

Results: North American Sprint RTTY

The 21st North American RTTY Sprint enjoyed good band conditions, with 20 meters open far longer than there were active stations to work and 40 meters open for the entire period as usual. Eighty meters enjoyed great propagation all over North America, although stations in the east may have been experiencing high noise levels, since stations there often did not come back to callers; yet their own transmit signals were strong.

This was among the most active RTTY Sprints, with 198 call signs showing up in two or more logs, 88 submitted logs, and 50 multipliers. Approximately a dozen 3830 posters noted that this was their first RTTY Sprint — and in some cases their first Sprint, period. This is encouraging, although we need even more participants to challenge the top sprinters. A number of stations ran out of new stations to work and spent a lot of time calling “CQ.”

Mark, NN7SS (aka K6UFO), once again topped the QRP category, but this time he was all by himself; no one else submitted a QRP log. Nonetheless Mark came *close* to beating the RTTY Sprint QRP record, which he set in March 2010.

Bob, W0BR, led the Low Power entrants and placed eighth overall. Dean, N6DE (at W6YX) took overall top honors, with the highest multiplier total and second-highest contact total. Even more impressive, Dean had a Golden Log!

CW Sprint Founder Rusty, W6OAT, stuck with tradition, using a single radio and making just *two* band changes to finish seventh — the only SO1R station making it into the Top 10.

There were eight Golden Logs this time. For everyone else, log check reports (LCRs) are available by request to rttysprintmgr@ncjweb.com.

Team participation was good, with two full (10-operator) teams and four partial teams. The South West Arizona Contest Club (SWACC) assembled a fine group of operators from

Team Scores

1. SWACC #1	2. NCCC #1	3. SWACC #2	4. Alabama Contest Group
NØXR 8600	W6YX 9786	NO3M 7164	KC4HW 2929
K6LL 8569	W0YK 9594	K4FCC 4692	AA4YL 2175
AA3B 7452	N6WM 6300	Total 11,856	N4JIK 1334
AD4EB 7182	W6SX 5346		Total 6438
W0BR 6683	K6SRZ 5328		
W7WW 6253	K9YC 4590		
K5AM 6090	K6MM 4380		
N4ZZ 5075	K6DGW 3813		
WW4LL 4726	W6PK 3136		
KE5OG 3570	Total 52,273		
Total 64,200			
5. NCCC #2 (K3FIV, NM6E, NS6T, AA6GZ)	5843		
6. Bristol (TN/VA) ARC (AA4DD, K4FJW)	1018		

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Band Chgs	QSOs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
W6YX	9786	114	0	67	52	51	63
W0YK	9594	130	7	75	61	48	51
NØXR	8600	126	8	54	53	54	57
K6LL	8569	40	1	52	56	40	61
AA3B	7452	130	9	64	56	48	42
AD4EB	7182	105	15	54	51	41	47
NO3M	7164	103	4	62	44	47	47
W6OAT	6954	2	1	54	28	58	43
W0BR	6683	92	11	45	39	42	40
N6WM	6300	73	5	55	43	39	45

Top Single Radio

Call Sign	Score	Band Chgs	QSOs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
W6OAT	6954	2	1	54	28	58	43
K5AM	6090	4	3	48	52	35	40
W6SX	5346	4	6	45	47	39	32
K6SRZ	5328	4	15	35	37	44	34
WDØT	5130	8	6	40	51	44	37
W7OM	5112	2	9	43	21	53	27
K9OM	5066	4	8	41	35	35	39
WW4LL	4726	10	9	36	32	42	30
K4FCC	4692	2	11	38	32	36	35
K1GU	4653	2	5	33	41	35	34

