

Contest Results — October 2007

RTTY Sprint

Ed Muns, WØYK

The 40 logs submitted for the 14th North American RTTY Sprint contained 113 different call signs. The log count was down from March 2007 but on a par with October 2006, which attracted 41 submissions. In recent years, we've seen about half as many logs for the October event as compared to March. Two other RTTY contests the same weekend may have contributed to lower participation in the Sprint. Conditions didn't seem very good at the start, and most RTTY activity involved the other two contests. After the first half-hour, though, the sprinters found each other and got the rhythm going.

The SWACC team bested NCCC #1 this time by 28 percent. NCCC was a bit optimistic about how many teams they could field and appended "#1" to the name of the partial team of seven that ultimately participated. SWACC pulled nine participants into the game and once again prevailed in the rivalry between these two teams.

Assemble a team for the next RTTY Sprint in March 2008 and give these two regulars some competition, plus more stations to work!

Logging Errors

We received three Golden Logs. These are more common with lower numbers of QSOs, but K6LL achieved an error-free log with 266 QSOs. This is a real challenge in a Sprint that allows "legal dupes," provided at least three QSOs intervene in *both* logs. It's not enough to watch your own recent log entries; you must also pay attention to other stations' serial numbers to determine if they also have the required intervening QSOs. Several participants may be surprised to find apparent legal dupes removed from their logs because the other station did not have at least three intervening QSOs.

Not surprisingly, some SO2R entrants had higher numbers of QSOs removed during log checking, presumably due to the distraction of managing two radios while adhering to the Sprint QSY and legal dupe rules. Just as the Sprint builds contest skill in general, it is especially challenging for the SO2R operator and helps develop that particular skill as well. Six stations operated SO2R this time, some changing bands on an average of every two QSOs. All but one had low error rates and lost very few QSOs.

We encourage participants to request their log checking reports (LCRs) and learn from them. E-mail rttysprintmgr@ncjweb.com to obtain an LCR for this event.

"Legal Dupe" Rule Redux

Discussion and debate continue regarding the "legal dupe" rule. Some dislike it, feeling that once they've worked a station it doesn't seem right to be able to work it again. Others complain that it's boring to work the same stations multiple times. Still others believe this unique rule is not in the basic spirit of contesting. The majority agree, however, that the legal dupe rule is preferable to low activity, which defeats the spirit of contesting to an even greater degree.

Activity — ie, the availability of running stations plus stations answering CQs — is an important component of any contest. Without adequate activity, a contest can become very boring in a hurry. Supplying an *artificial* means to increase activity is the reason behind the legal dupe rule in the RTTY Sprint. It has been employed in at least two other contests. The Internet Sprint allows dupes after just one intervening QSO. This raises the activity level high enough that operator skill is unconstrained and competitors can truly test their contest-

Top 10 Scores

| Call Sign | Score | Bnd Chgs | Qs Lost |
|-----------|-------|----------|---------|
| WØYK | 9504 | 142 | 8 |
| K6LL | 8778 | 7 | 0 |
| W6YX | 7904 | 4 | 3 |
| K5AM | 7887 | 4 | 2 |
| W7WW | 6944 | 73 | 1 |
| K6TD | 5832 | 84 | 2 |
| K7WM | 5550 | 2 | 4 |
| KE5OG | 4704 | 78 | 4 |
| NA7XX | 4425 | 2 | 8 |
| KØHW | 4368 | 35 | 1 |
| NP3D/W2 | 3975 | 51 | 2 |
| K7OX | 3480 | 5 | 4 |
| NTØF | 3404 | 14 | 4 |
| W7WHY | 3325 | 8 | 2 |
| VE3JI | 3264 | 6 | 1 |

