

Contesting—the very word conjures up thoughts of preparation. One spends hours, days, weeks—and sometimes months and years—preparing for a contest.

You might spend considerable time planning a DXpedition to coincide with a particular contest or purchasing, assembling and installing a new antenna. There are coax fittings to be soldered on and feedline runs to be made. Radios and amplifiers must be tested and computers and software checked for glitches. Time must be budgeted for checking all the DX Web sites to see who is going where and what strange call signs will be showing up. A final look at the propagation forecasts for the best paths and times to point all of those antennas in the proper directions—and the CONTEST begins.

That contest can last for 4, 8, 12, 24, 30, 36 or 48 hours, depending on the particular event and the class that you are entering in. And then it's all over...

The adrenaline flow slows down, rigor mortis sets in, your eyes become kind of vacant. If you are a single operator, you pat yourself on the back and sit wishing you had just one more radio/amp/tower/antenna. If you are part of a multi team at a big multi station, everybody begins trying to figure out how the team did. Everyone pats everyone else on the back. At about this point in time, some-



K7WM

body brings up log submittal and who is going to do it.

Sooooo, it's not really over yet. Someone has got to do the logs and send them in. If you're a single op, pat yourself on the back *because you have been elected*. If you are part of a multi team, there may be room for negotiation.

There are a myriad of contests and numerous logging software programs that generate logs in various submittal formats. The various contests have different log submittal requirements. There are even some very popular contests that are *just now* starting to accept e-mail log submissions.

Some of the more popular contests are in the process of switching over to the *Cabrillo* format. Most are in a "grace period" right now accepting plain ASCII text files and paper logs. Those grace periods will be ending very shortly and the contesteer will soon be faced with only being able to submit their log in *Cabrillo* format.

Foreseeing the problems, Bruce, WT4I, has written a program called *Cabrillo Converter*. It takes just about any ASCII text log in column format and converts it into *Cabrillo* format. The converter already covers most contests and more are being added. The program has been under beta testing for several months and is almost ready for release.

Bruce has written two other programs: *CabrilloLogChecker* and *MasterCall*. *CabrilloLogChecker* checks *Cabrillo* logs and automatically scores them. *MasterCall* generates and maintains a *Master.cal* file that the *Cabrillo*-

LogChecker uses to compare the log being checked against.

Using the *MasterCall* program, one can quickly load all call signs from the received logs into the program, filter the list of calls to include only those worked by multiple stations, and then create a new *Master.cal* file. This way a real time *Master.cal* file consisting of calls actually in the contest can be used to check logs instead of using a huge database of known operators to compare calls against.

CabrilloLogChecker and *MasterCall* were written primarily for contest managers and their assistant log checkers. But an individual contesteer will have an interest in the *CabrilloLogChecker* program to help them quickly validate their log and find obvious typos. All the beta testers of the programs are extremely impressed. One beta tester put it this way; "This is the best thing for contesters and contest managers since pockets on a shirt," Keep an eye out for their release.

Our guest columnist this month needs no introduction. Ron, K5DJ, is a well-known contesteer and contest manager for several of the more popular RTTY contests. One of these is the RTTY NCJ NAQP Contest. The 2000 contest suffered from some of the most horrific propagation experienced in a long time. Ron consented to write a short article in spite of the problems and to provide the results.

That's all for this issue. Hope to see you in the frays.

73, Wayne, K7WM

Results, July 2000 NAQP RTTY Contest

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This was the fifth running of the North American RTTY QSO Party. Conditions were very much like the second running back in 1997—almost as horrible as they can get. Very few records were broken. Most ops worked very hard just to keep going with conditions as they were.

The good news is that the team competition category gained one team this year over last year, with only one team not sending in any logs. Naturally it was a DX team and conditions were as horrible for them as it was for us in North America.

I still feel the RTTY NAQP Contest is growing, however this year was the first year we received fewer logs than the last few years. With the amount of contacts that were made many didn't send in their logs. Only 114 logs were submitted. Only

six DX logs were received.

Single Operator Category

Only entrants from W0, W3, W4, W5 and W7 made the Top Ten. At the end of the contest, it came down to K5DJ, AA5AU and WT4I turning in the highest scores. The race for first and second place was—as usual—very close.

