

Contesting Basics

By: Tony Hackenberg/N8SK

At: The Villages Amateur Radio Club Meeting

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Credits

Special debt of gratitude

Thanks to NJ4F for permitting use of his presentation!
“Contesting 101,” a multi-day class (152 pages), by
Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), of the Swamp Fox Contest
Group (WW4SF), in South Carolina, Contact Info:
Dave Fuseler, NJ4F, nj4f@arri.net , 843-647-0101
URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>

Note: Other credits are provided on particular slides and on
the References slide near the end of this presentation.

Disclaimers/Ground Rules

If you don't know much about contesting, or how to get started in contesting, then you're my audience.

You will not leave a "world class" contester unless you already are one.

Please ask questions when you don't understand something but keep them relevant to contesting.

I am NOT a world class contester (others here are) but I'm an active one & can get you started.

Ref: "Contesting 101," by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), multi-day class, Swamp Fox Contest Group, South Carolina, nj4f@arrl.net, URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>

My Ham/Contesting Credentials

Tony Hackenberg (WA8SSQ => N8SK => ?4??)

Amateur radio operator for over 50 yrs (1966-now)

Casual contester & DX chaser for most of that time

Active contester & DX chaser for past several years

Contact information:

Email: wa8ssq@arrl.net

URL: <http://www.qsl.net/n8sk/>

QTH: The Villages, FL 32163

My Contesting Credentials

Contest Name	# times	Years Participated in this Contest
NAQP Phone (NCJ)	6	2008, 2009, 2012, 2013 (Jan), 2013 (Aug), 2017
CQ WW DX Phone	5	2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015
ARRL Sweepstakes	5	2007, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016
ARRL DX SSB	4	2008, 2012, 2016, 2017
ARRL 10 meter	4	2009, 2011, 2015, 2016
ARRL Field Day*	4**	2005, 2006, 2007, 2013
CQ 160 meter SSB	1	2008
CQ WW DX Phone	1	2008
NA Sprint (NCJ)	1	2013
CQ WW WPX SSB	1	2013 (certificate), 2017
Florida QSO party (FCG)	1	2016

WHAT is ham contesting?

“Radiosport” is a fancier name for ham contesting

Dictionary’s definition of “contest”

“A race, conflict, or other competition between rivals, usually for a prize.”

“A struggle for victory or superiority.”

Wikipedia’s definition of “ham contesting”

“Contesting is a competitive activity pursued by amateur radio operators.”

Ref: "Contesting 101," by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), multi-day class, Swamp Fox Contest Group, South Carolina, nj4f@arrl.net, URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>

Shel Radin KF0UR

“Contesting is a marriage made in the ionosphere”

Ref: “Contesting & Logging”, by Shel Radin (KF0UR),
URL: http://www.na0tc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=technical:contesting_and_logging.pdf

HOW OLD is ham contesting?

Brief History of Amateur Radio Contesting

Outgrowth of Trans-Atlantic tests of early 1920s

After 1st success in 1923, popularity grew into an annual event

“International Relay Party”

1st organized amateur radio contest (1928)

Sponsored annually by ARRL (1928-1935)

Renamed “ARRL Int’l DX Contest” (1936 – today)

ARRL All-Sections Sweepstakes Contest

1st held in 1930

Became November Sweepstakes (1962 – today)

Field Day

1st held in Great Britain in 1930, then ARRL’s in 1933

Ref: "Contesting" from Wikipedia @ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contesting#History_of_contesting

WHY do ham contesting?

FUN !

**Provides a civilized outlet for your competitiveness
against your peers (or yourself)**

**Improves your radio communication skills
(especially if adverse & crowded band conditions)**

**Forces you to learn how to use your gear better
(e.g. split freq. operation & other “exotic” stuff)**

Rationalizes spending more money on ham gear

Helps you work toward other ham goals

Worked All States (WAS), County hunters, IOTA

ARRL's DXCC, TVARC's DXCC Standings

Ref: "Contesting 101," by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), multi-day class, Swamp Fox Contest Group,
South Carolina, nj4f@arrl.net, URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>

What's the Basic GOAL of Contests?

**The basic goal of all
Amateur Radio contests is
to contact (work) as many
other stations as possible
during the contest period!**

Ref: "Contesting 101," by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), multi-day class, Swamp Fox Contest Group, South Carolina, nj4f@arrl.net, URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>



WHEN are these contests?

How do I know when a contest is coming up?

WA7BNM's (Bruce Horn) "8-day Contest Calendar"

Via e-mail subscription (weekly)

To subscribe, e-mail WA7BNM at bhorn@hornucopia.com

Via Internet Browser software (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Safari)

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

Via web-based calendars (Google Calendar) & some
smartphone calendar apps (Google Calendar, CalenGoo)

Insert this URL into calendar settings:

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycontcustom.ics

WA7BNM's Other Contest Calendars

WA7BNM Contest Calendar (detailed info on all ham contests)

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

WHEN are these contests?

Sample of WA7BNM's e-mailed "8-day Contest Calendar"

Apr 17-24 Contest Calendar

3 sections:

Details of this week's contests

List of following week's contests

**Contest log addresses/deadlines for
recent contests**

WHEN are these contests?

Sample of WA7BNM's e-mailed "8-day Contest Calendar"

THIS WEEK'S CONTESTS:

NCCC RTTY Sprint: 0145Z -0215Z, Apr 21

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial No. + Name + QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: April 23, 2017

Email logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyins.html>

When are these contests?

ARRL's Contest Calendars

QST "Contest Corral"

QST magazine (monthly) [sample April 2017]

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar> [scroll to "Contest Corral"]

ARRL "Contest Calendar"

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

ARRL "Contest Update"

E-mailed out every other Weds.

(ex: "The ARRL Contest Update for March 8, 2017")

ARRL members subscribe via Member Data Page:

http://www.arrl.org/myarrl-account-management#!/edit-info-email_subscriptions

Online: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues>

When are these contests?

DL2NBY's Contest Calendars

Via Internet Browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari)

<https://sites.google.com/site/dl2nbycontestcalendar/home>

Via Calendar apps supporting iCal on desktop/mobile

Different calendars per mode

CW, Phone, Digital & Mixed calendars

Get iCal address for mode calendar you want at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/dl2nbycontestcalendar/help#TOC-How-to-sync>

Put iCal address (https:*.ics) in your calendar app

When are these contests?

Audience participation

**How do YOU find out when
contests are coming up?**

**What's YOUR favorite contest
calendar product?**

WHERE are contests held?

Geography

Worldwide, national, state, or local

Bands

Most on HF, Some on VHF, Few on UHF+

All contests avoid using WARC bands

“Gentleperson's” agreement

10, 18 & 24 MHz (30, 17 & 12 meter bands)

Modes

CW, Voice (SSB, AM, etc.), Digital

Repeaters

Nearly all contests forbid using repeaters

Is there a RANKING of contests?

