HAM RADIO CONTESTING Phil N3ZP

What is contesting?

Contesting is operating over a specific time period to make contacts with certain objectives and complete the exchange of information:

- Work specific regions States, Countries, Continents, Zones.
- Work specific bands 160 Meters, VHF Contests, 10 Meter Contests.
- Work specific modes SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, FT8.
- Work call sign prefixes.
- Some contests are sprints Limited Operating Time
 - 1 hour, 12 hour
- Power level QRP (5 Watts or less), low power (100 Watts), KW

Why do we contest?

- Improve our operating skills.
- Test our radios and antennas.
- Learn about band propagation.
- Promote activity on bands or modes.
- Work new states, counties, countries, grids.
- Be the station everyone needs state, county, country, grid square, prefix.
- Challenge yourself score better than last time.

Who can contest?

Any license class can participate in a contest.

- VHF contests allow FM Simplex contacts.
- All license classes have privileges on 10 Meters in addition to VHF/UHF bands.
- Technician class licenses have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 Meters. Try CW.
- Contests have a class for QRP low power stations.
- Many contests have a Rookie category.
- There are several ARRL Rookie contests.
- Assist a control operator with a higher class license.

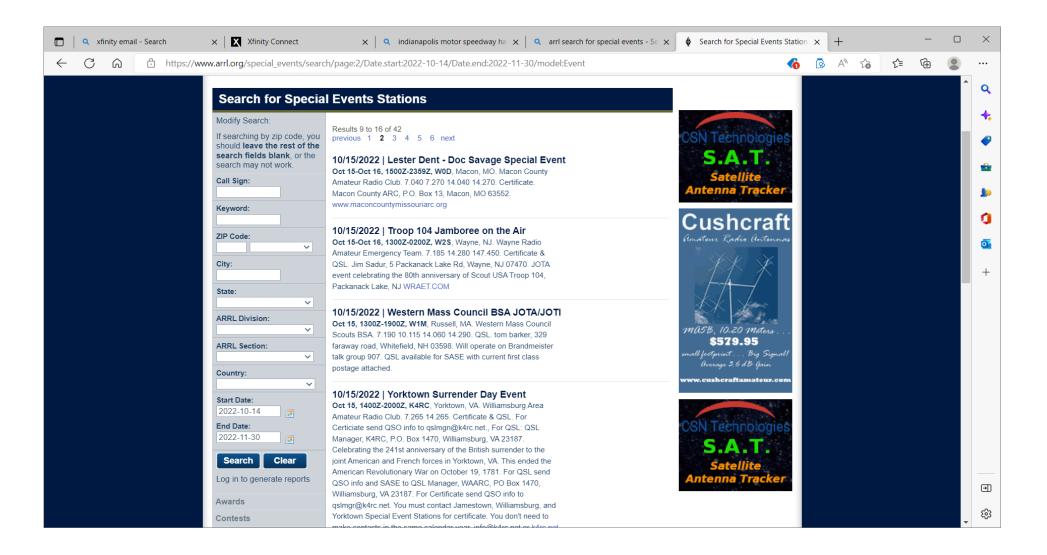
Some Popular Contests

- ARRL Field Day (although not really a contest)
- ARRL Sweepstakes CW, SSB
- ARRL International DX Contest CW, SSB
- CW World-Wide CW, SSB
- CQ WW WPX CW, SSB
- CQ WW RTTY
- ARRL VHF January, June all modes
- ARRL RTTY Roundup
- Winter Field Day
- But there are many, many more.

There are also Special Events – here are a few

- Lighthouses on the Air
- Annual 13 Colonies Special Event
- Museum Ships on the Air
- Winter Heat Simplex Event VHF/UHF FM
- Route 66 on the Air
- Jamboree on the Air Boy Scouts
- W9IMS Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Search for Special Events Stations (arrl.org)



How do I find a contest?

