

Results of the 2008 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest

BY GLENN VINSON,* W6OTC, AND ED MUNS,** WØYK

The 22nd annual CQ WW RTTY Contest was held September 27–28, 2008, with another record number of entries, this time totaling 2,124 logs (up from 1,778, or 20% from 2007), the largest number of logs ever submitted for a RTTY contest. Although the solar flux again hovered around 67, contest participation and scores continued to increase substantially.

Sadly, our great friend and CQ RTTY Co-Chair and Chief Log-Checker, and CQ Contest Hall of Fame Member, Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, did not live to see this notable milestone, which he had been anticipating since the RTTY WPX contest last February. Instead, at the age of only 48, Paolo suffered a brain aneurysm in mid-September 2008 and became a Silent Key a few weeks later on October 12. Please see the tributes to Paolo in December 2008 CQ on pages 10 and 98. Paolo was a great operator on all modes, a former world champion and world record holder in WPX RTTY in the Single Operator High Power (SOH) and in Multi-Single (M/S) categories, and still the world champion Single Op 15 meters. He was a great friend to many, many amateurs around the world. He is, and will continue to be, sadly missed by the amateur radio community.

Taking over Paolo's job as Chief Log-Checker for this contest is Ed, WØYK, a RTTY SOH world champion in his own right in both the RTTY WW and WPX contests. For this job, Ed continued the work Paolo had started with Ken Wolff, K1EA, to modernize the log-checking software used for both CQ RTTY contests. Our previous software was developed around 2000 and had not been substantially updated since then. The result that Ken and Ed have produced is much more efficient and flexible software that has brought RTTY WW and WPX log-checking fully into compliance with the newer log-checking software used by the CQ WW SSB and CW contests. Aiding Ed in log-checking and fixing broken logs were W1UE and K6UFO. Going forward, Ed has agreed to replace me, W6OTC, as RTTY Contest Director in 2009, beginning with the CQ WPX RTTY Contest. I will continue as a member of the RTTY Contest Advisory Committee.

As we said last year, the annual increases in RTTY contesting activity are finding the major bands being filled more and more outside of the traditional 15–30 kHz spread on each band. On 80 meters, activity now seems to gravitate around 3570–3600 kHz (note that in the U.S., RTTY is no longer permitted above 3600 kHz), with excursions down to 3520–3525 to accommodate the JA band plan. On 40 meters, activity now ranges from 7025 (remember the JA band plan at 7025–7030 kHz for domestic contacts, but up to 7045 kHz for international contacts) to 7080 kHz, or up to 7100 kHz in North America. Note that above around 7070 kHz, broadcast stations dominate the band in Europe. On 20 meters, activity ranges all the way from 14055 to beyond 14125 kHz—but note that the JA band plan ends at 14112 kHz. The spreads on 15 and 10 meters continue to be much narrower because the solar flux has been low, but one can expect to see 200 kHz spreads on those bands as the solar flux rises in Cycle 24.

While these are great and inevitable reflections of annually increasing RTTY contesting activity, we should be mindful of the activities that are fixed on certain frequencies on each band and try to avoid those frequencies. As I have noted in the past two years, an important example is the NCDXF/IARU Beacons that are located worldwide on 14100. These beacons are, in fact, a good tool for



Former CQ RTTY Co-Chair and Chief Log-Checker, and CQ Contest Hall of Fame Member, Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, became a Silent Key in October 2008. He was a great operator on all modes and a good friend to many, many amateurs around the world.

you to know what areas are open to your location at any time of the day—and particularly what areas may just be opening but not yet recognized by local operators. The beacons operate at low power and are easily overwhelmed by any RTTY operation on frequency. For details look at <www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html>. The NCDXF/IARU beacons on 15 meters and 10 meters are located at 21150 kHz and 28200 kHz, relatively higher in each band, but still potentially within the portion of each band where RTTY contesting occurs.

Other frequencies worth avoiding to maintain good relations with our fellow hams are the QRP calling frequencies, located at 14060



After the contest at HC8N. Seated: Chelita, Secretary of the Galapagos Radio Sociedad. Standing (left to right): Steve, K6AW; Ramon, XE1KK, Secretary of IARU Region II; Glenn, W6OTC; Guido, HC8GR, President of the Galapagos Radio Sociedad.

*e-mail: <w6otc@garlic.com>

**e-mail: <w0yk@cqwrrty.com>

kHz, 21060 kHz, and 28060 kHz, as well as the PSK calling frequencies at 7070–7073, 14070–14072, and 21070–21072 kHz. Again, the low-power nature of these operations makes competition with RTTY signals very difficult for them.

Single Operator

Single-Op All Band High Power. Traditionally, Ed, P49X (op: W0YK), has focused on the RTTY WPX contest, having won SOH two years running and having established new world records in 2007 (breaking I2UIY's 2004 and 2006 world records) and again in 2008. However, this time Ed added WW RTTY to his schedule and won the SOH category handily with a record South America score of 6,080,778 points (3,438 Q's, 594 mults). The next four scores were incredibly close. In world second place was Dennis, W1UE, who won North America with a score of 3,700,656 points. Only 28,000 points behind Dennis, and winning Europe, in world third place, was LY2IJ, who scored 3,672,775 points. Just 6,000 points back Tyler, K3MM, scored 3,666,440 points.

Single-Op All Band Low Power. SOL scores increased somewhat in 2008 compared to 2007, showing the influence of greater participation versus lower transmitted power, even at the bottom of the solar cycle. Here, the Dominican Republic station HI3T (op: HI3TEJ) repeated as champion with a score of 2,654,680 points (2,167 Q's, 499 mults). The well-known African contestant, Mohamed, CN8KD, operating as 5C5W, and perennially in the SOL top 3, was again world second, only 36,000 points behind HI3T, at 2,618,530 points, a new Africa record in SOL. World third moved from the Caribbean to Canada, where VA2UP scored 1,662,375 points.