Is there a ranking

(difficulty grading level) of

contests like there is for

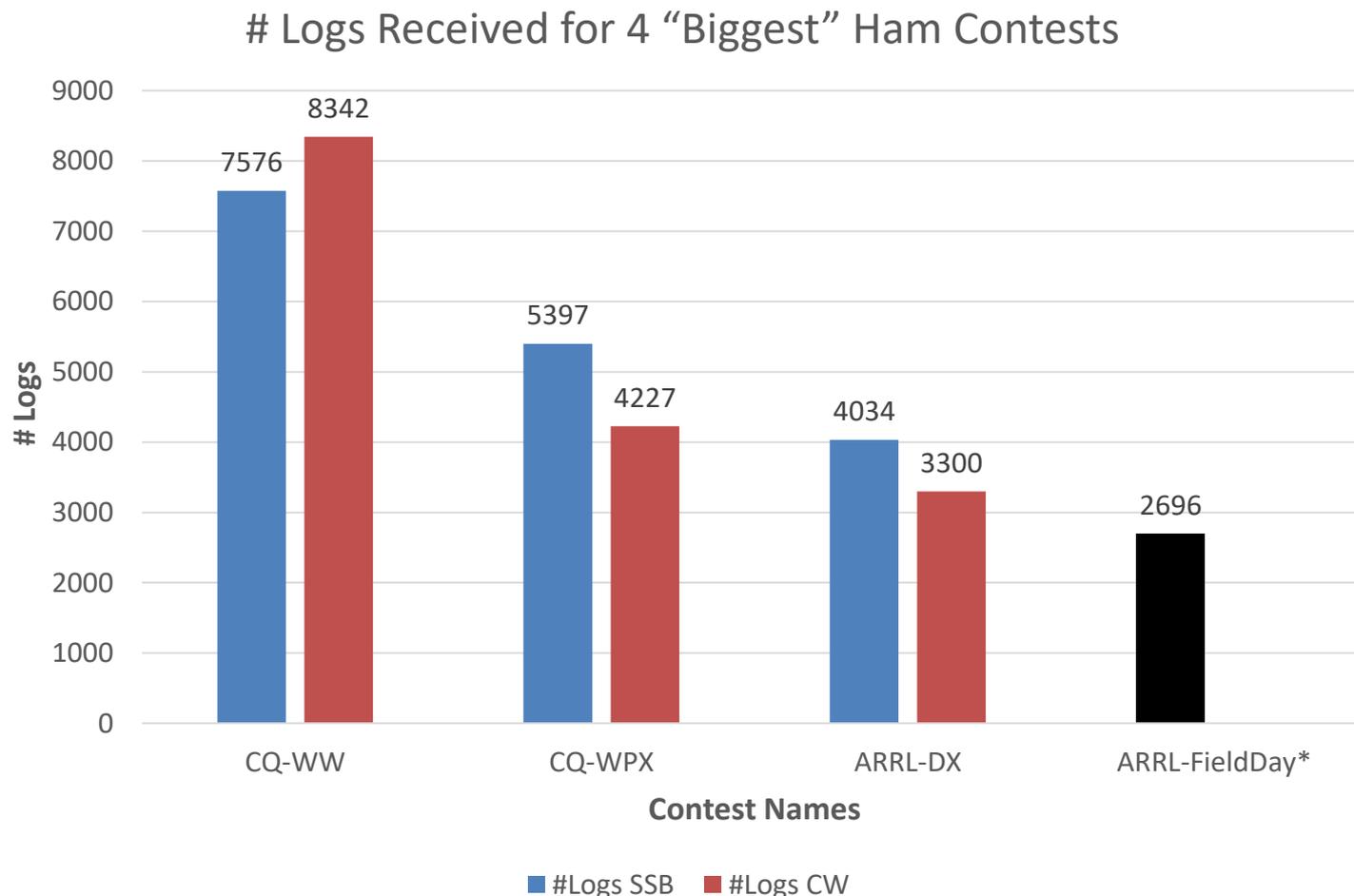
The Villages' Executive Golf

Courses?

Difficulty Ranking of Some Contests

Difficulty	Contest Name	Next Held	Basis for Ranking
Easy	ARRL Rookie Round-up	8/20/17 (RTTY) 12/17/17 (CW) 4/15/18 (SSB)	Slower paced & lots of “novices” involved
	ARRL Straight Key Night*	1/1/18	No points or required exchange * ARRL says SKN isn’t a contest
Moderate	FCG’s Florida QSO party (FQP)	4/29/17 (Day 1) & 4/30/17 (Day 2)	Between easy to moderate Simple exchange & less crowds
	ARRL Int’l DX	2/17-18/18 (CW) 3/3-4/18 (SSB)	Very crowded (very popular)
	North American QSO Party (NCJ’s)	7/15-16/17 (RTTY) 8/5-6/17 (CW) 8/19-20/17 (SSB)	Only low power (100 W. max.)
Hard	North American Sprints	9/10/17 (CW) 9/17/17 (RTTY) 10/1/17 (SSB)	Intense 4 hours, long exchange & Unique change freq. rule
	ARRL Sweepstakes	11/4-6/17 (CW) 11/18-20/17 (SSB)	“Weirdest” long exchange
Olympics	World Radiosport Team Championship	Every 4 years 2018 Germany	Difficult qualifying heats Competitors are world class

What are the “biggest” annual contests?



Ref: For CQ contests - <https://www.cqww.com> & <https://www.cqwp.com>

Ref: For ARRL contests - <http://www.arl.org/arl-dx> & <http://www.arl.org/field-day>



What **STUFF** do I need to contest?

Ham equipment

Your current gear will probably work for a start

Only VHF/UHF gear will severely limit # of contests

HF gear will greatly broaden the # of contests

Headphones

Improve hearing difficult/weak signals

Quieter for others in same household

Computer & software

Windows or Mac computer (laptop or desktop)

Computer logging program (N1MM+, N3FJP, ...)

Interfaced to transceiver (frequency, mode, band, ...)

Most modern logging programs can do this

Rig control (TRX-Manager, many others)

What stuff do I need to contest?

THE NEW KENWOOD TS99900 CONTESTING TRANSCEIVER



**1500 WATTS (MICROWAVE)
2.3 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
10 CUP COFFEE POT
200 WATT PEP SSB***

*ACTUAL OUTPUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF APPLIANCES CONCURRENTLY RUNNING

How to **PREPARE** for a contest?

Put it on your **CALENDAR!**

DOWNLOAD rules, documentation, aids, forms, etc.

READ those rules paying particular attention to

Dates & times (duration) (convert from UTC to ET if it helps)

Special time off durations

Objective of the contest

How to prepare for a contest?

Read those rules paying particular attention to

Categories/sub-categories (alphabet soup!)

Categories are generally based on this factor:

of operators

Sub-categories are generally based on these factors:

Helper levels

(Unassisted, Assisted)

Power levels

(QRP, Low, High)

Special characteristics

(Over 50, Single Band, 12 Hours)

How to prepare for a contest?

Let's look at "categories" in a specific contest:

ARRL International DX Contest

Single Operator category

Helper sub-categories

Unassisted

Unlimited (Assisted)

Power sub-categories

QRP (5 watts or less)

Low Power (150 watts or less)

High Power (1500 watts or license limit)

Band sub-categories

Single Band

No power subcategories

No spotting assistance

How to prepare for a contest?

Let's look at categories in a specific contest:

ARRL International DX Contest

Multi-operator category

Transmitters sub-categories

Single transmitter

Two transmitter

Multi-transmitter

Power sub-categories (only for Single transmitter)

Low Power (150 watts or less)

High Power (1500 watts or license limit)

How to prepare for a contest?

Categories/sub-categories (alphabet soup!)

What are SOLP, SOHP, SOAB, SOSB, M/S, M/2 & M/M?

