

Results: North American Sprint, RTTY — October 2009

Participation in the 18th North American RTTY Sprint didn't measure up to the record turnout for the March running, but it provided some excitement nonetheless. Twenty meters was short-lived at the outset, with most of the contest period spent on 40 and 80 where new stations to work soon became sparse. The first three places were virtually tied, with log checking rearranging the order of claimed scores. This is yet another example of where logging accuracy can make the difference. Dean, N0XR, Jim, AD4EB, and Iain, N6ML, had a final score variance of only 2.5 percent, with their QSO counts within one.

While we had no QRP entries this time, there was plenty of good Low Power competition, as always. Chris, VE6APB, took Low Power honors, just getting past the last Sprint's LP winner, Bill, KE5OG. Ron, N6EE,

posted a close third place.

Forty-three unique multipliers showed up in the log set, including VE8 — a rarity in many Sprints, not to mention RTTY. However, the top multiplier count in a single log was only 40. The high QSO total was 151.

There were only five SO2R stations among the top 15 logs, mostly due to the absence of many regulars in this contest. Dave, K7L (K6LL), and Garry, NI6T, took top spots with their single-radio, minimum-band-change operations and also placed fourth and fifth overall.

The number of Golden Logs was gratifying. Leading that group with 103 QSOs was Tiny, KT6YL, in her first RTTY Sprint. Right on her heels was N6EE with 99.

The NCCC put together a full 10-operator team (plus a smaller second team) to nab the team title again. Another contesting lesson — showing up with a complete team can make the difference, too. In addition to second-place SWACC, two other teams registered; unfortunately none of their members turned in logs.

Participation returned to the prior trend line with 134 unique call signs, 50 submitted logs and 43 unique mults (see Figure 1). In recent years, the October Sprint has seen less activity than the March Sprint. Another RTTY contest initiated on this same

weekend draws away some participation, but a more troubling factor may be at play, as evidenced by some of the soapbox comments. A few people indicated that they won't participate until activity is higher. *Hmmm*. That seems self-fulfilling and counterintuitive. I'd suggest adopting the opposite position: Each participant helps to raise the activity level!

So, I challenge everyone to roust our RTTY friends (and find new ones) for the March 2010 RTTY Sprint and set some new participation and performance records. Maybe some increased team rivalry will help too. *See you all then!*

Soapbox

A hard contest to operate from my QTH. From now on I'll try my best to submit my logs as soon as the contest is over. — Bill, N0AC

Sure could use some more call signs to work. Seemed pretty slow. — KJ6RA

Well, another interesting one for the books. Was participation down? The crew seemed to keep marching down to the lower bands sooner than I thought they would also. It's always fun to work all my friends, and I really appreciate the Qs, especially those who put up with me while

Top 10 QSOs		Top 10 Golden Logs	
AD4EB	151	KT6YL	103
N0XR	150	N6EE	99
N6ML	150	KW7N	79
K7L	146	K1GU	78
N4ZZ	128	VE7UQ	67
NI6T	127	VE1AOE	37
K6RB	126	W6OAT	36
N6CK	120	W4HOD	34
KJ6RA	118	VE3RCN	31
N6WM	113	WA7BME	11

Top 10 Mults		Top 10 Band Changes	
N0XR	40	N6ML	80
AD4EB	39	N0XR	79
N6ML	39	AD4EB	61
KJ6RA	35	W7WW	50
NI6T	35	W0YK	40
N4ZZ	34	N4ZZ	38
N6CK	33	KE5OG	24
K6RB	32	W6TQG	19
N6EE	32	VE4EAR	10
K1GU	31	K6RB	8

Top 10 Low Power	
VA6APB	3441
KE5OG	3248
N6EE	3168
WF7T	2697
K1GU	2418
KW7N	1896
AE5PW	1674
N7ESU	1564
WI0WA	1562
VE7UQ	1474

