



AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTING

Exeter Amateur Radio Society
January 2019

CONTESTING?

- ▶ Contesting, also known as radio sport, is a competitive activity pursued by amateur radio operators
- ▶ Individual operators or teams seek to contact as many other radio stations as possible
- ▶ Contacts made during the contest contribute to a score by which stations are ranked
- ▶ Contest operation is governed by contest rules set by the sponsor
- ▶ Contest sponsors publish the results in magazines and web sites

WHY DO HAMS DO IT?

- ▶ Satisfaction from achievement in a world wide competition
- ▶ Contests offer the chance to catch that rare DXCC
- ▶ To try out latest station improvements and discover its limits
- ▶ Compete locally within a group of friends

HOW DO I KNOW ABOUT CONTESTS?

- ▶ Contest invitations are published...
 - ▶ in ham radio news
 - ▶ on sponsor web sites
 - ▶ via email to previous participants
 - ▶ in so-called contest calendars
- ▶ Invitations provide information...
 - ▶ on date/time of the event
 - ▶ high-level overview of the rules
 - ▶ log format and submission dead line

CONTEST CALENDAR

Most popular contest calendar is published by WA7BNM
(www.contestcalendar.com)

The screenshot shows the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website. At the top, there is a logo for WA7BNM Contest Calendar, powered by ICOM. Below the logo is a navigation menu with buttons for Home, 8-Day, 12-Month, Perpetual, State QSO Parties, CW, and QRP. There is also a social media link for @wa7bnmcalendar and a feed icon. The main content area displays a calendar grid for January 2019, with a detailed view of the RSGB AFS Contest, SSB: 1300Z-1700Z, Jan 19.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar Powered by ICOM

Home | 8-Day | 12-Month | Perpetual | State QSO Parties | CW | QRP

Follow @wa7bnmcalendar | January 3 - 10, 2019 | January 11 - 18, 2019

Contest	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Hungarian DX Contest			
RSGB AFS Contest, SSB			
North American QSO Party, SSB			
NA Collegiate Championship, SSB			
ARRL January VHF Contest			
WAB 1.8 MHz Phone/CW			
Feld Hell Sprint			
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest			

RSGB AFS Contest, SSB: 1300Z-1700Z, Jan 19

Mode:	SSB
Bands:	80, 40m
Classes:	Single Op/Multi-Op (Low/Medium/High) (see rules for team requirements)
Max power:	HP: 400 watts MP: 100 watts LP: 10 watts
Exchange:	RS + Serial No.
QSO Points:	1 point per QSO
Multipliers:	(none)
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by:	2359Z January 20, 2019
Upload log at:	http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to:	(none)
Find rules at:	http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/rafs.shtml

CONTEST RULES

Every contest has rules set by the sponsor...

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

CONTEST STATION

You don't have to be K3LR or 6YIV to enjoy participating in a contest. Even 100 watts and a wire do the job (see M0IHT)



CONTEST SOFTWARE

- ▶ Minimum SW required is a program for logging and station management
 - ▶ Most popular are NIMM Logger and SD
- ▶ CW reader, skimmer
 - ▶ Reader decodes one signal
 - ▶ Skimmer decodes many signals across a band
- ▶ Digital mode SW like Fldigi, MixW, DM-780...
- ▶ Sequencers
 - ▶ Control timely switching of radio, PA, antenna switches, pre-amps, etc.

FLEX 3000 - POWERSDR

FlexRadio Systems™ PowerSDR™ v2.7.2 FLEX-3000: 1710-0556

Setup Memory Wave Equalizer XVTRs CWX Mixer ATU FlexControl ESC Get Help Heros About

STOP

MON **TUN**
MOX **ATU**
MUT **BYP**
REC **PLAY**

AF: 70

AGC-T: 55

Drive: 20

AGC Preamp
Med Off

SQL: -55

16/12/2018
LOC 09:43:53
CPU %: 4.1

VFO A: **7.019 657**
40M CW TX

VFO Sync VFO Lock
14.011560 Save Restore

Tune Step: - 10Hz +

VFO B: **7.027 400**
TX 40M CW

7.010.0 7.012.0 7.014.0 7.016.0 7.018.0 7.020.0 7.022.0 7.024.0 7.026.0 7.028.0

7976.0Hz -84.8dBm 7.027 183 MHz

Pan: Center Zoom: 0.5x 1x 2x 4x

SPLT A > B NR ANF Panadapter
0 Beat A < B NB NB2 AVG Peak
IF->V A <> B SR BIN TNF +TNF

XIT 0 RIT 0
0 0

VACT VAC2

MultIFX Swap

Speed: 29 WPM Pitch Freq (Hz): 450

Iambic Sidetone Show TX CW Frequency

Break In Enabled Delay (ms): 450

RX1 Meter TX Meter
Signal Fwd Pwr

-69 dBm

1 3 5 7 +20 +40 +60

160 80 60
40 30 20
17 15 12
10 6 <

VHF+ WwV GEN

LSB USB DSB
CWL CWU FM
AM SAM SPEC
DIGL DIGU DRM

1.0k 800 750
600 500 400
250 100 50
25 Var 1 Var 2

Low 400 High 500

Width: Shift: Reset

NIMM LOGGER



- ▶ NIMM Logger main features include
 - ▶ Logging (unlimited networked computers)
 - ▶ Telnet Cluster
 - ▶ Performance Monitoring
 - ▶ Partial Check
 - ▶ CW-keyer built in
 - ▶ Digital Interface
 - ▶ Rotator Control
 - ▶ Creates Cabrillo and ADIF files
 - ▶ Acceptable price --- it's free