Abbreviations for contest entry categories & sub-categories:

SOLP = Single Operator Low Power

SOHP = Single Operator High Power

SOAB = Single Operator all band

SOSB = Single Operator Single Band

M/S = Multi/Single = Many operators only 1 transmitter

M/2 = Multi/Two = Many operators with 2 transmitters

M/M - Multi/Multi = Many operators & many transmitters

How to prepare for a contest?

Read the rules paying particular attention to

What is the “exchange” (can someone define it)?

The exchange consists of the pieces of information you are expected to communicate during a QSO to make it count for the contest

Its content varies from contest to contest

Most used exchange is signal report & location

Example: 59 FL

Weirdest exchange includes **year** you got licensed

Example: 123 A N8SK **66** NFL

Within a contest it often varies a bit by who’s sending it

Ex. ARRL Int’l DX: W/VE sends signal report & state/province; DX sends signal report & power

How to prepare for a contest?

Your Exchanges from Various Contests:

Contest Name	Your Exchange's Contents	Example Exchange
Florida QSO Party	Signal report & County	59 SUM
ARRL Int'l DX	Signal report & State	59 FL
ARRL Field Day	Operating class & ARRL section	2A NFL
ARRL Sweepstakes	Serial#, precedence (#ops & power), your-call, check (yr 1st licensed) & ARRL-section	123 A N8SK 66 NFL
CQ World Wide DX	Signal report plus CQ Zone#	59 05
North American Sprint	Other station's call sign, your call, serial#, name & location	KM4ISN N8SK 123 Tony FL
NCJ North American QSO Party	Your name & location	Tony FL
Worked All Villages* (still on the drawing board)	Signal report & Village's name* (just a suggestion)	59 Dunedin* (merely a suggestion)

How to prepare for a contest?

EXPERIMENT with your software logging program to understand how it handles the contest

Install/configure it for the particular contest

Enter some bogus QSOs (pretend contest ongoing)

Export those bogus QSOs into an ADIF file

Nearly all software logging programs support this

ADIF = Amateur Data Interchange Format (.adif or .adi)

ADIF is an open standard for data exchange between

different ham radio software products (<http://www.adif.org>)

Check that ADIF file (use Notepad or other text editor)

Do a brief sanity check on its contents

How to prepare for a contest?

EXPERIMENT with your software logging program to understand how it handles the contest

Convert the ADIF file to Cabrillo format

Most sponsors want your log submitted in this format

Most software logging programs support this

If yours does not, then find a utility program to do it

Cabrillo format <http://wwrof.org/cabrillo>

WWROF = World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc.

Originally developed by Trey Garlough/N5KO to provide a consistent data formatting for use in the submission of contest logs. WWROF administers the Cabrillo Specification for the contesting community.

Check the Cabrillo file (use Notepad or other text editor)

Does it match what the rules require & the sponsor expects

Do a brief sanity check on its contents

How to prepare for a contest?

Sample ADIF (.ADI) file – Part 1 The Header

Below is an example of a ADIF file for the ARRL Int'l DX Contest

ADIF Export from N3FJP's ARRL International DX Contest Log 4.4

Written by G. Scott Davis

www.n3fjp.com

Log exported on: 03/05/2017 21:51:21

<LOG_PGM:41>N3FJP's ARRL International DX Contest Log

<LOG_VER:3>4.4

<PROGRAMID:41>N3FJP's ARRL International DX Contest Log

<PROGRAMVERSION:3>4.4

<EOH>

How to prepare for a contest?

Sample ADIF (.ADI) file – Part 2 The Body

<Call:4>PJ2T

<QSO_Date:8>20170304

<Time_On:6>013800

<Band:3>40M

<Contest_ID:7>ARRL-DX

<Cont:2>SA

<Country:7>Curacao

<DXCC:3>517

<CQz:2>09

<Freq:7>7.20100

<ITUz:2>11

<N3FJP_ModeContest:2>PH

<OPERATOR:4>N8SK

<N3FJP_Points:1>3

<Pfx:3>PJ2

<RST_Sent:2>59

<RST_Rcvd:2>59

<N3FJP_SPCNum:1>K

<eor>

...

How to prepare for a contest?

Cabrillo file template

```
-----info sent----- -----info rcvd-----  
QSO: freq mo date          time call          rst exch  call          rst exch t  
QSO: ***** **   yyyy-mm-dd nnnn ***** nnn ***** ***** nnn ***** n  
QSO: 7201 PH 2017-03-04  0138 N8SK          59 FL   PJ2T          59 K    0
```

Since the exchange varies from contest to contest, the actual values under the “info sent” and “info rcvd” fields above will change (here we show the exchange required in the ARRL International DX Contest.

How to prepare for a contest?

Sample Cabrillo file – Part 1 The Header

Below is an example of a Cabrillo v3 file for ARRL Int'l DX Contest

START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CREATED-BY: N3FJP's ARRL International DX Contest Log 4.4
CONTEST: ARRL-DX-SSB
CALLSIGN: N8SK
LOCATION: NFL
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP
CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE
CATEGORY-POWER: LOW
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
CATEGORY-MODE: SSB
CLAIMED-SCORE: 8568
OPERATORS: N8SK
NAME: Tony Hackenberg
ADDRESS: 9999 Ham Radio Station Road
ADDRESS-CITY: The Villages
ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE: FL
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: 32163
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: USA
EMAIL: my-email-address@gmail.com *[continued next slide]*

How to prepare for a contest?

Sample Cabrillo file – Part 2 The Body

QSO: 7201 PH 2017-03-04 0138 N8SK 59 FL PJ2T 59 K 0
QSO: 7203 PH 2017-03-04 0143 N8SK 59 FL 6Y4K 59 K 0
QSO: 7224 PH 2017-03-04 0149 N8SK 59 FL HI3T 59 73 0
QSO: 7237 PH 2017-03-04 0152 N8SK 59 FL KP2XX 59 K 0
QSO: 7250 PH 2017-03-04 0156 N8SK 59 FL P40A 59 K 0
...
QSO: 14194 PH 2017-03-05 0023 N8SK 59 FL KP4BD 59 100 0
...
END-OF-LOG:

How to **OPERATE** during a contest?

Watch the clock/Set an alarm

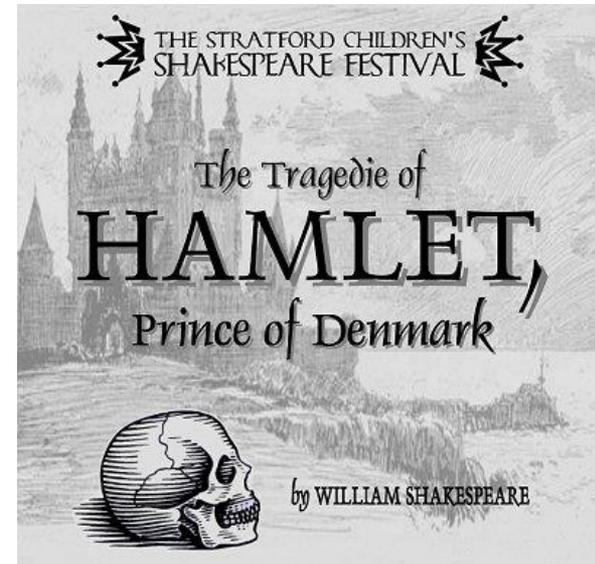
Start after the contest windows opens

Stop before, or exactly when, it closes

How to operate during a contest?