Top 10 QSOs

W0YK	234
W6YX	233
NØXR	215
K6LL	209
AA3B	207
NO3M	199
AD4EB	189
W6OAT	183
N6WM	180
K5AM	174

Top 10 Mults

W6YX	42
K6LL	41
W0BR	41
W0YK	41
NØXR	40
AD4EB	38
W6OAT	38
W7WW	37
AA3B	36
K6SRZ	36
NO3M	36
W7OM	36

Top 10 Low Power

W0BR	6683
W7OM	5112
K1GU	4653
KØYQ	4448
K2PO	3744
KE5OG	3570
W9TTT	3248
VE3JI	3180
KØAD	2958
KC4HW	2929

Top QRP

NN7SS 4270

Golden Logs

W6YX	233
WB7W	74
AA4DD	34
KCØW	22
AL9A	21
VA3PC	20
KØKX	8
KA2FHN	7

Top 10 Band Changes

N4ZZ	131
AA3B	130
W0YK	130
NØXR	126
W6YX	114
AD4EB	105
NO3M	103
W0BR	92
W1UJ	85
W7WW	84

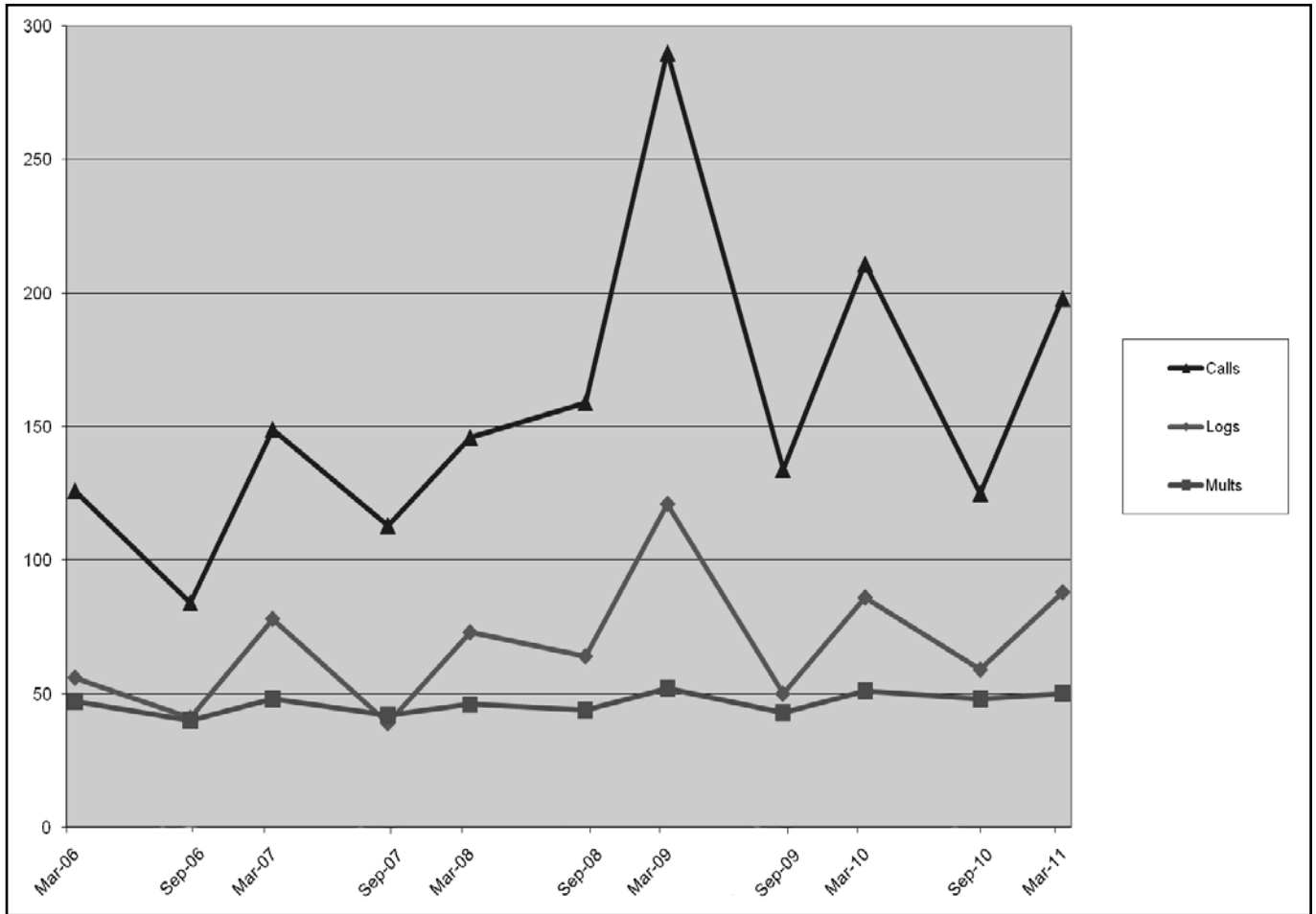


Figure 1 — North American RTTY Sprint activity levels from March 2006 through March 2010

around the country to best the single-club team from the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC).

Operating

The newcomers who dove in this time were a nice surprise and very much appreciated. Welcome to one of the most exciting RTTY contests of the year! Newbies are key to needed growth in the RTTY Sprint. We also missed some of the regulars, whose consistent participation also is critical.

There are different ways for new participants to ease into the rigorous Sprint format. One suggestion is to call "CQ" rather than to compete with others for a contact with another CQing station. The latter case is sometimes referred to as a "jump ball," and it's often misunderstood that the rules require this before stations can call "CQ" themselves. Not so! An excellent way to minimize Sprint intimidation is to find a clear frequency and call "CQ." As an unworked station, you will be highly desirable by other sprinters, who will come to you, and then you can then better control the contact. After the contact has been completed, move at least 5 kHz and call "CQ" again. One easy way to do this while ensuring you meet the 5 kHz QSY rule

