

Results: North American Sprint, RTTY — March 2021

The 40th North American RTTY Sprint attracted an all-time record of 136 submitted logs. The prior record of 125 was in March 2012. There were 182 participants from 50 multipliers. This exceeds the long-term average of 139 participants and 44 multipliers. Still, this event would be so much better for everyone if at least 250 stations would join in.

In the history chart below, duplicate contacts were allowed up through the March 2008 RTTY Sprint. This “crutch” was laid aside in September 2008, and the data since then supports the change. The activity jump in the September 2020 and March 2021 RTTY Sprints is partially due to COVID-19 stay-at-home practices. In addition, the March 2021 event was preceded by a participation campaign for both the CW and RTTY Sprints that included post card invitations and direct email to active NAQP and Sprint entrants.

As a trial, the start time was moved up an hour to 2300 UTC. Most felt it was an improvement. On the west coast, 20 meters was the dominant band until 0030 UTC, when 40 meters quickly took over as the most active band. Unfortunately, 80 meters didn't come into its own for the west coast

until the last hour.

East coast stations appreciated getting more QSOs on 20 meters, although it was a short opening for them. Hams in the midwest also liked the earlier start time for more 20-meter contacts. The September CW and

RTTY sprints will retain the traditional start time of 0000 UTC when there is still enough daylight for 20 meters in the first hour.

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K5ZD	7,790	58	47	41	44
K9OM	7,525	54	50	41	30
WD6T	7,480	65	51	39	32
K6LL	7,400	55	48	42	40
ABØS	7,098	41	55	48	38
WØYK	7,040	57	52	32	35
NØTA	6,825	41	52	40	42
K9CT	6,786	45	51	48	30
W6SX	6,642	52	43	32	35
N3QE	6,179	43	40	47	37

Top 10 Low Power

Call Sign	Score	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
WQ5L	5,256	46	44	28	28
NØAT	5,145	49	38	20	40
K7SV	4,440	42	22	36	20
WØAAE	4,270	37	30	31	24
WQ5C	4,200	33	25	33	29
AA4DD	3,584	26	26	26	34
WD9CIR	3,399	20	29	32	22
NK5P	3,232	26	24	27	24
NG1M	1,988	23	13	24	11
W7OM	1,932	26	18	17	8

Top QRP

Call Sign	Score	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
NN7SS	2,581	22	22	23	22
W7YAQ	2,370	24	17	22	16
KKØU	1,352	17	12	9	14
KG4WZZ	63	0	0	4	5

Top 10 Total QSOs

K5ZD	190
WD6T	187
K6LL	185
ABØS	182
WØYK	176
K9OM	175
NØTA	175
N4ZZ	175
K9CT	174
N3QE	167

Top 10 Multipliers

K9OM	43
K5ZD	41
W6SX	41
K6LL	40
WØYK	40
WD6T	40
ABØS	39
K9CT	39
NØTA	39
K3MM	38

Golden Logs

K2UA	132	AAØK	15
KC9TZO	61	N2BJ	15
K7XC	50	K8MU	12
KH6CJJ	45	NS2N	10
WK6I	38	KG4WZZ	9
WT2P	29	WB2KWC	9
W9ILY	23	K3KEK	8
K1GU	21	K6MI	5
K3JSJ	18	WA4GUD	4
VA6RCN	18	VA3PAF	2
WA9AFM	16		

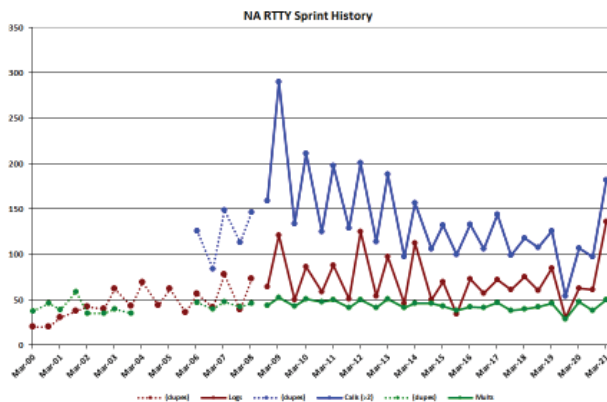


Figure 1 — North American RTTY Sprint history table.

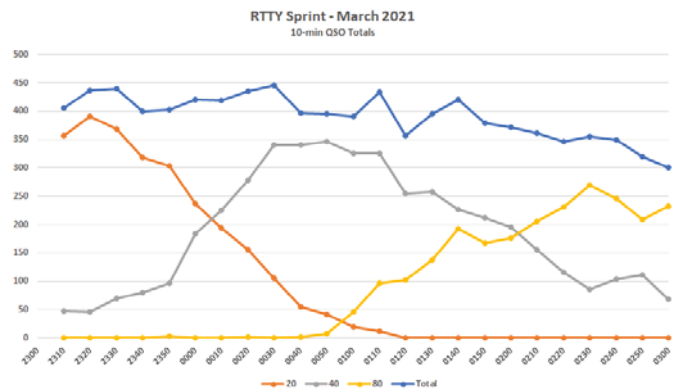


Figure 2 — QSOs per hour table.