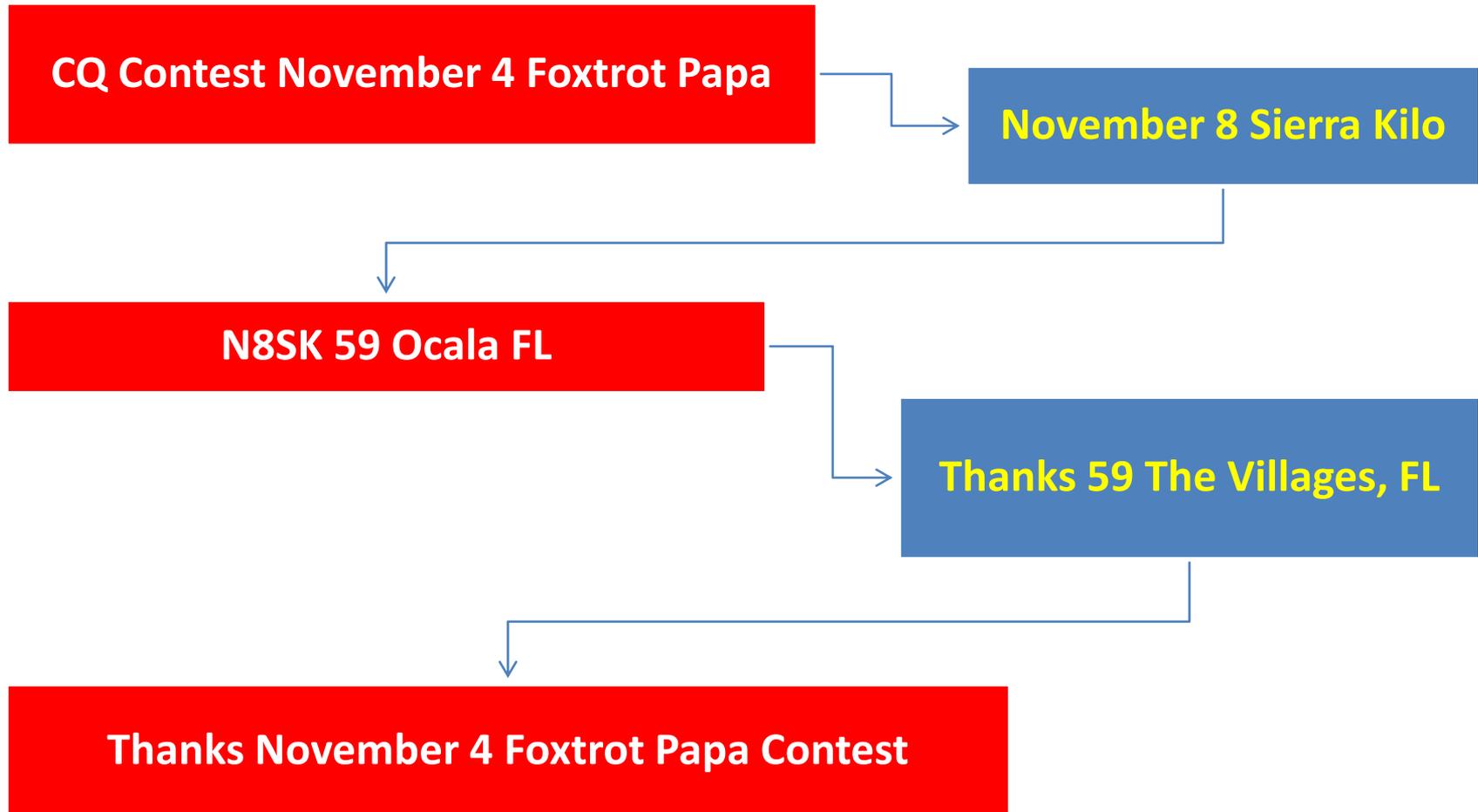


"Brevity is the soul of wit"



How to operate during a contest?

“Good” Typical Exchange (just what’s required)

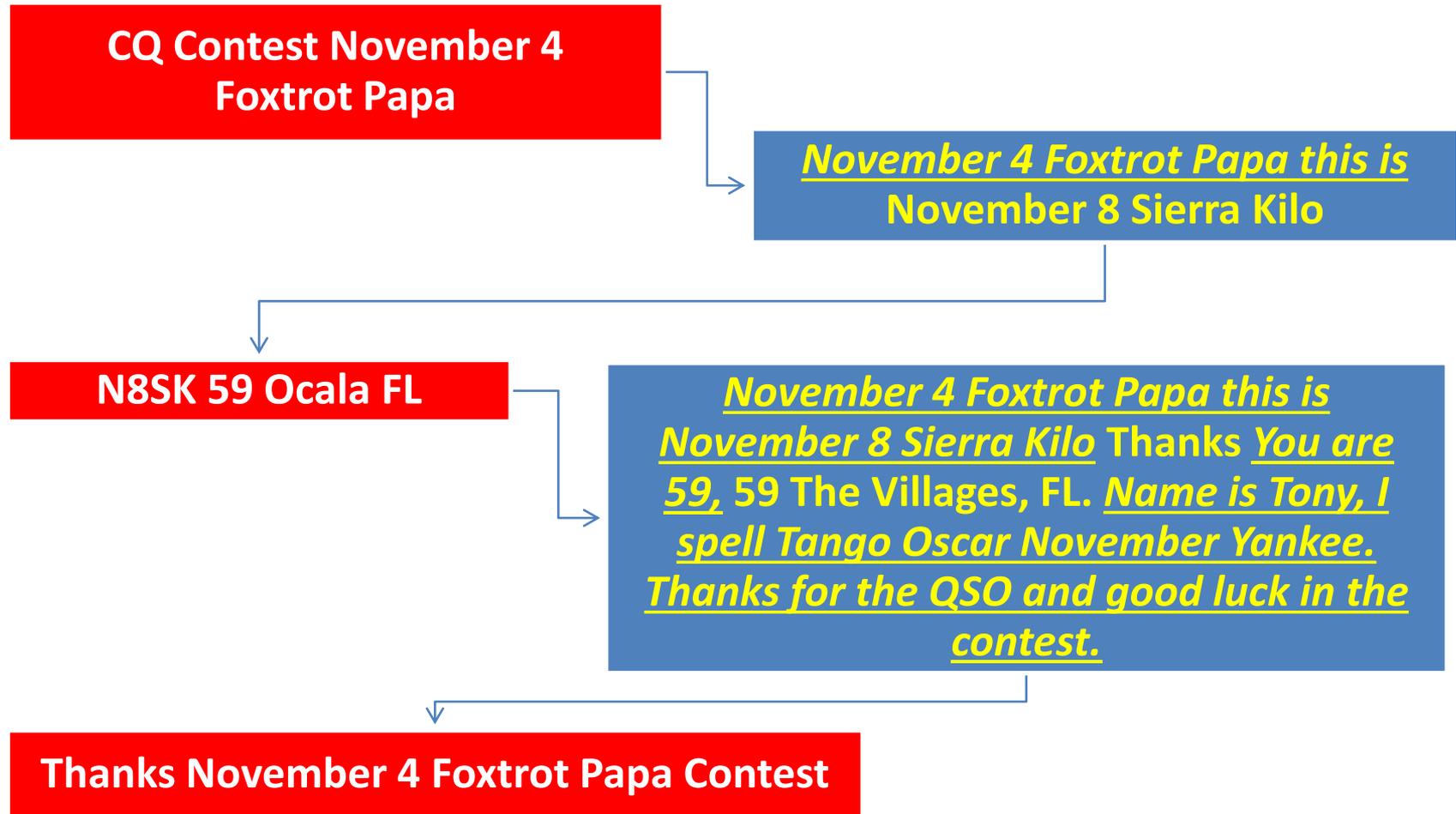


Ref: “Contesting & Logging”, by Shel Radin (KFOUR),

URL: http://www.na0tc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=technical:contesting_and_logging.pdf

How NOT to operate during a contest?

