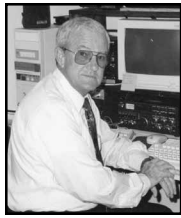


If you missed the March *NCJ* RTTY Sprint, you missed the best one yet. Propagation was great, activity was at an all-time high, and everybody seemed to be having fun. Some tremendous scores were turned in—there are some very talented dial-twisters out there. The next *NCJ* RTTY Sprint is scheduled for October. You'll find the rules and log submission information elsewhere in this issue and also on the *NCJ* Web site: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com). Don't miss it! I'm betting that it will be bigger and better than March's event.



K7WM

Last time, we began a two-part series written by Don, AA5AU, on his planning for and operation in the 2001 ARRL RTTY Roundup. Here's the final installment—aptly entitled “Sunday—A Day to Remember.”

## 2001 ARRL RTTY Roundup—Part 2

### Sunday—A Day to Remember

By Don Hill, AA5UA

*As we pick up the story, it's 1300Z (7 AM local time) on Sunday. I'm about to return to the air after my off time.*

Before going to bed, I had set up Station “A” on 15 meters (21,104) and Station “B” on 20 meters (14,100). I set my alarm for 1200Z, but ended up staying in bed and getting a bit more rest. I finally climbed out of the sack at around 1245Z.

Once back in the shack, the first order of business was to connect to the Internet and check the WWV report. I don't recall exactly what the numbers were, but I do remember thinking that they looked good. I knew 15 and 10 meters would be open early and that I shouldn't spend too much time on 20 meters.

At 1300Z, I slipped on the headphones and immediately heard a signal on 14.100 MHz. It was A52YL! She was calling CQ! My heart nearly jumped out of my chest. I called her immediately and she came right back. I couldn't believe my luck! Was this an omen of good things to come?

After logging A52YL, I went straight to 10 meters without even tuning the rest of 20 meters. When I flipped to 10, I just happened to land right on UW8I calling CQ. One call and he was in the log. In the meantime, I found LZ2PI on 15 meters and got him on one call. Things were starting out very nicely!

## Results, March 2001 *NCJ* RTTY Sprint

### Scores

Call	QSOs	Mults	Score
W2UP	299	39	11661
K3MM	284	34	9656
AA5AU	239	31	7409
W6/G0AZT	175	35	6125
K7WM	179	32	5728
W7WW	176	30	5280
4U1WB	167	29	4843
WA0SXV	154	29	4466
K5ZD	135	30	4050
W0ETC	146	25	3650
VE6YR	107	29	3103
K4MA	100	29	2900
W3SE	110	22	2420
WM3T	92	26	2392
W4AU1	64	25	2100
K5HDU	80	24	1920
WA6BOB	66	25	1650
KC4HW	65	25	1625
W6IWO	66	23	1518
K6EP	54	27	1458
N7GC	57	24	1368
WB5QLR	56	22	1232
WA9ALS	68	18	1224
WA9AFM/5	58	17	986
N6TQS	51	19	969
W9ILY	26	16	456
AA4NU	30	13	390
KS0M	22	13	286
VE7FO	18	14	252
SP5OXJ	5	3	15

Check Log: KF4SIR

My strategy before the contest was that once I dove back in on Sunday morning, I would keep Station “A” on 15 meters for the remainder of the contest and, with the small exception of a brief visit to 40 meters at about 2300Z, that's exactly what I did. My plan for Station “B” was to work 10 meters until the rate fell and then move it to 20. For the next six hours I pounded 10 and 15 meters with all my might. I ended up bagging 396 contacts including a nice pile of multipliers.

### The Big Decision

Things were going well operating a combination of 10 and 15 meters, but there was something heavy weighing on my mind. I had to make the decision as to when to move Station “B” to 20. The rate was slowing down a bit on 10—Europe was just about gone at 1900Z—but stateside activity was still abundant, and I had already collected all the contiguous states except Georgia. (I had not worked them all in 1999 or 2000.) I knew that if I was going to take full advantage of multipliers, I needed to snag Georgia.

I realized that—with the exception of Georgia—10 meters was unlikely to yield

any new multipliers in the middle of the day, so at 1900Z, I decided to move Station “B” from 10 to 20 meters. Twenty meters is typically not very good here in Louisiana at that hour, but I felt that I needed to make this band change. This would ultimately be the best move I would make during the entire contest.

Twenty was alive with plenty of signals. I found DJ7AA for my first contact. This was an especially good sign—I normally don't hear or work Europe this early on 20 meters. I collected a few more stations using S&P and then set up shop on 14.091 MHz. I ran that frequency for a good hour. I maintained a decent rate—62 per hour—and it increased as time went by. At 1945Z, N7HZQ called in from Georgia. He was my 1398th contact. I had finally gathered up all 48 continental states!

### The Final Strategy

My strategy for the last five hours was to milk 15 and 20 meters for all they were worth. When the QSO count topped 1500, I set my sights on 1600. With 300 QSOs on 10 meters, I worked hard towards objectives of 500 QSOs on 15 meters and 400 QSOs on 20.

In the last hour, things really slowed down. But one by one I reached all of the “spur of the moment” goals I set for myself. I finished with 1611 QSOs.

Band	QSOs
80	145
40	262
20	402
15	502
10	<u>300</u>
Total	1611

If someone had told me ahead of time that I would end up with 1611 contacts—including all 48 continental states, 11 Canadian provinces and 70 DXCC countries—I wouldn't have believed it. But it happened! This contest will be forever etched in my memory as one of the greatest events of my RTTY contesting career.

The people that are really responsible for this achievement are all of the digital Amateur Radio operators that participated in the 2001 ARRL RTTY Roundup. If it were not for them, this would not have been possible. My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of them!

73, Don, AA5AU

Nice job, Don! That's all for this issue. There are lots of RTTY contests scattered throughout the year. Pick out the ones you like, get on the air, have some fun and help support the organizers. Participation is the key!

73, Wayne, K7WM