WA7BNM Contest Calendar: 8-D.	× +								- D >
← C ⋒ ⊡ https://www	w.contestcaler	dar.com/weekly	cont.php						A" ★ 🗲 🖻 🙁 …
Calendar Powered by IC	OM								8-Day Contest Calendar October 11 - 18, 2022
Home 8-Day 5-Week 12-M	lonth Perp	etual State	QSO Parties	CW QRP	Log Due Dat	es Historica	l Alphabeti	cal Customize	Cabrillo Names
🕑 Follow @wa7bnmcalendar	tober 3 - 10, 1	2022 Octobe	er 11 - 18, 202	2 October	19 - 26, 2022	31			-
	Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	8
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
ICWC Medium Speed Test									
RTTYOPS Weeksprint									
AQCC CW Sprint									
hone Weekly Test									+
CWops Test (CWT)									
/HF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest									
Mini-Test 40									
Mini-Test 80									
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data						1. I. I. I. I. I. I.		· · · · · ·	
CWops Test (CWT)									
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RTTYOPS Weeksprint									
EACW Meeting									
NCCC RTTY Sprint									
NCCC Sprint									
K1USN Slow Speed Test									
ARRL EME Contest									
JARTS WW RTTY Contest									
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW									
New York QSO Party									
Worked All Germany Contest									
Feld Hell Sprint									
Argentina National 7 MHz Contest									Ę
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW									*

Find out more

WA7BNM Contest Calendar: 8	-D × +			—		>
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w York QSO Party: 1400Z, Oc	t 15 to 0200Z, Oct 16					
Geographic Focus:	United States/Canada state/province QSO party					•
Participation:	Worldwide					
Mode:	CW, SSB, Digital					
Bands:	All, except WARC					
Classes:	Single Op (CW/SSB/Mixed)(QRP/High) Single Op (CW/SSB/Digital/Mixed)(Low)					
	Multi-Single (Low/High)					
	Multi-Multi (Low/High) School Single Op (CW/SSB/Digital/Mixed)(Low)					
	School Multi-Single (CW/SSB/Digital/Mixed)(Low)					
	Mobile Single-Op (CW/SSB/Mixed)(Low/High)					
	Mobile Multi-Single (CW/SSB/Mixed)(Low/High)					
	Mobile Multi-Multi (CW/SSB/Mixed)(Low/High)					
	Portable Single Op (CW/SSB/Mixed)(QRP/High) Portable Single Op (CW/SSB/Digital/Mixed)(Low)					
	Portable Multi-Single (Low/High)					
	Portable Multi-Multi (Low/High)					
	Single Op Overlays: (Rookie/Youth-17/Youth-13/YL)					
lax power:	HP: >100 watts					
	LP: 100 watts					
	QRP: 5 watts					
xchange:	NY: RS(T) + county non-NY: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX")					
Work stations:	Once per band per mode					
SO Points:	1 point per Phone QSO					
250 Points.	2 points per CW QSO				- 1	
	3 points per Digital QSO					4
Aultipliers:	NY: Each NY county, US state, VE province/territory once					
	Non-NY: Each NY county once					
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points x total mults					
Submit logs by:	October 30, 2022					
E-mail logs to:	(none)					
Jpload log at:	https://nyqp.contesting.com/					
Web-to-Cabrillo form:	http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/nyqp_cab.php					
Mail logs to:	(none)					
Find rules at:	http://www.nyqp.org/					
	500Z, Oct 15 to 1459Z, Oct 16					
Geographic Focus:	Germany					
Participation:	Worldwide					
Mode:	CW, SSB					
Bands:	(Please observe contest free band segments per the rules), 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m					
Classes:	Single Op CW (Low/High)				-	

Find the rules

NYQP Rules – New York State QS × 2022-New-York-QSO-Party-Final × +) ×
C A 1 File C:/Users/phil-/OneDrive/Desktop/Contest/2022-New-York-QSO-Party-Final-Rules-2022-09-10-1.pdf	
$\stackrel{::=}{=} 1 \text{ of 15 } Q \qquad - + \mathcal{D} \square \square Page view A^{\mathbb{N}} Read aloud \square Add text \forall Draw \vee \forall Highlight \vee \mathcal{D} Erase - \mathcal{D} \square \square \square \square \square \square \square \square \square \square $	Î Q
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2022 Now Vark OSO Darty	+
2022 New York QSO Party	
Phone – CW – RTTY/Digital	
Third Saturday in October: October 15, 2022 1400 UTC (10:00 AM Eastern)	
12 Hours	€
https://www.nyap.org	ي ن ن

How to choose a contest?

- Can my station operate on the bands and modes for the contest?
- Do I want to operate only a few hours or a whole weekend?
- Do I want to only operate in the daytime or all hours of the day?
- Is there an operator category that suits my interests and experience?
- Do I want to be a casual participant or go all out?
- Can I participate without sending in a log?
- Do I have logging software for a contest?