Single-Op 10M. Continuing for the third year as world 10-meter champ, John, LU1HF, scored 71,200 points (248 Q's, 100 mults). IT9EQO won second place with 2,880 points.

Single-Op 15M. Fifteen-meter scores continued their decline this year as world-wide MUF (maximum usable frequency) continued to decrease for most of the daytime. This time 9A2DQ won the world with a score of 138,918 points (399 Q's, 137 mults). In world second was EA5EN, scoring 127,512 points. SV8CS won world third with a score of 110,875 points.

Single-Op 20M. Twenty meters reversed the single band scoring slide of 10 and 15 meters, with the three highest scores ever in SO20 being achieved. The winner, 9A5W, broke his 2006 world record score of 868,020 points with a world record score this time of 1,064,187 points (1,926 Q's, 207 mults). In world second, F8DBF scored 989,200 points, the second highest SO20 score ever. CS7A (op: DL1YD) was very close behind in world third with a score of 921,300 points, the third highest SO20 score ever. These scores are good omens for future years.

Single-Op 40M. Forty meters continued the trend set by 20 meters, with the top two

scoring higher than anyone else in WW RTTY history and the third-place winner eclipsing his 2007 winning score. The winner and new world record holder was I4IKW, last year's Europe record-setter, who scored 632,960 points (1,363 Q's, 184 mults). F6CTT was world second, scoring 592,884 points. In world third was the 2005 and 2007 world winner, 7X0RY, who set a new Africa record with a score of 564,256 points. The Oceania record fell to KH6/KU1CW, who scored 432,180 points.

Single-Op 80M. As one would expect with a low solar flux and increasing entries, the 80-meter big guns set new world records. As usual, Europe dominated the top scores with

Tone, S54E, returning to his frequent position as world 80-meter champion. He scored a new world record of 324,142 points (1,047 Q's, 137 mults). In second place, also exceeding last year's world record, was OK3R (op: OK1DVM), who scored 295,202 points. I4AVG won world third with a score of 243,124 points. As on 40 meters, a Hawaii station decisively beat the previous Oceania record, this time by Kimo, KH7U, who scored 114,095 points.

Single-Op Assisted All Band. For the second year running, Wanderley, ZX2B (PY2MNL), won SOA and set another new world record with a score of 4,086,999 points (2,263 Q's, 609 mults). Next was I4K4MP

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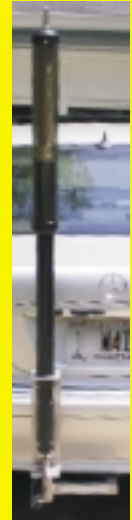
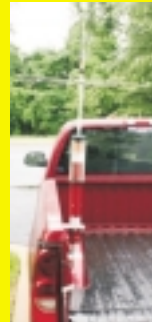
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2008 CQ WW RTTY CONTEST PLAQUE WINNERS AND SPONSORS

Single Operator High Power

World: Sponsored by John Orton, WA6BDB. **Winner: P49X (op: Ed Muns, W0YK)**
N.A.: Sponsored by Wayne King, N2WK. **Winner: Dennis Egan, W1UE**
Europe: Sponsored by Andrei Stchislenok, EW1AR/NP3D (in Memory of EU1MM).
Winner: Arunas Vaglys, LY2IJ
S.A.: Sponsored by Radio Club Cordoba, LU4HH. **Winner: LT0H (op: Juan A. Fedelich, LU3HY)**
Asia: Sponsored by Darrell Penrod, K9MUG. **Winner: Vadim Ovsyannikov, UA9CLB**
Oceania: Sponsored by Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C. **Winner: Fred Benardella, KH6FI**
U.S.A.: Sponsored by Joseph Young, W6RLL. **Winner: Tyler Stewart, K3MM**
Canada: Sponsored Contest Group du Quebec. **Winner: Lee Sawkins, VE7CC**

Single Operator Low Power

World: Sponsored by Don Hill, AA5AU. **Winner: Ted Jimenez, HI3T**
N.A.: Joseph Young, W6RLL. **Winner: Fabi Bertolotto, VA2UP**
S.A.: Sponsored by Trey Garlough, N5KO. **Winner: Vitor Luis Aidar Dos Santos, PY2NY**
Europe: Sponsored by George Johnson, W1ZT. **Winner: Manuel German Piedehierro, EE7AJR**
Asia: Sponsored by Jim Reisert, AD1C. **Winner: RT9S (op: Yuri Kotelnikov, UA9SP)**
Oceania: Sponsored by Doug Faunt, N6TQS. **Winner: Felimon Morano, Jr., DV1JM**
U.S.A.: Sponsored by George Johnson, W1ZT. **Winner: Bob Raymond, WA1Z**
Canada: Sponsored by Scott Nichols, VE1OP, and Andy McLellan, VE9DX.
Winner: Robby Robertson, VY2SS

Single Operator Assisted

World: Sponsored by Mike Sims, K4GMH. **Winner: ZX2B (op: Wanderley Ferreira Gomes, PY2MNL)**
N.A.: George Marsloff, K4GM. **Winner: Mike Sims, K4GMH**
Europe: RCKLog Contest Logger by DL4RCK. **Winner: Fulvio Tumidei, IK4MGP**
U.S.A.: Tyler Stewart, K3MM. **Winner: Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z**

