

Contesting aka RadioSport


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What is Contesting?

Sponsored events held periodically where you contact as many stations as you can in a given area and exchange specific information over the radio, logging the contacts and afterwards submitting the log to the sponsor.

When are Contests?

- Pretty much every weekend, then some...
- www.contestcalendar.com



WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Powered by ICOM

12-Month Contest Calendar

Home8-Day12-MonthPerpetualState QSO PartiesCWWQRPLog Due DatesHistoricalAlphabeticalCustomize

Switch to Custom 12-Month Calendar

May 2019

+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 1
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 1 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 1 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 2
+ AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, May 2 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, May 2 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, May 2 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 2 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, May 2
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 3
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 3
+ Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest	0000Z, May 4 to 1600Z, May 5
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
+ RCC Cup	0300Z-0859Z, May 4
+ SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	0600 local, May 4 to 2359 local, May 5
+ Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1400 local, May 4
+ ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 4 to 1159Z, May 5
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0700Z, May 5
+ Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
+ FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 4
+ Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
+ New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 5
+ MIE 33 Contest	2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 7
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 9
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 10

Why Contest?

- It is fun!
- We are competitive!
- Test your station
- Test your skills (and improve them, learn new ones!)
- Try out new technology
- Meet new friends
- Collect Wallpaper, Plaques and more!

Wallpaper...

California QSO Party

This Certificate of Achievement Is Awarded To

JAMES PETERSON

K6EI

Class: MM-L Rank: 1-Sierra 1-CA K6EI TEAM

Sierra County

53rd Running of The CQP - October 6-7, 2018

1475 Contacts

57 Multipliers

228570 Total Points

John Miller

John, K6MM, CQP Webmaster

NCCC

Glen Brown

Glen, W6GJB, CQP Chairman

How do I Contest?

- Get on the air on a weekend, listen for contest stations.
- Listen as they work others...
- Give them a call!
- Join in with others (Field Day, clubs, friends...)

Getting Hooked...

- The goal is to make as many QSOs as you can.
- Search and Pounce to start. Find stations calling CQ and call them.
- Run to get lots of QSOs. This means you call CQ!

Contest Skills

- Acronyms!
- Computer!
- Listening!
- S&P
- Run
- SO2R (Single Op, Two (or more!) Radios)
- 2BSIQ (2-Band Synchronous Interleaved QSOs - ask Bill)
- Understanding Propagation
- Wait, There Is More...

What is Important?

- BIC!
- Keep trying!
- Rate is everything
- Be as efficient as possible - you will be doing this a while...

“Please Copy...”