What do I need to be in a contest?

- Radio and antenna for the band/bands you will operate on.
- PC for logging.
- Logging software (prevent dupes, create contest entry)
- Popular programs

N1MM+ – free download

DXLog – free download

N3FJP – \$8.99 for single contest, \$59.99 for all

 Spare time – it can take up much of your weekend if you get caught up in it.

Does my station need to look like this?

All band antennas

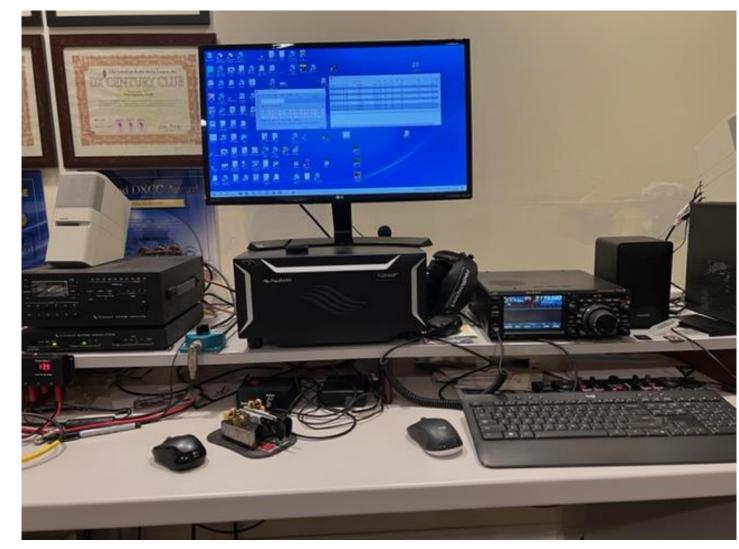






Or maybe more like this?





Maybe even this?



How to get started

- Participate in a multi-operator effort with a local ham. With a control operator you can operate on their license class with their call.
- Assist as a logger become familiar with the contest procedure and exchange.
- Find a contest that interests you and jump in!

http://contestclubs.arrl.org/viewlists.php

Check your call in the club list. Phil-Mont is an ARRL Contest Club

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio*

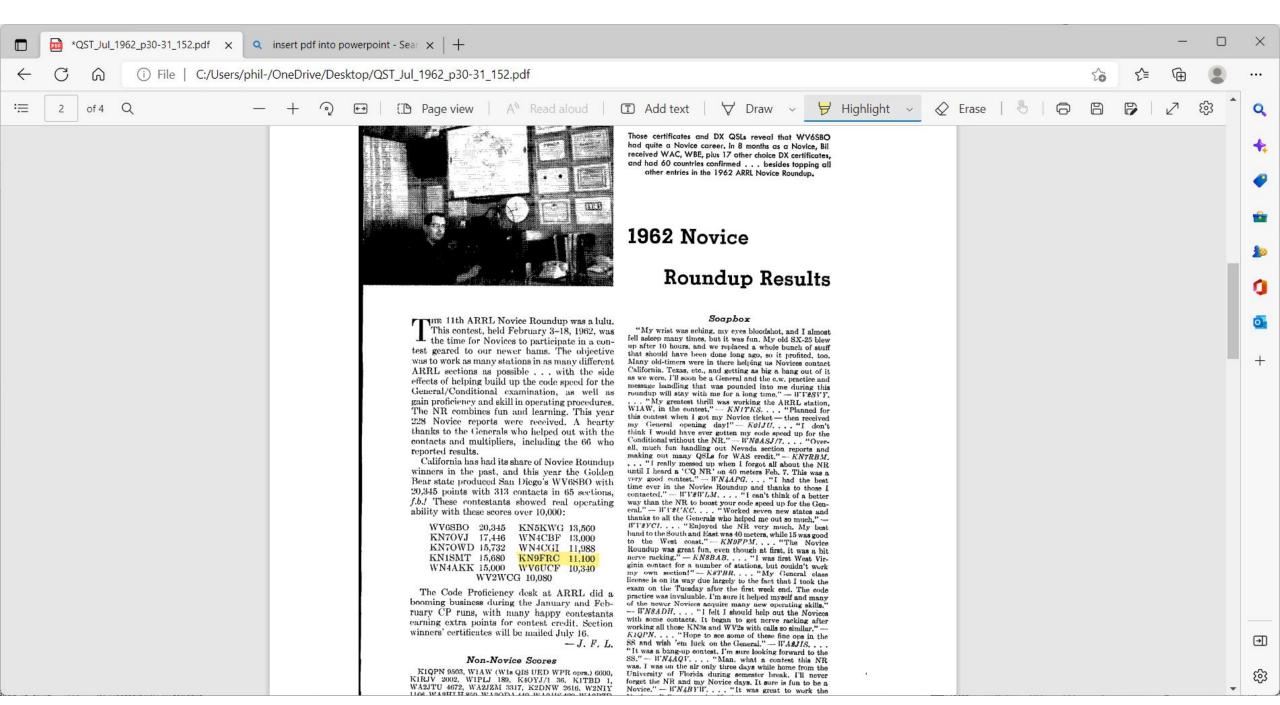
ARRL Home Contests Home Calendar Log Submission Logs Received Scores Certificates Clubs Non-Contest Events

