



# Contesting Q & A

SRS Contest Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

# Contesting Q & A

- What is contesting ?
- Why do it?
- Where to do it?
- When to do it?
- How to get started?

# What is contesting ?

**RSGB says:**

**“Contesting usually involves a competition to see who can contact the most stations in a set period of time on certain bands and within specific rules”**



# Why do it?

## — Individually

- Good test of equipment
- Lots of quick QSOs to get DXCCs
- Provides a focal point for developing equipment, operating techniques, antennas and continuous improvement
- Its fun!

## — As a group

- As above plus
- More complex setups can be achieved
- Work with a team having similar interests

# Where to do it?

- Where to do it?
  - From home
  - Portable
  - From a rural site or anywhere good for RF propagation!
  - Most modes – perhaps not Moon Bounce or Satellites
  - Most bands LF, HF ( though not WARC bands), VHF, UHF and Microwave

# When to do it?

- When to do it?
  - RSGB Contest website <https://www.rsgbcc.org/>
    - RSGB Club contests throughout the year
    - CQWW contests Spring and Autumn
    - IOTA contest end of July
  - Many more on WA7BNM site <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

16080 HQP DX FD HF						
		M	a	r		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

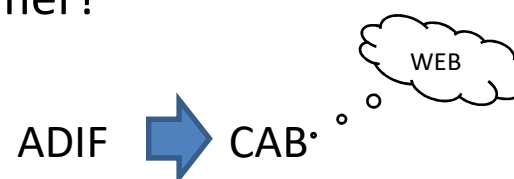
  

5070 144 432 UHF SHF						
		M	a	r		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# How to get started - As an Individual

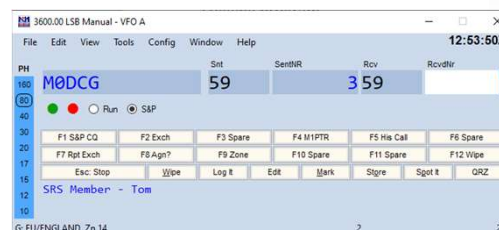
- Where should beginners start ?
- Preparation
  - Read the rules for categories, power levels, exchange scoring, multipliers, etc.
  - Find an active contest and Listen, listen and listen again!
- Decide strategy
  - RUN or S & P or a mix?
  - Which bands and when?
  - Operator assistance - DX Cluster and Skimmer?
- How to submit entries and when
  - Cabrillo, ADIF and converters
  - Checklog
- Support

CONTEST  
RULES



# What do I need? - As an Individual

- Equipment
  - Rig
  - Antenna
  - Logging program & CAT i/f
  - Pens & paper for notes
  - Refreshments



- Information
  - Time and duration of contest
  - Display Exchange, Frequencies, Your own callsign!
  - Band propagation and when a band is open

## M1PTR

Mike One Papa Tango Romeo  
WAB: SJ98 IARU: IO83WI

AFS 1300-1700  
RS(T) nnn  
3600-3775  
7060 – 7200

- Ergonomics
  - Comfortable operating position
  - Controls and displays are within reach and clearly visible



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## Typical Station - As an Individual