“Bad” Wasteful Exchange (too verbose)



Ref: “Contesting & Logging”, by Shel Radin (KFOUR),

URL: http://www.na0tc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=technical:contesting_and_logging.pdf

How to operate during a contest?

2 Basic Modes of operating & how to choose

Mode #1: Runner (“squatter” aka “run a frequency”)

If you’re a “Top-gun” station, then be a runner

(500-1000 watts, beam antenna, experienced contester)

(able to easily break “pile-ups” when chasing DX)

Let’s watch a runner

Watch video recording of 2017 CQ WPX SSB Contest

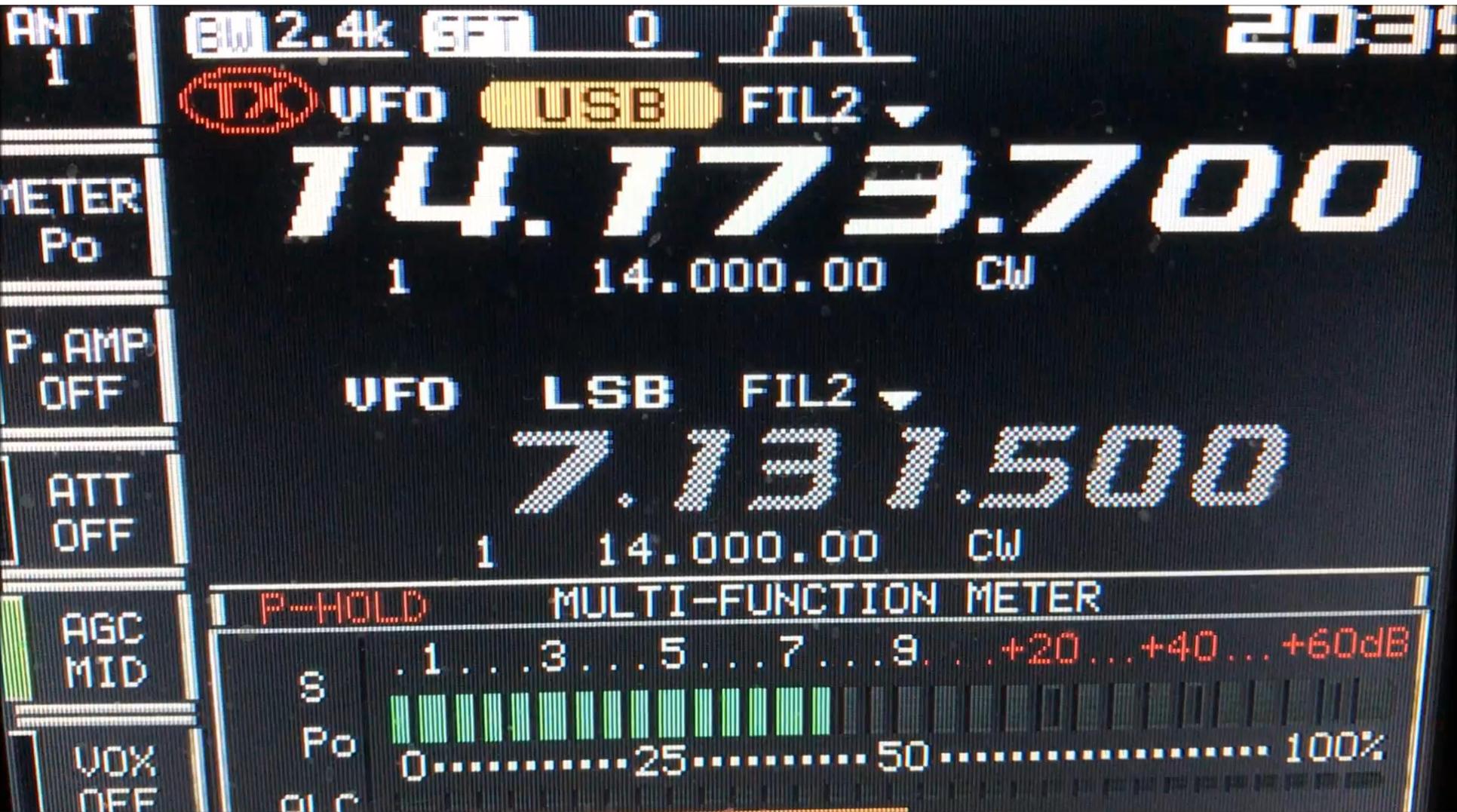
C:\...\ContestingBasics\Video recordings\

IMG_8671-41[Run-UsingOnSlide-2Heard].mp4



Video of a "runner"

(IMG_8671-41[Run-UsingOnSlide-2Heard].mp4)



How to operate during a contest?

2 Basic Modes of operating & how to choose

Mode #2: Search & Pounce (“cat & mouse”)

If you’re a “Squirt-gun” station, then be a pouncer
(5-200 watts, omni-directional antenna, novice contester)
(difficulty breaking “pile-ups” when chasing DX)

Let’s watch a pouncer

Watch video recording of 2017 CQ WPX SSB Contest

C:\...\ContestingBasics\Video recordings\
IMG_8678-47[S&P-UsingOnSlide-2QSOs].mp4



Video of a "pouncer" (IMG_8678-47[S&P-UsingOnSlide-2QSOs].mp4)



How to operate during a contest?

What assistance (help) can I use during a contest?

DX Clusters (spotting networks)?

What is a DX Cluster (spotting network)?

My favorite DX Clusters:

DXwatch.com (URL: <http://www.dxwatch.com>)

Nice set of filters

DXsummit.fi (URL: <http://www.dxsummit.fi>)

Very popular but limited filters

Some now available as smartphone apps

DXwatch (for iOS or Android devices)

available @ Apple iTunes App Store

available @ android-apk.net

If no app, you can still use them on your smartphone

Tip: Add DX Cluster's URL onto your smartphone home screen

How to operate during a contest?

What assistance (help) can I use during a contest?

Can I use DX Clusters during a contest?

READ the contest's **RULES!**

Some contests say **NO**

Others allow it but ...

BEWARE: but you may end up in a different category if you use them

Tip: Use DX Clusters BEFORE a contest

Might give you a leg up on the other guy by providing you with DX propagation insights

How to operate during a contest?

How do I log my QSOs (contacts) during the contest?

Two Methods for Logging Your Contest QSOs

Method #1: Manual logging (by hand using paper & pen)

Paper logging is dying out



Some use paper 1st then enter into software logger

Why?

Improves accuracy (less “GIGO”)

Mature ears may not hear correctly the 1st time

Paper logs are not accepted by many contests

How to operate during a contest?

How do I log my QSOs (contacts) during the contest?

Two Methods for Logging Your Contest QSOs

Method #2: Automated logging (computer software)

Software logging is the way to go

Greatly improves accuracy

Eliminates hand-writing interpretation errors

Automates duplicate checking

Reduces amount of typed-in data

Pulls data in directly from your radio

Makes the log submission process easier



How to operate during a contest?

