

Results of the 2023 CQ WW RTTY Contest

By Chris Tate N6WM
n6wm@largeradio.org

As we approach the solar peak, contest conditions this year have been amazing at times, and rough at others. The 2023 running of the mother of all RTTY contests, CQ World Wide RTTY, gave us a bit of both, with some stations reporting amazing propagation, particularly during the first 24 hours where many operators raved about their experience on the higher bands. I am sure we can all agree it's been great having a productive 10 meter band, and participant comments from around the world reinforced that fact.

With great conditions, and top operators around the world QRV, you can imagine there were many great performances across the board. We will touch on a few here. For a comprehensive list of all performances, please refer to the line scores tables for a detailed list of scores, records, and category details.

Single Operator Categories

The high power categories are the most popular and where some of the most serious competition takes place. Ed W0YK, operating from P49X, was once again solidly in the top position. Ed does a fine job of repeatedly showing us a master class of performance RTTY operation. In second place overall, and first in North America, Randy K5ZD also delivered a solid performance, besting his competition by over a million points. Both guys are not only great operators but also important contributors to the success of this and other contests. With a 5th place slot in the top 10, Jeff WK6I operating as W7RN from the mighty Comstock Memorial station in Nevada delivered a respectable performance representing the Western USA.

"That was fun - at one point 10 was open to just about everywhere!" – Jeff WK6I operating the W7RN superstation in Nevada

Sergey 5B4AMM took top honors once again, and set a new world record score, in the Single Operator Assisted category operating as P3X, narrowly outscoring LZ5R (Milen LZ5DB op).

In North America, Manu LU9ESD/AC1NU operated under the call and superstation K1LZ doing a great job up in record territory and taking the lead over well-known contester Bud AA3B. Manu mentioned the contest online scoreboard, that is increasing in popularity every year. It can really be motivating and fun to watch close races like the top 3 in this one!

"I've never enjoyed watching the live score as much as in this contest. In fact, I believe there were times when I got distracted because it was genuinely a show worth seeing!" – Manu LU9ESD



Manu LU9ESD operating at K1LZ

Masa JH4UYB turned in a great performance from his prolific station also making it to the top 10!



Masa JH4UYB

There were some good races in the Single Operator Assisted low power categories. Demitri F4DSK solidly came in with a win as TM3Z, well ahead of EA4GOY operating EE4Y. Rick KI1G took top North American honors narrowly edging well known low power operator and *rttycontesting.com* guru Don AA5AU. Ramon PZ5RA edged out the win in his category, in a tight race with Yuri VE3DZ and Mariano LU8EOT operating from KP2B.

Solar conditions like this only last for a few years, and they provide a great opportunity for QRP contesters to post some very reputable scores. For instance, Hugh K2YG, a hard core QRP RTTY op posted a winning score in his category, with a fair lead over second place SP50UUU (Krzysztof SP2UUU op). HA3JB travelled to Aruba and set a new world record on 20 meters.

In the QRP Assisted category, Rodrigo CT1BXT narrowly outscored Joe DL6ZBN. Jim W7RY was on top in the United States. EE3O set a new world record on 10 meters with HG1S doing the same on 15 meters.

Worldwide contests also provide competitors with interesting DX opportunities. This is great for the traveling operators who get to experience unworldly pileups as a reward, for fellow competitors who may get that extra multiplier that is not on the air regularly and introduces new operators to the contest as they seek getting a rare DX entity in the log. This was the case for Holger ZL3IO who ventured to Chatham Island and grabbed a spot in the top ten box.

“Chatham Island was on my bucket list for a long time, and I had a few attempts that did not happen due to the costs involved. Going to tropical Pacific Islands is actually much cheaper plus high band conditions are more favourable due to the closer proximity to the Equator.

When my friend Chris, ZL2DX/ZL7DX moved to Chatham and started building on an elevated site there was an option for me to go.

The result was much better than my expectation. Setting an OC record from 44 degrees South is tough and I surely did not expect to make it into the top ten world from down here.”

