

Announcing:

The 2020 CQ World Wide VHF Contest

Starts: 1800 UTC Saturday, July 18, 2020

Ends: 2100 UTC Sunday, July 19, 2020

NOTE: Use of APRS by Rovers is permitted for the purpose of announcing their location.

I. Contest Period

27 hours for all stations, all categories. Operate any portion of the contest period you wish. (**Note: Exception for QRP Hilltopper.**)

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 award credits.

III. Bands

All amateur radio frequencies on 50 MHz (6 meters) and 144 MHz (2 meters) may be used as authorized by local law and license class. Note exceptions in Rule XI for common repeater frequencies and 146.52 MHz.

IV. QSO Alerting Assistance

Definition: The use of any technology or other source that provides callsign or multiplier identification along with frequency information about a signal to the operator. This includes, but is not limited to, use of DX Cluster, packet, local, or remote callsign and frequency decoding technology (e.g., CW Skimmer or Reverse Beacon Network), or operating arrangements involving other individuals.

1. All stations are allowed to use QSO Alerting Assistance. **No self-spotting or asking to be spotted is allowed.**

2. **Stations attempting digital EME or digital meteor-scatter QSOs are allowed to spot the callsign, frequency, and sequence only. Caution:** To ensure strict compliance with these rules, the adjudication process will include review of real-time and archived transcripts from websites used to coordinate alerting data during the contest period.

3. The use of non-amateur means to effect a QSO is not allowed. This includes use of the telephone, and website posts providing information **beyond** that of callsign, frequency, and sequence.

4. **Rovers may use APRS to announce their location.**

V. Categories 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.

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

2. **Single Operator—Single Band.** Only one signal allowed at any one time.

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

4. **Hilltopper.** This is a single-op QRP **portable** category for an all-band entry limited in time to a **maximum of 6 continu-**

ous hours. 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 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 Hilltopper, may operate from any single location, home, or portable.

VI. Exchange

Callsign and Maidenhead grid locator (4 characters, e.g., EM15). Signal reports are not required and should not be included in the log entry.

VII. 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.

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

2. The grid locator is the four-character Maidenhead grid (e.g. EM15).

VIII. 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 ($50 + 70 = 120$) x 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) x 70 multipliers (25 + 10 + 30 + 5) = 16,100 total points

IX. Awards

Certificates will be awarded to the top-scoring stations in each category in each country. Certificates may also be awarded to other top-scoring stations that 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. U.S. Rover certificates are issued on a regional basis.

Plaques again will be awarded to the highest scoring stations. They are offered in various categories on a sponsored basis. Clubs and individual plaque donors are sought and may find information on how to sponsor a CQWW VHF Contest plaque at <<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/plaques.htm>>.

X. Club Competition

Credit your club for aggregate club score. See <<http://www.cqww.com/club-names.htm>> for a list of registered clubs. Follow directions for registering your club if not already registered.

XI. 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.

XII. Declaration

Your submission of a log entry affirms

that: (1) you have abided by all the rules of the contest as well as those of your country's licensing authority; (2) you accept any decisions made regarding your entry by the contest's adjudication process which are official and final.

XIII. Log Submissions

Log entries must be submitted by **July 29, 2020** to be eligible for awards. Submit your electronic log in the Cabrillo format created by all major logging programs. **Emailed logs are no longer accepted and the former email address is no longer active.** Submit CQWW VHF Contest logs via the web upload tool found at <<https://cqww-vhf.com/logcheck>>.

With the many ways that a proper Cabrillo log can be generated electronically and submitted, **paper logs or logs in electronic formats other than Cabrillo will no longer be accepted.** Of 976 logs submitted in 2019, only 7 were submitted on paper so this should NOT be a hardship for any contest participants, but if this truly IS a hardship, exceptions will be considered. Similarly, if the log cannot be submitted by the deadline date above, exceptions will be considered. Contact <k9jk.cq+logquestions@gmail.com> as soon as possible.

Once the "Process" button is clicked, the "logcheck" upload tool will process the submitted log and display any errors that it detects that must be fixed before the log can be accepted. If no errors are found, a confirmation of the category that the tool determined, along with a count of valid QSOs that it found, so please check these. If you do not agree with Category or QSO count, please go back and review the log that you submitted. Most log submission problems are minor and can be corrected in one pass. Submit your log as many times as needed. The last submitted log will be the version that counts for your official entry.

You can check the status of your log at our web page Log Received tab; the direct link is <https://cqww-vhf.com/logs_received.htm>.

Entrants are reminded to be sure your log indicates your operating location. For USA / Canada stations, be sure to indicate the state or province of your operation.

An ADIF Converter is also available but has not been tested extensively and, at present, is suitable only for FIXED station logs (sorry Rovers). If you would like to try it, it is available at <<https://cqww-vhf.com/adif>>.

Thank you all for your interest and participation, let's hope for some good propagation conditions on the 50- and 144-MHz bands in July and that participants will find and USE their microphones and keys.

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