

Monthly Newsletter  
September 20, 2023

❖ What's New ?

By the time this Newsletter and Meeting Agenda hits the website we may have some news from the FDA and CDC regarding their approval of a new version of COVID vaccine.

Do whatever you think is right when it comes to being vaccinated. That is not any of our business.

There are reports in the news telling about an increasing number of COVID cases. We do take interest in keeping other members and the Hoss's staff healthy.

If you have been exposed or exhibit symptoms of flu or COVID please hunker down at home (or wherever you take comfort) instead of attending the CARC Meeting. We will wish you a speedy recovery and keep you posted with our Meeting Minutes.

❖ On-The-Air Events

Contesting is making its annual resurgence with State QSO Parties everywhere you look.

September 2023 (post publication date)

- RT 66 On The Air 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
- National POW MIA Recognition Day 15<sup>th</sup>
- Iowa QSO Party 16<sup>th</sup>
- New Jersey QSO Party 16<sup>th</sup>
- Texas QSO Party 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- Washington State Salmon Run QP 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- CARC POTA Day in the Park 23<sup>rd</sup>
- CQ WW DX Contest RTTY 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>
- Maine QSO Party 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

October 2023

- CARA Fest (Maryland) 1<sup>st</sup>
- SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-Thon 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- California QSO Party 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- Nevada QSO Party 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- Arizona QSO Party 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- South Dakota QSO Party 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- Pennsylvania QSO Party 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- School Club Roundup 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
- New York QSO Party 21<sup>st</sup>
- Illinois QSO Party 22<sup>nd</sup>
- CQ WW DX Contest SSB 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

Check the dates. Some contests begin at 0000Z which is Saturday morning UTC, but late Friday night local time.

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❖ License Plate Classic Puzzle (LPCP)

Richard Johnson, N3EPY provided the one and only "LPCP" for September. See the replica license plate on the next page. What do those letters represent? A proposed answer appears on Page 7.



### ❖ License Plate Wish List

Last month your Editor asked: If you could have any license plate you wanted, what would it be?

eMail: [AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com](mailto:AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com)

Sadly, your newsletter editor received no license plate wishes.

### ❖ Zoom Web Meeting Contact Point

If you experience difficulty or unexpected results when attempting to join the Zoom Web Meeting please reach out to the CARC Zoom Meeting Contact Person.

For the time being, Andrew Forsyth AF3I will provide this support via his cellular telephone. Call 717 991-5354.

If Andrew does not answer it may be a sign that he is on the telephone with another CARC Member. Please leave a voice mail message under those conditions. If you have grandchildren one of them may be able to show you how to send a text message to my cell phone.

A lot of this works best when the two parties have each other's contact information set up beforehand. You have mine... May I have yours?

### ❖ Know-How Articles

A month or two ago our Newsletter/Agenda described a research tool that had been placed on the Know-How Resources page. The tool has the appearance of a spreadsheet and offers the User a way of seeing the titles of all the articles and a few memory-jogging keywords.

All newly posted articles are making use of this feature.. A lot of catch-up work remains to be done. Your Editor often says: "I fool myself by thinking I will be able to catch-up on a rainy day. That's a laugh."

### ❖ Contesting Fundamental #2

Last month we said a few words about **Running Mode** and **Search & Pounce Mode**. Almost every contest uses those two fundamental concepts.

One of the Field Day Suggestion Box topics involves the appearance of call signs in the boxes at the bottom left of the N3FJP logging screen. There may be some mystery involved.

What do those boxes mean? Do they both mean the same thing, or do they serve different purposes?

Your author will take a two-tier approach to addressing the questions raised in the FD Suggestion Box.

- The first tier involves DUPE CHECKING. Dupe Checking has always been a contest logging requirement. The result of dupe checking is Black or White. Go/No-Go. Dupe Checking is always ON.
- The second tier introduces a Value-Add feature called SUPER CHECK PARTIAL. The result of Super Check Partial involves some gray areas. Some people like it; some people do not. If it helps you be a better contest operator, use it. If not, Super Check Partial can be turned off in the SETTINGS menu.

When your Editor was a youngster September was Back-To-School Month. Let's get down to today's lesson.

Here is a screen snapshot of the N3FJP Field Day logging app. It is an eye chart.



In this view we see an untitled rectangle where the software displays messages to the operator. The default color is AQUA which you may consider to be informational. A warning message will change the box color to RED.

The box in the bottom position is titled **Possible Duplicates**. The title and the information in this box is subject to change as the letters and numbers of the call sign are being entered.

Years ago, contest logging involved paper and pencils and served two purposes:

- 1.) to capture a record of each contact made so that we would have information to submit to the contest sponsor after the contest ended, and
- 2.) to compare the contact you are about to make against a list of "in the log" contacts as a way of preventing unwanted duplicates.

Back in the caveman days this was done using cumbersome paper forms. Then, in the early 1980s personal computers made their debut.