--Holger ZL7IO/ZL3IO

Multi-Operator Categories

The multi-op categories are fiercely competitive as well, but integrate a teamwork element that provides camaraderie, operator to band focus, as well as different strategies and techniques, depending on the category that can result in monster scores! Many of these teams bring great food and more adding to the fun Multi op experience. Craig K9CT has established his M2 focused station as a worldwide powerhouse. He has a regular team, and they delivered an overall category win and another plaque for the wall! Another fantastic Top Ten performance was a large group of operators operating with Khrystine K1SFA under her call at the K1TTT superstation in Peru Mass. For a 4th overall in category and first in US position. I can tell you it we had our eye on them from 2nd in U.S. N6WM @ N6RO in CA and watched them clock a monster score. Congratulations.



The N4SS team looking very happy. Left to Right Bryan W5MX, Jim K0XV and Juan AC6ZV. Looking good guys!

“...it was nice to see 10 meters blossom on Saturday. It wasn't nearly as good as it was 11 years ago (Kenya on 10 during daylight on Saturday!), but it really goes to show what a sweet band 10 is when it opens. Solar activity on Sunday was a bit wonky, to say the least, but we muddled through it.” -- Khrystine K1SFA

Of course, there were many more great performances in the multi-op categories such as Europeans dominating 8 out of 10 in the multi-single top 10 box. Great job to all the multi-op teams out there for churning out thousands of QSOs as a team!

The team at CR3DX set a new world record in the multi-multi category.

It's important for all RTTY regulars to recognize new RTTY testers. We got word of this team in S5 as Mary S51MG and her father Bogo S55BG made their first EVER RTTY QSOs at the S51A club station! Our RTTY contest community welcomes these newly licensed operators into the RTTY contesting family and hope to work them many times in the future.



Bogo S55BG and Mary S51MG, a rookie father joining the RTTY fray, and Mary representing both the next generation of RTTY tester, as well as a YL RTTY operator!

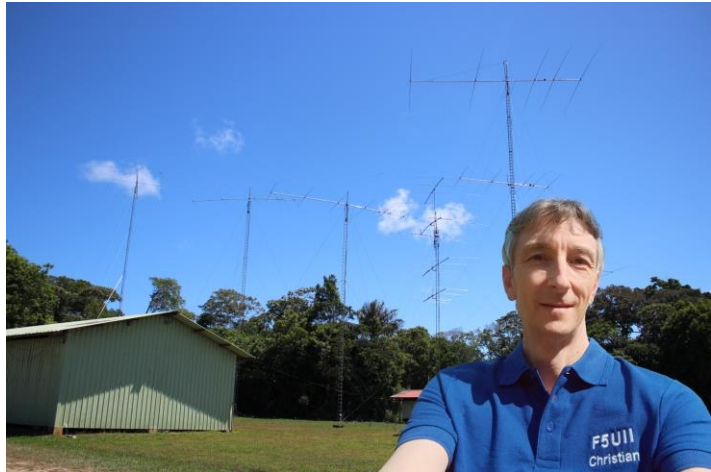
Single Band Categories

There is a literal cornucopia of categories that folks enter in WW RTTY, even for folks with demanding schedules. For instance, the single band categories are VERY popular, and with such great upper band propagation lots of operators gave them a go. I strongly encourage you to look at all the line scores for the great races that occurred there.

For instance, Christian F5UII delivered a spectacular 10m performance and new world record as FY5KE in French Guyana.

“Thanks to the performance of our station and for this single-band participation, especially with the 7-element 10m Yagi antenna, I am very pleased to have achieved a new record in this category. For the curious readers, antenna photos are available on our website fy5ke.org. It was very enjoyable to successfully contact over 100 entities (104 precisely) in thirty-five and a half hours of operation.”

Christian F5UII



Christian F5UII at the FY5KE station and antenna farm. Wow! No wonder he is always so loud!

The race for the top score on 15 meters was a close one between 3 assisted entries! SN2M (op SP2XF) was less than 400 points ahead of fellow countryman SP8R (op SQ9UM). Both had the same zones and countries; the difference was an extra 29 QSOs. T70A (op IK4DCX) in third place was only 25K points behind. Wow.



