

# March 2007 NA RTTY Sprint Results

Ed Muns, W0YK

S. KHRYSZYNE KEANE, K1SFA

The biggest NA RTTY Sprint to date warmed up the digital sub-bands in March. A record 78 logs were submitted, and 149 unique call signs appeared at least three times in those logs. These stats are about half the normal CW Sprint activity, but it is a great milestone for the RTTY event.

In both modes, about 50 percent of the active stations submit logs. It's puzzling that half the participants don't upload their logs, especially those who were also registered on a team. There were three stations with over 100 QSOs based on reconstructing their logs from QSOs in the logs received. Certainly the important thing is participation, whether or not a log is submitted, and that is very gratifying.

Forty meters was the money band, with the SO2R stations keeping one radio there for the entire four hours and consistently working stations through-



**Hugh Brower, KB1NFI, gets the hang of RTTY. Hugh made over 100 contacts during the Sprint. It was a day of firsts for Hugh. He upgraded to General earlier in the day, tried out RTTY for the first time and participated in his first contest. Way to go, Hugh!**

## TOP 10 SCORES

Call	Score	Band Changes	QSOs Lost
W0YK	12,285	185	7
AD4EB	10,545	150	3
W6YX	8866	7	2
K6LL	8029	2	1
K5AM	7712	70	8
*K6UFO	6045	2	6
*KE5OG	5952	57	8
K7WM	5640	3	10
K0UK	5536	4	14
K6RB	4700	2	4
WW4LL	4698	57	9
*N1MGO	4380	62	8
K9SEX	4379	3	2
K6TD	4296	2	7
*VE3ESH	3973	14	3

## TOP ONE RADIO

Call	Score	Band Changes	QSOs Lost
W6YX	8866	7	2
K6LL	8029	2	1
*K6UFO	6045	2	6
K7WM	5640	3	10
K0UK	5536	4	14
K6RB	4700	2	4
K9SEX	4379	3	2
K6TD	4296	2	7
*VE4EAR	3944	6	0
W4NZ	3888	2	6
N6CK	3432	2	3
*K15XP	3014	4	0
KA3QLF	2730	1	4
W4RK	2673	4	9
K0JJR	2668	6	1

## TOP 10 QSOS

W0YK	351
W6YX	286
AD4EB	285
K6LL	259
K5AM	241
*K6UFO	195
K6RB	188
K7WM	188
*KE5OG	186
K6TD	179
K00UK	173
WW4LL	162
N6CK	156
K9SEX	151
*N1MGO	146

## TOP 10 MULTS

AD4EB	37
W0YK	35
K0UK	32
K5AM	32
*KE5OG	32
K6LL	31
*K6UFO	31
W6YX	31
K7WM	30
*N1MGO	30
K9SEX	29
**VE3ESH	29
*VE4EAR	29
WW4LL	29
W4NZ	27

## TOP 10 Low Power

*K6UFO	6045
*KE5OG	5952
*N1MGO	4380
*VE3ESH	3973
*VE4EAR	3944
*K0RFD	3276
*K15XP	3014
*W1BYH	2886
*K9WX	2576
*NP3D/NY2	2470
*W6OAT	2470
*K0RC	2398
*AK9F	2210
*WA6BOB	1848
*W6FFH	1767

## TOP 10 QRP

**K9ECI	81
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## TOP 10 GOLDEN

*K15XP	137
*VE4EAR	136
*K0RC	109
*VE3RCN	66
*W6ZZZ	64
N4CW	37
*K2DB	29
W0MU	25
N4ZZ	15
*WA9AFM/5	12
*N9LF	10
*K9ECI	9
*W6RK	6
*KB9YGD	5
*K6ZCL	1

## TOP 10 BAND CHANGES

W0YK	185
AD4EB	150
K5AM	70
*N1MGO	62
*KE5OG	57
WW4LL	57
K4RO	49
KT0R	44
*NP3D/NY2	43
*K9WX	42
K4HMB	28
*W6ZZZ	26
*W1BYH	25
*AE6RF	20
*K0RFD	20

out. Conditions varied around the continent as some stations reported good propagation, while others had poor skip and/or high noise levels.