Joload List	lub Eligibility Lists		
Jpload List	Use this form to search uploaded contest club eligibility lis	its.	
/iew Lists	Search for call in all eligibility lists Search	D	
List of Contest Clubs	Click on a contest club to view its submitted eligibility lists	i	
	599 DX Association	Heartland DX Association	Piedmont Amateur Radio Club
Contest Club Tools	721st Mechanized Contest Battalion	Hickory Lake Contest Club	Piedmont Contest Group
Grid Distance	Alabama Contest Group	Hilltop Transmitting Assn	Pizza Lovers 259
Calculator	Alaska VHF-Up Group	Holmesburg ARC	Port Lavaca Amateur Radio Club
	Alberta Clippers Alexandria Radio Club	Hop River Radio Club Hot Springs ARC	Portage County Amateur Radio Service Potomac Valley Radio Club
	Alexandria Radio Club Allegheny Valley Radio Association	Hot Springs ARC Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	Potomac valley Radio Club Pottstown Area ARC
	American Red Cross Emergency Communications Service		Preble ARA
	American Red Cross Emergency Communications Service Anoka County Radio Club	Hughes ARC Humboldt Amateur Radio Club	Providence Radio Assn
	Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	Idaho Mountain Amateur Radio Society	Quad County Amateur Radio Club
	Arizona VHF Society	Iowa DX and Contest Club	Queen City Emergency Net
	Arkansas DX Assn	Island County ARC	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
	Arrow Communications Assn	Javhawk ARS	Radio Club of Redmond
	Athens County ARA	Jefferson ARC	Radiohio
	Badger Contesters	Kansas City Contest Club	Radiosport Manitoba
	Baldwin County ARC	Kennedy Space Center Amateur Radio Club	Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club
	Bay Area DXers	Kentucky Contest Group	Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs
	Bayman Radio Club	L'anse Creuse ARC	Redwood Empire DX Assn
	Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club	Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub	Roadrunners Microwave Group
	Bergen ARA	Lake Area Radio Klub (SD)	Rochester (NY) DX Assn
	Big Sky Contesters	Long Island Mobile ARC	Rochester VHF Group
	Blue Ridge ARC	Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club	Rockwall ARC
	Boeing Employees ARS - St. Louis	Louisiana Contest Club	RZS Amateur Radio Club
	Bolingbrook ARS	Mad River Radio Club	Saskatchewan Contest Club
	Boringuen Radio Club	Maritime Contest Club	Seneca Radio Club
	BOULDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	Maul ARC	Sierra Foothills ARC
	Bristol (TN) ARC	McKean County ARC	Slerra Nevada ARS
	Brookhaven National Lab ARC	Medina County Amateur Radio Club Meriden ARC	Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society
	Burlington County Radio Club	Meriden ARC Metro DX Club	Silver Springs Radio Club Six Meter Club of Chicago
	Butts County Emergency Communications Aux		Six Meter Club of Chicago Skyview Radio Society
	Cape Fear ARS	Michigan VHF-UHF Society Midland ARC	Society of Midwest Contesters
	Carolina DX Association	Milford (OH) ARC	Society of Midwest Contesters South East Contest Club
	Carroll County Contesters	Minnesota Wireless Assn	South Jersey DX Association
	Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club	Mississauga Amateur Radio Club	South Jersey Radio Assn
	Central Ohio Operators Klub	Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	South Texas DX and Contest Club