Mike IZ8EFD was world high score in the single op, assisted, low power category on 20 meters.

Overlay Categories

Category overlays provide another path to competition and potential victory! These overlays give more opportunities for participants to compete, offering Classic, Rookie, and Youth options. More information on these overlays can be found in the contest rules at the cqwwrtty.com website. The Rookie category is for amateurs licensed less than 3 years at the time of the contest. David W9DTC logged a winning score for a WW RTTY rookie entrant with nearly 1.5 million points. Not bad at all! The top Youth entrant was DM7XX with over 2000 QSOs! Classic categories are limited to 24 hours on the air and have become more and more popular as well. There were some great performances and some recognizable calls, ED8W, V31MA, ON4CCT and KH6CJJ to name a few. ED8W set a new world record for the Classic overlay category.

Club Competition

The CQWW RTTY club competition is a separate competition from that for the CW and SSB events.

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club topped all USA clubs by a significant margin over the second place Potomac Valley Contest Club, despite having 15 less logs. The rest of the top 5 were very close in score, with the Northern California Contest Club sneaking into third position. And the Society of Midwest Contesters in 4th.

The winner for clubs in the rest of world was the Bavarian Contest Club. Their score was double that of the USA winner. The Italian Contest Club took second slightly ahead of the Interest Group RTTY club.

Final Thoughts

Sponsoring a Plaque is a great way to recognize regional competitions and efforts and contribute to the CQ WW RTTY community. The entire CQWW RTTY management team appreciates these invaluable sponsorship opportunities. Look at the plaque winners' tables, and if there is an available category or region you would like to sponsor, contact Rick N1IXF directly. His contact information is on the CQ WW RTTY web site.

On behalf of the CQWW RTTY contesting team, we would like to congratulate all winners and participants, new operators, rookies and all in between. With the solar peak still with us, the 2024 contest should prove another fun and interesting event for all. We hope to see you there.

73 to all!

Chris N6WM

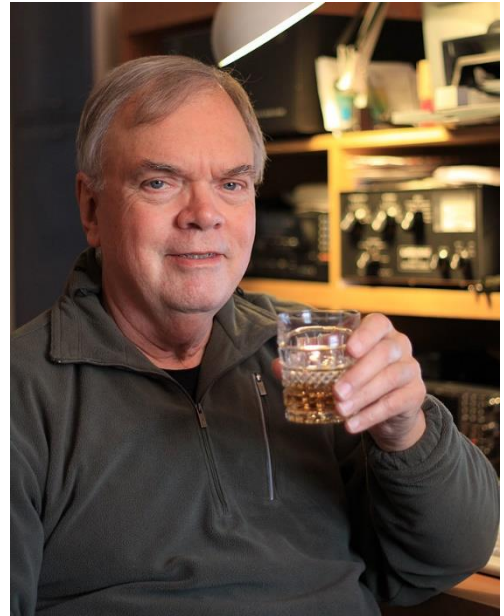
Ed W0YK

Rich N1IXF

In Memoriam – K6AW (SK)

From time to time, our RTTY contest community loses a contributor that has made significant impact. I'd like to acknowledge Steve Merchant K6AW who passed away recently after a brief illness. Steve was an Elmer, friend, fellow contester, and contest expeditioner. He was a regular RTTY operator at the N6RO contest station. His contribution to this year's CQWW RTTY contest was one of his last major efforts with the team. He was a RTTY regular at the amazing HC8N station during its run. I also had the great pleasure of operating with him at ZF1A in 2018 along with Trey N5KO and Glen W6OTC, also good friends of his. He was truly a ham radio worldwide traveler as well as a big advocate of RTTY contesting as it was a favorite mode of his.

Our community has shrunk more than a bit with Steve's passing. I know I can speak for the community in saying we will miss you OM.



*Steve Merchant, K6AW(SK) @ EY8MM
(Photo Courtesy of Nodir Tursun-Zade EY8MM). Cheers Steve.*