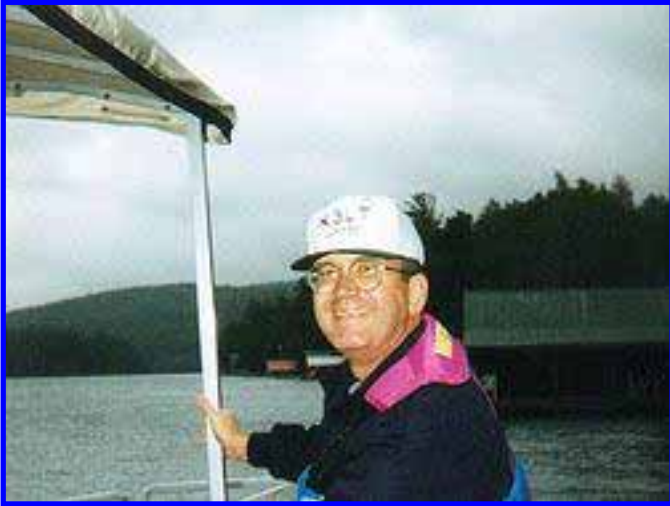# Contest Soapbox

## 2003 ARRL RTTY Round-Up

22 Soapbox entries available

### K3LT -- Jul 28, 2003 22:28 ET



**Larry Roll, K3LT**

This was my first attempt at entering the RTTY Roundup. I only operated for a couple of hours toward the very end of the contest, but I got the learning process started, at least. I operated only 20-meters using about 30 watts out of my ICOM IC-735 and an indoor dipole in my third floor apartment. Software was Mix-W ver. 2.06. I operated strictly RTTY, since I enjoy that mode the best, and, quite frankly, was having problems with QRM on PSK-31.

I've noticed in the Soapbox that a few stations failed to work Delaware, and I somehow feel responsible for that by not working as many hours of the contest. I'll try to do a lot better next year. I managed to "steal" First Place in Delaware Section Low-Power Single-Operator category by being the one-and-only enterant. My score was a piddling 494 points out of 32 QSO's. I will certainly be working on a more respectable score for next year. I thank all the stations that I worked this year and will reply to all QSL's received.

73 de Larry, K3LT Dover, Delaware -- *K3LT*

### N3XLS -- Feb 24, 2003 21:04 ET

Wow!

The M/S N3XLS team which consisted of Joe, N3XLS and Al, N3KAE had an absolute blast in RU this weekend! This was a first-time RTTY RU for both of us... and should become an annual tradition from now on.

Thank you to all the stations who worked us. We tried some CQing in addition to our S&P technique. Both seemed to work quite well. We worked about 22 hours and squeezed out 500 contacts. Wait... oh... I am still hearing RTTY in my head! hihi I know that total may not be much compared to some big guns out there, but try not to grin too much when you read the

equipment we used.

Sincere thanks to the software writers for WL, MMTTY, and the plug-in for a job well done!

73 de Joe, N3XLS and your truly Al, N3KAE

---------------------- N3XLS PA ----------------------

500 CONTACTS

45 STATES

09 CA PROV.

33 DXCC

EST SCORE 43,587

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EQUIPMENT

PENT III LAPTOP
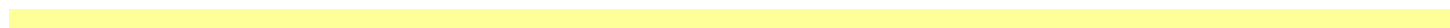
WL 10.32E

MMTTY 1.63

MMTTY PLUG-IN

TS-430 (WITH NO FILTERS)

MFJ INTERFACE

50W OUTPUT

136' OCF DIPOLE @ 45'

--------------------------------------- -- *N3XLS*

**The head Op looking alert, as usual!**

Made a great investment at the 2002 PACIFICON -- a Rigblaster PLUS...Have been doing a tremendous amount of digital mode ever since...

Back 20+ years ago, I owned an old Model 19 tape set that was fungus treated in 1943 for duty in the South Pacific with the USN! That old machine weighed in about 300++ pounds, used a lot of power and hopped around the room like an old washing machine -- the new machine weighs about 3 ounces and can literally fit into your coat pocket...If need be it can be run from some ordinary batteries (12V); that's progress!!!Now if you could just buy something to spray on the PC to get it to smell like one of those old TTY's the transformation would be complete!