The large number of new call signs was enthusiastically welcomed. Hopefully, the regulars were both appreciative and supportive as the new stations learned the ropes of the Sprint contest format. The message order in some exchanges differed from long-standing Sprint convention, but nearly everyone adapted with minimal confusion.

As with the CW Sprint, in a number of instances, the final QSL message from the station leaving the frequency was not sent. This is really an incomplete QSO and generated a NIL penalty when the station remaining on frequency correctly didn't log the QSO.

On the other extreme, there is a growing trend for unnecessarily long final QSL messages, such as TU W1ABC NOW QSY. Not only is the length frustrating for those waiting to move on to the next QSO, the addition of a call sign in the QSL message causes confusion about who is staying on frequency for the next QSO. A simple TU or RR is a good balance for completing the QSO and allowing the next one to start efficiently. It is also important for stations ready to jump into the next QSO to standby for a beat to allow the final QSL message to be copied.

Log checking changed the order of finish. Sprints are especially challenging to strike the best balance between speed and accuracy. While some people felt the earlier start time favored the west coast, Randy, K5ZD, in Massachusetts, prevailed over a competitive Top 10, with Dick, K9OM, in Florida taking second place. Then came two Daves, WD6T operating N6RO in California remotely and K6LL in Arizona, filling third and fourth. Tim, AB0S, nailed fifth from Kansas. The remainder of the Top 10 were also distributed across the continent, overall, a nice geographical balance among the Top 10.

Ray, WQ5L, moved up to win Low Power. Mark (aka Burt), NN7SS, got ahead of Bob, W7YAQ, to win QRP.

In a close team competition, SWACC #2 topped NCCC Diddlers #1 after log checking. The 14 teams sets another all-time record. Thanks to everyone who organized one or more of them.

There were 21 Golden Logs (no log check errors), beating the record of 18 set in the last RTTY Sprint. Rus, K2UA, led the pack with 132 perfect QSOs.

Request your Log Check Report (LCR) from ed@w0yk.com for lots of detail on your logging accuracy. Note that when an exchange element is missing from the QSO data, log checking uses "999" for serial number, "Tree" for name, and "OR" for QTH. When you see one of these in your log check report it usually means that exchange parameter was missing in the QSO line.

The next RTTY Sprint is back at the traditional time on Saturday, September 18, 2021, in North American time zones (0000 – 0359 UTC on September 19). Think about what you and your club can do to get more stations on the air.

Soapbox

Need more activity. Almost quit a few times. Went 7 mins without a QSO - and I was trying hard. Just couldn't make it to #200. — *K5ZD*

My first ever NAQP RTTY Sprint. Not a fan of the format yet but getting a more natural feel for it. Bands seemed noisy and unimpressive. — *K7XC*

I like the Sprint format. I feel like stations were few and far between as compared to SSB and CW. I wanted to make 2500+. I started late and only got in about 3 hours. — *K8LF*

Trying out the new Elecraft K4 and doing a shakedown, plus my first time in the Sprint. — *KB9AVO*

First time for a RTTY Sprint. Was interesting and took a little while to get used to the pacing. While I moved frequencies after a couplet, I may not have moved a full kHz every time. — *N7WLC*

That was fun! My first time with fully remote SO2R RTTY! Here on the West Coast, the early start time helped prolong the 20 meter activity, but 80 wasn't usable until the very end. — *NN7SS (op K6UFO)*

Team Scores

1. SWACC #1	2. NCCC Diddlers #1	3. GO PVRC	4. Randy and the Two-Landers
K9OM 7,525	WD6T 7,480	N3QE 6,179	K5ZD 7,790
K6LL 7,400	W0YK 7,040	K3MM 5,852	K2UA 4,488
N4ZZ 5,950	W6SX 6,642	K4ZW 4,488	N2ZN 3,395
K2PO 4,760	AJ6V 5,402	K7SV 4,440	K2RET 3,168
K5AM 4,726	NN7SS 2,581	Total 20,959	Total 18,841
Total 30,361	Total 29,145		
5. SMC Kleinschmidt	K9CT, WI9WI, WD9CIR, KT9L		14,206
6. RTFR Contest Team	AB5EB, WQ5C, NK5P		12,292
7. MWA Northerners	N0AT, W0AAE, W0LM, K0VG		11,448
8. TCG Diddlers	AA4DD, AB4GG, K4DXV, W4BCG		7,851
9. AOCC WRANGLERS	N7GP, AA7V, NG7Z, K7VZ		7,417
10. NCCC Diddlers #2	W1SRD, K6LRN, W6DMW, K7XC, WK6I		6,300
11. SWACC #2	WQ5L, AA5AU		5,676
12. SFCG	N4IQ		5,202
13. SM Rockets	AA9L, KC9TZO		3,561
14. Mo & Bo	W4GHV, KJ7MEB		951

