

# Results: North American Sprint RTTY — March 2010

The 19<sup>th</sup> North American RTTY Sprint was the second most active running with 88 logs received, 211 active call signs and 51 active multipliers (see Figure 1). Twenty meters was open longer than the activity. Forty meters was open nicely for all four hours. Eighty was open across the continent, but activity was lower than on 40 or even 20. A lot of new call signs showed up, which is great news for any contest. Participation in the March RTTY Sprint continues to be relatively higher than in the October event, and the trend line for all Sprints is increasing with time.

Mark, NN7SS (K6UFO op), pushed the QRP envelope and possibly set a new record for RTTY Sprint at this power level. I say “possibly,” because we’re still working on a historical database that will automatically determine records. He was one of three golden logs having more than 100 QSOs (the other two were John, KØYQ, and Steve, KW7N). Mark also placed 10th in the number of multipliers worked. This is all proof positive that Low Power and QRP can do well and be fun in a Sprint. Eliminating the legal dupe rule (ie, allowing duplicate contacts on the same band with at least three intervening QSOs) has resulted in a much better environment for weaker signals.

Ron, NØAT, and Bob, WØBR, had a close race for the Low Power title this time, with NØAT prevailing. Overall, Ron was eighth, and Bob was 11th. John, KØYQ, was third in Low Power and 15th overall.

Eleven of the top twelve were SO2R. Rusty, W6OAT, used one radio. He changed bands four times, placed sixth overall and tied with second place holder Bud, AA3B, for the highest number of mults (43). Dave, K6LL, made only 10 QSOs on a second radio and placed third overall. While SO2R appears to offer an advantage, based on these data, it isn’t *overwhelmingly* more effective.

Geographically, five of the top 10 were in the West, three in the East and two in the middle of the continent. This diversity indicates a more even playing field for everyone. Forty meter skip was both long and short, while 20 meter skip favored western operators trying to work into eastern population centers. Conversely, 80 meters was more favorable for the eastern stations to work each other.

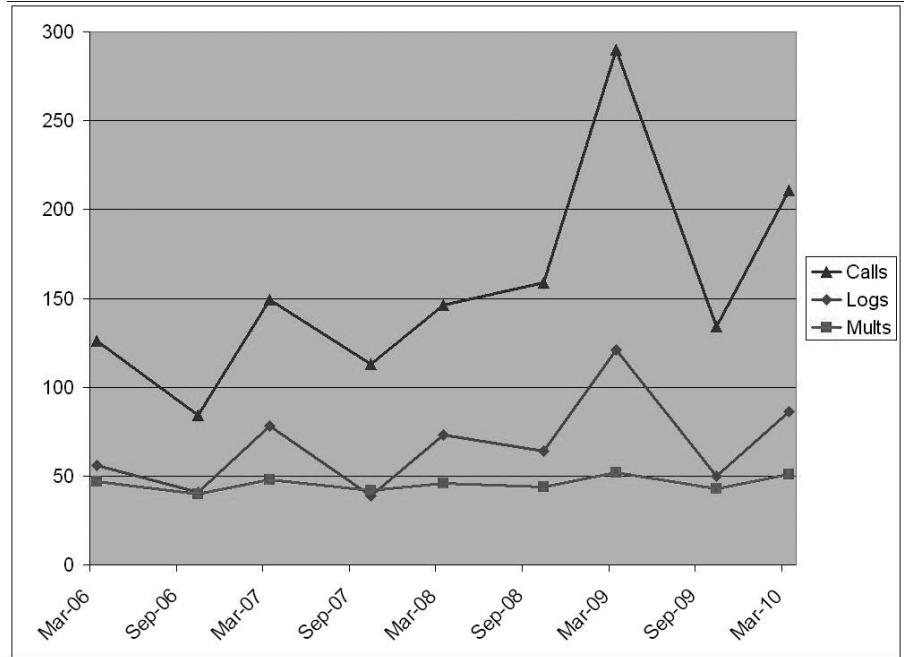


Figure 1 — NA RTTY Sprint activity levels from March 2008 through March 2010

### Top 10

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
WØYK	9660	139	7	68	65	50	49
AA3B	8471	123	12	62	55	42	41
K6LL	8112	14	4	56	49	50	54
W7WW	7896	85	11	51	56	41	42
NØXR	7872	119	2	62	39	46	46
W6OAT	7611	4	6	49	50	45	35
AD4EB	7093	83	8	47	49	49	30
NØAT	6194	81	17	46	39	44	38
K5AM	6142	60	7	42	45	41	38
N4ZZ	6084	74	8	44	43	47	38