Ron, K5DJ, narrowly came out on top over last year's champ Don, AA5AU. K5DJ finished with 436 QSOs and 149 multipliers for a score of 64,964. AA5AU finished with 427 QSOs and 50 multipliers, scoring 64,050. This was the closest finish between first and second place in the five-year history of the RTTY NAQP Contest. Bruce, WT4I, finished third with 391 QSOs and 142 multipliers for a score of 55,552. We better keep an eye on Bruce, he seems to be making a move toward

the spotlight after his second place finish in the Roundup and now third in NAQP RTTY Contest.

Again this year 40, 20 and 15 meters were the bands of choice during the RTTY NAQP 'test. K5DJ posted the highest point total on 10 meters with only 15 QSOs and 9 multipliers. Next was K3MM with 15 QSOs and 8 multipliers followed by AA5AU with 11 QSO and 5 multipliers. Several operators that finished in the Top Ten didn't have any QSOs on 10 meters. Ten meters wasn't exactly a hot bed of activity this time around, to say the least...

On 15 meters WT4I managed to collect the most QSOs and multipliers with 97 and 41. AA5AU picked up 78 QSOs and 34 multipliers and K5DJ had 75 QSOs with 36 multipliers.

On 20 meters K5DJ had the most QSOs

and mults with 199 and 47. AF4Z gathered up 180 QSOs and 43 mults. Next was AA5AU with 175 QSOs and 45 mults.

On 40 meters WT4I scooped up the highest amount of QSOs and multipliers with 119 and 42. K5DJ had 116 QSOs and 37 mults and AA5AU had 110 QSOs with 40 mults.

On 80 meters N5ZM lead the pack with 61 QSOs and 30 mults while AA5AU was next with 53 QSOs and 26 mults. K3MM was third highest with 46 QSOs and 28 mults.

Multi/Two Category

The Multi/Two category saw slim participation with just five logs received. The top dog was W6YX with 305 QSOs and 114 multipliers for a score of 34,770.

Team Competition

Team competition was up a little this year. It's nice to see something going up with conditions as they were. The Big

Dogs took the team category and set a new record for team competition. This was the only record broken this year in any category.

The above pretty well describes the horrible conditions the participants encountered in this year's NAQP RTTY Contest. As the old saying goes "Oh well, there's always next year."

73, Ron, K5DJ

Soapbox

My first RTTY 'test, didn't spend much time in the contest because I was learning new software.—N5RM Glad it wasn't a 48-hour contest.—AF4Z No problem with the 'MP running at 75 W, Guess I could have run 100 W but I decided to play it safe.—N5ZM Oh well, there's always next year.—WN1E Many thanks to the contest sponsors.—WB2UEF The Digital Porch Dogs never intended to run with the Big Dogs, but we never thought Ol'

Sol would chain us to the damn porch.—K16DY Between thunderstorms, lightning strikes, ponies getting into the neighbors yard—I thinking it best for some Big Dogs to stay on the porch!—K3MM I'd hate to see us lose anyone because of this rule. I will include a comment on my summary sheet asking the powers to be to remove the "no external amplifier" rule for next year's contest.—AA5AU The bands were very poor never seen them that bad.—VA6MM I have read that some ops will not operate future NAQP RTTY contests because they are concerned about burning up their radio running 100 W in RTTY mode.—AE9D My first big effort in RTTY NAQP 'test—a nightmare. I never heard such fluttery signals.—N4VHK We thought we would surround North America with RF. Mother Nature had other plans.—W1ZT Early in the contest I knew this was going to be tough.—NØIDT Tough going at times, but the points were there if one had the perseverance to hang tough.—KR6E

Team Scores

The Big Dogs		The Flo Bo's		The Porch Dogs		The 7 Full	
K5DJ	64,964	AF4Z	33,063	KI6DT	34,270	K7WM	33,588
AA5AU	64,050	KC4HW	28,254	W4OX	27,775	K4WW	17,835
WT4I	55,522	WB4EQS	13,193	N6OJ	18,690	W4LC	11,534
K3MM	37,873	K4PX	17,091	VE6RAJ	2,505	WS7I	3,744
W2UP	<u>6,188</u>	WA4HDS	<u>11,178</u>	NØIT	<u>1,350</u>	AD7U	<u>1,947</u>
	228,597		94,779		83,590		68,648