Single Operator Summary

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mult	Score	Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mult	Score
K5ZD	RANDY	MA	40	91	59	190	41	7,790	K6LRN	DICK	CA	53	0	0	53	25	1,325
K2ZW	JIM	ME	17	65	25	107	33	3,531	W6IA	MARK	CA	24	26	0	50	25	1,250
NG1M	*MIKE	RI	15	29	27	71	28	1,988	W6DMW	*DAVE	CA	16	31	0	47	26	1,222
AF1R	*LEANDRA	MA	2	9	23	34	22	748	K6GHA	*DON	CA	1	32	18	51	23	1,173
AA2S	*BILL	MA	0	29	0	29	18	522	KH6CJJ	*KENT	HI	45	0	0	45	23	1,035
K2UA	RUS	NY	26	50	56	132	34	4,488	NN6NN	DOC	CA	10	12	21	43	23	989
N2ZN	KEN	NY	6	35	56	97	35	3,395	WK6I	*JEFF	CA	0	35	3	38	22	836
K2RET	BOB	NJ	20	35	41	96	33	3,168	N7WLC	*MIKE	CA	12	20	0	32	22	704
WA2BOT	JEFF	NY	15	53	33	101	29	2,929	K6ZH	*JIM	CA	0	27	0	27	21	567
K2NYG	*RON	NY	0	12	16	28	21	588	N6ZFO	BILL	CA	20	3	0	23	19	437
K3WHD	*DAVE	NY	0	10	0	10	9	90	K6MI	*JOHN	CA	5	0	0	5	4	20
NS2N	*PAUL	NY	0	10	0	10	9	90	K6LL	DAVE	AZ	67	81	37	185	40	7,400
WB2KWC	*KEN	NY	0	9	0	9	7	63	K2PO	BILL	OR	54	56	26	136	35	4,760
WA2UBK	*SHEL	NJ	0	9	0	9	6	54	N7GP	TOM	AZ	45	42	13	100	34	3,400
N3QE	TIM	MD	30	75	62	167	37	6,179	AA7V	STEVE	AZ	35	39	19	93	33	3,069
K3MM	TY	MD	39	56	59	154	38	5,852	K7QA	TOM	MT	29	55	0	84	31	2,604
K3RWN	*RICH	PA	15	29	30	74	25	1,850	NN7SS	*BURT	WA	28	55	6	89	29	2,581
K3AJ	TOM	MD	22	21	22	65	23	1,495	W7YAA	*BOB	OR	29	41	9	79	30	2,370
WA3ZSC	*JERRY	PA	7	10	35	52	22	1,144	W7OM	*ROD	WA	27	38	4	69	28	1,932
K3FH	MIKE	PA	0	18	28	46	24	1,104	K7VAP	*VAL	WA	30	29	0	59	25	1,475
AF3I	*ANDREW	PA	2	12	5	19	17	323	K7XC	*TIM	NV	17	10	23	50	20	1,000
K3JSJ	*JASON	MD	0	18	0	18	14	252	NG7Z	*PAUL	AZ	25	17	0	42	20	840
WA4GUD	*DAVE	MD	0	4	0	4	4	16	WB7CYO	*LEE	ID	0	14	1	15	8	120
K9OM	DICK	FL	58	81	36	175	43	7,525	K7VZ	*VIRGIL	AZ	0	12	0	12	9	108
N4ZZ	DON	TN	42	77	56	175	34	5,950	KJ7MEB	*MO	UT	-1	8	0	7	9	63
N4IQ	BILL	SC	36	71	46	153	34	5,202	N7VS	*STEVE	OR	0	5	0	5	5	25
K4ZW	KEN	VA	26	60	46	132	34	4,488	WY7AA	*RJ	WY	4	0	0	4	3	12
K7SV	*LAR	VA	31	42	47	120	37	4,440	N8FYL	*JOHN	MI	4	14	32	50	27	1,350
AA4DD	*DAVE	TN	32	35	45	112	32	3,584	WX8C	HARRY	MI	7	12	9	28	19	532
NF4J	DAN	AL	0	73	18	91	34	3,094	W8JU	*BILL	OH	2	14	0	16	10	160
AB4GG	KENNY	TN	36	25	0	61	32	1,952	AC8JW	*JOHN	MI	2	10	0	12	10	120
K8LF	*JAY	VA	0	23	40	63	30	1,890	K8MU	*LARRY	MI	11	1	0	12	8	96
K4DXV	*STEVE	TN	10	26	29	65	27	1,755	K9CT	CRAIG	IL	40	78	56	174	39	6,786