### Top 10 Single Radio

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
W6OAT	7611	4	6	49	50	45	35
K6RB	5814	12	6	45	44	31	35
W6EU	5600	4	3	38	51	39	32
W4NZ	5513	3	8	43	39	33	37
KØYQ	5320	2	0	39	35	41	37
AB7R	5075	2	9	39	34	39	35
AB4GG	4935	2	5	33	41	37	32
K9OM	4795	4	9	39	35	29	34
K3GP	4773	5	3	27	35	32	36
W6SX	4736	3	9	34	49	35	31

The highest level of team competition was within western clubs. Once again the South West Arizona Contest Club and the Northern California Contest Club topped the list. NCCC, with only nine logs submitted, ultimately lost out to SWACC. A total of six teams registered; more would have helped increase activity. Note that the Sprint team rule does not impose any location or membership restrictions on team members. The SWACC, for example, has been very successful in recruiting team members from across the continent to fill out its teams.

Non-North American activity also seemed to be higher this time, with both European and Asian stations calling in. Further, these stations knew the exchange and fit right into the QSO flow.

### Operating

In the wake of the contest there was some grumbling about confusion over the Sprint QSY rule and long messages, especially upon ending a QSO. This confusion, however, is actually a very good thing, because it suggests that new stations are trying out the contest. A lot of call signs showed up that had not been seen in prior Sprints. In time, newcomers will learn the accepted practices, especially if the regulars demonstrate proven practices through their own operating.

The Sprint QSY rule requires the station that called CQ to give up the frequency to the other station. What has sometimes happened is that the other station did not then make the next QSO on that frequency; it wasn't always clear at times who was retaining control of the frequency.

A number of old-timers are also CW and SSB sprinters, and they followed a protocol that has been well accepted on those modes. For example, their QSL/QSY message is simply "TU" as compared to "<his call sign> DE <my call sign> QSL NOW QSY TU." Another QSO could almost take place in the time it takes to send this longer QSL/QSY message. On the other hand, with RTTY the shorter "TU" can easily be missed if there is any other transmission on frequency. This is far less often the case with CW or phone, where the "TU" can often be picked out of the pileup of the next stations calling. Shorter messages on RTTY will only work with reasonable discipline on the frequency (ie, calling stations need to pause briefly before beginning their transmissions, so the departing station's acknowledgement can print clearly).

On balance, though, we are far better off having new participants, whatever their operating style. Rather than lecturing them, we'll be more influential simply by making sure our own operating style is top quality

### Team Scores

1. SWACC #1		2. NCCC #1		3. SWACC #2		4. Marks in Space	
AA3B	8471	WØYK	9660	NØAT	6194	AB7R	5075
K6LL	8112	W6OAT	7611	K3GP	4773	NN7SS	4902
W7WW	7896	K6RB	5814	W8AEF	4448	W7MRC	4080
NØXR	7872	W6EU	5600	K8UT	4059	N7KE	3570
AD4EB	7093	W6SX	4736	KW7N	3531	W7VXS	2688
K5AM	6142	NI6T	4420	KI7MT	2744	K7HC	1564
N4ZZ	6084	KT6YL	4284	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,749</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,879</b>
WØBR	6000	K6MM	4216				
KØHW	4940	N6EE	1863				
WW4LL	4935	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,204</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,545</b>						

5. NCC#1 (WW3S, ND8L)	7716
6. Alabama Contest Grp (KC4HW)	4284

### Top 10 QSOs

WØYK	230
K6LL	208
AA3B	197
NØXR	192
W7WW	188
W6OAT	177
AD4EB	173
N4ZZ	169
K5AM	166
NØAT	163

### Top 10 Multipliers

AA3B	43
W6OAT	43
WØYK	42
W7WW	42
AD4EB	41
NØXR	41
WØBR	40
K6LL	39
N2BJ	39
KØHW	38

### Top 10 Low Power

NØAT	6194
WØBR	6000
KØYQ	5320
KØHW	4940
KØAD	4352
KC4HW	4284
WW3S	4284
VA6APB	4270
W7WHY	3978
K4IQJ	3808

### Top QRP

NN7SS	4902
KB7Q	1176
NB4M	924
W9IP	405
N5PU	117
KB2HSH	99

### Top 10 Golden Logs

KØYQ	152
NN7SS	129
KW7N	107
K5ZD	62
W9IP	27
N5PU	13
KB2HSH	11
W4JLS	10
K2DSL	8

### Top 10 Band Changes

WØYK	139
AA3B	123
NØXR	119
WØBR	93
W7WW	85
AD4EB	83
NØAT	81
N4ZZ	74
KØHW	69
KØYR	62

and sets a good example. Remember that your LCR (log check report) is available by e-mail request to [rttysprintmgr@ncjweb.com](mailto:rttysprintmgr@ncjweb.com).