	Central Oregon DX Club	Mobile Sixers Radio Club	Southern Berkshire ARC
	Central Texas DX and Contest Club	Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	Southern California Contest Club
	Central Virginia Contest Club	Motor City Radio Club	Spokane DX Association
	Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	St Louis ARC
	Cleveland ARC	Murgas ARC	Stanford University ARC
	Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers	Nashoba Valley ARC	Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club
	Cold Brook Contest Club	New Mexico Big River Contesters	Sterling Park ARC
	Columbus ARC	New Mexico VHF Society	Stoned Monkey VHF ARC
	Contest Club Ontario	New Providence ARC	Story County Amateur Radio Club
	Contoocook Valley Radio Club	Niagara Frontier Radiosport	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
	CTRI Contest Group	North Carolina DX and Contest Club	Susquehanna County ARC
	Deep Dixle Contest Club	North Coast Contesters	Sussex County ARC
	Delara Contest Team	North East Weak Signal Group	Swamp Fox Contest Group
	DFW Contest Group	North Fulton ARL	Tennessee Contest Group
	Downey ARC	North Richland Hills Amateur Radio Club	Tennessee Valley DX Association
	Driftless Zone Contesters	North Texas Contest Club	Texas DX Society
	Dupage ARC	North Texas Microwave Society	The Noise Blankers Radio Group
	Eastern Connecticut ARA	Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society	The Villages Amateur Radio Club
	Eastern New Mexico ARC	Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	TX Emergency Amateur Communicators
	Eastern Ozarks Arc	Northern Arizona DX Assn	Utah DX Association
	Edmonds Woodway ARC	Northern California Contest Club	Valley Amateur Radio Association
	Ellis County ARC Fairlawn ARC	Northern Lights Radio Society Northwest Indiana DX Club	Vancouver Contest Club Ventura County Amateur Radio Society
	Florida Contest Group Florida Weak Signal Society	Not Quite Workable Contest Club Oakland County Amateur Radio Society	Vienna Wireless Society W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee
	Florida Weak Signal Society Fort Smith ARC	OAkland County Amateur Radio Society OH-KY-IN ARS	W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee Wayne County Amateur Radio Club
	Fourlanders Contest Team	Oklahoma City Autopatch Association	Weekend Warriors
	Frankford Radio Club	Oklahoma DX Assn	West Park Radiops
	Georgia Contest Group	Ontario VHF Association	West Valley ARA
	Gloucester Co ARC	Orange County ARC	Western Canada Weak Signal Assoc
	Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	Orca DX and Contest Club	Western Kansas ARC
	Granite State ARA	Order of Boiled Owls of New York	Western Washington DX Club
	Great Places Contest Club	Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	Willamette Valley DX Club
	Great Salt Lake Contest Club	Owatonna Steele County Amateur Radio Club	Winona ARC
	Great South Bay ARC	Pacific Northwest VHF Society	Wireless Society of Southern Maine
	GREAT SOUTHERN DX ASSOCIATION	Pamlico Amateur Radio Society, LTD	Woodmont ARA
	Hamilton ARC	Pasadena Radio Club	XRX Amateur Radio Club
	Hampden County Radio Association	Peace River Radio Assn	Yankee Clipper Contest Club
	Hazel Park ARC	Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club	termed support sourcest study