Single Operator Single Band

World 28 MHz: Sponsored by Steve Hodgson, ZC4LI. **Winner: John Morandi, LU1HF**
World 21 MHz: Sponsored by Dean St. Hill, 8P6SH. **Winner: Zelimir Klasan, 9A2DQ**
World 14 MHz: Sponsored by Kenny Young, AB4GG. **Winner: Nikola Percin, 9A5W**
N.A. 14 MHz: Sponsored by Patrick W. Soileau, ND5C. **Winner: Bob Patten, N4BP**
Europe 14 MHz: Sponsored by Jim Steel, M0ZAK. **Winner: Sebastien Le Gall, F8DBF**

U.S.A. 14 MHz: Sponsored by James (Jamie) Punderson, IV, W2QQ. **Winner: Don Hill, AA5AU**

World 7 MHz: Sponsored Abroham Neal Software by Neal Campbell, K3NC. **Winner: Marco Venturi, I4IKW**

N.A. 7 MHz: Sponsored by Don Reed, K2OGD. **Winner: Rick Mintz, W1TY/2**

U.S.A. 7 MHz: Sponsored by Charles Morrison, K15XP. **Winner: Roland J. Guidry, NA5Q**

World 3.5 MHz: Sponsored by Glenn Vinson, W6OTC. **Winner: Tone Crv, S54E**

Multi-Op Single-Transmitter Low Power

World: Sponsored by David Robbins, K1TTT. **Winner: EW1AR (ops: EW1AR, EU1AZ, EU1DX)**

Multi-Op Single-Transmitter High Power

World: Sponsored by Tom Osborne, W7WHY. **Winner: CN3A (ops: IK2QEI, IK1HXN, IK1SPR, IK1RQT, IV3ZXQ, CN8WW, CN8WK)**
N.A.: Sponsored by James Skjerven, K5TS. **Winner: K4FJ (ops: K3KG, K4FJ)**
U.S.A.: Sponsored by Steve Jarrett, K4FJ. **Winner: K3MJW (ops: AB3ER, K3MD, K3RMB, K3RWN, KB3FXI, KB3HGJ, KB3LVH, KG3F, KR3P, N3GJ, WA3KFS, WC3O)**

Multi-Op Two Transmitter

World: Sponsored by Ed Muns, W0YK. **Winner: HC8N (ops: K6AW, W6OTC, XE1KK)**
N.A.: Sponsored by Steve Merchant, K6AW. **Winner: WW4LL (ops: K1ZZI, K9JS, K4ZJ, N4LR, WF4W, WW4LL, W8JI)**
Europe: Sponsored by CT3 Madeira Contest Team/CT9M/CQ9K. **Winner: LX7I (ops: LX2A, LX1DA, DF8QB)**

Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter

World: Sponsored by KA4RRU RTTY Team. **Winner: EA8AH (ops: RD3AF, RZ3AZ, OH1RY, OH1MA, EA8CAC)**
N.A.: Sponsored by Cuzco Contest Club, WK1Q. **Winner: K1TTT (ops: K1MK, K1SFA, K1TTT, K2BB, KB10EV, KC2PNE, KC2PNN, KM1P, N1FJ, W1EQO, W1TO)**
Europe: Sponsored by SKY Contest Club. **Winner: 4O3A (ops: 4O3A, IV3TMV, IV3YWT, S50XX, S52X, S55O, S57MM, S57RL, S58LA)**
U.S.A.: Sponsored by David Robbins, K1TTT. **Winner: KA4RRU (ops: KA4RRU, N4DXS, K3UI, K4RG, KK4KM, KD6AKC, K5VG, K14KEZ, W9JOP)**

Club Competition

World: Sponsored by the Potomac Valley Radio Club. **Winner: Bavarian Contest Club**
N.A.: Sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. **Winner: Yankee Clipper Contest Club**

CLUB SCORES

UNITED STATES

Club Name	No. Entries	Total Score
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB.....	30	22,225,018
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB.....	33	18,429,712
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB.....	38	17,623,160
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP.....	6	7,110,441
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB.....	12	6,028,180
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS.....	17	5,279,566
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP.....	15	5,037,788
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP.....	12	3,147,565
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN.....	23	2,772,158
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB.....	8	2,562,153
CTRI CONTEST GROUP.....	7	2,064,517
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB.....	5	1,410,778
LOW COUNTRY CONTEST CLUB.....	4	1,377,569
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO.....	5	1,193,694
CENTRAL ARIZONA DX ASSOCIATION.....	6	1,165,727
ORDER OF BOILED OWLS OF NEW YORK.....	4	1,089,966
WESTERN NEW YORK DX ASSOCIATION.....	3	1,037,198
KANSAS CITY DX CLUB.....	4	1,002,205
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB.....	4	987,829
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB.....	5	921,971
CENTRAL TEXAS DX & CONTEST CLUB.....	5	462,353
KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP.....	4	329,862
SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION.....	3	216,153
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN.....	3	173,048
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION.....	3	85,305

DX

BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB.....	47	29,234,198
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION.....	60	29,189,400
URAL CONTEST GROUP.....	11	8,420,820
SKY CONTEST CLUB.....	3	8,145,346
HUNGARIAN DX CLUB.....	5	7,791,249
YU CONTEST CLUB.....	6	7,641,495
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO.....	20	6,778,500
LU CONTEST GROUP.....	12	6,607,687
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB.....	23	6,135,840
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB.....	10	5,231,337
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB.....	5	4,988,508
LITHUANIAN CONTEST GROUP.....	3	4,269,476
SOUTH URAL CONTEST CLUB.....	8	4,213,506
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB.....	12	3,484,876
CONTEST CLUB FINLAND.....	3	3,415,371
WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS.....	6	3,335,989
RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB.....	6	3,191,012
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC.....	5	2,982,560
DL-DX RTTY CONTEST GROUP.....	10	2,847,983
BRITISH COLUMBIA DX CLUB.....	4	2,788,904
CHILTERN DX CLUB.....	9	2,621,975
TEMIRTAU CONTEST CLUB.....	4	2,595,598
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB.....	7	2,415,045
SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB.....	4	1,789,677
ORENBURG CONTEST CLUB.....	3	1,239,618
KRIVBASS.....	3	1,011,637
SP DX CLUB.....	11	907,636
599 CONTEST CLUB.....	3	870,236
GRUPO DXXE.....	5	752,729
RTTYCJ.....	5	453,072
ARAUCARIA DX GROUP.....	3	425,344
VK CONTEST CLUB.....	3	287,402
KKKK CONTEST CLUB KRASNODARSKOGO KRAYA.....	4	238,367
SHAKHAN CONTEST CLUB.....	3	116,356

(ops: 4O3A, IV3TMV, IV3YWT, S50XX, S52X, S55O, S57MM, S57RL, S58LA) scored 7,795,942 points.