LOGGER SETUP

EARS

2E0GHR Roger
 2E0PCJ Phil
 2E0SQB Slade
 G3ZVI Peter
 G4AP John
 G4RRA Paul
 G6ATJ Ivor
 G7NBU Keith
 G8XQQ John
 M0NRJ Nick
 M0NXX Nick

Band

160M
 80M
 60M
 40M
 30M
 20M
 17M
 15M
 12M
 10M
 6M
 2M

14036.69 SH/DX Wide CQ
 RIT 0.00 XT CW

14027 — DG7EE 83°
 14028 — PA2W 71° New
 14029 — UN9GD 65°
 14030
 14031 — PD30ES 71°
 14032 — PA7LV 71° New
 14033
 14034 — MM3N 357° New
 14035 — OY1CT 352°
 14036
 14037 — 4L8A 86° New
 14038
 14039
 14040
 14041
 14042
 14043
 14044
 14045

DD-MM ...	Call	Freq	Snt	Sent	Rcv	NR	Pfx	M...	Pts
16-12 10:02	OR2A	7025.20	599	105	599	59	ON		2
16-12 10:04	SP2MKT	7025.30	599	106	599	172	SP		2
16-12 10:06	OZ5UR	7025.20	599	107	599	123	OZ		2
16-12 10:07	DM5KK	7025.24	599	108	599	2	DL		2
16-12 10:12	PA4O	7022.39	599	109	599	77	PA		2
16-12 10:15	UA2FL	14022.51	599	110	599	258	UA2	✓	1
16-12 10:16	YT2AAA	14020.97	599	111	599	229	YU	✓	1
16-12 10:17	SM5CSS	14019.96	599	112	599	220	SM	✓	1
16-12 10:17	RT9L	14015.00	599	113	599	285	UA9	✓	3
16-12 10:19	YU1KT	14014.47	599	114	599	198	YU		1
16-12 10:20	R9LY	14013.15	599	115	599	10	UA9		3
16-12 10:22	LZ7R	14011.00	599	116	599	776	LZ	✓	1
16-12 10:25	Z66DH	14005.95	599	117	599	0	Z6	✓	1
16-12 10:26	IK0YVV	14025.91	599	118	599	314	I	✓	1
16-12 10:27	9A5D	14026.98	599	119	599	375	9A	✓	6
16-12 10:28	UY5ZZ	14028.27	599	120	599	395	UR	✓	1
16-12 10:29	LY2PX	14040.77	599	121	599	240	LY	✓	1
16-12 10:31	UZ3A	14041.04	599	122	599	1040	UR		1
16-12 10:31	UA9LDD	14042.75	599	123	599	195	UA9		3
16-12 10:32	LZ1QN	14043.31	599	124	599	676	LZ		1
16-12 10:33	HA6NL	14046.67	599	125	599	378	HA	✓	1

14036.69 CW Flex VFO A

File Edit View Tools Config Window Help

CW
 160
 80
 40
 20
 15
 10

Snt SntNr Rcv RcvNR
 MOI ? 125

Run S&P 27

F1 Qri? F2 Exch F3 Tu F4 M0IHT F5 His Call F6 Repeat
 F7 Spare F8 Agn? F9 Nr? F10 Call? F11 Spare F12 Wipe
 Esc: Stop Wipe Log It Edit Mark Store Spot It QRZ

Regional Hdg 31° LP 212° 268km 167mi

G: EU/ENGLAND, Zn 14 125/58 19,314

Check Log/Master/Call history/Reverse lookup

E M0I K M0I E M0I M0IHT
 M0ICL M0ICR M0IKE
 M0IEP M0IHT
 M0ILT M0IMM
 M0IPU M0I
 M0A M0B
 M0B

Score - 19,314 Points

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty	Pt/Q
3.5	24	76	17	3.2
7	85	230	30	2.7
14	16	27	11	1.7
Total	125	333	58	2.7

Score: 19,314
 1 Mult = 2.2 Q's

OPERATING IN A CONTEST

- ▶ First of all...
 - ▶ The operator is bound by the license to operate within the country's regulations and
 - ▶ Is obligated by log submission to operate within the rules of the contest
- ▶ S&P-mode (Search & Pounce) to look for stations calling CQ
- ▶ Run-mode (Running) to find open frequency and call CQ
- ▶ Brief QSOs to exchange the required information

DX: TU PA7LV
TEST PA7LV PA7LV
Me: M0IHT
DX: M0IST 5NN 248 M0IHT
Me: TU 5NN 095
DX: TU PA7LV

AFTER THE CONTEST

- ▶ Prepare and submit contest log in required format, usually Cabrillo text file, and before dead line
- ▶ Upload log to Clublog, LoTW, eQSL, HRDlog, etc.
- ▶ Evaluate own performance and adjust target for next contest
- ▶ Improve station where deemed necessary
- ▶ Have a good night sleep



THANK YOU

73 AND GOOD LUCK IN THE NEXT
CONTEST

