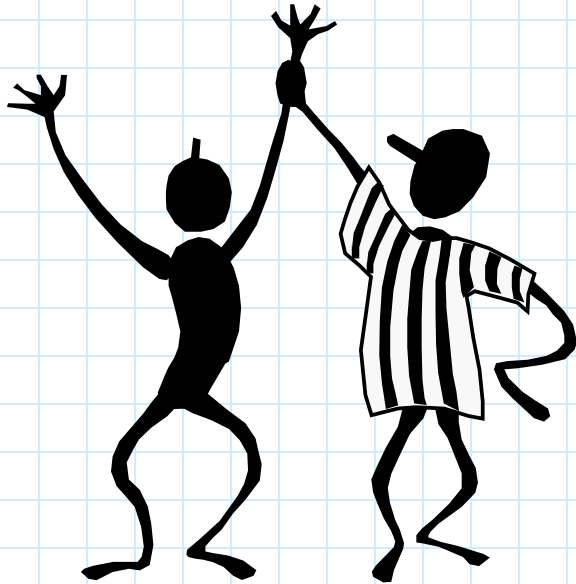


Contesting



TIP

Just Do It!!

Why take part in contests?



Many reasons.....

- Sharpen operating skills
- Get the most from your equipment
- Compete against peers
- Compete against yourself
- Be a part of the community of testers
- And Yes, --- To WIN!
 - Score the most points in your chosen category
 - Beat that guy down the street!

Which Contest?



- Go to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>
 - Chose a contest matching your mode of interest
 - Read the rules
 - Can you comply with all the rules
 - Is the contest in your geographic area
 - Can you operate with your equipment
 - Can you log the contest

How are points scored?



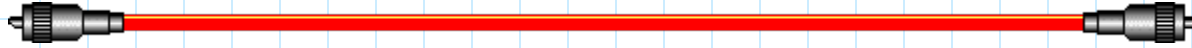
- Each QSO will score a number of points
 - Depending on
 - Mode
 - Power
 - Location of worked station (multiplier)
 - How do multipliers work? It's in the next slide....
 - Bonus points
 - Points are totaled
- Example
 - Review COQP log & summary sheet

How do multipliers work?



- Power
 - It's easier to make contacts with higher power
 - >150 watts - High Power - x 1 Multiplier per QSO
 - \leq 150 watts - Low Power - x 2 Multiplier per QSO
 - \leq 5 watts - QRP - x 3 Multiplier per QSO
- Mode
 - Less skill needed for some modes
 - SSB - x 1 Multiplier per QSO
 - CW/Digital - x 2 Multiplier per QSO
- Location
 - Some locations are difficult to work
 - Each specified location worked (not each QSO) multiplied times total score.

What is a DXCC Entity?



- ARRL administers the DX Century Club (DXCC) award and "entity" list.
- Countries
- Administrative territories
- Islands and even reefs
- IF they meet criteria set by the ARRL

What is a CQ Zone?



- The world is divided into 40 “CQ Zones”
- These are multipliers in some contests.
- For a map showing different zones go to www.cq-amateur-radio.com/wazmain.html.
- ARRL and others sell world maps with CQ zones and other data.

What bands can be used during contests?



- That depends on the particular contest.
- Some are HF or VHF/UHF only
- Some are a combination
- No contesting on the WARC bands: 30m, 17m and 12m, by agreement
- See the contest rules

TIP

JUST DO IT!!

What Bands can I Work?