Multi-Two. The number of entrants in the MO2 class continued to increase, and score differences between the top stations continued to get closer than ever before. HC8N (ops: K6AW, W6OTC, XE1KK) continued in first place, scoring 8,336,688 points (4,140 Q's, 678 mults). World second was CT9L (ops: DL1YFF, DK1QH, DL1QW, DJ6QT) with 7,681,608 points. Africa also won world third, with 3V8BB (ops: YT1AD, YT3W, S56A) scoring 5,887,614 points.

Multi-Single All Band High Power. The rules of the CQ WW RTTY multi-operator, single transmitter class, encouraging the use of a run station and a multiplier station, continue to produce a large number of entries every year, particularly from European stations, and African stations manned by Europeans. This time another HC8N

world record (6,383,328 points) dating back to the year 2000 was smashed by CN3A (ops: IK2QEI, IK1HXN, IK1SPR, IK1RQT, IV3ZXQ, CN8WW, CN8WK), which scored a great 7,576,256 points (3,685 Q's, 688 mults). In world second, and setting a new European record, was E73M (ops: E73M, E73Y, E74A, E74KC), scoring 4,503,555 points (3,007 Q's, 595 mults). Extremely close behind, HG1S (ops: HA1TJ, HA1DAC, HA1DAI, HA1DAE), also beat the old European record but had to settle for world third, with a score of 4,424,436 points.

Multi-Single All Band Low Power. Unlike 2007, the MOL results moved up and were very competitive, but were not back into record territory. With no sunspots, low power is a tough way to compete. The winner was EW1AR (ops: EW1AR, EU1AZ, EU1DX), which scored 1,348,872 points (1,516 Q's, 392 mults). World second was N0NI (ops: N0NI, N0XR, K0WHV, W0FLS), scoring 1,342,796 points. Repeating in world third place was 9A7T (ops: 9A2EU, 9A2NO, 9A5MR, 9A7BDJ) with a greatly improved score of 1,219,136 points.

Clubs

Club scores and competition continued to grow significantly in the 2008 contest. We invite clubs to sponsor additional plaques for club competition around the world. If your club is interested, contact Mike, K4GMH (k4gmh@arrl.net), chairman of the plaque program for CQ WW RTTY and for CQ WPX RTTY.

This time, the top five scores all surpassed the 13-million points score of last year's winner. The Bavarian Contest Club repeated as world first, scoring 29,234,198 points, barely beating the Rhein Ruhr DX Association's score of 29,189,400 points. The Yankee Clipper Contest Club won the North America trophy by almost doubling its 2007 score with a total of 22,225,018 points. The Northern California Contest Club increased its 2007 score by 50%, but its 18,429,712 points were good enough only for world fourth and North America second place this time. Finally, although the Potomac Valley Radio Club increased its 2007 score by almost 90%, the PVRC dropped to world fifth place with a score of 17,623,160 points.

One word of caution for club entrants: Given the dramatic increase in logs claiming club affiliation, contestants should expect more inquiries in future contests from the log checkers about whether a particular log meets the requirements of Rule XIII—for example, whether the member operated within a 275-km radius from the center of the club area and whether all operators of multi-operator stations are members of the specified club.

Those of you who are eligible and who choose to designate a club affiliation should enter the *full name of the club* on the appropriate line of your Cabrillo header. To improve the accuracy of this process, Randy, K5ZD, has set up a web page showing official names for all CQ WW and WPX contests, regardless of mode. Please look at <www.cqwpw.com/clubnames.htm> and put the name of your club in the Cabrillo header, *exactly* as spelled on this list. If your club is not on this list, or if your club's name is misspelled, please send a message to the address indicated on the site.

Summary

CQ WW RTTY has now completed its 22nd year, has entered (just barely) its third solar cycle, and has seen activity increase dramatically year after year. As we predicted after the 2007 contest, we reached the 2,000 log milestone for the 2008 contest. We expect this trend will continue as the propagation conditions improve. Please remember that while the popular RTTY logging programs and others allow one to submit a log very quickly after the contest, they do not necessarily produce an accurate Cabrillo-formatted log. Accordingly, you will usually find it worthwhile to review your log to correct obvious errors. See W0YK's sidebar, "2008 CQWW RTTY Log Checking," in this article for some important log-submission tips.

Transmitted information versus Cabrillo-formatted log: You may transmit the exchange information (for U.S. and Canadian stations, RST, State, Zone; for non-U.S. stations, RST, Zone) in whatever order you prefer, but when the log is submitted, Cabrillo specifies that the correct order of this information in the log is RST, Zone, State (or, for non-U.S. and Canadian stations, RST, Zone, DX). Most logging programs put the information in the correct order for Cabrillo,

2008 CQ WW RTTY Log Checking

By Ed Muns, WØYK

In the words of our dearly departed Paolo, I2UIY, "Please, please read your Cabrillo log before submitting." Yes, it's noble to submit your log immediately after the contest, but if it has formatting errors, you will likely lose credit for perfectly valid QSOs. Secondly, format errors in your log will cause NILs (not in logs) in other logs, resulting in those operators also losing credit for the QSO and possibly incurring an NIL penalty. Thirdly, mis-formatted logs make log checking much more time-consuming for the volunteers. If every participant would ensure his or her own log meets the Cabrillo format, these problems would be avoided. It only takes a very few minutes of time to open your Cabrillo log in a text editor and compare the format with the Cabrillo specification at <www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/> for the CQ WW RTTY or WPX RTTY contests. Note that "DX" should be in the QTH field for each non-US/VE QSO, both Sent and Received QTH.