Top Single Radio

| Call Sign | Score | Bnd Chgs | Qs Lost |
|-----------|-------|----------|---------|
| K6LL | 8778 | 7 | 0 |
| W6YX | 7904 | 4 | 3 |
| K5AM | 7887 | 4 | 2 |
| K7WM | 5550 | 2 | 4 |
| NA7XX | 4425 | 2 | 8 |
| K7OX | 3480 | 5 | 4 |
| W7WHY | 3325 | 8 | 2 |
| VE3JI | 3264 | 6 | 1 |
| WA6BOB | 3264 | 1 | 3 |
| WK6I | 3250 | 3 | 4 |
| N6EE | 2880 | 4 | 3 |
| KØJJR | 2730 | 4 | 0 |
| W6SX | 2508 | 6 | 3 |
| N5ER | 2286 | 7 | 1 |
| W6ZL | 2109 | 2 | 1 |

Top 10 QSOs

| | |
|-------|-----|
| WØYK | 288 |
| K6LL | 266 |
| W7WW | 248 |
| W6YX | 247 |
| K5AM | 239 |
| K7WM | 222 |
| K6TD | 216 |
| KE5OG | 196 |
| KØHW | 182 |
| NA7XX | 177 |

Top 10 Multipliers

| | |
|-------|----|
| K5AM | 33 |
| K6LL | 33 |
| WØYK | 33 |
| W6YX | 32 |
| W7WW | 28 |
| K6TD | 27 |
| K7WM | 25 |
| NA7XX | 25 |
| NP3D | 25 |
| W7WHY | 25 |

Top 10 Low Power

| | |
|--------|------|
| KE5OG | 4704 |
| KØHW | 4368 |
| NTØF | 3404 |
| VE3JI | 3264 |
| KEØWO | 3045 |
| N6EE | 2880 |
| N5ER | 2286 |
| W6ZL | 2109 |
| K5H DU | 896 |
| KC4HW | 810 |

Top QRP

| | |
|-------|------|
| NN7SS | 1520 |
| W5KDJ | 297 |

Golden Logs

| Call Sign | QSOs |
|-----------|------|
| K6LL | 266 |
| WNØL | 32 |
| VE3KI | 19 |

Top 10 Band Changes

| | |
|-------|-----|
| WØYK | 142 |
| K6TD | 84 |
| KE5OG | 78 |
| W7WW | 73 |
| NP3D | 51 |
| NN7SS | 37 |
| KØHW | 35 |
| KEØWO | 22 |
| NTØF | 14 |
| W7WHY | 8 |

Team Scores

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| SWACC | |
| K6LL | 8778 |
| K5AM | 7887 |
| W7WW | 6944 |
| K7WM | 5550 |
| KE5OG | 4704 |
| KØHW | 4368 |
| K7OX | 3480 |
| WA6BOB | 3264 |
| W1UE | 1206 |
| Total | 46,181 |

NCCC #1

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| WØYK | 9504 |
| W6YX | 7904 |
| K6TD | 5832 |
| WK6I | 3250 |
| N6EE | 2880 |
| W6SX | 2508 |
| NN7SS | 1520 |
| Total | 33,398 |

Sweet Home ACG#1

| | |
|-------|-----|
| KC4HW | 810 |
|-------|-----|

Overall Scores (Grouped by Call Sign District)