Score Summary

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSOs	Mults	Score	Team
W1UJ	JAY	MA	46	73	42	163	34	5542	
KK1X	*JOHN	MA	31	41	23	96	28	2688	
K5ZD	RANDY	MA	52	20	0	72	24	1728	
N2EIK	*JOHN	NY	34	40	16	89	27	2403	
KC2RXS	*JOHN	NY	22	8	14	44	18	792	
KA2FHN	*BILL	NY	1	6	0	7	6	42	
AA3B	BUD	PA	60	96	52	207	36	7452	SWACC #1
NO3M	TY	PA	52	87	61	199	36	7164	SWACC #2
W0BR	*BOB	PA	36	74	53	163	41	6683	SWACC #1
K3MD	JOHN	PA	31	32	1	64	26	1664	
K3RWN	RICH	PA	2	31	20	52	24	1248	
WB9KPT	*BILL	PA	9	24	23	56	22	1232	
AD4EB	JIM	TN	45	87	57	189	38	7182	SWACC #1
N4ZZ	DON	TN	37	62	46	145	35	5075	SWACC #1
K9OM	DICK	FL	57	59	34	149	34	5066	
WW4LL	FRED	GA	33	63	43	139	34	4726	SWACC #1
K4FCC	DOUG	FL	56	53	30	138	34	4692	SWACC #2
K1GU	*NED	TN	35	58	48	141	33	4653	
K4GMH	MIKE	VA	0	57	51	106	31	3286	
KC4HW	*JIM	AL	27	45	29	101	29	2929	Alabama Contest Group
AB4SF	*WRAY	VA	12	39	29	80	31	2480	
AA4YL	CHERYL	AL	22	32	33	87	25	2175	Alabama Contest Group
AK4MT	*MIKE	VA	0	46	26	72	25	1800	
N4JIK	*JAY	AL	15	35	8	58	23	1334	
W4WWQ	*PETE	VA	0	25	22	47	20	940	

is to set your radio's two VFOs, say, 10 kHz apart. Or, you can alternate between two bands.

Another helpful operating tactic is to follow the tradition of putting your call sign in the *middle* of your exchange for CQ QSOs and at the *end* for S&P QSOs. This lets everyone on frequency know whom to call when that contact is finished, but it also can contribute to the frustration and intimidation of new sprinters. This is another reason why CQing for every contact perhaps makes better sense: Your exchange is the same each time, so you don't have to remember which one to use for a given contact.