Some loggers do not produce Cabrillo files that meet the published specs. Although many loggers accurately create Cabrillo files, they are confined to the data you insert (or omit) in the native log file and/or the configuration windows. For example, if you tell the logging software that your QTH is "USA" rather than, say, North Carolina ("NC"), then all your sent exchanges are wrong in the log file, not matching what you actually sent in your exchange message. Every station you work then loses credit for the QSO.

Another example is where the Zone and QTH columns are reversed due to either a logger bug or because it just reflects the order in

which you entered the data. Some submitted logs have this reversal intermittently throughout the entire log. Instead of simply being able to swap the two columns with a column editor, the log-check volunteer must laboriously go through every QSO line and correct the reversed exchanges.

Other examples are where the QTH field is missing entirely, so credit is lost for all those QSOs. No doubt that QSO data is in the native log, but just didn't make it through the translation into Cabrillo format. Or the Received Exchange is replicated in the Sent Exchange columns. Or the Received Exchange columns are swapped with the Sent Exchange columns. Having times that are off significantly—e.g., all times set to 1005—causes NILs in your log for all those contacts. Using a special symbol that looks like a slashed zero but isn't cannot be read by the log-check software, ignoring those QSOs and giving NILs to the other station for a valid QSO. Then there were a few logs that showed a callsign different from what they transmitted! And so on and so on.

Show your appreciation to the log checkers, and the stations that helped put QSOs in your log, by taking a few minutes to actually read the Cabrillo log you create before submitting it. With everyone pitching in to make sure their logs meet the Cabrillo specs, many hours of tedious work by the log-check team can be avoided. Also, far fewer NILs will be unfairly levied on your fellow contest participants.

Please note that your LCR (Log Check Report) is available upon request from <w0yk@cqwrrty.com>.

but some do not. Please inspect your log to be sure the information is in the order specified by the Cabrillo format.

To check all-time CQ WW RTTY Records, look at <www.rttycontesting.com>, maintained by Don, AA5AU. Don is presently in the process of transferring these records to the CQ WW RTTY website at <www.cqwrrty.com>.

For a list of multi station ops and more QRM, go to <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and <www.cqwrrty.com>.

We have succeeded in converting virtually all RTTY contesters to submitting their logs electronically, with all logs now submitted via e-mail to <rtty@cqwrrty.com>. However, because the participation in this con-



Wilf, DJ6TK, operating at club station DLØMFS.

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test continues to grow so rapidly, some newer participants neglect to note that the rules for this contest require recording the received state/province and zone information and submitting the log in proper Cabrillo format. If the submitted log does not include all of the critical exchange data (including zones, states, provinces) from the raw log, the log-checkers can do little to salvage the log. Accordingly, please carefully follow the instructions in your logging software (or your Cabrillo-conversion program) to be sure that all of the required fields have been included in your final log before submitting it to the robot. Also remember to read carefully any error message from the robot. The required language in the headers is precise and noted in each category as shown above—not simply anything you or your logging program decide to put there. Those errors are the most prevalent in the logs that required some editing by WØYK. In addition, Ed converted many non-Cabrillo logs to Cabrillo format prior to their being submitted into the master log-checking process. As in prior years, we received a large number of check-logs which were very helpful for log-checking. Thanks to all who submitted these logs.



Marco, I4IKW, Single Op 40 meters world record holder.

The 2009 CQ WW RTTY Contest

The 23rd Annual CQ WW RTTY Contest will be held on September 26–27, 2009. Please note that Cabrillo-format logs are highly encouraged for all entrants, with e-logs required from all potential high-scoring entrants in any category. Also, any computer-generated log with more than 50 contacts must be submitted via e-mail or on a 3.5-inch diskette via snail mail. For those who submit diskettes, please remember to send the diskettes in a protective envelope. E-mail is clearly the most reliable and easiest mode for log submissions, but we welcome all logs, including (subject to the restrictions described above) paper logs, no matter how they may be sent.

Finally, the deadline for log submissions is November 1, 2009. The full text of the 2009 rules will be published in the July issue of CQ, on the CQ website, and at <www.cqwwrtty.com>. Please read the rules carefully prior to the contest, and please note that all logs submitted via e-mail go to <rtty@cqww.com>.

73, Glenn, W6OTC, and Ed, WØYK

QRM

Great over the pole conditions to eastern North America. Enjoyed the contest. See you next year. ... **9M2CNC**. Once again I lost all my antennas to a hurricane just weeks before the contest. And once again was forced to do a single band effort. After building a tribander out of pieces of bent and broken aluminum, I felt fortunate just to be back on the air. ... **AA5AU**. First time in this loooooong RTTY contest. Operated 34 hours with KW to KT34A on 20m/15m and homebrew 48 ft vertical 80m/40m. Thanks to all who answered my CQ and for being patient with fills. Sorry for any QRM I may have caused on EU end. ... **AF4OX**. We got a working weekend in China and the holidays were swapped to make a so-called Golden week. Chose