Audience participation

Let's take a stand-up survey

**Do YOU do manual or
automated logging of contest
QSOs?**

**If automated, what software
logger do YOU use?**

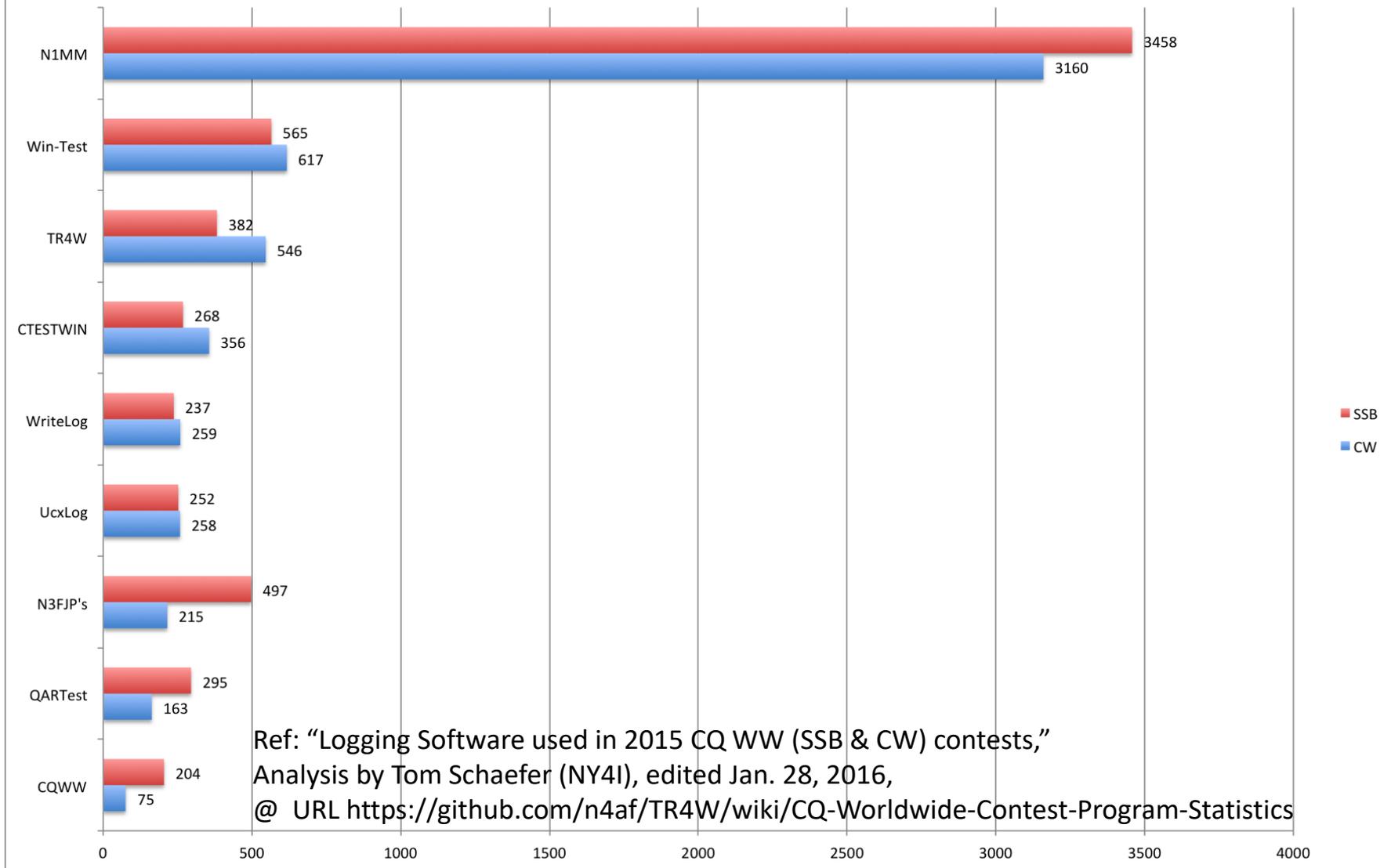
Some Contest Logging Software Products

World/OS	Name	Description
Windows	N1MM+	World's most popular contest logger https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php
	N3FJP loggers	Different logger per contest plus a general logger http://www.n3fjp.com
Mac OSX	MacLoggerDX	Contest & general logger in 1 program https://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html
	SkookumLogger	Contest logging program for OS X 10.9 or later http://www.k1gq.com/SkookumLogger
Linux	CQRLOG	Supported on Ubuntu 14.04 & 16.04 https://www.cqrlog.com
	Xlog	Maybe defunct now as no updates in long time http://xlog.nongnu.org
Java	JL Logger	Runs on most modern o.s. (JDK 1.4/or better) http://www.qsl.net/w1jq
Raspbery -Pi	?	

Which loggers are contesters's really using?

Loggers Used in 2015 CQ WW contests

2015 CQ-WW
With at least 200 submissions



Ref: "Logging Software used in 2015 CQ WW (SSB & CW) contests,"

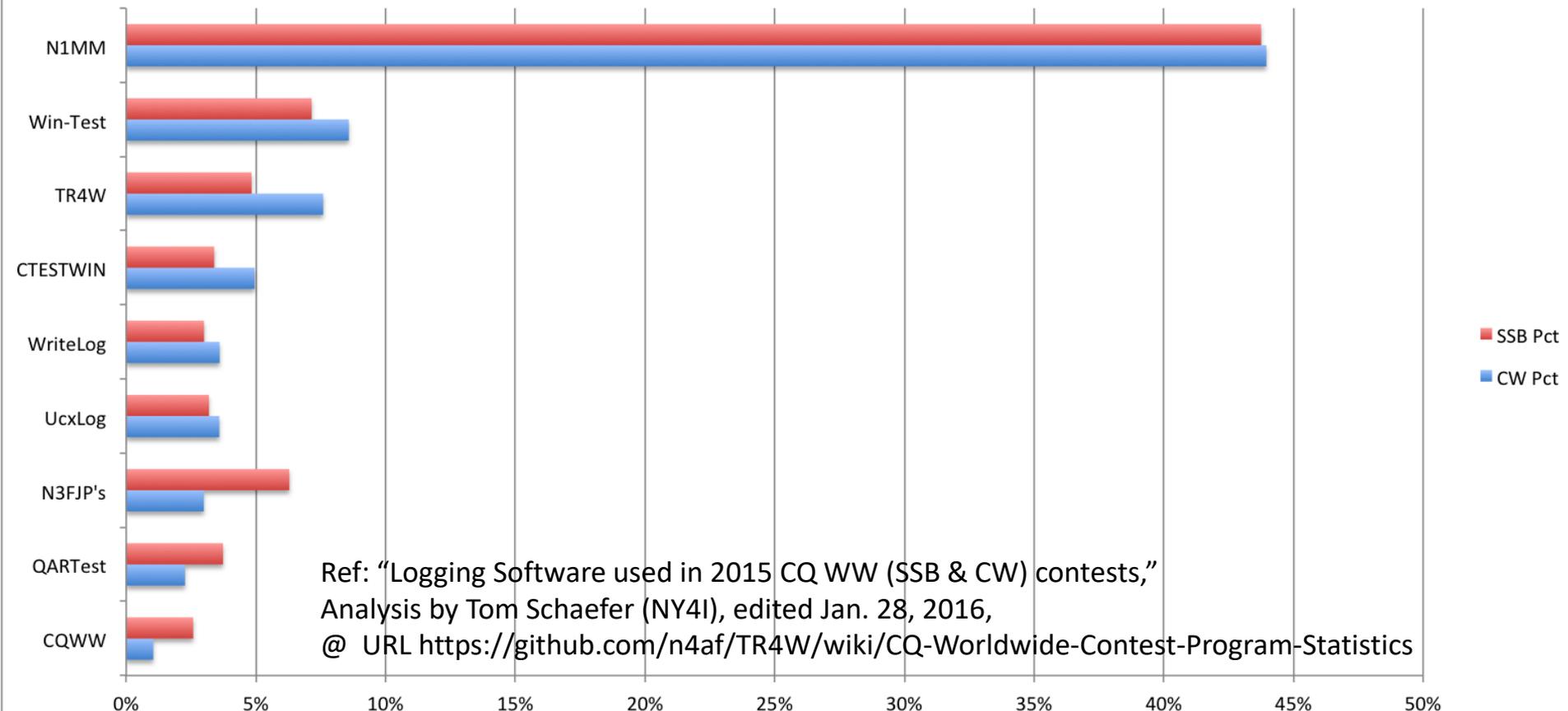
Analysis by Tom Schaefer (NY4I), edited Jan. 28, 2016,