There were still instances where stations appended "CQ" or "QRZ" to their S&P exchanges. This is not recommended, because it encourages stations to call before the receiving station can acknowledge the QSO — for example, by sending "TU." Subsequent callers always should stand by until they hear the current station signifies the contact has been completed and confirmed.

Log Checking

Log checking for the NA Sprint is among the most stringent of any contest. Each contact is cross-checked in the other log. Call signs and exchanges must be perfect to get credit for the contact, and contacts that are not in the other station's log (NIL) incur an additional one-contact penalty. So-called "unique" QSOs — those with stations whose call signs do not show up in any other participant's log — are especially scrutinized. LCRs go into great detail on each contact error and are a great source of enlightenment on how to improve your accuracy in future events. Be sure to take advantage of this useful tool.

October 2011 Sprint

As seen in Figure 1, the October RTTY Sprint has historically lower participation than the March event. Recruit others to join the fun, so there is lots of activity for everyone. Your local club is a great place to rally operators, and the team competition can be a focus. Mentor new RTTY operators or those new to the Sprint. Let's see if we can reverse the trend and have a record turnout in October.

Soapbox

Got a late start. Missed the 20 meter activity. Eighty was very noisy! Nevertheless thanks to all for the Qs. — *Jim, KC4HW*

First RTTY Sprint for me. Pretty fun. Thanks for the Qs. — *Mike, AA8IA*

First real digi contest I have worked with the new radio being able to swap VFOs real quick. Great fun! — *Jeremy, N4JIK*

Whew, is that last hour long! Neatest Q was with AD4EB. I was working him on 20 and while he was sending his exchange, I was calling CQ on 40. He answered my CQ on 40 just as he finished his exchange. Gave me a good grin. — *Tom, W7WHY*

