roundup, with one being unlicensed. This semester we had a lot more digital and CW contacts thanks to a few members bringing their specialty. We always have a lot of fun talking to other schools on the air."

The Texas A&M University Club is one of the nation's oldest clubs, first licensed in 1912 as 5AC. It's good to see them active and making contacts in the School Club Roundup!

February 2017. Scores in several categories were lower than the preceding year which may be attributed to poor band conditions.

As we pass the solar minimum this year or next, scores should pick up. In the meantime, use SCR as a training opportunity and remember that to new hams making their first contacts, there's no such thing as "bad conditions!"

The next SCR session is coming up on weekdays during October 15-19, 2018. Why not encourage your local school or university club to get on the air and make some contacts? Individual hams are also encouraged to get on the air and make contacts with the students. A student might enjoy making an SCR contact from a home station, as well. If you are interested or have questions about SCR, you can join the [online SCR group](#) or email scr@limarc.org. The full rules for the contest are available at arri.org/school-club-roundup.

Soapbox Comments from SCR Participants

Caldwell High School, AG7HP: Approximately 15 students from the CHS Engineering and Robotics classes spent their afternoons and evenings making radio contact with other stations from across the continent. Junior Kelsey Ferro said at the conclusion of the event, "I really enjoyed the opportunity to use the knowledge of radios I learned in Mr. Z's class. This was one of the coolest and nerdiest things I can gladly say I've done. From stringing the antenna from the roof to using the radio and talking to new people, these kind of opportunities are why I love engineering".

DLØESA: Greetings to all the students and to all the hams. All the best from the European Space Agency - Operations Centre (ESOC) in Germany.

Lampasas Middle School Youth ARC, K5LMS: Two of our student operators, Amelia and Isabel made probably 80% or more of our contacts, working pileups every day mostly without prompting from any of our three licensed operators!

LASA High, K5LBJ: Enjoyed seeing so many new schools on the air. We worked 52 schools. There was great coordination among schools using SCR-Chat. Students made 920 QSOs in low sunspots. Proud of them! The Spring 2018 SCR was a laid-back affair for K5LBJ. With Seniors dreaming of college acceptance, student operators took a casual approach to the "Contest." They enjoyed the slower pace and bad band conditions made each contact that much more interesting. 73, KC5EES (Trustee, K5LBJ)

K8TGR: Had a great time. Each student made at least two contacts during the event and even asked to come back on a second day. Awesome!

KD8NOM: Our best SCR to date! Many QSOs despite no sunspots! 30 brand new members got on the air. Our kids would not give up! Glad to work the schools we were able to hear and as always to make new friends!



Anna Matson, KN4VID, was an operator at the Schofield Radio Amateur Club, N4SMS, during SCR, winning the "Big Mouth" award for making the most contacts through the week! Anna also performs public service such as being a volunteer communicator at the Aiken SC, Run United Half Marathon.

KM4RE: As always, SCR was amazing for our students. It is a highly motivational educational tool that incorporates almost every single subject area in an applied manner. We had 5 students participate, although the bulk of the station operation was done by just two students. Both of these students took part in the event last year as fourth graders and spent considerable time in the weeks previous to this fall's SCR mapping out ways to improve on their past performances. I think that this part is as much

fun for me to watch as the event itself. We save all of the data from past roundups, things like contacts/per day and average QSO/hour. After each roundup is finished, we always have a "debriefing" to discuss things that worked well and ideas on how to improve in the future. They take meticulous notes on this. The students then analyze this information and map out a plan. They really approach it as a competition, not against other schools, but against themselves. There was some disappointment that they fell a bit short of the club's best, but they also understand that even the best plan can be hindered by poor band conditions like we experienced several times. I cannot overstate how much I appreciate those folks who take their time to make the School Club Roundup possible.

KM4TAY: The kids had lots of fun! We have 30 kids trying to cram around 1 radio with our 1 hour club . Thanks for offering this for us to play!

KR8ZE: We here at the KR8ZE QTH greatly enjoyed the SCR and making contact with the young operators. They all did a very good job as did their instructors and teachers. We learned a lot from this SCR in various areas of setup, operating and logging.

ND8GA: Every February and October we enjoy the Roundup, and encourage our students to observe or participate as much as possible. We remain grateful for those whose dedication make this friendly school competition possible.

University of Florida, W4DFU: It was my first time participating in School Club Roundup, and Monday was even my first time working sideband!

W5FMH: Good Conditions fun Contest. Very relaxed and great to hear the kids on air.

Case Western Reserve University, W8EDU: There were about 40 participants in October and 50 in February, including the Electrical Engineering Department Chair. She enjoyed being on the air and told us she would take her license exam next session. We have many new licensees here on the CWRU campus and many of them made contacts for us. Lots of fun! What a great time!

W8MHS: Great SCR! Got two students on the air and made their first QSO.

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club, W8PZS: After many years of inactivity, the club has been revived and, we are excited to be on the air again!

W9GRS: Hard to believe our 9th year doing this! We had 21 students make multiple qso's and utilized 7 different modes to make qso's! Preparation for our Regional

Science Olympiad took priority this time so we didn't get much operating time in. We were able to add WV to our school total, leaving us only 3 states short of working schools in all 50 states!



N1ASA: School principal Anita Brouse, KC1IPS, got on the air! 6 student operators had a good time. 24 other elementary school students came through for a 20-minute briefing on why ham radio is important today. They asked great questions!

North Augusta High School Amateur Radio Club, N4NAH: This was the first SCR for our new club. Students had a great time.

K8YSU: The crew had a great time! Lots of fun chatting with other schools and hams.

KD4TGR: Thanks to GARS (Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society for their help.), the parents of our club members, our principal for allowing us to have a club and finally, thanks to all the hams "out there" who wanted to talk to our kids.

KE8FWT: 35 students operated with 7 handicapped. All had fun and a great learning experience for all.

Harbor City High School, NØHCS: Had a great time. We focused PSK31 chats with several individuals, schools, and clubs around the country. 73 to all that participated and worked hard to get our contacts in between piano lessons, play practice, dance class, clubs, homework and other commitments. We were able to be on the air for around 16 hours.

VA3UOT: So pleased to see the work of the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative taking root! Events like this are essential to ensure the vitality of our hobby. Let's see even more schools on the air in the Fall! 73..

Kansas State University ARC, WØQQQ: We had a wonderful time talking with other universities across the

country. The most fun was at the end of the contest, frantically trying to secure a few more contacts, as other university stations, in typical collegiate fashion, waited to the last minute to squeeze in a few more QSOs.

Worthington Christian School, WØW: Our first SCR was a completely new experience for all but one of the kids. We used a portable telescoping mast to support an inverted V antenna in front of the school and it worked great. The students raced to put pins in a map to mark the locations of each station worked. Everybody had a blast!

WISYE: We're a first time SCR school. 40+ students came through, made calls on HF (tough propagation) and talked locally on 2-meters and 70-cm. We'll be following these students into the local junior high school and encouraging them to study for the license. We've minted 15+ youth hams (half girls) over the last three years.

Purdue University, W9YB: Great time had at Purdue! New countries, new modes, and new operators made for a fun week.

WA4CR: Very tough conditions, but the contacts I was able to make were enjoyable. Very impressive young operators with great enthusiasm and obviously coached/mentored well!

Additional comments can be found at www.b4h.net/arrlscr below the listing of scores.