@ URL <https://github.com/n4af/TR4W/wiki/CQ-Worldwide-Contest-Program-Statistics>

Which loggers are contesters's really using?

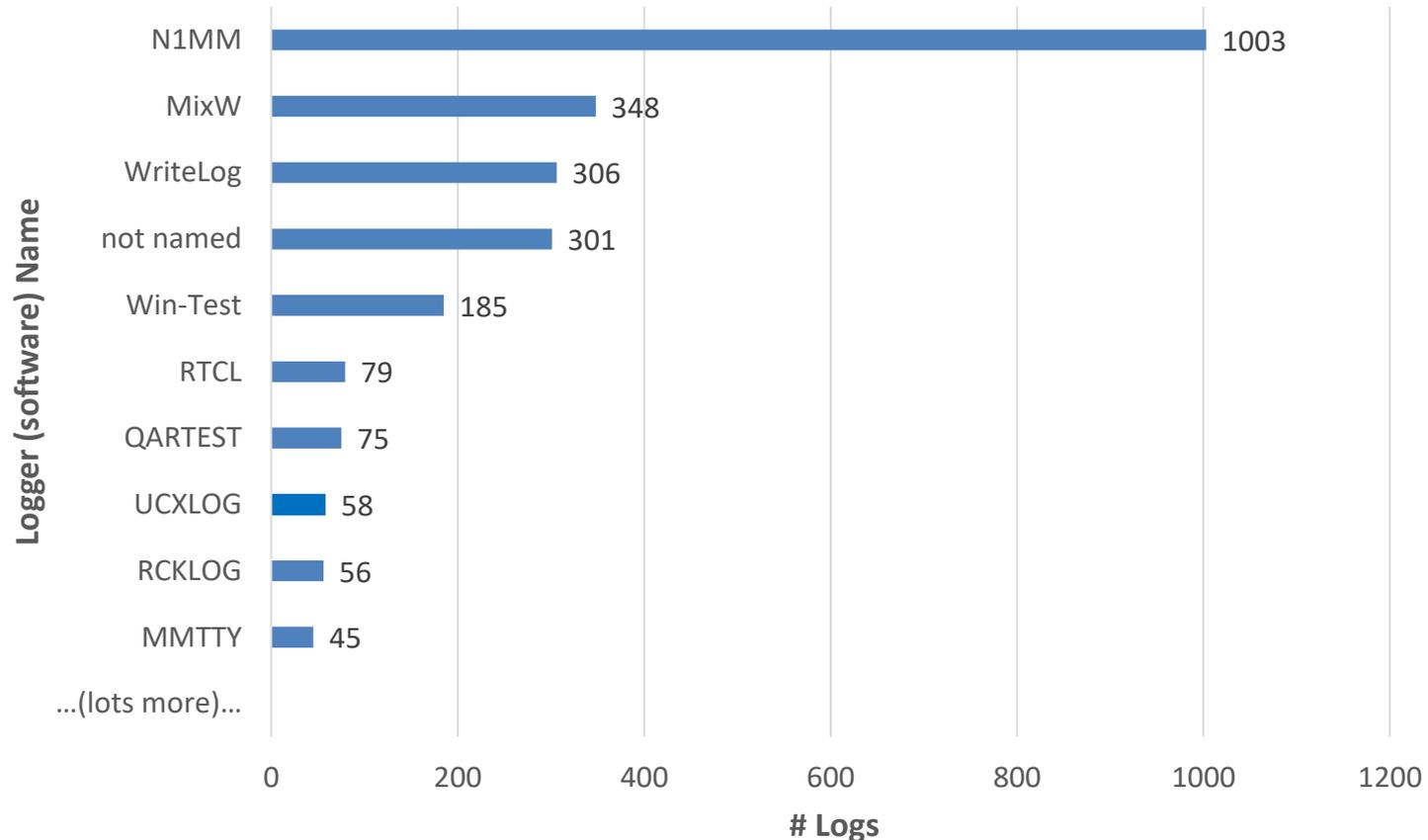
Loggers Used in 2015 CQ WW contests

2015 CQWW by Percentage
 (Note - -Will not add to 100% as programs with < 200 submissions are not shown)



Which loggers are contester's really using?

Breakdown of Loggers Used in 2010 CQ WW RTTY Contest



Ref: "Breakdown of Logging Software Used Across 2,687 Logs Submitted for 2010 CQ WW RTTY Contest," by J. Edward Muns (W0YK) @ URL: <http://lists.contesting.com/archives//html/NA-User/2011-03/msg00001.html>

How to “WRAP-UP” after a contest?

Ok, it’s over, how do I wrap-up & submit my log?

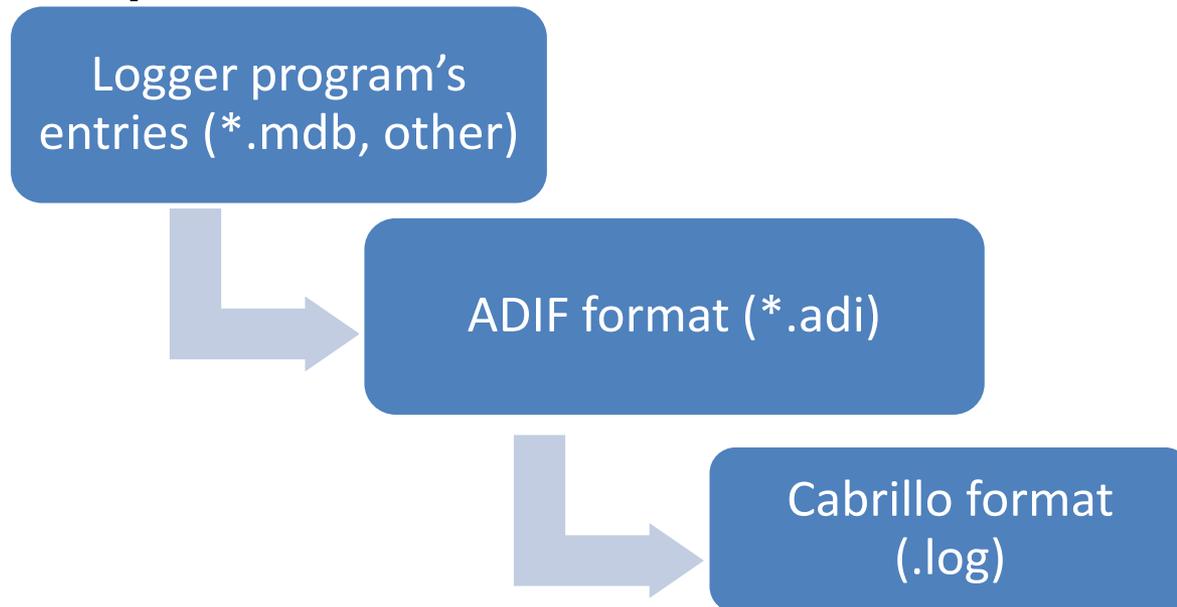
When is my contest log due?