There were several new Sprinters, and the following eleven stations identified themselves as such: WTØN, KØUK, N1MGO, VE4EAR, WW4LL, W4NZ, N6CK, N6DE, K6RB, AH8DX/W7 and AK9F. KB1NFI, using his new General class privileges, operated from W1AW and participated in his first contest and tried RTTY for the first time. Thanks to everyone who tried it for the first time. Hopefully you're hooked!

Again, the Low Power group held their own and occupied slots 6 and 7 of the Top 10 (congratulations to K6UFO and KE5OG, respectively). KC9ECI was the only QRPer reporting in.

There were 45 multipliers across the logs, and AD4EB lead the pack by snagging 37 of them. This enabled Jim to take second place this time by edging out Dean, N6DE (operating W6YX as Mike), who had one more QSO than Jim. Dean fell into third for his first Sprint and did it by systematically working through 20/40/80 with one radio — watch out when he comes back with two radios! The WØYK final QSO total of 351 fell short of the RTTY Sprint record of 373 set by Barry, W2UP, in the March 2004 Sprint.

Overall, serial numbers were higher than in recent RTTY Sprints — it's good to see rates coming back up. SO2R was still relatively rare, with only six stations deploying it to any great extent. AD4EB changed bands most frequently at an average of every 1.92 QSOs; WØYK wasn't far behind at 1.95. The next was KTØR at 2.05. The SO1R majority was nearly as competitive across the board as exemplified by W6YX (N6DE) finishing second in QSOs and third in score.

Six teams were registered. NCCC filled one team and formed a second with four stations. The other four teams were also partially filled, with two of the registered stations on NCCC #1 failing to submit logs. Still, NCCC #1 beat out SWACC this time for top team honors.

## Operating

Operator skill was notable with most everyone following the recommended different QSO exchange sequences for S&P and CQ QSOs, respectively. Most operators clearly confirmed each QSO, helping reduce confusion and NIL counts, and most operators stood by at the end of each QSO to allow the QSL to be heard. On the other hand, both K9SEX (K5NZ) and VA3GGF commented that they delete QSOs when they don't get confirmation from the other station. It's hard to disagree with that. Maybe the loss of an unacknowledged

