

Introduction to Contesting

and the

Arizona QSO Party

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Agenda

- What is Contesting?
- What's required to get started?
- What are the best contests for beginners?
- Arizona QSO Party
- N1MM Logger+

What is Contesting?

- Ever wonder what all the HF activity is on a weekend?
 - Its probably a contest.
- What are the contesters doing?
 - Having ham radio fun!
- Are they competing?
 - Yes, with plaques, certificates, etc. awarded to winners.
- Do you have to compete to have fun?
 - Absolutely not!
 - Most participants are just operating casually.
- Why would you join the party then?
 - Just to make a few contacts.
 - Maybe work on your ARRL Worked All States award.
 - Maybe work on your USA Counties Award.
 - Or maybe just to have a little ham radio fun!

What's required to get started?

- Radio
- Antenna
- Computer
- Contest logging program
 - N1MM Logger+
 - *World's most popular contest logging program*
 - *Free*
 - Other contest logging programs available
- Review contest rules

What are the best contests for beginners?

- ARRL Field Day (FD)
 - Part educational, operating, public relations
 - Great for contest training
- State QSO parties
 - Other state parties
 - Arizona QSO Party!
- Area QSO party
 - 7th Call Area QSO Party: 7QP
- Really any contest!
 - Experience the contesting aspect of FD every weekend!

Arizona QSO Party (AZQP)

- Objective
 - Arizona stations work everyone
 - Non-AZ stations work as many AZ stations as possible
 - *That makes the AZQP really fun for AZ stations!*
- www.AZQP.org

AZQP Contest Exchange

- Run station (**green**)
 - Calls CQ
 - *Try running after you gain experience*
- Search & Pounce (S&P) station (**blue**)
 - Answers the CQ
 - *Try S&P first to gain experience*



CQ Arizona QSO Party K7ABC

W1XYZ

W1XYZ 59 PMA

59 MA

Thanks

N1MM Logger+

- <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/downloads/n1mm-full-install/>
 - Install latest update (after full install & before using)
- Config / Change Your Station Data
 - Call, ARRL Section, etc.
- File / New Log in Database ... / Select contest type
 - Log Type: QSOPARTY
 - State for Log Type QSOPARTY: AZ
 - Sent Exchange: 3-letter county abbreviation per AZQP rules
 - Category dropdowns: set appropriately
- Change
 - Frequency: type desired frequency in kHz into Entry window
 - Mode: type SSB or CW into Entry window
- Enter Contact(s)
 - Type callsign into Entry window & hit space bar
 - Type received exchange into Exch window & hit enter
- Edit a contact
 - Select contact in log window / right click / Edit (or Delete)
- File / Generate Cabrillo File

N1MM Logger+

- N1MM Logger+ contest-optimized features and documentation are extensive and complex. However, the previous slide has all the information you will need to get up and running with N1MM+ for the AZQP.
- The following advanced topics can be explored later:
 - Computer to Radio interface
 - *Rig Control*
 - *Audio in/out*
 - Phone: Voicing .wav files
 - CW: K1EL WinKeyer USB
 - Function Keys & ESM mode
 - Assisted / Unlimited operation: Telnet window

Have Ham Radio Fun in the AZQP!

73, Bill / K6WSC