Contest’s rules will specify the deadline

How to I prepare my results (log) for submission?

Contest rules will prescribe what you need to do

3 Basic Steps common to most contests:



How to “wrap-up” AFTER a contest

Where do I submit my log?

Sponsor/rules will tell you where & in what format

2 Ways to Submit Your Log for most contests

E-mail your log

Attach it as filename “your-call.log” [ex. N8SK.log]

Then, E-mail it to contest’s e-mail address for logs

Webpage entry of your log

Upload your log file (“your-call.log”) (like LoTW’s interface)

Enter (copy/paste) the QSO entries from your log

Log-checking & Submittal Confirmations

Most contests check your log submittal

“Robots” will check your submission & e-mail you back

Confirmation or

List of errors (suggesting you correct them & re-submit)

How to “wrap-up” AFTER a contest

Exercise your "Bragging" rights

Complete the web-based form @ 3830scores' website

<http://www.3830scores.com/index.php>

QSL'ing

Not required for contests; more of a courtesy

Electronic QSL'ing

Upload your contest entries to your account(s) at:

ARRL's LoTW (Logbook of the World)

<https://lotw.arrl.org>

eQSL (The Electronic QSL Card Centre)

<https://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/Index.cfm>

Clublog (toolkit for all DXers) <https://secure.clublog.org>

Mailing printed postcard

Dying out due to expense, foreign postage hassles, &
e-convenient alternatives (LoTW, eQSL, Clublog, etc.)

What to look forward to AFTER a contest?

**Ok, "paperwork" done, what ROI
(return-on-investment) can I hope for?**

What are contesting's "holy grails"?

**Prestigious contesting awards (wall paper to
frame) for top scores in the major contests**

Invitation to join a contesting team

**Qualify for the Olympic-level WRTC contest
(World Radiosport Team Championship)**

**Ok, so maybe you didn't get a prestigious award
or invitation/qualification but you did have FUN;
so let's re-visit why we do contesting**

Why do ham contesting (RE-VISITED)?

FUN !

**Provides a civilized outlet for your competitiveness
against your peers (or yourself)**

**Improves your radio communication skills
(especially if adverse & crowded band conditions)**

**Forces you to learn how to use your gear better
(e.g. split freq. operation & other “exotic” stuff)**

Rationalizes spending more money on ham gear

Helps you work toward other ham goals

Worked All States (WAS)

DXCC (100 countries), TVARC’s DXCC Standings

County hunters, IOTA, SOTA, etc.

More Contesting References?

Ok, you've whetted my appetite for contesting, how can I learn more?

"Contesting 101," by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), multi-day class, Swamp Fox Contest Group, South Carolina, nj4f@arrl.net, URL: <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/education>

"Contesting & Logging", by Shel Radin (KF0UR),
URL: http://www.na0tc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=technical:contesting_and_logging.pdf

"A Guide to Ham Radio Contests," by Phil Sherrod (W4PHS), dated April 17, 2011
URL: http://www.philsherrod.com/hamradio/A_Guide_to_Ham_Radio_Contests.pdf

"Ham Radio Contesting – Introduction & Overview," by Corneliu Topala (KK9DX),
at W9CA Group/Cortek Radio Assoc., URL: www.mcwa.org/images/intro_to_contesting.ppt

"Contest Operating Tips," by John H. Dorr (K1AR), published monthly from 1993-1999
URL: <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/contest/k1ar.php>

"Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)," CQ-Contest@CONTESTING.COM, by Trey Garlough (N5KO) & Jim Reisert (AD1C), dated 07 Feb. 2000, Copyright 2000-2008 eHam.Net,
URL: <http://www.contesting.com/FAQ/cq-contest>

"Amateur Radio Contesting FAQ," Copyright © Andrew Roos 2003-2004, all rights reserved. Last updated: November 2004 URL: http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html

"Radios and Software Used at World Radiosport Team Championship 2014,"
URL: <http://www.wrtc2014.org/radios-and-software-used>

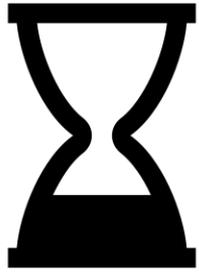
"World Radiosport Team Championship 2014," July 8-14, 2014,
URLs: <http://www.wrtc2014.org> <http://www.wrtc2014.org/about>

"WRTC 2018 in Germany," July 12-16, 2018
URL: <http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/>



END OF PRESENTATION





**CONTINGENCY SLIDES START
HERE**



[TEMPLATE] topic?

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]

[entry?]



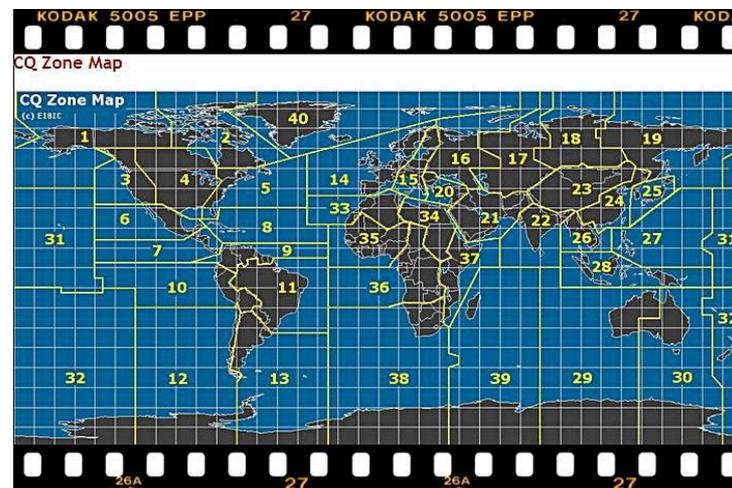
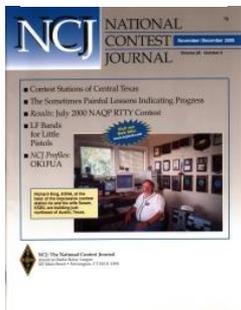
TVARC Business Meeting Secretary's Report (continued)



“Contesting 101”



- Germinated at club meeting on Jan. 19, 2017
- Internet search lead to “Contesting Basics Class,” by Dave Fuseler (NJ4F), President, Swamp Fox Contest Group, in Florida
- Got ok to use presentation
- Scheduled Apr. 20, 2017
- How many sessions?
- What topics to cover?
 - 152+ slides in NJ4F’s presentation
- “Worked All Villages” contest?



Note: Not all of these reports are published on club’s website @ www.k4vrc.org

What other goals can contesting help us reach?

AMATEUR RADIO WORLD MAP AND DXCC COUNTRY LIST