## Scores

Call	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mult	Score	Team
*N1MGO	Gordon	MA	12	67	62	146	30	4380	MARA Dabblers
*W1BYH	Norm	MA	2	69	31	111	26	2886	MARA Dabblers
*NP3D/NY2	Andrei	NY	7	55	24	95	26	2470	
*K2PAL	Alex	NY	1	6	36	46	15	690	
*K2DB	Poopsie	NY	0	21	8	29	13	377	
KA3QLF	Scott	PA	0	52	47	105	26	2730	
*N3XL	Bill	MD	0	5	17	23	16	368	
AD4EB	Jim	TN	58	136	72	285	37	10,545	
WW4LL	Fred	GA	21	87	54	162	29	4698	SWACC
W4NZ	Ted	TN	24	82	29	144	27	3888	
K4HMB	Joe	NC	51	38	45	139	23	3197	
K4RO	Kirk	TN	52	48	22	129	23	2967	
W4UK	Jerry	SC	0	86	5	92	20	1840	
W4ATL	Sherman	GA	34	41	12	90	20	1800	
*WA4OSD	Frank	TN	5	33	27	65	26	1690	
N9JG	John	TN	0	15	23	39	20	780	
N4CW	Bert	NC	0	3	33	37	17	629	
*N4GVA	Scott	FL	10	20	2	32	19	608	
W4OJC	Grant	GA	17	18	0	36	14	504	
*ND4X	Paul	TN	2	16	4	21	13	273	
K4GMH	Mike	VA	9	12	0	21	9	189	
N4ZZ	Don	TN	0	0	15	15	12	180	
K5AM	Mark	NM	80	129	23	241	32	7712	SWACC
*KE5OG	Bill	TX	66	91	17	186	32	5952	SWACC
K9SEX	Ruff	TX	36	100	0	151	29	4379	
*K15XP	Chas	LA	49	68	13	137	22	3014	
*K5WW	Gert	TX	44	22	2	69	16	1104	
KD5J	Cord	AR	6	18	18	42	23	966	
*WA9AFM/5	Tom	OK	3	6	3	12	9	108	
WØYK	Ed	CA	88	177	65	351	35	12,285	NCCC #1
W6YX	Mike	CA	102	137	15	286	31	8866	NCCC #1
*K6UFO	Mork	CA	85	84	13	195	31	6045	NCCC #1
K6RB	Rob	CA	25	91	58	188	25	4700	NCCC #1
K6TD	Kevin	CA	95	52	16	179	24	4296	NCCC #1
N6CK	Greg	CA	76	12	58	156	22	3432	NCCC #1
*W6OAT	Rusty	CA	49	43	0	95	26	2470	NCCC #2
*WA6BOB	Bob	CA	6	53	17	77	24	1848	SCCC #1
*W6FFH	Don	CA	16	53	23	93	19	1767	
*N6QQ	John	CA	70	0	0	86	20	1720	SCCC #1
*K6GEP	Tim	CA	10	28	29	69	18	1242	SCCC #1
*AE6RF	Tiger	CA	16	35	24	77	13	1001	NCCC #1
*W6ZZZ	Mark	CA	8	27	28	64	15	960	NCCC #1
*K6XX	Bob	CA	27	0	0	30	10	300	NCCC #2
*K6KN	Bill	CA	1	14	2	17	8	136	
*KQ6ES	John	CA	4	2	4	10	7	70	SCCC #1
*W6RK	Risto	CA	0	6	0	6	2	12	NCCC #2
*K6ZCL	Ted	CA	0	1	0	1	1	1	SCCC #1
K6LL	Dave	AZ	98	130	11	259	31	8029	SWACC
K7WM	Wayne	AZ	54	113	5	188	30	5640	SWACC
W7WHY	Tom	OR	5	67	17	92	17	1564	
*WA7BME	Ron	UT	0	6	0	6	7	42	
*K9WX	Tim	IN	29	55	24	112	23	2576	Society of Midwest Contesters
*AK9F	Howard	IL	16	31	41	93	26	2210	Society of Midwest Contesters
*KC9EC	Tom	WI	6	3	0	9	9	81	
*N9LF	Tim	IN	5	4	0	10	5	50	Society of Midwest Contesters
*KB9YGD	Norm	IN	0	3	2	5	4	20	
*KD9MS	Craig	IL	0	2	0	2	1	2	
KØUK	Bill	CO	35	98	29	173	32	5536	
*KØRFD	Ralph	CO	15	78	24	126	26	3276	
W4RK	Bill	MO	5	53	42	107	27	2889	
KØJJR	Joe	MN	25	47	39	116	23	2668	
*KØRC	Bob	MN	0	65	39	109	22	2398	
KTØR	Dave	MN	16	38	29	90	25	2250	
KØKT	Bill	IA	8	30	35	81	21	1701	
WVØT	Philip	KS	62	54	0	120	14	1680	
*NØAT	Ron	MN	26	23	17	67	18	1207	
*WØRAA	Dick	CO	8	34	11	56	20	1120	
*KAØEIC	Don	KS	10	21	10	42	17	714	
*WNØL	Lance	NE	60	0	0	62	9	558	
WØMU	Mike	CO	0	9	15	25	15	375	
*WTØN	Mike	CO	0	6	0	6	5	30	
**VE3ESH	Ian	VE3	5	36	75	137	29	3973	
*VE4EAR	Ed	VE4	8	88	32	136	29	3944	
*VE3RCN	Kevin	VE3	4	18	40	66	25	1500	
*VA3GGF	Greg	VE3	0	36	2	42	17	714	
KH6GMP	Gary	KH6	29	0	0	32	10	320	
*YV6BTF	Jose	YV	4	5	0	9	1	9	

