

January Radio Contests

Are you new to ham radio, or maybe just to Contesting? January has a couple of contests that are easy to work. Both are limited to 100 Watts, so most of your equipment is ready to go. Both also have QRP options.

North American QSO Party – Jan. 16. 10:00am to 10:00pm

This is the SSB contest. (CW contest is on Jan. 11. 10:00am to 10:00pm)

Single Operator – (SO) Good if you are only 1 person operating your own radio at home.

Multi-Operator – (M2) – If several of you are working together doing the contacts, logging, etc. This is a good Club project if you aren't afraid of that Covid crap.

Bands – 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10. Suggested frequencies are 1865, 3850, 7225, 14.250, 21.300, and 28.500. These are just good places to start searching.

The required exchange is Call Sign, Operators first name, and State. Pretty easy exchange.

Sponsored by National Contest journal: www.ncjweb.com

Winter Field Day – Jan. 30 11:00am to Jan. 31 11:00am

Modes: CW, SSB and Digital (Note that FT8 and FT4 are not allowed)

Entry Classes:

Indoor – operate from inside a REMOTE, insulated heated shelter

Outdoor – Operate from a location that is partly or fully exposed to the elements. This has to be at least 30 feet away from your home station. A campground, park pavilion, canopy, tent or shed or uninsulated car or truck or van.

Home – Operate from your home station, using your regular antennas. You can still claim “alternate” power if you are not using any commercial power, including commercial power to recharge you batteries.

Bands – suggested lowest 30 kHz of the General Class bands. 6-meter, VHF and UHF may also be used.

Qualifying alternate or non-commercial power. “any power not connected to the commercial power grid”. Batteries, solar, generator. Your logging computer may be operated with commercial power.

The required exchange is: Call sign, Class* and Category*, ARRL section (OR for us in Oregon)

*Not as complicated as it sounds – 1O (that's One Oscar) is a single operator working from his garden shed in the back yard, or from under a tarp in the park.

Sponsored by Winter Field Day Association – www.winterfieldday.com

N3FJP Software has logging programs for both contests, although I really had to hunt for the Winter Field Day log on their site.