40 meters as working band and had good fun. Other bands included for check log. Thank for all the contest QSOs and see you guys next year! ... **BD7JSQ**. My first CQ WW RTTY and will be not the last one, for sure! Will see you all next year! ... **CO8ZZ**. Poor condx on 15m, hard to work real DX. Sunday from 13 UT to the end of the contest the whole band was dead! ... **DJ8ES**. Incredible propagation in 80m towards west USA with the first lights of the day. ... **EA6LP**. Going QRP is pretty tough. Lambda/4 antenna for all bands and 5 watts out. This was mainly a low band activity; high bands were not in a good shape down here. Second day there was a lack of new stations. Anyway, I was amazed by the good ears of the operators. Thanks especially to K3MM, the only US station that worked me, and on 80m! ... **F5VBT**. Great fun with just 20W to a G5RV. This contest

gets better and better! ... **G0AZS**. Hard going with slow rates to start. First proper RTTY effort and I loved it! ... **G4MKP**. Best ever score, mostly due to good condx across the North Atlantic path, which allowed the 4-square to perform as it should and put many W/V stations into the log. However, no LP to the western states, and very little heard from JA and OC. Thanks to everyone for the QSOs, and as we're all saying these days, "Bring on the sunspots!" ... **GM3SEK**. Wall to wall from 14.050 up to 14.130. For once some good openings. Called CQ on 10 meters Sunday evening at 19:00 UTC and was answered by CT1FJK with a good signal followed by EA7HHV, EA7JTF, EA7KS, and EA7ST in quick succession. 20 provided a good helping of JA's on Sunday evening. Thanks for the 3-pointers JA. ... **J39BS**. This was my first effort at a RTTY contest. In fact, prior to

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3		
K7QQ	.....	941,304
W6WRT	.....	610,766
KY7M	.....	588,393
AB7R	.....	495,463
N6IE	.....	404,016
K6RB	.....	361,536
K7SFN	.....	355,500
NN6XX	.....	353,493
K7WP	.....	341,541
W4UAT/6	.....	308,112
*VA2UP	.....	1,662,375
VE7CC	.....	1,568,800
W0LSD	.....	1,288,000
*WX4TM	.....	1,243,431
K9MUG/4	.....	1,067,430
VE2FK	.....	920,915
K8UT	.....	892,520
KØFX	.....	885,408
K8AJS	.....	836,072
*VE3NE	.....	807,380
W1UE	.....	3,700,656
K3MM	.....	3,666,440
K5ZD/1	.....	1,836,007
*WA1Z	.....	1,465,408
VY2LI	.....	1,337,056
*N1BAA	.....	1,335,350
*N2QT/4	.....	1,164,131
K4FX	.....	1,145,358
*VY2SS	.....	1,127,764
AF4OX	.....	1,042,409
GI5K	.....	3,512,016
CT1ILT	.....	1,721,320
LN8W	.....	1,637,412
*EE7AJR	.....	1,580,670
*EA5GTQ	.....	1,250,220
F2JD	.....	1,234,905
F5VKT	.....	1,179,230
DL1LH	.....	1,108,946
G3YYD	.....	993,540
F8DBF	.....	989,200
LY2IJ	.....	3,672,775
S52OP	.....	2,578,680
SN7Q	.....	2,528,991
YU1AU	.....	1,785,150
IV3JCC	.....	1,135,863
9A5W	.....	1,064,187
HA1TNX	.....	1,055,236
YL2CI	.....	1,031,274
*HG8C	.....	884,976
*SQ9UM	.....	863,688
RA3CM	.....	1,458,821
UW5U	.....	1,331,229
RD4WA	.....	1,185,980
*RT9S	.....	1,181,410
UX2X	.....	1,105,037
UT4ZG	.....	1,038,558
R4/UT5UDX	.....	1,001,466
*RV3WT	.....	833,404
EV1R	.....	765,450
RX9SA	.....	760,020
YO9HP	.....	2,881,521
*4Z5CP	.....	1,095,288
*H2E	.....	906,836
ZC4LI	.....	788,707
*LZ9R	.....	733,312
*SV1BDO/3	.....	529,232
*SV8RX	.....	502,282
*YO3APJ	.....	436,570
SV1DPI	.....	354,040
YO3JF	.....	326,946
JH4UYB	.....	2,127,424
JF1PJK	.....	749,208
JR3NZC	.....	558,000
*JA1OVD	.....	502,788
JA8TR	.....	400,440
JA1HG7	.....	397,138
*J11RXQ	.....	353,632
*JA7EMH	.....	311,992
*JA5SUD	.....	265,203
*JP1QDH	.....	262,300
*Low Power	.....

Important On-Line Resources

To prepare for the 2009 contest, please refer to the following on-line resources:

Home site for this contest: <www.cqwwrtty.com>. This site will be expanded throughout the year to contain more CQ WW RTTY information.

Cabrillo specifications: <www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/spec.html>

Cabrillo template for this contest: <www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/cqww-rtty.txt>

Club name list: <www.cqwp.com/clubnames/htm>

Log Submissions: <rtty@cqww.com>

All other correspondence: <w0yk@cqwwrtty.com>

List of logs received: <www.cqwwrtty.com/logs-received-rtty.htm>

this weekend I had exactly two (2) RTTY contacts in my log, one with A35RK in 1994 and one with VK0IR in 1997. Very much a learning experience, but I enjoyed it. ... **K0HB**. Spent first hour with no QSOs and finally fixed loose cable from PC to radio. SWR shot up at 3AM Saturday, but couldn't use amp until found bad lightning arrestor Saturday afternoon. Equipment troubles aside, 80m had a lot of good activity and made my single band effort enjoyable. Thanks to all for the Q's! ... **K4XD**. Conditions were wonderful for this portion of the solar cycle. I had a real blast with 30.5 hours of activity time. I picked up some new ones which hopefully will put me over the top for confirmed RTTY DXCC. As others have reported the level of participation was astonishing! I even managed a bunch of DX on 15m, unheard of in the last few years in this event for me. Thanks to all for the QSOs from this modest station. ... **K7RE**. Nice openings to EU and AF! ... **KA6SGT**. Lots of fun, and I finally got Morocco! I really enjoy RTTY and haven't done it for a while. Looking forward to the