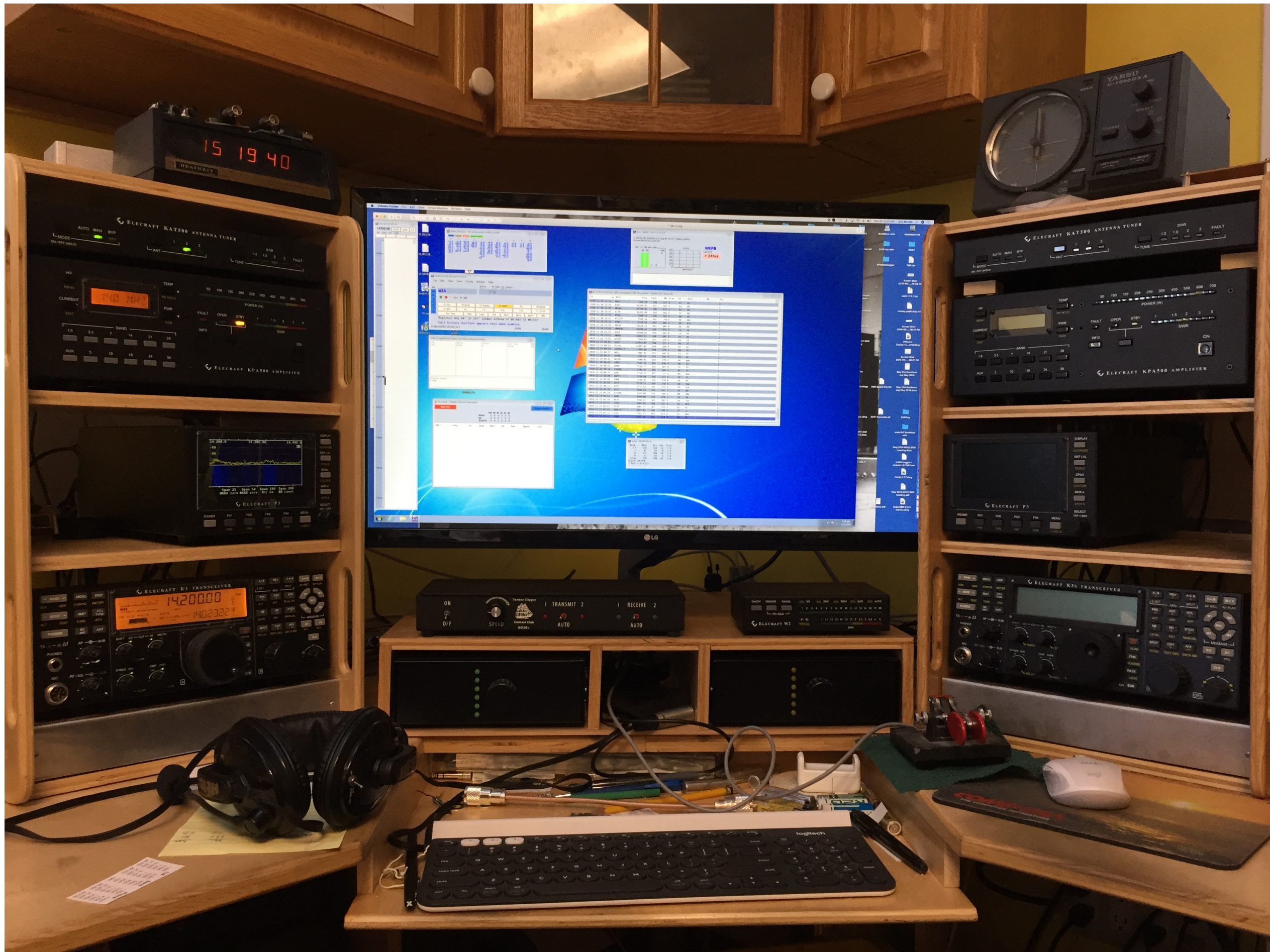
Contest	Hours	Minutes	Seconds
CQWW	48	2880	172800
Sweepstakes	30	1800	108000
Field Day	24	1440	86400
NAQP	12	720	43200
NA Sprints	4	240	14400
QSOs		Minutes	Seconds
100		3.33333333333333	200
250		8.33333333333333	500
500		16.6666666666667	1000
750		25	1500
1000		33.3333333333333	2000
1250		41.6666666666667	2500
1500		50	3000
2000		66.6666666666667	4000
3000		100	6000
4000		133.333333333333	8000
5000		166.666666666667	10000

“Please Copy” Protection



Tell Me more...

- Competitive Contesting is centered in the computer.
 - N1MM+ (Windows)
 - WriteLog (Windows)
 - WinTest (Windows)
 - SkookumLogger (Mac)



Before the Contest

- Download the contest rules and study them!
 - Understand the exchange.
 - Understand the start, stop times and break periods.
- Set up the Contest Logger for the contest.
- Make sure everything works properly.
- Participate in a practice session.
- Exercise!