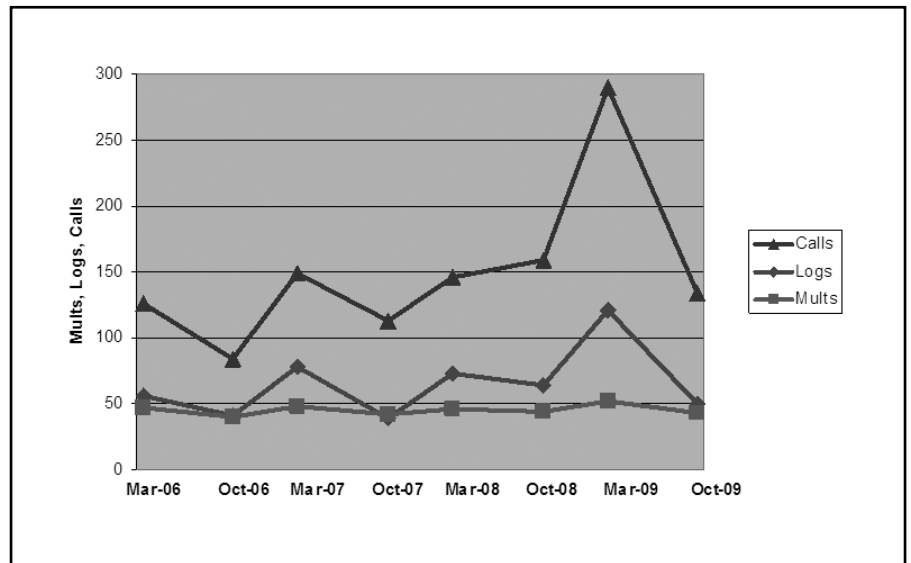


Figure 1 — Participation in the October 2009 NA RTTY Sprint

I was struggling with the logger.

— Chris, N6WM

It seemed to be a weird night. Everyone deserted 20 early, and then 40 didn't last long. I heard a lot of stations, including some mults I never could work, but it was a sprint . . . always fun. — KE5OG

Couldn't get on until the last hour and a half. Fun, but low activity.

— W0YK

Wasn't going to be in this one, but Ed, VE4EAR, reminded me about it during one of our Makrothen Qs earlier in the afternoon.

Was quite rough here, from opening bell to the close. Twenty was really bad and only worth about half an hour of attention. Forty was pretty good but not a lot of action, and 80 wasn't in great shape. Lots of long CQ sessions. Managed to take a couple of half-hour breaks, and I don't think I missed much at all.

— Bud, VA7ST

Not great conditions and participation seemed low. Really had to hunt for new stations. Forty went long early. What happened to the East Coast? Fun as always!

— VE4EAR

Only one hour to play in this one. Conditions were poor here. Only one station out of WA and CA on 80.

— W7WHY

Wow, last hour was rough. Spent most of it CQing into the wind on both 80 and 40. Not sure if I had a problem or if condx and participation were that bad. Good to hear from VE8NSD! — N6ML

This was indeed a challenge! Had a pretty good rhythm going except for the occasional out-of-sequence couplets. A few seemed confused by the QSY rules, but everyone seemed to work it out. — WF7T

Had lots of trouble with *WriteLog/MMTTY* dropping PTT on the K3. Tried [several possible fixes]. Nothing seemed to work. My apologies to everyone for the double exchanges. Very frustrating and embarrassing. Suggestions appreciated. Pretty good conditions. — N6EE

Stopped early to go back to the AZ QSO Party. Mistake — W7WWW

Are we having fun yet? I think I'll stick to non-Sprint RTTY contests until enough operators are participating to make it a sprint instead of a crawl. I was ready to go watch paint dry at the two-hour point. — K6RB

This contest is the ultimate test of grit. Starts out fast, then gets so very slow trying to find new ones to work. — AD4EB

RF showed up in the shack, probably due to recent shack "improvements." At times the keyboard was almost inoperable, causing strange additions to my exchanges. — Phil W6TQG

Great fun as always. — VE3JI

Great contest as usual but no time to work the entire four hours.

— W4HOD

Team Scores

1. NCCC Team #1		2. SWACC		3. NCCC Team #2	
N6ML	5850	N0XR	6000	K6XX	2328
Ni6T	4445	K7L	4526	W0YK	1400
KJ6RA	4130	W7WWW	3503	W6OAT	576
K6RB	4032	KE5OG	3248	Total	4304
N6CK	3960	KW7N	1896		
N6WMM	3390	N7ESU	1564		
N6EE	3168	N7UVH	576		
W6SX	2430	Total	21,313		
KT6YL	2266				
W6TQG	1875				
Total	35,546				

Top 10 Scores

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
N0XR	6000	79	8	44	32	46	30
AD4EB	5989	61	2	50	39	33	30
N6ML	5850	80	12	49	46	38	19
K7L	4526	2	1	48	50	40	8
Ni6T	4445	4	9	30	40	32	27
N4ZZ	4352	38	3	40	38	36	15
KJ6RA	4130	4	2	39	27	34	18
K6RB	4032	8	3	42	35	36	14
N6CK	3960	4	5	32	38	33	18
W7WWW	3503	50	10	51	35	24	5