Seems to me like there was a lot of activity,

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSOs	Mults	Score	Team
AA4DD	*DAVE	TN	10	20	4	34	18	612	Bristol (TN/VA) ARC
W0QQG	*LOU	VA	5	22	0	27	16	432	
K4FJW	*TOM	VA	0	22	8	29	14	406	Bristol (TN/VA) ARC
N4LF	*LEX	FL	8	11	3	22	15	330	
W4BK	*FRANK	TN	1	6	12	19	12	228	
K5AM	MARK	NM	55	89	30	174	35	6090	SWACC #1
W5KI	STEVE	AR	39	52	33	124	29	3596	
KE5OG	*BILL	TX	47	41	31	119	30	3570	SWACC #1
NM6E	JAVIER	TX	0	38	15	53	22	1166	NCCC #2
W5JBO	*JOHN	TX	21	23	0	46	19	874	
W5PQ	*RICH	LA	8	12	0	20	10	200	
WS1L	*CHUCK	MS	11	3	0	14	7	98	
W6YX	DEAN	CA	89	101	43	233	42	9786	NCCC #1
W0YK	ED	CA	88	100	46	234	41	9594	NCCC #1
W6OAT	RUSTY	CA	76	74	33	183	38	6954	
N6WM	CHRIS	CA	64	80	37	180	35	6300	NCCC #1
W6SX	HANK	CA	60	69	34	162	33	5346	NCCC #1
K6SRZ	ALAN	CA	57	57	34	148	36	5328	NCCC #1
K9YC	JIM	CA	47	55	33	135	34	4590	NCCC #1
K6MM	JOHN	CA	49	71	27	146	30	4380	NCCC #1
K6DGW	SKIP	CA	38	55	30	123	31	3813	NCCC #1
W6PK	PHIL	CA	36	34	28	98	32	3136	NCCC #1
W6ONV	*STEVE	CA	22	31	21	73	27	1971	NCCC #2
K3FIV	*JACK	CA	14	36	28	78	23	1794	NCCC #2
K6ST	*BARRY	CA	23	14	0	37	20	740	
NS6T	*TOM	CA	20	0	14	34	18	612	NCCC #2
K6VUG	*UMESH	CA	9	20	0	29	17	493	
AA6GZ	*CARL	CA	15	7	0	20	15	300	NCCC #2
K6RTK	*RON	CA	4	-1	0	3	3	9	
K6LL	DAVE	AZ	77	84	48	209	41	8569	SWACC #1
W7WW	RED	AZ	66	67	37	169	37	6253	SWACC #1
W7OM	*ROD	WA	65	60	17	142	36	5112	
NN7SS	**BURT	WA	54	48	20	122	35	4270	
W7WHY	TOM	OR	41	57	29	127	31	3937	
K2PO7	*BILL	OR	41	48	28	117	32	3744	
NG7Z	*PAUL	WA	32	31	30	93	28	2604	
WA0WWW	*JAY	WA	42	33	13	87	28	2436	
WB7W	*MIKE	WA	18	48	8	74	24	1776	
KL7RA	RICH	AK	46	28	0	74	23	1702	
N7NTQ	*DAVE	WA	31	30	0	61	20	1220	
WA7BME	*RON	UT	7	19	0	26	14	364	
AL9A	GARY	AK	21	0	0	21	12	252	
AA8IA	*MIKE	OH	32	39	14	85	28	2380	
W9TTT	*MATT	IL	12	66	34	112	29	3248	
N2BJ	BARRY	IL	0	79	6	85	31	2635	
NX9G	*YANKO	IL	11	26	9	43	20	860	
W9LW	*JAY	IN	0	6	15	21	14	294	
N0XR	DEAN	IA	52	97	67	215	40	8600	SWACC #1
WD0T	TODD	SD	52	67	52	171	30	5130	
W5AP	JIM	CO	54	56	38	143	32	4576	
K0YQ	*JOHN	CO	42	64	33	139	32	4448	
W0BH	BOB	KS	20	47	39	106	30	3180	
K0AD	*AL	MN	33	55	15	102	29	2958	
K0XU	*JIM	NE	25	34	10	69	25	1725	
KC0W	*TOM	ND	0	22	0	22	14	308	
K0KX	*MARK	MN	1	7	0	8	6	48	
VE3JI	*IAN	VE3	37	40	30	106	30	3180	
VE7BC	*KEN	VE7	52	31	0	82	31	2542	
VE2FK	CLAUDE	VE2	31	34	12	77	22	1694	
VE3CX	TOM	VE3	10	43	4	57	23	1311	
VE6SQ	*VILLY	VE6	31	25	6	62	20	1240	
VA3PC	*PAUL	VE3	11	9	0	20	12	240	
VE3RCN	*KEVIN	VE3	2	4	3	9	8	72	

* Low Power
** QRP

but the bands were not friendly. I struggled with quality decoding all night. Thanks for all the Qs. I'm still a big fan of the sprints. — *Bill, KE5OQ*
Fun! Way better than the SSB Sprint. Thanks for the Qs. — *Dave, K6LL*

Thanks for the QSOs. — *Jay, WIUJ*

Thanks for the contacts. — *Cheryl, AA4YL*

My first Sprint. Thanks to all who worked me and apologies to any I stepped on. Quite a different contest and fun. Especially liked the four-hour format. — *Bob, W5AP*

Participation did not seem that good to me. Pleasant surprise was having Rich, KL7RA, call me. — *Fred, WW4LL*

One of the best RTTY Sprints yet, thanks in large part to all the new RTTY contesters who decided to join the fun. — *Jim, AD4EB*

Felt like I was invited to the party, but not a lot of folks showed up. Twenty meters folded early, and that last hour on 80 was S-L-O-W. Always an enjoyable four-hour foot race. Thanks for the Qs. — *John, K6MM*

Conditions on 20 were great. Eighty was a slow start. West Coast steadily getting better up to the end. Thanks for the Qs. — *Eric, NO3M*

I got beat out a lot. I probably heard at least five other mults that I was not able to work. It seemed like activity was up a little bit from October. Twenty meters was in better shape. The hardest thing in Minnesota, of course, is to know what direction to turn your beam on 20. — *Al, KØAD*

I am a bit rusty after some time from being in the chair. Activity seems to be improved somewhat since previous RTTY sprints I have participated in. Thanks to all for the Qs and great just to work some of my good friends. — *Chris, N6WM*