| Call Sign | Name | QTH | QSOs | Mults | Score | Team |
|-----------|---------|-----|------|-------|-------|------------------|
| W1UE | DENNIS | MA | 67 | 18 | 1206 | SWACC |
| NP3D/W2 | ANDREI | NY | 159 | 25 | 3975 | |
| K2PAL* | ALEX | NY | 16 | 10 | 160 | |
| N3KHK* | JOHN | MD | 4 | 2 | 8 | |
| KC4HW* | JIM | AL | 54 | 15 | 810 | Sweet Home ACG#1 |
| K4HMB* | JOE | NC | 34 | 11 | 374 | |
| K5AM | MARK | NM | 239 | 33 | 7887 | SWACC |
| KE5OG* | BILL | TX | 196 | 24 | 4704 | SWACC |
| N5ER* | JOHN | AR | 127 | 18 | 2286 | |
| K5HDU* | MIKE | TX | 64 | 14 | 896 | |
| W5KDJ** | WAYNE | TX | 33 | 9 | 297 | |
| WØYK | ED | CA | 288 | 33 | 9504 | NCCC #1 |
| W6YX | MIKE | CA | 247 | 32 | 7904 | NCCC #1 |
| K6TD | KEVIN | CA | 216 | 27 | 5832 | NCCC #1 |
| WA6BOB | BOB | CA | 136 | 24 | 3264 | SWACC |
| WK6I | JEFF | CA | 130 | 25 | 3250 | NCCC #1 |
| N6EE* | RON | CA | 120 | 24 | 2880 | NCCC #1 |
| W6SX | HANK | CA | 114 | 22 | 2508 | NCCC #1 |
| W6ZL* | DAVE | CA | 111 | 19 | 2109 | |
| K6LL | DAVE | AZ | 266 | 33 | 8778 | SWACC |
| W7WW | RED | AZ | 248 | 28 | 6944 | SWACC |
| K7WM | WAYNE | AZ | 222 | 25 | 5550 | SWACC |
| NA7XX | GRIZ | MT | 177 | 25 | 4425 | |
| K7OX | GARY | WA | 145 | 24 | 3480 | SWACC |
| W7WHY | TOM | OR | 133 | 25 | 3325 | |
| NN7SS** | BURT | WA | 80 | 19 | 1520 | NCCC #1 |
| WA7SHP | KEVIN | OR | 78 | 14 | 1092 | |
| KØHW* | JIM | SD | 182 | 24 | 4368 | SWACC |
| NTØF* | DON | IA | 148 | 23 | 3404 | |
| KEØWO* | DEAN | IA | 145 | 21 | 3045 | |
| KØJJR | JOE | MN | 130 | 21 | 2730 | |
| KØXU* | JIM | NE | 66 | 11 | 726 | |
| AK9D* | PHIL | KS | 59 | 10 | 590 | |
| KIØY | MARK | MO | 52 | 10 | 520 | |
| WNØL* | LANCE | NE | 32 | 9 | 288 | |
| VE3JI* | IAN | ON | 136 | 24 | 3264 | |
| VE3KI* | RICH | ON | 19 | 15 | 285 | |
| VE3RCN* | KEVIN | ON | 27 | 9 | 243 | |
| VE3TPZ* | JIM | ON | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| VA7CPC* | CHARLES | BC | 19 | 8 | 152 | |

* Low Power

** QRP



ing ability. The NCCC Sprints, which run Thursday evenings for 30 minutes, use an identical legal dupe rule. (See “Mid-Week Contest ‘Fix’ — the Thursday Night NCCC Sprint,” elsewhere in this issue.)

The best way to render the legal dupe rule unnecessary is to significantly increase participation. While RTTY contesting activity by and large increases at an impressive rate each year, RTTY Sprint participation still lags. This may be due to its difficulty relative to other contests, but that also means it’s a great event to sharpen your skills, no matter your proficiency level.

It benefits everyone to get others involved in this contest. One way to do this is to form a team — either from among local club members or from any group of regional contesters.

If there’s enough interest in an awards programs — certificates, plaques and the like for individuals and teams — perhaps that would help to boost participation. Share your thoughts on this or other ways to get more people involved in this contest with the RTTY Sprint manager. It will be much easier to see the RTTY Sprint reach its full potential if everyone pitches in to increase participation.

Meanwhile, accept the legal dupe rule as an important characteristic of the RTTY Sprint and continue to improve your ability to effectively operate this challenging contest. The strategies and tactics you develop and master are adaptable to other contests. Operators at all skill levels benefit immensely from what they learn in Sprints. Moreover, it’s a lot of fun! See you all on March 9.