Exchanges

- Sweepstakes: 427 A WA4FIB 71 SFL
- CQP: 822 YOLO or 822 MA
- CQ WPX: 59 CA
- Field Day: 9A SCV

Running

- Stay on a frequency and call CQ, work stations until no one comes back for a while.
- Identify often, preferable between each QSO
- When the frequency runs dry, pick another frequency!
- Work dupes!!!
- Believe in yourself. N6BV: “No one responds to a tentative CQ”

Search and Pounce

- Try Running!
- Find stations to work, call them!
- Only one or two tries, then move on. Work them later.
- Make sure the station you are calling isn't a dupe before calling.
- Why aren't you running???

The Computer is Where the Contest happens!

- Use band map shows where running stations are.
 - With spotting you get the information from the network
 - Without spotting, enter it yourself as you work stations
- Enter frequencies into the Callsign field to QSY large amounts
- Watch the Info window to track rates.
 - When the rate falls, it may be time to QSY!

The Computer...

- Learn the function keys and commands. Use them!
 - A cheat sheet on the keyboard works wonders!
- Keep your hands on the keyboard as much as possible.
- Very little need to touch the radio, especially when running!
- If you aren't working with the computer, you aren't making QSOs!
- Be sure to use the Keyer/DVK facility - set it up ahead of time!

Propagation and time

- Propagation maps are available to help determine when openings may occur.
 - <https://www.k6tu.net/>
- For assisted operation, watch the spots for near-by station activity - this will be a guide to who you may work.
 - This also gives you a guide to when to change bands.
- Tracking who you are working will give you a good view for trends.

Taking Breaks

- Plan your breaks for when propagation is poor.
- Get up and walk around periodically. Vary how you sit and stand.
- Sometimes you just “gotta go”.
- Remember to eat and drink regularly, easier on CW and digital, but...

And more...

- No distractions!
- Don't check email, news, sports scores during the contest. The computer is for contesting!
- Disconnect the telephone, doorbell.
- Make sure the family knows what you are doing. Place it on the calendar months ahead!
- CQP is far more important than UF Football!

Station...

- Know where everything is and how to use it ahead of the contest!
- Plan for failures and backups.
- Make a note of improvement suggestions (a short note in the log!), do not dwell on this or take time away from making QSOs!

After the Contest

- When the clock hits the end time, stop!
 - OK to finish a QSO that was started before the end tick. Be sure the log shows the time of QSO start, though.
- Send in the log quickly! DO NOT procrastinate on this one.
- Study the logger charts and notes for things you could do better.
- When the Log Check Report (LCR) is available, study it for errors and work to eliminate them. ARRL LCRs at: <http://contests.arrl.org>
- Thank the family for helping you contest!

References

- NCCC: <http://www.nccc.cc>
- Contest University: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/files/>
- ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contests>
- ARRL: <http://contests.arrl.org>
- Contest Calendar: <https://contestcalendar.com>
- N1MM+: <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com>

Is Field Day a Contest?

Contest Rules

The ARRL Contest Update

Contest Rules

Straight Key Night
RTTY Roundup
School Club Roundup
January VHF
ARRL DX
Rookie Roundup
June VHF
Field Day
IARU HF Championship
222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
10 GHz & Up
September VHF
Sweepstakes
EME Contest
160 Meter
10 Meter
General Rules for All ARRL Contests
General Rules for ARRL Contests Below 30 MHz
General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz

Contest Rules

The goal of Amateur Radio contesting is to contact as many stations as possible during the contest period.

Every contest has Contest Rules:

- Only certain bands may be used
- The contest only takes places between certain times and on certain dates. Some contests also require “off times” when you are forced to leave the air.
- An exchange of information is necessary during each contact. You may be required to send and receive a serial number, location, name or even a person’s age.
- Only certain operating configurations can be used. You may have to choose a “class” of operation such as a single operator using low power.

Select a contest from the left hand navigation for a closer look at its rules.

Contest Calendar

Find upcoming contests. [Learn More](#)

Rules for All ARRL Contests

Check out some general rules for all ARRL contests. [Learn More](#)