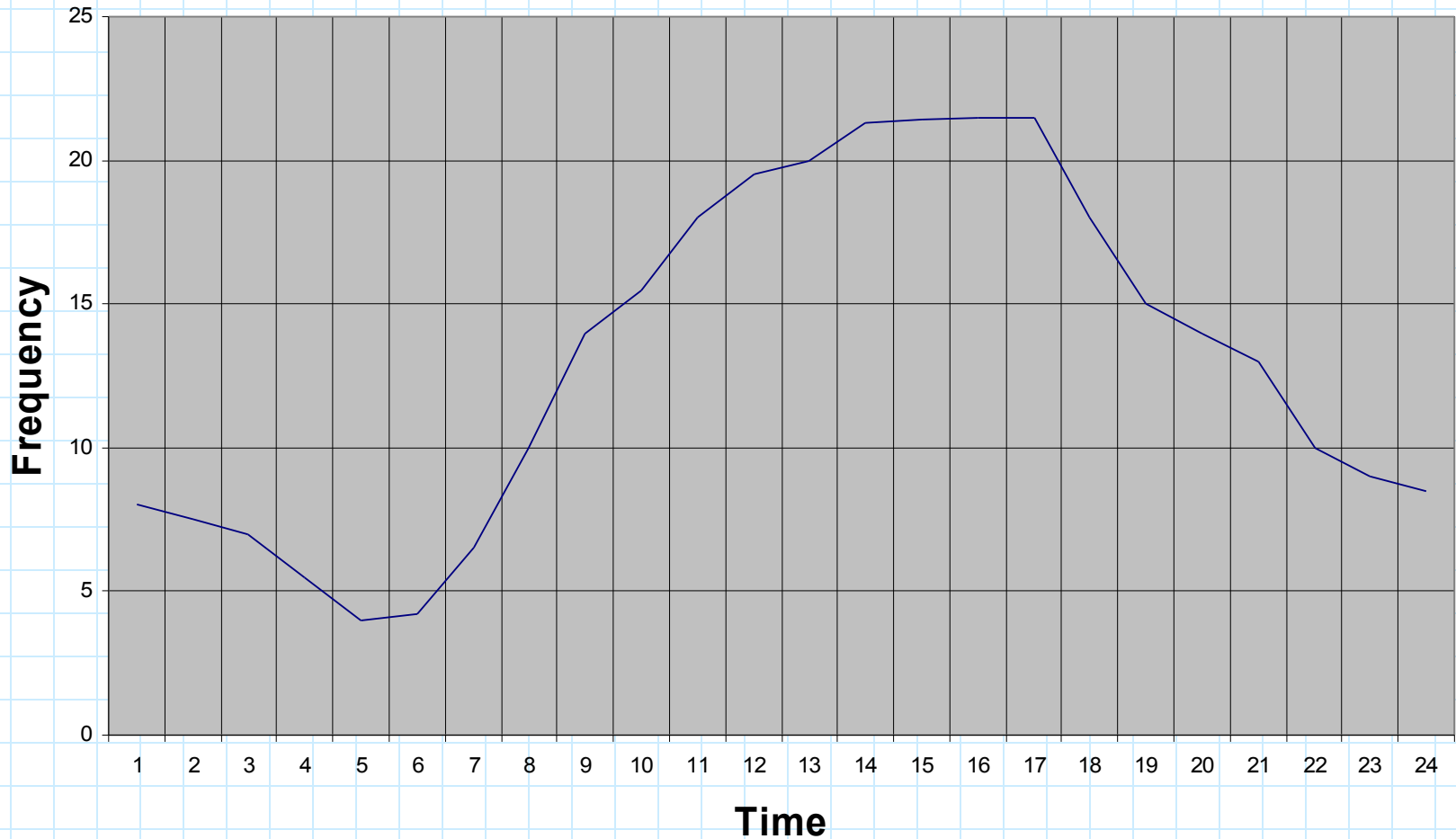


- Read the Rules!!
- VHF/UHF bands (excluding 6 meters) is line of sight and is workable at any time.
- Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF)
 - Determines when bands may be open.
 - Solar activity determines MUF
 - See next slide for example.

Show a Typical MUF Chart?



Maximum Usable Frequency



Can I work the same station more than once?



- Usually a station can only be worked once on each allowed each band and/or mode.
- A station worked more than once is called a “DUPE.”
 - Dupe points will be lost and maybe a penalty.
- QSO Parties allow dupes to be worked more than once if the dupe changes counties.
- Read the rules!!

What's this about Categories??



- Different modes, power and operating methods require different skills.
 - Multipliers don't make a level contest field
- Categories are created to assure operators using the same power and mode compete among themselves.
- Chose a category that matches your skills and equipment.
- Again, Read the Rules!!

Do I need a computerized logging program?




- Most serious contesters use them.
- Logging programs do these and more
 - Log QSO exchanges
 - Computes multipliers
 - Alert you to dupes as you work them
 - Make needed reports
- Start with a simple and free program like Genlog.
- After gaining experience use a full featured program.

Show a Logging Program?



GenLog32 v6.56

File View Printer Log CW DVK Help QSO Acc[man] Access

ABOUK **Contest** **2007 Colorado QSO Party** **Score** 156 

Band	Mode	Time	Call	Report	County	Points	Ser #
20m	PH	2309		59		1	

Real Time
 After contest

Multi/Bonus **TX Exchanges** 59 **FL**

QSO UTC Date 194.log
04/30/07 ABOUK.log
MM/DD/YY GLCOQPOS.log
ST4UNST.LOG
test_7QP.log
W3KM_DX.log

23:09:42 **20m** **Counties**
Edit/Change Log CW off 59 **To Work**
Save data to Log DVK off Pre **Worked**
 Printer off End **Show Log**