\* Low Power  
\*\* QRP

## TEAM SCORES

<b>NCCC #1</b>		<b>SWACC</b>		<b>MARA DABLERS</b>		<b>SCCC #1</b>	
WØYK	2,285	K6LL	8029	*N1MGO	4380	*WA6BOB	1848
W6YX	8866	K5AM	7712	*W1BYH	2886	*N6QQ	1720
*K6UFO	6045	*KE5OG	5952	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7266</b>	*K6GEP	1242
K6RB	4700	K7WM	5640			*KQ6ES	70
K6TD	4296	WW4LL	4698			*K6ZCL	1
N6CK	3432	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,031</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4881</b>
*AE6RF	1001						
*W6ZZZ	960						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,585</b>						

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5. Society of Midwest Contesters (*K9WX,*AK9F,*N9LF)	4836
6. NCCC #2 (*W6OAT,*K6XX,*W6RK)	2782

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edged QSO will encourage this good operating practice.

Six stations with over 100 QSOs had Golden Logs (no non-dupe removals or penalties): K15XP (137), VE4EAR (136) and K5RC (109). Great job!

Two logs created by *MixW* had names and QTHs that were obviously pulled from a call sign database. "Robert W" and "Los Gatos CA" were not sent in the exchange from the other stations. Of course, this resulted in removing nearly all the QSOs from those two logs, except for the very few QSO lines that coincidentally matched the exchange information that was actually transmitted (the QSOs in the logs of stations they worked were not affected). It would seem that these two operators did not check their Cabrillo log output for this obvious problem.

When one of them was asked to re-submit their log because the QTH field was missing from the Cabrillo log, they sent back a non-Cabrillo log with signal reports and full QTH (city and state) from a database. We clearly need more communication on basic contesting practices to reach everyone! On the plus side, these two stations did their part to increase activity for the RTTY Sprint.

### Legal Dupes

Despite the increased activity this time, and despite the much more difficult log checking, the legal dupe rule is still needed to support high rates over the four hours. The WØYK log has some interesting statistics: 99 of the 361 QSOs were with unique call signs, and some of those stations were worked on another band or two for an additional 51 QSOs, not counting legal dupes. Thus, there were 211 legal dupes, or 58 percent, of the WØYK QSOs. Had the legal dupe rule not been in effect, there would undoubtedly have been other QSOs to take the place of some of, but surely not all, the 211 legal dupes.

Closer examination of the 211 legal dupes showed that the majority were made with the same loud stations

throughout the contest, many who were locals. While this kept the rate up, it obscured weaker signals and additional multipliers. Because of the Sprint QSY rule, any additional stations calling were lost unless they synced up again on another frequency and were not again over-ridden by a stronger signal.

There were only two logs where this rule was apparently misunderstood. Once again, there was a log with multiple instances of only two intervening QSOs between dupes (i.e., the same station was worked three QSOs later, rather than the required four). In the second case, the operator forgot the subtle "regardless of band" portion of the rule, working the same station on different bands with less than three intervening QSOs. It is good news that fewer people got mixed up, but both this legal dupe rule and the Sprint QSY rule can discourage the casual RTTY operator from joining in the Sprint.

My sense is that a good target for transitioning away from the RTTY legal dupe rule is when we have at least 200 active participants for two years (four events). This probably means 100 submitted logs each time, given the traditional 50 percent ratio noted above. Extraordinary circumstances that reduce activity in a specific event might be ignored, but the increased activity needs to be more established than just an isolated event or two. Also, the October RTTY Sprints have historically had less activity, so we have to be careful about making a decision based on this high activity March event.

No one is more eager to ditch this crutch than the RTTY Sprint manager and log checker. Log checking took 10 hours this time, mostly due to all the manual reviews of log data to verify the legal dupe rule. Without that, the log checking would have been done in about one hour.

### Next RTTY Sprint

14 October 2007 will be the next RTTY

Sprint. Let's all get on and defeat precedence that the October Sprint is low activity. Moreover, let's set a new all-time record of participation and log submittals. Not only is the Sprint fun, but operating the Sprint improves skills applicable to all contesting and operating in general.

### Thanks

Huge thanks go out again to all who participated in the RTTY Sprint, to whatever extent. Radio contesting is a multi-station sport, notwithstanding our "Single-Op" entry classes. Without lots of stations to work, the big guns would be a lot smaller. A large portion of contest activity and participation is comprised of little guns and casual operators. The NA Sprints are especially great venues to improve one's operating skill.

