

## Ohio QSO Party

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club (CARC) recently recapped its performance in the ARRL 2020 Field Day Operating Event. The short version is that we believe the Field Day event will be more enjoyable if we take steps to sharpen our skills.

One way of sharpening skills is to practice regularly. Almost every weekend provides an opportunity to practice those Field Day operating skills by operating in one of the on-air Radio Sport contests.

With that in mind, the purpose of this post is to share a few thoughts about the upcoming Ohio QSO Party. CARC Club Members and other ham radio operators may enjoy spending quality time on-the-air as they develop their skills and share contest points with colleagues.

The folks who sponsor the Ohio QSO Party publish a set of rules. The rules document is 4 pages long. For most of the audience at the CARC website, a lot of those rules deal with situations that probably are not a factor. My primary goal is to zero-in on the rules that are important to the typical CARC operator. It would be good for you to have a copy of the complete rules document available for reference. In case there are conflicts or gaps between what I say in this posting and the actual rules then it will be the actual rules that matter. Here goes....

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An official set of rules can be obtained at the Ohio QSO Party website. [www.OHQP.org/](http://www.OHQP.org/)

Direct questions to: [info@OHQP.org](mailto:info@OHQP.org) or [web@OHQP.org](mailto:web@OHQP.org)

The Ohio QSO Party takes place the fourth Saturday of August. In 2020 this will be August 22. The contest has a 12 hour operating period. The contest begins at Noon Eastern Daylight Savings Time and ends at Midnight Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Each participating station will have an Entry Category. Some of the Ohio QSO Party rules are driven by the Entry Category. The CARC Members in this reading audience probably all will be categorized as SINGLE OPERATOR. If you think you may belong to a different Entry Category then please read the Ohio QSO Party Rules and adjust your techniques accordingly. In addition, you will need to know your Entry Category at the time you submit your log.

FIXED SINGLE OPERATOR and further subdivided as QRP, LOW POWER, HIGH POWER  
MULTI-OPERATOR and also permits Multi-Transmitter.  
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (Ohio Stations Only)  
MOBILE  
ROVER

Each participating station will have a Location. The CARC Members in this reading audience probably all will be located in PENNSYLVANIA.

The Ohio QSO Party permits six ham radio bands to be used: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters.

The Ohio QSO Party permits two transmitting modes to be used: CW, and PHONE.

Stations located in Ohio are permitted to work stations in any Location – inside Ohio, in any State or any Canadian Province, and in any Country.

Stations located outside of Ohio may work only stations that are located inside Ohio. The CARC Members in this reading audience probably are located in Pennsylvania and may work other stations only if the other station is located in Ohio.

The purpose of this contest is to make two-way radio contacts with as many other participants as possible. There are specific requirements for the information that is to be exchanged between stations and logged for scoring purposes.

The contest exchange consists of the Station Call Sign, RS(T)\*, and the Station Location.

Stations located in Ohio will send their Callsign, RS(T)\*, and their Ohio County.

Non-Ohio stations located in the USA and Canada will send their Callsign, RS(T)\*, and State/Province

Non-Ohio DX stations will send their Callsign, RS(T)\*, and "DX"

- Note: RS(T) means Readability, Strength which are applicable to CW and PHONE. T means Tone which is applicable only to CW. In contest situations it is traditional to give every station its RS(T) as 59, or 599. On CW abbreviate as 5NN.

Assistance – the Ohio QSO Party Rules for the Single Operator Entry Category mention and permit the use of spotting networks, skimmers, or other forms of assistance. Self-Spotting is not permitted. The rules make no mention of Assistance in conjunction with any other Entry Categories.

Stations located inside Ohio are going to send the name of their COUNTY as the Station Location. It will be beneficial for you to have a list of the 88 recognized COUNTIES at your fingertips during the contest. The last page of this document contains a list of Ohio Counties and their four-letter abbreviation.

Stations may be worked only once per Band and Mode combination with special allowance for stations that may move to new counties during the contest. Any station, such as a Mobile or Rover, operating from a new county shall be considered to be a new station.

The Ohio QSO Party permits contacts to be made on six bands – 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Suggested Frequencies are listed below as well as in the Ohio QSO Party Rules. It will be beneficial for you to have a set of Suggested Frequencies at your fingertips during the contest. Feel free to move up or down from the suggested frequencies in search for contest activity.

CW: 1.815 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045

SSB: 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450

Scoring Strategy – On one hand, work as many stations as you can in order to develop your contest skills. Have fun.

However, if you are feeling competitive, your score consists of QSO points, and multipliers

QSO Points – CW = 2 for each QSO, Phone = 1 for each QSO.

Worked Locations Multiplier – For the targeted reading audience most likely located in Pennsylvania, this multiplier is the total number of Ohio Counties worked on each of the two permitted modes (CW, Phone) (Maximum 176).

