

# Introduction to Contesting

and the

## Arizona QSO Party

Green Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO Party: 7QP
- Really any contest!
  - Experience the contesting aspect of FD every weekend!

# Arizona QSO Party (AZQP)

- [www.AZQP.org](http://www.AZQP.org)
- Objective
  - Arizona stations work everyone
  - Non-AZ stations work as many AZ stations as possible
    - *That makes the AZQP really fun for AZ stations!*
- Contest Period
  - 1500z Oct 8 to 0500z Oct 9, 2022 (UTC)
  - 2nd October Saturday, 8 AM to 10 PM (AZ)

# 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 N7GV

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

Q & A

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73, Bill K6WSC