Special appreciation and recognition go to N5KO, N6TR and WA7BNM who developed and continue to support the highly effective log submittal, checking and results posting processes used for the RTTY Sprint. It has been a pleasure to work with these fine contesters who give so much to our hobby.

### Soapbox

**WW4LL** — First RTTY Sprint for me. Congratulations to those with the big numbers well over 200. Thanks to all who worked me and 73.

**W7WHY** — That was a blast. Love these Sprint contests. RTTY seems a lot more laid back than the other Sprints. Seems like there is always a QSL before someone gives a call after a Q. Only had 1 station with a bunch of 'CR/LF' at the end of their exchanges. Sure does make it a lot better when you don't have to chase the exchange all over the screen with the mouse. I had to work today so missed almost the first half. I hate it when work gets in the way of fun! Skip seemed kinda short on 40. Think TX was about as far east as I got. Got farther east on 80 than I did on 20. Never did hear an east coast station.

**W4RK** — Major computer RFI issues on 20 meters caused some wasted time.

**WØYK** — Well, I think we finally had a RTTY Sprint! Activity seemed up and serial numbers were certainly up. That was fun. We even got six teams registered. I almost forgot about the two NCCC teams and was registering them at 2 minutes before the start — great planning. Thanks to everyone who got on. Remember, the log deadline is 7 days from the end of the contest. Preferred submittal method is via the Copy/Paste upload on the NCJ Web site.

**KØUK** — Some Q's wouldn't go in the log even though I had more than 4 QSOs in between them. Not sure what was going on with this. *N1MM* is a new program for me and still learning. I'm slowly picking up the trick of the trade. 80 meters was tough with the QRN being very high here. Thanks for all, and sorry if I came in on some frequency and called CQ. Some



times just didn't hear anyone.

**KT0R** — Was not going to get on, but did have a chance to operate here and there. Just not real good propagation into the hot spots. Glad to hand out MN.

**K6UFO** — Again from home with the low antennas. 20 meters was such fun I stayed there the first two hours, then did OK on 40 meters. Eighty meters, as usual, was hard work. My best score yet from home, so I'll declare it a success! Thanks for the QSOs!

**W6RK** — I had other commitments and couldn't do more than the last 10 minutes of the contest.

**K6GEP** — I got off to a bad start with the *N1MM* software because I couldn't get the QSO number to send — had to use my old software. Twenty meters seemed pretty good tonight for a change; 40 meters wasn't bad either, but 80 was a disappointment. I had hoped for more with my dipole. Colorado was about as far east as it went. Maybe 80 went long? I should have stayed on 40 longer.

**N6CK** — First time to operate Sprint in any mode. Intense! Glad to participate. Thanks to the sponsors.

**K6LL** — I got off to a slow start, with a lot of things happening out of sync. When I went to 80 meters, there was some kind of RFI to the computer or rig, and the RTTY tone wouldn't shift properly, so I had to run 100 W on 80. Anyway, it was kind of fun. Thanks for the Q's.

**W4NZ** — First ever RTTY Sprint. Thanks to all for their patience.

**K6TD** — What a kick. Need to get more ops in this contest!

**K0RC** — Kinda fun, but I always seem to screw up the QSY rule in the beginning. I missed the first hour so I didn't bother with 20 meters. I uploaded my log to LoTW 15 minutes after the finish and I had 4 QSL's waiting for me. You guys are quick!

**AH8DX/W7** — I have always been a phone and CW operator, but since RTTY is the new rave, I thought I would try to get started with it. First time with SO2R also; I have always used just one radio. I live in a restricted neighborhood with CC&Rs and this is all I could put up with-out being noticed by too many. I used two laptops but the network stopped working right before the test, so the serial numbers didn't come out correctly. I kept an eye on which guys I worked and made sure not to work them too soon. I ran 5 W, so sorry for my weak signal and the repeats. I think my elevation here on Cooper Mountain

helped out a little. The test was a lot of fun and hopefully this is just the start of something good. I plan on traveling to some DX spots and my new RTTY station will be in the suitcase. Thanks to all of the guys that heard my signal. CU in the next RTTY test.

