

Announcing:

The 2004 CQ World-Wide VHF Contest

Starts: 1800 UTC Saturday, July 17, 2004

Ends: 2100 UTC Sunday, July 18, 2004

I. Contest Period: 27 hours for all stations, all categories. Operate any portion of the contest period you wish. (Note: Exception for QRP Limited.)

II. Objectives: The objectives of this contest are for amateurs around the world to contact as many amateurs as possible in the contest period, to promote VHF, to allow VHF operators the opportunity to experience the enhanced propagation available at this time of year, and for interested amateurs to collect VHF Maidenhead grid locators for awards credits.

III. Bands: All authorized amateur radio frequencies on 50 MHz (6 meters) and 144.00 MHz (2 meters) may be used as authorized by local law and license class.

IV. Class of Competition:

For all categories: Transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500 meter diameter circle or within the property limits of the station licensee's address, whichever is greater. All antennas used by the entrant must be physically connected by wires to the transmitters and receivers used by the entrant. Only the entrant's callsign may be used to aid the entrant's score.

1. Single Op All Band. Only one signal allowed at any one time; the operator may change bands at any time.

2. Single Op Single Band. Only one signal allowed at any one time.

3. Single-Op All-Band QRP. There are no location restrictions home or portable for stations running 10 watts output or less.

4. Single-Op QRP Portable Limited. This is the Hilltopper QRP category for all-band portable stations, who are limited in time to a maximum of 6 hours continuous. Backpackers and portables who do not want to devote resources and time to the full contest period are encouraged to participate, especially to activate rare grids. Any power source is acceptable.

5. Rover. A Rover station is one which is manned by no more than two operators, travels to more than one grid location, and signs Rover or /R with no more than one callsign.

6. Multi-Op. A multi-op station is one with two or more operators and may operate 6 and 2 meters simultaneously with only one signal per band.

Stations in any category, except Rover and QRP Limited, may operate from any single location, home or portable.

V. Exchange: Callsign and Maidenhead

grid locator (4 digits, e.g., FM15). Signal reports are optional and should not be included in the log entry.

VI. Multipliers: The multiplier is the number of different grid locators worked per band. A grid locator is counted once per band. Exception: The rover who moves into a new grid locator may count the same grid locator more than once per band as long as the rover is himself or herself in a new grid locator location. Such change in location must be clearly indicated in the rover's log.

A. A rover station becomes a new QSO to the stations working him or her when that rover changes grid locator.

B. The grid locator is the Maidenhead grid locator to four digits (FM13).

VII. Scoring: One (1) point per QSO on 50 MHz and two (2) points per QSO on 144 MHz. Work stations once per band, regardless of mode. Multiply total QSO points times total number of grid locators (GL) worked.

Rovers: For each new grid locator visited, contacts and grid locators count as new. Final Rover score is the sum of contact points made from each grid locator times the sum of all grid locators worked from all grids visited.

Example 1. K1GX works stations as follows:

50 QSOs ($50 \times 1 = 50$) and 25 GLs (25 multipliers) on 50 MHz

35 QSOs ($35 \times 2 = 70$) and 8 GLs (8 multipliers) on 144 MHz

K1GX has 120 QSO points ($50 + 70 = 120$) \times 33 multipliers ($25 + 8 = 33$) = 3,960 total points.

Example 2. W9FS/R works stations as follows:

From EN52: 50 QSOs ($50 \times 1 = 50$) and 25 GLs (25 multipliers) on 50 MHz

From EN52: 40 QSOs ($40 \times 2 = 80$) and 10 GLs (10 multipliers) on 144 MHz

From EN51: 60 QSOs ($60 \times 1 = 60$) and 30 GLs (30 multipliers) on 50 MHz

From EN51: 20 QSOs ($20 \times 2 = 40$) and 5 GLs (5 multipliers) on 144 MHz

W9FS/R has 230 QSO points ($50 + 80 + 60 + 40$) \times 70 multipliers ($25 + 10 + 30 + 5$) = 16,100 total points

VIII. Awards: Certificates suitable for framing will be awarded to the top-scoring stations in each category in each country. Certificates may also be awarded to other top-scoring stations who show outstanding contest effort. Certificates will be awarded

to top-scoring stations in each category in geographic areas where warranted.

Geographic areas include states (U.S.), provinces (Canada), and countries, and may also be extended to include other subdivisions as justified by competitive entries.

Unique, handsome plaques will be awarded to the highest scoring stations. For more information on the CQ VHF Contest Plaque Program see <http://www.cqww.com/VHFplaques.htm>.

IX. Miscellaneous: An operator may sign only one callsign during the contest. This means that an operator cannot generate QSOs by first signing his callsign, then signing his daughter's callsign, even though both callsigns are assigned to the same location.

A station located exactly on a dividing line of a grid locator must choose only one grid locator from which to operate for exchange purposes.

A different multiplier cannot be given out without moving the complete station at least 100 meters.

Making or soliciting QSOs on the national simplex frequency, 146.52 MHz, or your country's designated national simplex frequency, or immediately adjacent guard frequencies, is prohibited. Use of commonly recognized repeater frequencies is prohibited. Recognized FM simplex frequencies such as 146.49, .55, and .58, and local-option simplex channels may be used for contest purposes.

Aeronautical mobile contacts do not count.

Contestants should respect use of the DX window, 50.100-50.125 MHz, for intercontinental QSOs only.

UTC is the required logging time.

X. Log Submissions: Log entries must be submitted by September 1, 2004 to be eligible for awards. Submit your electronic log in the Cabrillo format created by all major logging programs. Send via e-mail attachment to cqvhf@cqww.com. Subject line: Callsign [used in the contest] only.

Those using paper logs are urged to utilize web forms, which allows you to transcribe your logs for entry on-line and automatic Cabrillo submission. Web forms are at http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwvhf_cab.php.

For those without e-mail access, paper logs may be submitted to: CQ VHF Contest, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801 USA. Questions may be sent to vhf-questions@cqww.com.