Had a Blast in the test -- already looking forward to next year!! Hope your experience was similar.... -- *WB6IYM*

This year's RTTY Round-up was a lot of fun as usual. This is one of the few contests I seriously get involved in. I don't believe propogation was as good as last year as I heard little from the Pacific. As usual though, 40 and 80 Meters late Saturday night was a sight (sound) to behold. There seemed to be good participation and I again managed to better my previous score (My way of "winning"). Don't ever drop this contest. RTTY is my favorite mode and without the "Round-up" WAS/RTTY would have been nearly unreachable. -- *KG8WB*

This was my first Rtty Round-up ever. I have always been interested in Rtty but never pursued it. That is, until the sound card software became availiable. First it was PSK31 in May of 2002, then Rtty in December, 2002. What a Blast! I made 47 Rtty qso's in approx. 1-1/2 hours of operating. I would have like to operated longer, however this was a busy weekend.

Band conditions seemed good with contacts made on 20, 40 and 80 meters. Besides 20 meters, I seldom hear Rtty on any of the other bands except during contests. I wonder why this is ?

I look foward to the next Rtty Round-up.

73 to all

Terry -- *N8CDN*

**The XYL, the kids, the antennas: all of them would like more attention...**



**Worked (most)All States during the RTTY Roundup**

Once upon a time, many many years ago, ... well maybe not that many years ago since it was in January of 1989, I had this idea of participating in the ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP contest. I had been licensed for about a year and this mode would be all new stuff to me. Using simply a terminal and a TNC, I've made my entry into the RTTY world. It must have been fun then, because I've been hooked on RTTY ever since!

Moreover, after many many years, ... well maybe not that many years since it was like ... last year or so, I thought I should have a look at the possibility of earning a worked all states award on RTTY, with confirmations received for contacts made exclusively during the Roundup.

I've heard it before from others, many work all the states during the course of a single weekend! But I've never done that myself ( the kids, the XYL, the antennas: kind of need more attention … ) , but like I said before, after that many many years, ... well maybe not that many years, I do keep a tidy logbook of all my contacts and I do have a nice QSL cards collection !!

So I went on to get those QSLs out of the drawer. I mean, I thought I had cards for all the 50 states already, didn't I ? -- No, I didn't have all my QSL cards.-- But wait, I can find contacts with each state made exclusively during the Roundup ! Yesss…

I got the logbooks out and found those missing states – AL, DE, HI, KS, MO, NE, RI, UT, WV -- . Some more cards got printed, got envelopes, got some return stamps from the US, etc. Many

hours were spent finding addresses, writing envelopes, getting stamps, waiting for the postman, ...

The results ? …, the state of Hawaï still eludes me, because I've got ONE and only ONE QSO in the logbooks for all those years !

Let's get one more card out ... and pray, "Dear OM, KH7V, I am once again writing to you, because I sure hope the contact I've made with you last year was a valid one!"

73, and see you next year for more fun! Stephane -- *VE2OWL*

## KI6DY -- Jan 13, 2003 21:24 ET

Had to go single radio in this one as the Icom-745 is about to give up the ghost. Aside from that and my logging problem with state and VE mults, all went well. 10M was kinda disapointing from this location but the other bands seemed in good shape.

Best 1 hour continuos rate was over 90 on 80M of all places on Saturday night/Sunday morning! Had the 10 minute rate meter over 120 for quite some time.

A good opening to Europe or JA never really happened for me but North American activity was great, lots of new calls and most everyone seemed to know what they were doing. Out of over 1000 QSOs I believe I was only duped 4 or 5 times. Not sending the /0 helps in that regard. (I was duped over 35 times in WPX last year when sending KI6DY/0). Lots of 5 banders as well.

My attention was torn Sunday afternoon between the radio and the TV where I intermittently watched my beloved Cleveland Browns blow another big lead and lose to the Steelers.

This still remains my favorite RTTY contest. -- *KI6DY*

## AE0Q -- Jan 12, 2003 00:38 ET

Some of the big gun stations new to RTTY need to tweak their exchanges, like starting and ending every buffer memory with a CR. Garble run into the call or state is a pain and slows down the rest of us when trying to reply. The two characters saved is nothing compared to the time spent deciphering the exchange before hitting the mouse for the reply!