next one. ... **KB8M**. My first RTTY contest. I just got my license one month ago. I am 12 years old. I had lots of fun, and will be back next time. It was exciting to work so many new countries into Europe and Asia. I'm on my way to DXCC RTTY! ... **KD0EYY**. Heard lots of EU but 100W wasn't good enough with the solar flux at 68. Come on sunspots! ... **KE7YF**. Thanks to KH6YY, KH6ND, AH7C, and AH6NF for the opportunity to set new OC record. Traveled back to the USA aboard USS-72 *Abraham Lincoln*. What a trip! ... **KH6/KU1CW**. What a blast! In the wake of solar minimum, I worked more contacts during this contest than in any previous year. 20 meters was more crowded than I have ever seen it, from 14045 to 14149! This was an action packed weekend of digital fun! RTTY seems to be getting more popular by each and every contest. Thanks CQ for another great contest! ... **KL8DX**. Great contest and my first 48 hour single op 2 radio RTTY contest. Played 46 of them, but I think I could have done them all. Managed 300+ second radio QSOs. Not bad for first time

SO2R. Great fun! ... **LN8W**. Had a wonderful time during this contest. Got some good DX calls and a better score than last time. The transceiver and linear worked faultlessly during the whole contest. Kenwood TS-570D & Heathkit SB-200 into an indoor (loft) folded dipole antenna. Thanks to the organizers and all contestants and see you all next year. ... **M0UNI**. Splitting the shack time with newly licensed daughter was a blast! "Daddy, I worked Iceland and Japan." "You don't have a JA do ya?" Fun! ... **N0KK**. What a contest. Never have I seen so many stations participating. I'm sure looking forward to next year's contest. ... **N5KWN**. This is the first contest for our new club, Carolina Shine. We had an absolute ball and learned a lot. A good strategy and band plan are key to doing well. We ate and talked too much, but had a wonderful time and even managed to make a few contacts! Already looking forward to next year. ... **NC4CS**. The contest weekend brought a lot of nice DX. The best for me was HC8 on the 80m band. ... **OE5JKL**. Nice to be able to participate with my limited equipment but I wanted to offer my special call sign to as many people as possible. 40 years ago I did my first contest and I still enjoy running a test any weekend I can. Hope to meet you all in another contest soon. ... **PA40MIR**.

This was our first M/M setup in RTTY. Also the first contest with a K3. What a nice radio! The setup was four K3's and four PA's in a 9 square meters room. We had a lot of fun! ... **PI4CC**. I've operated in CQ WW since 1982, but it was my first RTTY CQ WW. New mode, new sense! ... **RU3SE**. Thanks for the contest! ... **RV4LC**. You can have a great time with just 100 watts on a 40m Delta Loop and a tuner. CU next year! ... **SV1BDO**. Highlights included KG4SS in Guantanamo Bay, DV1JM in the Philippines, JA1NPD in Japan, and 9M2CNC in Malaysia. What great fun, and thanks for organizing this great event. ... **TF3AM**. Thank you very much for a contest. It was a great pleasure to meet old friends. ... **US0HZ**. Started contest and found that Yaesu rotor moved only ± 60 degrees. Worked All stations with antenna pointing to North Pole! ... **VA3TTU**. Great time on 80m with new short Beverage; boosted score big-time! Europe was open both days on 20m and 40m, unlike last year. ... **VA7ST**. Even at solar minimum I was shocked at the numbers I worked this year. An awesome effort by all, and most were well behaved, too! hi! ... **VE3TES**. First contest after 62 years in ham radio! Probably not the last. ... **VE4ZN**. From VK3, only two bands really available, 20 and 40, so had to make the best of them. With only 200 watts, also got a lot of "AGN" Hi! But enjoyed very much. Hurry up sunspots. ... **VK3FM**. 80 meters was very quiet. 40 meters was the hot band. Thanks to all who worked us in VK! ... **VK3TDX**. Some neighbors came over and said, "We thought that was all done automatically. Why don't you just let the computer do it all?" I told them, "Just wait a few years." Hope I'm wrong. This is too much fun to let computers do it all. ... **W0YR**. It was fun to get back on RTTY, work some new countries, and hand out contest points. My new Elecraft K3 was a pleasure to use. It continues to impress me the more I use it. ... **W8KEN**. In most years I pick single band. This year I am glad I went to all band. Most of Sunday was frustrating to hold a run frequency, or trying to find an open spot to CQ on 20. Sure look forward to wide open spaces on 10 meters. ... **WA1FCN**. Despite the poor condx on 15m and 10m bands, it was an excellent contest. More and more hams join the contest every year, making CQ WW RTTY the most important RTTY event. Thank you for calling me! ... **YO9HP**. Great contest! Best conditions for some months made this one a pleasure. Really looking forward to the new cycle kicking off though! Good to see a mix of old friends and new calls on my screen. ... **ZS2EZ**.