Log Submission – [www.OHQP.org/](http://www.OHQP.org/)

Follow the link on the left side of the page to SUBMIT LOG

You are required to provide a Cabrillo format or equivalent file of your contest QSOs.

Your logging software should be able to produce the required Cabrillo entry document.

The entry deadline is October 21, 2020 at Noon.

Prizes – You are entering this contest as a way of improving your contest skills. If you achieve your goal then that is the Grand Prize. There are Award Certificates as described in the official rules document.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest:

General Contest Concepts:

One of the sermons I frequently preach explains that contests work the best when all the parties are familiar with the exchange and sequential flow of information. The sender expects that the receiver has a pretty good idea of what is going to be sent and therefore will be well-prepared to log that information. The receiver expects that the sender is going to send his information in a manner consistent with the rules and general practice among similar contests.

With the exception of sprint type contests, one station in a QSO is designated as being in RUNNING MODE and the other station is designated as being in SEARCH & POUNCE MODE.

The RUNNING MODE station parks his transmitter on a clear frequency, calls CQ and hopes to receive responses from the SEARCH & POUNCE MODE stations.

The SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station tunes up and down the band listening for RUNNING MODE stations who may be calling CQ, or who may be engaged in a soon-to-be-completed QSO. When the SEARCH & POUNCE operator hears a RUNNING MODE station the S&P Station will pay attention to the rhythm of the Running Station and develop a sense of when and how quickly he needs to make his own moves when the RUNNING MODE station stops talking.

Information flows Back and Forth with the RUNNING MODE station taking his turn talking and then handing over to the SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station.

The SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station acknowledges or confirms receipt of the exchange and then immediately sends his own exchange before handing the QSO back to the RUNNING MODE station.

At that point the RUNNING MODE station will acknowledge or confirm receipt of what the SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station sent.

When both stations have sent their exchanges and each station has confirmed the other station's information the QSO should be logged.

The RUNNING MODE station stays on the frequency and calls CQ CONTEST or perhaps QRZ CONTEST.

The SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station tunes up or down the band looking for a new RUNNING MODE station to work. Or, the SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station may choose to find a clear frequency and choose to become a RUNNING MODE station.

When a SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station hears a contest QSO in progress he should listen carefully to the information that is being passed back and forth. One of the two stations is the Running Mode station. The other station is the Search & Pounce station. When this contest QSO has been completed the Running Mode station is going to stay on this frequency and hoping to work another SEARCH & POUNCE MODE station. The S&P Operator will gain an advantage if he can identify who is the Running Mode station in this QSO and be well-prepared to call that station when the QSO has finished. In other words, you don't have to find a station who literally is calling CQ CONTEST. You can listen for contest stations that have good signals, get their call sign, and jump in when it is your turn to transmit.

**Ohio Qso Party  
Ohio Counties**

		CW	SSB			CW	SSB
Adams	ADAM			Licking	LICK		
Allen	ALLE			Logan	LOGA		
Ashland	ASHL			Lorain	LORA		
Ashtabula	ASHT			Lucas	LUCA		
Athens	ATHE			Madison	MADI		
Auglaize	AUGL			Mahoning	MAHO		
Belmont	BELM			Marion	MARI		
Brown	BROW			Medina	MEDI		
Butler	BUTL			Meigs	MEIG		
Carroll	CARR			Mercer	MERC		
Champaign	CHAM			Miami	MIAM		
Clark	CLAR			Monroe	MONR		
Clermont	CLER			Montgomery	MONT		
Clinton	CLIN			Morgan	MORG		
Columbiana	COLU			Morrow	MORR		
Coshocton	COSH			Muskingum	MUSK		
Crawford	CRAW			Noble	NOBL		
Cuyahoga	CUYA			Ottawa	OTTA		
Darke	DARK			Paulding	PAUL		
Defiance	DEFI			Perry	PERR		
Delaware	DELA			Pickaway	PICK		
Erie	ERIE			Pike	PIKE		
Fairfield	FAIR			Portage	PORT		
Fayette	FAYE			Preble	PREB		
Franklin	FRAN			Putnam	PUTN		
Fulton	FULT			Richland	RICH		
Gallia	GALL			Ross	ROSS		
Geauga	GEAU			Sandusky	SAND		
Greene	GREE			Scioto	SCIO		
Guernsey	GUER			Seneca	SENE		
Hamilton	HAMI			Shelby	SHEL		
Hancock	HANC			Stark	STAR		
Hardin	HARD			Summit	SUMM		
Harrison	HARR			Trumbull	TRUM		
Henry	HENR			Tuscarawas	TUSC		
Highland	HIGH			Union	UNIO		
Hocking	HOCK			Van Wert	VANW		
Holmes	HOLM			Vinton	VINT		
Huron	HURO			Warren	WARR		
Jackson	JACK			Washington	WASH		
Jefferson	JEFF			Wayne	WAYN		
Knox	KNOX			Williams	WILL		
Lake	LAKE			Wood	WOOD		
Lawrence	LAWR			Wyandot	WYAN		