Also, Baudot is not like ASCII; numbers, dashes and slashes do not have unique codes, they are 'shifted' letters. Don't send a dash between state abbreviations, your PC is sending FIGS, dash, then LTRS characters between each state (really slow and leads to garble). Use spaces between groups of letters, and dashes (no spaces) between groups of numbers.

73 - Glenn -- *AE0Q*

The ARRL RTTY Round-Up is what got me into contesting! The Round-Up is such a blast. I look forward to the Round-Up each year with great anticipation. It is a pleasure to work old friends and see the new OP's giving it a try for the first time. Thanks to the ARRL for sponsoring this fine event. 73 Russell -- *N6EU*

This years contest was a lot of fun...

Is it just me or has RTTY become more popular than ever?

Fifteen meters was my best band, with signals ranging from 21.060 to 21.120 or so. Forty was also good from here, but 80 was a bust. Other respondents on the RTTY reflector noted many signals on 80, but I did not hear a single one up here on Saturday night. I guess I need a better antenna...

CU guys next year!

73 Gary WG7X -- *WG7X*

It was a jungle out there but I had a blast as usual. Seemed that DX was not that great but had a great chance to work all US and Canada. I am an avid PSKer and was troubled to see several stations right on top of PSK signals. Other than that observation, all was fun. Can't wait for the next contest. So where are all those RTTY people during the weeknights and non contest weekends? Hope to see more regulars. Thanks for all the nice contacts. WA4KY - Gary - Kentucky -- *WA4KY*

Hi, A novice on the bands. Yep, it was the first time ever I joined to a contest. Only 2 years on the ham bands...

At the beggining it was a bit strange, because I was expecting a lot of stations on PSK31 as usual, but no... as soon as the contest started, seamed that the band was dead for PSK31 !! A few Khz up, there was everybody!! Ok and now I though ?? Well, I already have the macros built for

the contest, lets try to push the button. YES... it worked and N4GXP answered on 20 M band. I entered this contest, just to feel the rythem and get experience and knoledge for the next one.

After all, I couldn't stay to must on the bands (family issues, I mean wife...) So I only went to make some more contacts when she was not here hi hi.

Conclusion, had a great time here and for sure next year will try to (at least) double the claimed points. Thanks to everyone, specially the first contacted ops for the long replying... (macros too long)

Best Regards CT2HZU - Pedro -- *CT2HZU*

This is my second ARRL RU contest. In 2002 in have 1030 QSO, but some problems with log sending. Now with log all must be OK ! 936 x 118 = 110448

On photo C53M, 5 weeks ago, I am nr.3 from left.

73! -- *YL2GM*

Pretty good contest this year. Condx from the Sierra Nevada foothills in No. Cal were quite good. I managed about 184 QSOs (haven't counted the mults yet) in single op low power. I was surprised at the lack of PSK activity in the test, however.

The contest did motivate me to clean up the kludge I am using: WinPSK on the laptop under NT 4.0, Hamcom on the laptop under DOS (mode changes require reboots!), and TRLog on the normal station logging computer. Operationally it's a challenge. Not sure what I'll do yet, but I've enlisted the advice of our Club's Digital Guru.

I'll be glad to QSL for county and grid, and I upload all my logs to eQSL.

Observations:

1. Casual ops should consider CQ'ing some rather than just S&P. I heard several mults (NV for example) that I never had the chance to work because they were just calling the CQ's. One

midwestern station asked me if I could drive the 100 mi over the hill and work him from NV!

2. I'd like to see serial number be a part of all exchanges ... RST is a "gimme", and with computer loggers remembering from one test to the next, constants like SPC, Sec, Zone, etc are nearly so.

It was a fun weekend, I'll see everyone in the NAQP CW next Sat.

73,

Fred, K6DGW Auburn, CA CM98 Placer County -- *K6DGW*

It was a good contest again this year. I was not able to spend as much time as last year, but made a respectable showing. It seemed as if the noise level was a lot higher this year though. It was almost impossible to find a quiet place to operate. There were a lot of very broad signals on the band. In the old days of CW they called it key clucks. So what do they call it today when people are running AFSK? All they have to do is to turn up the audio gain and they can create a wide space to operate in. They can even use compression. No one else can operate within 5 or 10 KHz. I guess it is just dreaming to think that things are going to be any different, but I can hope. In the old days there were key click filters. I'll just enjoy running FSK. 73 de Bob, WG7Y
-- *WG7Y*