### October Sprint

Let's see if we can break the activity record in the October Sprint. Get it on your calendar now and plan to organize or join a team as a way to increase participation. See you then!

### Soapbox

*Editor's note:* The complete soapbox for the March 2010 North American RTTY Sprint is available on the NCJ Web site, [www.ncjweb.com/bonus.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/bonus.php). Below are a few representative comments.

Started 10 minutes late, made eight contacts and then the power went out from the storm. Fourteen hours later we had

power again, but when I got on, everyone was gone.—*K2DSL*

Just got on to help out the guys who were serious.—*K5ZD*

Last moment decision to participate, and first time participating in a Sprint! Could have done with the practice session first, but it was fun!—*K6TU*

From the RV while camping in the California desert.—*KB7Q*

Thank you for another team operating event. Returned to 40 for four more mults.—*N7KE*

This looks to be a new QRP record, topping my March 2005 QRP score of 4488 as W6YX (K6UFO). I think conditions are improving, participation is up and I installed a new tower and antennas last summer! Thank you to all the good listeners out there who give the weak callers a second chance! RTTY is always fun!—*NN7SS (K6UFO)*

More points for Contest Club Ontario.—*VE3RCN*

My first full Sprint. Not as many contesters as I had thought there might be, but had lots of fun. Thanks to everyone who worked me. Bands were so-so at best. Looking forward to more Sprints.—*WØEM*

First NA Sprint! Not as much fun as the NAQP but a good contest for QRP. Fun contest for QRP, except for the QSY rule. If another station calls you, they can hear you and that's okay. But forget about calling CQ.—*W9IP*

Was surprised to work OE9II, and he gave me serial number 20. Guess he was having some fun in the contest. Did not think there were too many participants, but

did see some nice numbers of Qs for some of the stations.—*KC4HW*

Exchange procedures were terrible. Information sent in the wrong order and long-winded TUs. There were lots of unanswered CQs on 80.—*NØAC*

That was fun and my first Sprint effort.—*AB7R*

Finished the first hour with a whopping 11 Qs. Did I mention I thought about quitting? Next two hours weren't much better, with 20 and 22 respectively. Tough sledding band condition-wise, but at least I could read the print from *MMTTY!*. Last hour brought 32 Qs. Great fun, if very

frustrating at times.—*KY4F*

Where was everybody? Twenty closed early. Not much joy on 40 or 80 either. Folks still not getting the QSY rule figured out.—*K6MM*

Boy, that was a struggle. Conditions seemed pretty bad, especially on 80. Was pretty much a CA-WA QSO party here on that band.—*W7WHY*

This was my first RTTY Sprint. It sure took a long time to get in a rhythm with all the QSYing — it felt a bit like "controlled chaos."—*K3GP*