I really enjoy RTTY, but I struggle with the Sprint format, so I hoped to leverage the one against the other. Still lots to learn. Thanks to all who gave me a contact. — *Scott, KB4KBS*

Seldom got an answer to my CQ but did have some luck calling others if no one else was and then occasionally getting an answer after inheriting that frequency. Still fun as it is a Sprint. See everyone in the fall, and we will try this once again. — *Rich, KL7RA*

Another foolish QRP outing! I had hoped to do well on 20 and 40 to make up for the expected flutter on 80. Overall, coming close, but not topping my previous QRP record, falling short by six QSOs and three mults. — *Burt, NN7SS (K6UFO op)*

Never found a groove. Seems as if I was QLF more often than not. Nevertheless, best score since dupes went away. — *Hank, W6SX*

Action was good the entire time I was on. Enjoyed it! Thanks for the Qs. — *Bob, WØBH*

My first RTTY Sprint. I tripped up several times but had a good time. Thanks to all. — *Bill, K2PO/7*

My first RTTY Sprint! Was a lot more fun on 40 and 80 from here in Central SD. It's a great contest. Thanks to Jim, KDØS, for the use of his station, and great to work many of the NS Thursday night gang and many of the regular sprint guys, such as K5ZD. Great surprise to work Alaska on two bands, thanks KL7RA and AL9A. Pleasure working the contest with you all, thanks, God Bless. — *Todd, WDØT*

My first Sprint ever. Kind of interesting once I (think I) got the hang of it. — *Fred, NA2U*

First ever Sprint, started late and slowly got the hang of things. Sorry to a couple of stations that I screwed up the exchange etc. — *Javier, NM6E*

Really enjoyed my first NA RTTY Sprint. You could tell I was new at it by some of the sending problems I had. Hopefully, I'll be better at it next time! — *Dick, K9OM*

My first Sprint format contest, so the goal was simply to learn. The first few minutes I just listened to the frenzy. I like the Sprint format and was pretty comfortable with it by the end. Bands seemed okay but a little noisy. It was hard to find new stations, especially since when I found one, they'd move! Reminds me of our cats chasing small critters out in the garden. Makes the contest more interesting. — *Jack, K3FIV*

I see I'm not very good at this but will only get better in time. — *Carl, AA6GZ*

Tough to have my heart much into it with all the problems in Japan. Was surprised how many stations didn't stick around on their inherited frequency for a follow-up QSO. Thanks all. — *John, KØYQ*

First Sprint of any sort for me tonight, and fortunately I was able to go nearly all four hours. I never got comfortable with the format, as I could not develop any sort of rhythm to calling CQ and answering. Thanks to all those who answered my calls and my apologies to those I could not hear or copy. Still not sure I worked Bob, WØBH. I got started about 15 minutes late on 20 but wish

I would have had those 15 minutes back, since I struggled on 40 and had a real challenge on 80 with the SteppIR BigIR and a few broken radials. — *Steve, W6ONV*

Sat on my glasses. I couldn't see the screen too well. Had to give up. — *Kevin, VE3RCN*

Great conditions! Best RTTY sprint I have operated in! Only bad thing I had to take four unplanned emergency breaks to the bathroom. Thanks for all the contacts. — *Don, N4ZZ*

This was a struggle for me. Never really could get in sync, kept getting beat when I called someone, found it difficult to get stations tuned in, lots of stations didn't print very well, and I needed lots of fills. By the last hour, I was only calling CQ, QSYing from one VFO to the other, letting others make the doublets. — *Jim, K9YC*

Thanks to all of you for being active. This was a fun contest. I thought 20 meter conditions were much better than I was expecting, 40 on par and 80 worse. Twenty was open solidly well after everyone moved to 40. Eighty must have been terribly noisy for stations east of the Rockies. See you next time! — *Dean, N6DE*

Participation seemed down. Lots of CQing going unanswered. — *Ned, K1GU*

Thanks for the Qs! — *Phil, W6PK (ex-W6TQG)*

NCJ