I decided to enter late this year, and found out that my old programs would no longer work due to a motherboard/soundcard change! Had to learn how to use new software (Writelog + MMTTY) at the last minute, but found them quite easy to use. Could not spend as much on-the-air time as I would have liked, but the contest was fun as always. 73 Steve -- *N2QLQ*

Hi, I am Gianni IT9ORA, lately I have devoted to digital activity, and I have to say I have had a good time a lot, I have used the MixW Reg. and I have to admit that it is a good program, I will try next time to devote more time to the contest, hi to all 73 de Gianni IT9ORA E-mail it9ora@iol.it -- *IT9ORA*

Had a great time! My first shot at the ARRL Roundup and made over 500 QSOs and worked every state but VT. Not too bad I guess for 60 watts and some homemade antennas. I think I can do better next year and I'm already looking forward to it. -- *KQ6IK*

This was the baptism of K0FJ's newly-moved shack. This would be momentous for most hams, but you have to understand Mike moves his shack as often as some people change motor oil... While the move between adjacent rooms had been ALMOST complete for days, the final act of running 220VAC w/conduit was saved for Friday afternoon prior to the contest. The SB-220 is a push-pull amp and Mike followed suit – alternately pushing and pulling the conduit and wires from opposite ends of his new run (see photo). This created an undesired heavy workout just prior to the contest.

Our original plan was a casual 3-operator multiop with K0BJ and K0QP. Jim 'QP was on the sick list so we envisioned an even more casual run. Well... things have a way of just

**In lieu of a complicated outside 220VAC run, K0FJ routed it from the old shack's closet up through the ceiling and over to the new shack. Turned out to be good aerobic exercise.**



**K0FJ's new shack -- IC756 PRO SB-220 TH6 and wires on a city lot**



**K0BJ and K0FJ enjoy multiop contesting, especially when it's RTTY and they can visit in the heat of the battle...**

'happening', and in spite of spending the first 30 minutes trying to get the FSK modulating (it works wonders when you use the correct COM port!), the operation went well and we had enough propagation to stay interested, so we put in a fair effort. The only other visit from Murphy came with 2 hours left. While Mike was out jogging with the dogs, Bruce hit 'something' on the keyboard and needed to restart WriteLog and MMTTY. This wasn't completed until Mike returned after 17 minutes of down time.

By noon we were entertaining thoughts of 1K Qs and 100 mults. Fickle bands and lack of fresh meat dimmed prospects of that goal, but rapid S&Ping of 10 and 15 the final 20 minutes got us close and QSO #1000 (clean) went in the log at 2359:32! We only missed DE YU NWT in the W/VE roster but with declining sunspots the long-haul stuff was hard to come by with just 42 DX mults, for a total of 101. You can't cut your goals much closer than that.

We thoroughly enjoy multioping. For every perk conceded by going from single to multi, there seems to be two gained – at least for our taste. The RTTY environment is especially enjoyable as you can kibbitz quite a bit with the relief op while running.

1000 Qs x 101 mults = 101000 claimed MOHP KS -- *K0BJ*

Really enjoy this contest. Very happy with my results - the only meaningful measure for me is comparison to previous year... same operating time, 129 more QSOs, 26K more points. Almost all increase came on 80M&40M. A lot due to better mix of CQing vs S&P. Not bad for one radio and two wires. Learn a bit each contest. Missed DE, NV and DC plus LB, PEI, NWT, NU and YUK. Saw LB but he was S&Ping. Worked A45WD on 20M then he called me on 40M later! You folks wanted ND - well my only 5 band station was NW0L from ND! Thanks guys!

73 Steve N1NB -- *N1NB*

## KL7WP -- Jan 6, 2003 12:02 ET

Conditions were not that great, but propagation normally is quite difficult in the northern latitudes this time of the year. Over the pole was next to impossible and signals from Europe were just too weak. But still managed over 200 QSOs with 50 watts and had a great time as usual. Always nice to hear lots of baudot but may get Writelog and try some PSK31 next year as well. W/VE stations should also send serial number as it would be nice to follow their progress. -- *KL7WP*

## WA8KAN -- Jan 6, 2003 11:33 ET

More contacts this year than ever. Can't wait until next Rtty Roundup. -- *WA8KAN*