## Scoring Summary

Call Sign	Name	State	20	40	80	QSOs	Mults	Score	Team	Call Sign	Name	State	20	40	80	QSOs	Mults	Score	Team
W1BYH	*NORM	MA	28	33	20	81	30	2430		K6LL	DAVE	AZ	80	84	44	208	39	8112	SWACC #1
K5ZD	RANDY	MA	0	38	24	62	22	1364		W7WW	RED	AZ	70	85	33	188	42	7896	SWACC #1
N1SXL	DEAN	CT	0	43	0	43	22	946		AB7R	GREG	WA	54	55	36	145	35	5075	Marks in Space
KA2FHN	*BILL	NY	6	28	0	34	19	646		NN7SS	**BURT	WA	49	66	14	129	38	4902	Marks in Space
KB2HSH	**JOHN	NY	6	4	1	11	9	99		W8AEF	PAUL	AZ	41	58	40	139	32	4448	SWACC #2
K2DSL	*DAVID	NJ	0	8	0	8	8	64		W7MRC	MARK	WA	38	56	26	120	34	4080	Marks in Space
KC2RXS	*JOHN	NY	1	0	0	1	1	1		W7WHY	*TOM	OR	39	57	21	117	34	3978	
AA3B	BUD	PA	48	98	51	197	43	8471	SWACC #1	N7KE	KEY	WA	34	55	16	105	34	3570	Marks in Space
WØBR	*BOB	PA	23	75	52	150	40	6000	SWACC #1	KW7N	*STEVE	WA	39	45	23	107	33	3531	SWACC #2
WW3S	*JIM	PA	35	58	33	126	34	4284	NCC#1	K7GS	*GARY	WA	32	46	22	100	33	3300	
W3AG	*JOE	PA	14	27	0	41	16	656		AL9A	GARY	AK	60	43	1	104	31	3224	
AJ3M	MASA	MD	20	9	0	29	15	435		KI7MT	GREG	MT	37	37	24	98	28	2744	SWACC #2
AD4EB	JIM	TN	27	92	54	173	41	7093	SWACC #1	W7VXS	DON	WA	40	29	27	96	28	2688	Marks in Space
N4ZZ	DON	TN	47	76	46	169	36	6084	SWACC #1	N7ON	*JOHN	NV	16	47	27	90	25	2250	
W4NZ	TED	TN	28	78	43	149	37	5513		K7ZO	SCOTT	ID	0	72	0	72	27	1944	
AB4GG	KENNY	TN	36	54	51	141	35	4935		K7HC	*CLAY	WA	31	10	27	68	23	1564	Marks in Space
WW4LL	FRED	GA	24	75	42	141	35	4935	SWACC #1	W4JLS	*WRIGHT	NV	10	0	0	10	7	70	
K9OM	DICK	FL	45	62	30	137	35	4795		K3GP	GEO	OH	28	59	42	129	37	4773	SWACC #2
KC4HW	*JIM	AL	32	71	23	126	34	4284	Alabama Contest Group	K8UT	LARRY	MI	38	55	30	123	33	4059	SWACC #2
K4IQJ	*DICK	AL	30	43	39	112	34	3808		ND8L	*RAY	OH	26	53	25	104	33	3432	NCC#1
K4FX	BILL	NC	17	47	27	91	32	2912		AA8R	*RANDY	MI	0	19	41	60	25	1500	
AB4SF	*WRAY	VA	15	46	31	92	29	2668		N2BJ	BARRY	IL	6	77	26	109	39	4251	
N4JIK	*JEREMY	AL	19	25	22	66	26	1716		KK9N	*KEN	IL	5	27	21	53	26	1378	
N4DW	*DAVE	TN	21	13	17	51	25	1275		W9IP	**PETER	IN	3	23	1	27	15	405	
NB4M	**CHRIS	TN	7	27	8	42	22	924		NØXR	DEAN	IA	48	94	50	192	41	7872	SWACC #1
WØQQG	*LOU	VA	8	28	0	36	19	684		NØAT	*RON	MN	31	79	53	163	38	6194	SWACC #2
N2WN	*JULES	TN	3	0	0	3	3	9		KØYQ	*JOHN	CO	52	68	32	152	35	5320	
K5AM	MARK	NM	49	73	44	166	37	6142	SWACC #1	KØYR	TOM	MN	36	62	40	138	37	5106	
W5KI	STEVE	AR	34	53	32	119	33	3927		KØHW	*JIM	SD	35	62	33	130	38	4940	SWACC #1
K5DU	SUSAN	TX	26	47	34	107	30	3210		KØAD	*AL	MN	32	68	28	128	34	4352	
K5HDU	*MIKE	TX	24	26	0	50	21	1050		W4RK	BILL	MO	30	55	53	138	31	4278	
KU5B	*BOB	TX	0	19	0	19	15	285		WØEM	*JIM	CO	28	42	32	102	30	3060	
N5PU	**LEON	MS	0	13	0	13	9	117		NØAC	*WILLIAM	IA	3	41	31	75	27	2025	
WØYK	ED	CA	74	111	45	230	42	9660	NCCC #1	WØKK	*ROGER	NE	4	9	0	13	9	117	
W6OAT	RUSTY	CA	59	80	38	177	43	7611	NCCC #1	VA6APB	*CHRIS	VE6	37	51	34	122	35	4270	
K6RB	ROB	CA	53	64	36	153	38	5814	NCCC #1	VE3JI	*IAN	VE3	26	48	34	108	31	3348	
W6EU	JIM	CA	41	74	45	160	35	5600	NCCC #1	VE7BC	*KEN	VE7	33	58	5	96	31	2976	
W6SX	HANK	CA	35	75	38	148	32	4736	NCCC #1	VE3RCN	*KEVIN	VE3	16	30	18	64	26	1664	
NI6T	GARRY	CA	61	56	13	130	34	4420	NCCC #1	VE7IO	*FRED	VE7	33	10	5	48	25	1200	
KT6YL	TINY	CA	59	41	26	126	34	4284	NCCC #1	VE2FXL	LUC	VE2	0	30	0	30	18	540	
K6MM	JOHN	CA	26	75	23	124	34	4216	NCCC #1	VE3VID	*DAVID	VE3	5	13	0	18	13	234	
N6QQ	JOHN	CA	31	51	0	82	33	2706		JA2FSM	*SHOGO	JA	5	0	0	5	3	15	
N6EE	*RON	CA	23	46	0	69	27	1863	NCCC #1	BA2IA	*QING	BY	0	0	0	0	1	0	
K6TU	STU	CA	31	32	0	63	24	1512											
KB7Q	**GENE	CA	35	14	0	49	24	1176											

\* Low Power  
\*\* QRP