Top Single Radio

Call Sign	Score	Bnd Chgs	Qs Lost	00Z	01Z	02Z	03Z
K7L	4526	2	1	48	50	40	8
Ni6T	4445	4	9	30	40	32	27
KJ6RA	4130	4	2	39	27	34	18
K6RB	4032	8	3	42	35	36	14
N6CK	3960	4	5	32	38	33	18
VA6APB	3441	4	6	24	40	23	26
N6WMM	3390	2	14	26	33	31	24
N6EE	3168	8	0	29	31	15	24
VE4EAR	3074	10	4	36	26	29	16
WF7T	2697	8	2	16	23	30	19

Scoring Breakdown

Call Sign	Name	QTH	20	40	80	QSO	Mults	Score	Team
K5ZD	RANDY	MA	24	27	32	83	25	2075	
N1SXL	DEAN	CT	0	48	0	48	22	1056	
AD4EB	JIM	TN	30	71	51	151	39	5989	
N4ZZ	DON	TN	29	53	46	128	34	4352	
WF7T	*BRAD	TN	3	44	40	87	31	2697	
K1GU	*NED	TN	26	52	0	78	31	2418	
W4HOD	*CHER	AL	14	20	0	34	16	544	
KM4RK	*MARK	SC	3	18	10	31	16	496	
KE5OG	*BILL	TX	32	49	32	112	29	3248	SWACC
AE5PW	*PAT	AR	12	46	4	62	27	1674	
W5KI	STEVE	AR	0	7	0	7	5	35	
AD5LU	*DON	TX	4	0	0	4	1	4	
N6ML	MIKE	CA	27	77	47	150	39	5850	NCCC #1
Ni6T	GARRY	CA	31	50	46	127	35	4445	NCCC #1
KJ6RA	RICH	CA	27	50	41	118	35	4130	NCCC #1
K6RB	ROB	CA	28	53	45	126	32	4032	NCCC #1
N6CK	GREG	CA	32	52	37	120	33	3960	NCCC #1
N6WMM	CHRIS	CA	27	42	45	113	30	3390	NCCC #1
N6EE	*RON	CA	32	46	21	99	32	3168	NCCC #1
W6SX	HANK	CA	17	47	26	90	27	2430	NCCC #1
K6XX	BOB	CA	34	38	25	97	24	2328	NCCC #2
KT6YL	TINY	CA	29	34	40	103	22	2266	NCCC #1
W6TQG	PHIL	CA	18	38	19	75	25	1875	NCCC #1
W0YK	ED	CA	0	28	28	56	25	1400	NCCC #2
W6OAT	RUSTY	CA	36	0	0	36	16	576	NCCC #2
W6OR	*DREW	CA	8	19	0	27	20	540	
K7L	DAVE	AZ	52	54	40	146	31	4526	SWACC
W7WWW	RED	AZ	38	48	27	113	31	3503	SWACC
KW7N	*STEVE	WA	17	32	30	79	24	1896	SWACC
N7ESU	*JIM	ID	14	28	26	68	23	1564	SWACC
AL9A	GARY	AK	9	45	17	71	22	1562	
WA0WWW	*JAY	WA	12	28	24	64	22	1408	
N7UVH	*MURF	ID	9	2	21	32	18	576	SWACC
WA7BME	*RON	UT	0	11	0	11	10	110	
K9QH	*MIKE	WI	5	27	13	44	18	792	
W9OA	*GEORGEWI		0	0	21	21	14	294	
N0XR	DEAN	IA	25	68	59	150	40	6000	SWACC
W0WA	*BILL	IA	20	34	17	71	22	1562	
WG0M	*MIKE	MN	21	37	11	69	19	1311	
K5OM	*DICK	MO	5	32	10	47	24	1128	
N0BK	*BRUCE	MN	0	22	24	46	22	1012	
K0YQ	*JOHN	CO	7	27	5	39	13	507	
W0BH	*BOB	KS	0	4	3	7	3	21	
VA6APB	*CHRIS	VE6	23	54	35	111	31	3441	
VE4EAR	ED	VE4	19	46	42	106	29	3074	
VA7ST	BUD	VE7	13	40	38	91	29	2639	
VE7UQ	*KEN	VE7	14	33	20	67	22	1474	
VE3JI	*IAN	VE3	0	21	29	50	25	1250	
VE1AOE	*DON	VE1	0	37	0	37	23	851	
VE3RCN	*KEVIN	VE3	1	6	24	31	22	682	
VE3MCF	*DOUG	VE3	0	2	0	2	2	4	