9 **Font Size** **20m** **QSOs** 13 **Multi.** 6 **Totals** **QSOs** 13 **Multi.** 6

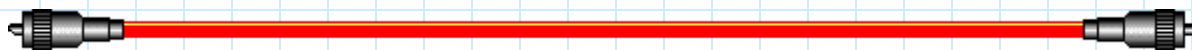
Band	Mode	Date	Time	Call	Report	FL	County	Points
20m	PH	04/16/07	1935	KF0UR	59	FL	DEN	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0314	WV7T	59	FL	ELP	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0314	AB0CB	59	FL	ELP	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0314	N0EOP	59	FL	PUE	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0314	W0RAA	59	FL	PUE	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0315	KB0PPM	59	FL	CRO	1
20m	PH	04/13/07	0315	NC6T	59	FL	CRO	1

What is the "Cabrillo" log?



- Cabrillo is a standard format for submitting logs for scoring.
- Easier to judge than manual logs.
- All good logging program have the ability to make a Cabrillo file for submission.
- Email as attachment only
 - Your call as the email subject
 - Can be snail mailed on a floppy disk

Show me a Cabrillo log?



START-OF-LOG: 2.0

ARRL-SECTION: CO

CALLSIGN: AB0UK

CLUB: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

CONTEST: CQ-WPX-RTTY

CATEGORY: SINGLE-OP ALL LOW

CLAIMED-SCORE: 17286

OPERATORS: AB0UK

NAME: Jim Harris

ADDRESS: 2306 Zane Pl

ADDRESS: Colorado Springs, CO 80909

ADDRESS: USA

CREATED-BY: N1MM Logger V7.1.3

QSO: 14095 RY 2007-02-10 1946 AB0UK	599 0001	WV0T	599 0309
QSO: 14098 RY 2007-02-10 1956 AB0UK	599 0002	K4RO	599 0819
QSO: 14099 RY 2007-02-10 1957 AB0UK	599 0003	W3MF	599 0725
QSO: 14095 RY 2007-02-10 2008 AB0UK	599 0004	W0LSD	599 0426
QSO: 14093 RY 2007-02-10 2009 AB0UK	599 0005	NT6K	599 0184
QSO: 14092 RY 2007-02-10 2011 AB0UK	599 0006	AI9T	599 0785
QSO: 14090 RY 2007-02-10 2016 AB0UK	599 0007	K3KO	599 0290

What Equipment do I need?



- Where possible use the equipment on hand.
- Radio with the contest modes and bands.
- A computer and logging software are recommended.
 - Not necessary to interconnect radio and computer when learning.
- Copy of rules and needed forms.
- A good clock set to UTC time.
- Comfortable chair, table and environment.
- Understanding with significant other(s).

What is Running and Search and Pounce?



- Running
 - A station stays on one frequency calling CQ and working station after station.
 - Used by more experienced operators
- Search and Pounce
 - S&P means tuning the band for stations calling CQ contest and then calling them.
 - Easiest for a beginner
 - Allows time to think and record QSO

Give an example of a contest QSO?



- Here AB0UK is calling CQ ("running") and N0EOP is S&P and responds.
 - “CQ COQP DE AB0UK”
 - “N0EOP”
 - “Copy 59 ELP”
 - “59 FL”
 - “TU AB0UK QRZed”
- Keep it simple and quick.
- Read the Rules for exchange information

What about problem QSO's?



- You Hear “again”
 - Repeat the information you just sent.
- I did not understand the exchange.
 - Say “again” once or twice.
- I hear “Dupe” or “B4.”
 - You’ve worked the station before.
 - Find another station to work.
- My software tells me “Dupe.”
 - Work it, do NOT log it again and move on.
 - Or, if dupes are allowed work the station and log it with notes or indicators as needed.

What is a "busted call"?



- A call captured incorrectly.
 - You may lose points for busted calls or incorrectly logged serial numbers
- An incomplete QSO.
 - QRM/QRN
 - QSB
 - Other reasons

TIP

JUST DO IT!!

What do I do after the contest?



- Do not massage the log
- Submit your log to the contest organizers.
 - Electronic logs
 - Generate cabrillo log
 - Email as attachment - not in body
 - Call sign as subject.
 - Or mail file on floppy disk
 - Manual logs
 - Complete summary sheet
 - Mail to address in Rules

When can I expect results?



- Logs must be submitted 15 to 30 days after contest end.
 - Read the Rules!!
- Expect up to at least 60 days for results to be published.
- For results check the contest's website.
- While waiting
 - Decide what you can do better in the next contest.
 - Send QSL cards to stations you would like to have cards from.

Are we done yet ?



Yep, just about now!



That's all folks!!