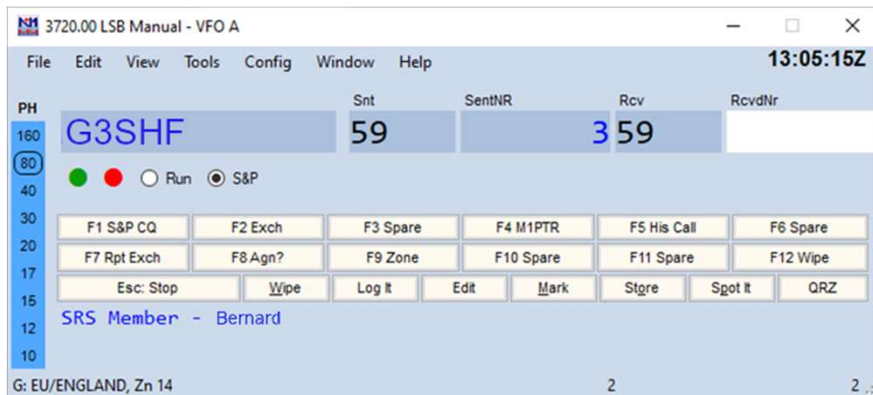


# Putting it into practice - Tips

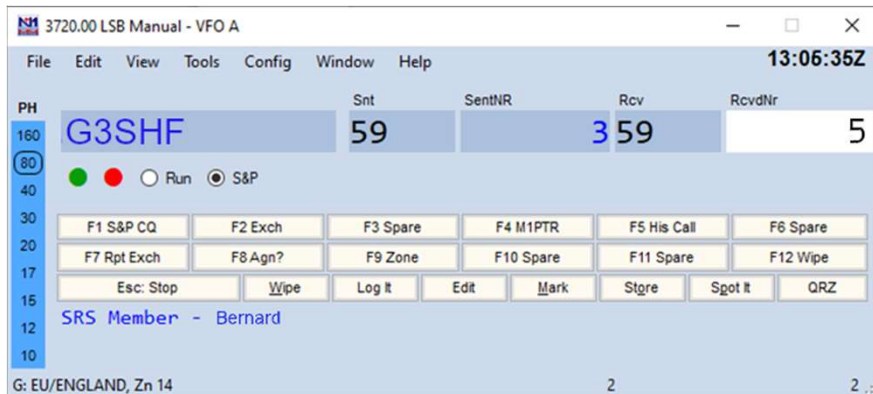
- Listen to a contest and practice a virtual QSO
- Start with 'Search and Pounce', move to 'Running' when confident
- Use a headset to keep both hands free
- Listen for CQ or QRZ to get their callsign and current exchange before responding
- Enter their call and be ready to get their exchange and give your call and exchange when they hear you
- Use standard phonetics and stick to a QSO script
- Be prepared to repeat part of your call or exchange if asked. Use their phonetics if needed to say your call

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# Putting it into practice - QSO



N1MM+ Log Entry Window



Listen until you have their callsign correct and type in entry window e.g. "G3SHF"

Hit space to move to 'RcvdNr' field and get ready

Wait to hear "CQ" or "QRZ" then press PTT and give your call e.g. "Mike One Papa Tango Romeo"

When you hear your own call enter the exchange received e.g. "59 zero zero five" just enter 5

Then give your report: 5 9 003  
"Five nine zero zero three"

Press enter to save in the log.

# SRS Contesting

- SRS has always had an involvement in contesting with records going back to 1930's
- Contests were organised by those who were keen contesters e.g. Barry, G3PEK (now VK2BJ)
- All bands and modes have been used HF/VHF CW/SSB & Digital
- Locations around Stockport were chosen as suitable sites e.g. Marple Ridge, Lyme Park and Woodford

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# SRS Contesting



**NFD 1953**

**The first post-war National Field Day contest station.**

'B' station was sited on Marple Ridge for this event in 1953. Operating under the call sign of Harry Arnfield, G3 LX / P (portable) the station made 150 contacts world -wide during the 24 hour long event.



**Ray Gerrard G3 NOM and Barry Simpson G3 PEK working the DX.**  
When they took part in a radio contest they shared a determination to win it!

**NFD 1967**



B

# SRS Contesting



Backpackers 1994

B

# SRS Contesting



NFD CW 2006



# SRS Contest Group

- Organisation
  - Formed in 2007 as a group interested in contests
  - Review and planning meetings held for usually six major contests per year.
  - The group is self funded with an annual donation from SRS
  - Members are always welcome to visit, help and join the group
- Contest setup
  - Our contest site is Common Barn Farm in the hills above Rainow
  - We have various multi and single band antennas to use
  - The Rigs used are owned by the group members with the trailer masts, antennas and station equipment owned by the group
  - Computer logging is done using networked Wintest or N1MM+
  - Contest setups usually take 4 – 5 days before a 48hr contest and 1-2 days teardown afterwards



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# SRS Contest Group



Common Barn Farm 2010

B

# SRS Contest Group

[FILM](#)



# SRS Contest Group

- SRSCG Contest Calendar

January                RSGB AFS CW & SSB

March                CQWW WPX SSB

May                CQWW WPX CW

June                RSGB NFD

July                RSGB IOTA

October            CQWW DX SSB

November          CQWW DX CW

RSGB CC            Various dates during the year

B

# SRS Contest Group



IOTA 2018 Dxpedition  
EJ6KP Arranmore Island, Eire






B

# SRS Contest Group



# SRS Contest Group

## Films

1. AFS 2009 SSB (1m 20s) [http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/AFS\\_SSB\\_2009.mp4](http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/AFS_SSB_2009.mp4)   
Single Operator Single Transmitter 400W, 80m Antenna - Half-wave  
inverted vee at 70ft
2. IOTA 2018 CW & SSB (3m 40s) [http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/IOTA\\_2018\\_extract.mp4](http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/IOTA_2018_extract.mp4)   
Multi Operator Two Transmitters, 1000W, Antennas - 10 15 20m Yagi, Phased Verticals  
for 40m and 80m, Spotting stations
3. Erecting a Lightweight Mast (7m 2s) [http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/CBF\\_Antenna\\_Erection.mp4](http://m1ptr.com/SRSCG/CBF_Antenna_Erection.mp4) 

# Contesting Q & A



# Contest Links

[https://www.n5pa.com/images/Ham\\_Radio\\_Contesting\\_45\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.n5pa.com/images/Ham_Radio_Contesting_45_Minutes.pdf)



<https://www.cqww.com/>

<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>

<http://www.win-test.com/>

<https://www.rsgbcc.org/>

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