K8RGI	*BOB	FL	18	40	3	61	26	1,586	W19WI	JIM	WI	34	35	41	110	33	3,630
WGØY	*DAVID	FL	17	35	0	52	28	1,456	WD9CIR	*STEVE	IL	21	40	42	103	33	3,399
AD4TJ	*TJ	VA	0	27	24	51	27	1,377	AA9L	RICH	WI	20	14	32	66	29	1,914
N4CF	*MIKE	VA	0	17	30	47	29	1,363	KC9TZO	JIM	WI	10	51	0	61	27	1,647
K4RO	KIRK	TN	10	24	22	56	24	1,344	WB9YIG	*DAVE	IN	6	35	17	58	24	1,392
W4PK	SAM	VA	0	32	15	47	28	1,316	WT2P	CJ	IL	5	5	19	29	19	551
NS4X	BART	TN	27	25	0	52	24	1,248	KØTQ	MIKE	IN	10	2	13	25	17	425
KS3H	*LARRY	VA	9	20	21	50	24	1,200	K79L	LARRY	IN	12	11	0	23	17	391
W4YN	*TIM	NC	8	17	16	41	22	902	KB9AVO	*PAUL	IN	4	7	9	20	12	240
W4GHV	*BO	NC	6	17	14	37	24	888	W9ILY	*JOHN	IL	23	0	0	23	10	230
W4BCG	BILL	TN	0	22	6	28	20	560	N2BJ	BARRY	IL	15	0	0	15	10	150
AF4T	*DOUG	TN	5	12	11	28	17	476	ABØS	TIM	KS	36	92	54	182	39	7,098
K1GU	*NED	TN	0	7	14	21	17	357	NØTA	JOHN	CO	34	88	53	175	39	6,825
KF1P	*BOB	SC	0	12	0	12	13	156	NØAT	*RON	MN	39	70	38	147	35	5,145
KG4WZZ	*JIM	GA	0	7	2	9	7	63	WØAAE	*BOB	MN	20	64	38	122	35	4,270
N4TL	*TOM	NC	0	2	0	2	3	6	NØKQ	BILL	CO	27	60	21	108	30	3,240
WQ5L	*RAY	MS	47	70	29	146	36	5,256	N1ØK	JOHN	MN	26	40	17	83	29	2,407
AB5EB	MIKE	TX	43	75	17	135	36	4,860	KFØUR	*SHEL	CO	23	35	0	58	27	1,566
K5AM	MARK	NM	43	75	21	139	34	4,726	KKØU	*JIM	MO	4	31	17	52	26	1,352
WQ5C	*MIKE	TX	31	69	20	120	35	4,200	WØLM	*MARK	MN	16	26	9	51	23	1,173
NK5P	*ALAN	TX	29	53	19	101	32	3,232	KØVG	*VERN	MN	6	22	15	43	20	860
N5LPT	MARK	TX	17	29	6	52	23	1,196	KVØI	*BILL	NE	2	31	4	37	20	740
N5AF	*ANDY	TX	13	21	5	39	21	819	WBØN	*BERT	MN	0	18	1	19	14	266
AA5AU	*DON	LA	11	17	0	28	15	420	AAØK	*PAUL	CO	0	15	0	15	10	150
KG5U	*DALE	TX	5	16	0	21	13	273	K7BG	*MATT	SD	13	1	0	14	8	112
WA9AFM	*TOM	OK	3	13	0	16	13	208	VE2BVV	*LEON	QC	8	40	19	67	27	1,809
K3KEK	*TONY	TX	8	0	0	8	5	40	PY2KNK	LEO	PY	44	11	0	55	27	1,485
WD6T	DAVE	CA	62	92	33	187	40	7,480	VE7BC	*KEN	BC	21	16	9	46	20	920
WØYK	ED	CA	65	84	27	176	40	7,040	VE2HEW	*TONY	QC	4	34	0	38	19	722
W6SX	HANK	CA	54	70	38	162	41	6,642	VE3FH	*JULIO	ON	10	29	0	39	16	624
AJ6V	ED	CA	56	66	24	146	37	5,402	VY2L'I	*BILL	PE	0	17	0	17	12	204
WQ6X	RON	CA	33	38	26	97	30	2,910	VA6RCN	*KEVIN	AB	15	3	0	18	10	180
N6WM	CHRIS	CA	20	41	21	82	29	2,378	LU1BJW	HORACIO	LU	5	0	0	5	5	25
W1SRD	STEVE	CA	25	25	21	71	27	1,917	VE3ZDR	*DAVE	ON	1	3	0	4	5	20
WN6K	*PAUL	CA	10	38	4	52	28	1,456	VA3PAF	*PATRICK	ON	0	2	0	2	2	4