Contesting Basics
By: Tony Hackenberg/N8SK
At: The Villages Amateur Radio Club Meeting
Date: 4/20/2017

Copyright © 2017 by Tony Hackenberg (N8SK) & The Villages Amateur Radio Club, The Villages, FL 32162 — All rights reserved
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@arrl.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” contestor 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 contestor (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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest Name</th>
<th># times</th>
<th>Years Participated in this Contest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CQ 160 meter SSB</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ WW DX Phone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA Sprint (NCJ)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ WW WPX SSB</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2013 (certificate), 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida QSO party (FCG)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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"

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/rttyns.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

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

What are the “biggest” annual contests?

# Logs Received for 4 “Biggest” Ham Contests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest Names</th>
<th># Logs SSB</th>
<th># Logs CW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CQ-WW</td>
<td>7576</td>
<td>8342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ-WPX</td>
<td>5397</td>
<td>4227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRL-DX</td>
<td>4034</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRL-FieldDay*</td>
<td>2696</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 TRANSCIEVER

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:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QSO: freq mo date</th>
<th>time call</th>
<th>rst exch</th>
<th>call</th>
<th>rst exch t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSO: 7201 PH 2017-03-04</td>
<td>0138 N8SK</td>
<td>59 FL</td>
<td>PJ2T</td>
<td>59 K 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

CQ Contest November 4 Foxtrot Papa

November 8 Sierra Kilo

N8SK 59 Ocala FL

Thanks 59 The Villages, FL

Thanks November 4 Foxtrot Papa Contest

Ref: “Contesting & Logging”, by Shel Radin (KF0UR),
How NOT to operate during a contest?

“Bad” Wasteful Exchange (too verbose)

CQ Contest November 4 Foxtrot Papa

November 4 Foxtrot Papa this is November 8 Sierra Kilo

N8SK 59 Ocala FL

November 4 Foxtrot Papa this is November 8 Sierra Kilo Thanks You are 59, 59 The Villages, FL. Name is Tony, I spell Tango Oscar November Yankee. Thanks for the QSO and good luck in the contest.

Thanks November 4 Foxtrot Papa Contest

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 contesteer)
(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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World/OS</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Windows</strong></td>
<td>N1MM+</td>
<td>World's most popular contest logger <a href="https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php">https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N3FJP loggers</td>
<td>Different logger per contest plus a general logger <a href="http://www.n3fjp.com">http://www.n3fjp.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mac OSX</strong></td>
<td>MacLoggerDX</td>
<td>Contest &amp; general logger in 1 program <a href="https://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html">https://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SkookumLogger</td>
<td>Contest logging program for OS X 10.9 or later <a href="http://www.k1gq.com/SkookumLogger">http://www.k1gq.com/SkookumLogger</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linux</strong></td>
<td>CQRLOG</td>
<td>Supported on Ubuntu 14.04 &amp; 16.04 <a href="https://www.cqrlog.com">https://www.cqrlog.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Xlog</td>
<td>Maybe defunct now as no updates in long time <a href="http://xlog.nongnu.org">http://xlog.nongnu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Java</strong></td>
<td>JL Logger</td>
<td>Runs on most modern o.s. (JDK 1.4/or better) <a href="http://www.qsl.net/w1jq">http://www.qsl.net/w1jq</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raspberry</strong>-Pi</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which loggers are contesters’s really using?

Loggers Used in 2015 CQ WW contests

2015 CQ-WW
With at least 200 submissions

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 contesters’s really using?

Breakdown of Loggers Used in 2010 CQ WW **RTTY** Contest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logger (software) Name</th>
<th># Logs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N1MM</td>
<td>1003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MixW</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WriteLog</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not named</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win-Test</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTCL</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QARTEST</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCXLOG</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCKLOG</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMTTY</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... (lots more) ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

1. Logger program’s entries (*.mdb, other)
2. ADIF format (*.adi)
3. Cabrillo format (.log)
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


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


"That's all folks!"

END OF PRESENTATION
CONTINGENCY SLIDES START HERE
[TEMPLATE] topic?

[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]  
[entry?]
“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