**N1MGO** — First ever sprint, Sure gets crazy at times! First contest with new second radio, just got an IC-7000. Primary radio is an IC-756P2. Hope I did not confuse too many operators with my sprint beginner's mistakes! Some operators are not in my log, I needed a fill and they did not stick around long enough for me to get the fill, sorry I could not copy all on the first exchange, but the low bands were noisy here.

**K9SEX** — Enough participation, now to go back to regular rules (end the 3 QSO and dupe ok). Then band selection, etc becomes part of the contest again. Boy, it is just impossible to keep up with the SO2R boys, got to do some station upgrades I guess. Some were in such a hurry they didn't send a TU or R to confirm they got the exchange when they were the QSY station. Take time to send it; if you don't, I delete you from the log. And so should everyone else. Enjoyed it until dinner plans ended the fun.

**K4RO** — I thought I was all ready for this one, but I wound up spending half of the contest trying to debug software. Congrats to AD4EB who really knows how to do this RTTY thing right. I hope I'll have everything ready for the next time!

**KH6GMP** — Didn't intend to get in this one, but got in for a while on 20 meters only. Thanks for all the QSOs. ALOHA 73.

**VE4EAR** — My first RTTY sprint. Thought it was kind of slow but perhaps that is the norm. Twenty meters was basically dead except for a few W6s. The bulk of the action was on 40 meters. 80 meters was a struggle. Still a lot of fun!

**KE5OG** — Great fun as usual. Caught some late multipliers that were great. Jerry, W4UK, was elusive, but I finally got him. Also KO4PU and N9CK showed up and helped a bunch. Those mults helped me achieve a personal best in Low Power. Thanks for all the Q's.

**WA0RSX** — 75 W vertical.

**VE3ESH** — My favorite test ... what a blast.

**AD4EB** — Another enjoyable RTTY Sprint, great to see many new call signs. Worked a total of 90 unique calls. QRN was pretty bad on 80 meters, so spent a considerable amount of time on 20 meters

working CA stations. W0YK, Ed, was on fire, as was W6YX, Mike. Worked Ed 12 times, and Mike 14.

**AK9F** — First ever RTTY Sprint. It took awhile to get into the rhythm of this one. Rig 100 W and wire antenna.

**W6YX** — This was my first RTTY Sprint. The dupe rule in this contest requires a decidedly different strategy compared to the SSB Sprint. I'm not a big fan of the dupe rule, but I must admit that it kept things busy! My sense is that we're still not at the level of unique call signs we need in order to remove the dupe rule, but perhaps we will be in a few years. I was pleasantly surprised that almost all the operators in the RTTY Sprint knew to QSL the contact before QSYing, and a majority had the exchange in the right order. I heard four mults that I didn't work. Sometimes I tried CQing on the fringes in hopes of picking up some casual guys in needed states, but often my CQs went unanswered away from the core action. Then when I called CQ back on Main Street, I would have an instant pileup of loud guys who I had already worked 5+ times. Maybe some day I'll try this contest with 2 radios. Thanks for the QSOs and your patience with this new RTTY Sprint operator!

**AE6RF** — Many thanks to Greg, N6CK, for his help getting my new antenna up. With 30 minutes to spare before the contest and a 27 minute drive home. This one was a lot of fun. My motto going in was "Embrace the chaos." My rate was about double my normal RTTY rate, so something was working better.

**VE3RCN** — Not a strong showing, but it was fun. I have to agree with K9SEX's comments. If you did not hang around for a RGR or TU, I could not be sure of an exact exchange, so I deleted it. Bigger scores to come when I don't have to manually switch between screens and patch cords.

**WT0N** — This was my first sprint contest, and although I only worked 9 stations in 1:10, I had a lot of fun.

**W0RAA** — Fun contest, but confusing with all the QSY issues. Nonetheless, I'll be back again next year to join the confusion. Thanks to all who provided a contact.

**KT0R** — Second RTTY Sprint. Fun time for time spent.

**KB9YGD** — Thanks for the fun everyone.

**K2DB** — Another testing of my remote operation, having a blast!

**NCJ**