- The 9 to 5ers: KB5BOB, AE9D, W9OL, AA9RR, WA9ALS 63,275
- The Radio Ticks: KR6E, WAØSXV, 8P6SH, W1ZT 63,083
- The TCG-#1: W4GKM, KK5OQ, K4BEV 61,621
- D-CAT TX: N5ZM, KK5CA, VA6MM 32,683
- The TCG-#3: W4WS, VA7SW 16,954
- The TCG-#2: W7WW, W9WI, W4AU, N4JN 7,120

Single Op Top Ten Breakdowns

Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	10	15	20	40	80
K5DJ	64,964	436	149	15/9	75/36	199/47	116/37	31/20
AA5AU	64,050	427	150	11/5	78/34	175/45	110/40	53/26
WT4I	55,552	391	142	4/2	97/41	153/44	119/42	18/13
K5NZ	40,192	315	128	9/5	51/26	121/39	89/36	43/22
K3MM	37,873	313	121	15/8	43/18	104/30	105/37	46/28
KI6DY/Ø	34,270	298	115	0/0	37/18	117/36	97/33	48/28
K7WM	33,558	282	119	4/2	52/31	124/40	91/39	11/7
AF4Z	33,063	309	107	2/1	30/18	180/43	84/34	13/11
KK5OQ	31,993	299	107	3/1	27/15	166/42	72/33	31/16
N5ZM	29,267	259	113	0/0	26/16	94/33	78/34	61/30

US State Winners

CT	N1XS	NM	WAØSXV
(op KB1H)		OK	KB5BOB
MA	W1ZT	TX	K5DJ
ME	K1US	CA	KR6E
NJ	NO2T	AZ	K7WM
NY	K2QMF	ID	N7UVH
MD	K3MM	WA	WS7I
PA	W2UP	OH	K3GP
AL	W4/KL7Q	IL	AE9D
FL	WT4I	IN	WA9ALS
KY	K4WW	WI	AA9RR
NC	W4WS	CO	WØDET
(op N4VHK)		IA	K3ETC
SC	AF4OX	KS	KI6DY/Ø
TN	W4GKM	MN	WØHW
VA	W4JLS	MO	KSØM
AR	N5ZM	NE	NØIDT
LA	AA5AU	HI	AH6OZ
MS	KK5OQ		

Canadian Province Winners

AB	VE6RAJ
BC	VA7SW
SK	VE5CPU

Single Operator North America and DX (by score)

Call	QSOs	Mults	Score	State	Team	Call	QSOs	Mults	Score	State	Team
K5DJ	436	149	64,964	TX	Big Dogs	K4PX	211	81	17,091	FL	Flo Bo's
AA5AU	427	150	64,050	LA	Big Dogs	AC5SU	196	84	16,464	MS	
WT4I	391	142	55,552	FL	Big Dogs	W1ZT	172	91	15,652	MA	
K5NZ	315	128	40,192	TX		W4WS	175	85	14,875	NC	TGC #3
K3MM	313	121	37,873	MD	Big Dogs	(op N4VHK)					
KI6DY/Ø	298	115	34,270	KS	Porch Dogs	K3ETC	175	87	14,790	IA	
K7WM	282	119	33,558	AZ	7 Full	AE9D	163	89	14,507	IL	
AF4Z	309	107	33,063	FL	Flo Bo	WB4EQS	167	79	13,193	FL	Flo Bo's
KK5OQ	299	107	31,993	MS	TGC	W4LC	158	84	11,534	KY	7 Full
N5ZM	259	113	29,267	AR		K5AM	150	75	11,250	NM	
W4OX	255	105	26,775	FL		WA4HDS	162	69	11,178	FL	Flo Bo's
W4GKM	252	94	26,688	TN	TGC #1	NO2T	135	80	10,800	NJ	
KR6E	235	98	23,030	CA	Radio Ticks	W9OL	132	79	10,428	IL	
KB5BOB	237	94	22,278	OK		K1DW	131	74	9,694	LA	
W4/KL7Q	228	89	20,292	AL		W4EYJ	140	67	9,380	TN	
KC4HW	247	82	20,254	FL		AKØA	142	59	8,378	KS	
WAØSXV	225	87	19,575	NM	Radio Ticks	AA9RR	132	63	8,316	WI	9 to 5ers
N6OJ	210	89	18,690	CA	Porch Dogs	AF4OX	137	60	8,220	SC	
K4WW	205	87	17,835	KY	7 Full	WA9ALS	125	62	7,750	IN	