(Continued on page 106)

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*DK0CU	A	306,004	607	136	45	45	OM3RJB	A	1,768,914	1,695	242	83	92
*DD0DRK	-	165,502	474	111	34	21	OM7M	-	384,549	539	130	60	81
*DK3W	-	109,980	241	107	43	38							
Kalininingrad				Spain									
*RK2FXG	A	161,100	403	124	38	17	EG1W	A	2,799,000	2,236	270	90	140
				Ukraine									
*SP9KDA	A	872,040	1,103	205	66	73	UZ4E	A	1,585,376	1,675	254	87	71
*SP2KDS	-	184,755	764	76	18	19	UT7AXA	-	2,461	52	17	6	0
Poland				SOUTH AMERICA									
*CS1CRE	A	1,122,648	1,422	185	64	99	Argentina						
				Peru									
*OM3KWZ	A	731,910	1,039	182	58	70	OA4D	A	2,503,332	1,812	222	87	159
				Uruguay									
*S57SU	A	889,658	1,007	214	73	84	CX3CCC	A	476,619	542	145	68	90
				MULTI-OPERATOR									
				TWO TRANSMITTER									
				NORTH AMERICA									
				United States									
*UX4E	A	456,168	837	169	47	33	WW4LL	3,884,768	3,051	291	106	187	
*UW0L	-	114,296	283	119	43	20	N2WK	2,854,912	2,420	266	96	182	
				SOUTH AMERICA									
				Argentina									
*LV6D	A	291,828	401	106	56	87	K0TW1	1,185,144	1,207	223	78	136	
*LR7F	-	135,364	268	69	41	62	NQ4U	725,816	1,135	153	72	139	
*LU3DY	-	19,504	77	34	29	29							
				Canada									
				AFRICA									
				Madeira Islands									
				Tunisia									
				ASIA									
				Asiatic Russia									
				EUROPE									
				England									
				European Russia									
				Finland									
				Germany									
				Luxembourg									
				Macedonia									
				SOUTH AMERICA									
				Argentina									
				Galapagos Islands									
				MULTI-OPERATOR									
				NORTH-TRANSMITTER									
				NORTH AMERICA									
				United States									
				AFRICA									
				Canary Islands									
				EUROPE									
				Belgium									
				Bulgaria									
				Finland									
				Italy									
				Montenegro									
				Netherlands									
				SOUTH AMERICA									
				Uruguay									
				CHECKLOGS									
				The following submitted checklogs, which are always appreciated: 9M6XRO, DM5GI, HA1SN, SP7HQ, HA1YI, RU3EJ, PA2MRT, RV6HO, RU6YY, G3UMT, UA6HO, VE3MZY, DL1NRC, DM5JL, UA5AGW, IZ7CRW, OK2DW, PA7LZ, UX1IL, LA2GH, PY0FF, IZ1BBI, EA1JW, GB4WQ, EA4NW, RA3DXD, OK2ZW, OL8M, UA9BA, EA3NO, OK1DRQ, KA6SGT/9, DL3BBY, DO3PKE, 9A3GX, DL3KVR, R29AZ, DG7LAE, UA1RJ, W9ANT, RZ6HF, RL3FA, SP7AWG, UU2JG, CU2JT, SP6M, SO2GXO, DL2BOV, SP6NVK, WA6L, EY1HO, UA1CRK, EA5YN, YO2MAX, SN0AXL.									

zero bias

(from page 8)

nobody comes to a multi-day hamfest on Sunday anymore. It used to be that we'd get off to a very slow start, but then see an influx of people in late morning, after church services finished up. This has not been happening in recent years. The two most successful regional hamfests today—the Orlando Hamcation and Ham-Com outside Dallas—have shifted to Friday afternoon and Saturday as their main selling times. In some cases, business on Fridays has rivaled that of Saturdays. It may be time for planners of other multi-day hamfests to begin looking into the Friday/Saturday option as an alternative to the traditional Saturday/Sunday show.

Seeking Sunspots

Another popular topic of conversation at Charlotte—and particularly at the Carolina DX Association dinner, which I was once again privileged to attend—was sunspots, or more accurately, lack of sunspots. We are now into what feels like the 15th year of the current sunspot minimum, and DX on the upper HF bands continues to be in short supply. There's a funny thing going on at the same time, though. Participation in DX-related activities, such as contests and DXpeditions, continues to increase even though supposedly there's no DX to be worked. As reported in this month's DX column, the recent K5D DXpedition to Desecheo Island made more than 115,000 contacts! The 2008 CQ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest, whose results appear in this issue, broke the 2000-log threshold for the first time (a 20% increase from 2007), and the 2008 CQ WW DX Contest—the biggest of them all—had more than 10,000 logs submitted for the first time ever. And in the 2008 CQ DX Marathon, which also saw an increase in log submissions of more than 20%, the top five claimed scores in the Unlimited Class all claimed contacts with more than 280 DXCC entities in all 40 CQ zones; in the lower-power Formula Class, all five top claimed scores were for more than 200 countries in more than 35 zones (three of the five worked all 40 zones). So, either a whole lot of people are lying about working non-existent DX, or maybe, just maybe, despite the lack of sunspots, there is still plenty of DX to be worked by those willing to put in the effort. And despite all the talk about ham radio fading away into nothingness, activity levels appear to be on the increase. So, either fewer hams are becoming much more active, or all those "non-existent" new hams (roughly 25,000 per year) actually do exist and are getting on the air and making contacts. A decade ago, I started giving club talks titled "Ham Radio: Successfully Dying for the Past 50 Years." I guess it's time to update the title ... it appears we've now been "successfully dying" for the past 60 years—and counting!

73, Rich W2VU

Clarification & Safety Warning

April's review of the TAK-tenna mini HF dipole antenna suggested that an attic might be a possible location to install this small antenna. Company owner Steve Tetorka, WA2TAK, says his antennas should **NOT** be used indoors under any circumstances. This is due to very high voltages that can develop on the wires, especially if the antenna is not resonated (and 75% of users do not resonate them). These high voltages, in turn, can occasionally generate sparks, which pose a fire danger if the antenna is being used indoors. So use the TAK-tenna outdoors only. This warning is included in the instruction manual, so anyone following the instructions should not have a problem.