Send comments or questions about this page to ARRL Contest Manager. Version: 1.2.0, Revised: July 5, 2018 Copyright © 2016-2022 American Radia Relay League, Inc., All Rights Reserved

My history as a contester

KN9FRC in February, 1962 Novice Roundup



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ARRL Home	Contests Home	Calendar	Log Su	Ibmission	Logs Received	Scores	Certificates	Clubs	Non-Contest	Events									-
Contests -	Scores																		10
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10 Meter	Search for	Call Sign		~	Callsign	Go	D												• •
160 Meter	Scores f	for N3ZP																	
222 MHz	□ Show C	perators																	+
Digital	Event 10M	Call Sign N3ZP	Year 2021	Location EPA	Category Single Operato	or, CW Onl	v. High Power		Score 4,200	QSOs I	Mults O	perator(s)							
DX CW	10M	N3ZP	2014	EPA	Single Operato	or, Mixed N	1ode, Low Pov	ver	6,000	61	25								
DX Phone	160M 160M	KG9Z KG9Z	2018 2016	ОН ОН	Multioperator, Multioperator,	-	-		21,168 39,072	187 290		59Z N3ZP N8IW 59Z N3ZP WB8BPU							
DX FIIORE	160M	N3ZP	2012	EPA	Single Operato	-	-		6,516	92	36								
EME	DV CW	NOZD	2022	504	Cinela Orașeta				100.000	200	120								
Field Day	DX CW DX CW	N3ZP N3ZP	2022 2021	EPA EPA	Single Operato Single Operato	-			106,860 11,844	286 94	130 42								
	DX CW	N3ZP	2019	EPA	Single Operato	or, High Po	wer		83,556	223	132								
IARU HF	DX CW	N3ZP	2018	EPA	Single Operato		· •	r	43,470	169	90								
Jan VHF	DX CW	N3ZP	2017	EPA	Single Operato	or, Low Pov	wer		41,580	143	99								
Jun VHF	DX CW	N3ZP	2016		Single Operato				16,287	89	61								
Jun vin	DX CW	N3ZP	2013	EPA	Single Operato				41,850	162	93								€
Rookie Roundu	IP, DX CW	N3ZP	2012	EPA	Single Operato				15,678	85	67								Ľ
CW	Dx Cw	N3ZP	2011	EPA	Single Operato				20,700	100	69								ŝ
	DX Phone	N3ZP	2022	EPA	Single Operato	or, High Po	ower		3,978	41	34							•	.0.

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Call	Year	Loc	Zn	Category	Score	QSOs	Zn	Cty	160M	80M	40M	20M	15M	10M	Hours	Club	Operator(s)	Cert
N3ZP	<u>2019</u>	W3	5	SO HIGH ALL	25,920	99	32	76		4/3/2	29/11/24	38/12/31	28/6/19		8.0			
N3ZP	<u>2020</u>	W3	5	SO HIGH ALL	9,450	59	22	41			29/7/18	15/6/11	15/9/12		5.7			
N3ZP	<u>2012</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL	6,600	49	17	33			36/7/20	4/4/4	9/6/9		2.1			E.
N3ZP	<u>2013</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL	1,652	24	9	19			15/3/13		<mark>9/6/6</mark>		2.0			
N3ZP	<u>2018</u>	W3	5	SO HIGH ALL	1,196	19	11	15			10/6/8	9/5/7			2.2			
N3ZP	<u>2017</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL	256	9	7	9			2/2/2	2/2/2	5/3/5		1.2			

CW

Call	Year	Loc	Zn	Category	Score	QSO s	Zn	Cty	160M	80M	40M	20M	15M	10M	Hours	Club	Operator(s)	Cert
N3ZP	<u>2020</u>	W3	5	SA HIGH ALL	55,510	188	35	87			89/18/40	29/5/15	60/6/24	10/6/8	9.3			
N3ZP	<u>2012</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL	50,820	149	44	88		21/6/10	63/11/34	36/13/25	25/11/15	4/3/4	5.4			
N3ZP	<u>2016</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL (C)	40,252	130	32	84		8/4/3	29/9/24	82/15/47	11/4/10		8.8			
N3ZP	<u>2013</u>	W3	5	SO LOW ALL	32,292	110	42	75			22/8/16	28/10/18	27/15/17	33/9/24	4.7			
N3ZP	<u>2021</u>	W3	5	SO HIGH ALL	20,640	97	25	55			60/11/29	22/6/15	15/8/11		2.8			
N3ZP	<u>2018</u>	W3	5	SO LOW 40M	14,580	98	13	41			98/13/41				4.0			
N3ZP	<u>2014</u>	W3	5	SO QRP ALL	10,431	69	21	40			39/7/20	21/8/15		9/6/5	4.3			

The Radio Amateur's Journal Takes pleasure in awarding this Certificate of Merit to N3ZP In Recognition of the achievement of winning the 2011 UNITED STATES 3RD AREA ONTEST division for for the **1ST PLACE QRP POWER CW SINGLE OPERATOR 40 METERS** A Total score of 1,971 points was computed on the basis of the number of stations worked and call sign prefixes contacted. In witness of this achievement, we hereby affix our signatures on this day. #17 WORLD #5 NORTH AMERICA #5 UNITED UNITED STATES Less. More ion w2VU

CQ WPX Contest Director

Editor, CQ



Questions and Answers