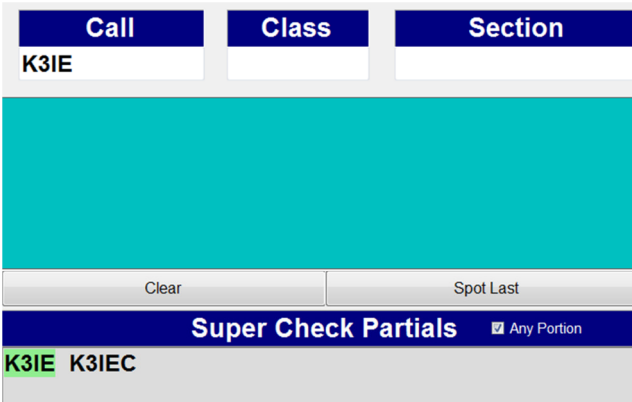
Day 1 of computerized contest logging gave ham radio operators a way of collecting contact information and using it to compute their score. For Field Day logging, the PC collects Call Sign, Class, and Section in real time. The PC uses the Band and Mode the operator specified when he or she sat in the chair to begin operating.. When the contest

ended the points, multipliers, and total score were right there on the PC screen.

Day 1 of computerized contest logging gave ham radio operators a way of quickly assessing whether a potential contact had already been worked or not. Simply type in the call sign of the station you are thinking of working. The PC uses what it knows about the band and mode you are operating and quickly checks its database for any matching call sign which would be a No-Go or Duplicate.

The creative imagination of software developers and the power of the PC made additional features, functionality, and speed possible. Contest Logging evolved into something no caveman could have imagined. This is the segue to the SUPER CHECK PARTIAL topic. If you are sitting in front of your PC screen this is a good time to ENABLE SUPER CHECK PARTIAL which can be found behind the SETTINGS menu in to the top menu bar.

When Super Check Partial is enabled, the title attached to the bottom box changes to align with what is known at any given moment. Sometimes the bottom box could be showing Super Check Partial information and sometimes the bottom box could be showing Possible Duplicates. The context of the QSO matters. More on this concept will be presented later.



Big Gun Contesters typically have a run rate that would make most of us CARC Little Pistol

Contesters dizzy. The Big Guns could make 100 or more contacts per hour.

At that fast pace an operator sometimes needs a little help filtering exactly what call sign he or she heard. Super Check Partial to the rescue.

Super Check Partial makes use of call sign information collected from hundreds of contest logs. The ham radio operators who enable Super Check Partial on their PC now have a database containing tens of thousands of call signs that are known to be fellow ham radio operators who have participated in contests. The assumption is that if your call sign appears in this database then the “other guy” will see a confirmation that you are a known contester and therefore the call sign he heard is probably accurate.

If the call sign the “other guy” typed into the CALL box on his or her PC wasn’t correct then the Super Check Partial box on his/her PC likely will show some similar call signs that might be the actual call sign of the person he heard.

Let’s use a fictional CARC Contester Frank Farkle, KC3PQC as an example. Frank Farkle knows that contest operators have difficulty with the letter C in his call sign. Sometimes it sounds like T to the other people.

The Big Gun operator begins typing into his/her PC CALL box what he or she heard, which was KC3PQT. As he is typing K..C..3..P..Q the bottom box fills in closely matching call signs that fit what he has typed so far. Each entered letter or number updates the screen as the data is filtered and refined.

When the first five letters of the call sign have been entered (KC3PQ) the bottom box fills in just one call sign -- KC3PQC. This is an alert to the Big Gun Contest Operator that the closest matching call sign in the Super Check Partial database is KC3PQC --- not KC3PQT.

Call	Class	Section
KC3PQ		
Clear	Spot Last	
<b>Super Check Partial</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any Portion		
KC3PQC		

The Big Gun Contest Operator needs to take an action. Mr. Big Gun could ask the “other guy” to repeat his call sign, or Mr. Big Gun could satisfy himself that he really did hear the letter C, as suggested by Super Check Partial, and reply to Frank Farkle as KC3PQC, leaving it up to Frank to call out a correction if that is not his actual call sign.

How do you know whether the bottom box is showing you a Possible Duplicate or a Super Check Partial? That is a great question.

The title of that bottom box initially shows both terms. **Pos Dupes / Partials**.

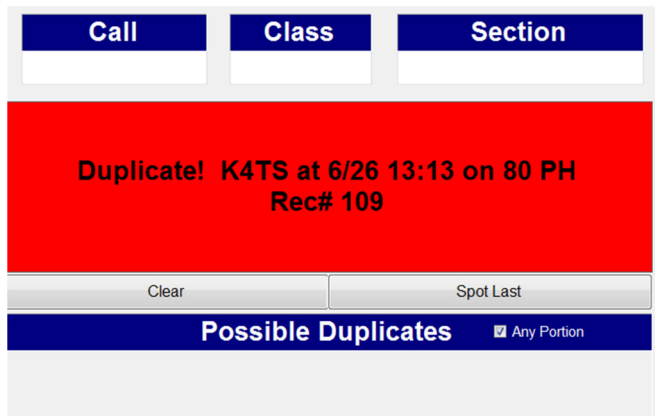
If Super Check Partial is ENABLED, the N3FJP logging software assumes that it is dealing with Super Check Partials until or unless a Possible Duplicate is detected.

Any partially entered call sign that is highlighted RED is a Possible Duplicate.

Call	Class	Section
K4TS		
<b>Possible Duplicate!</b>		
Clear	Spot Last	
<b>Pos Dupes / Partials</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any Portion		
K4TS	K4TS	K4TSM

At that point, the aqua box will display those words – Possible Duplicate – as an advisory message. This is your opportunity to tell the “other guy” that we “worked before”. If you

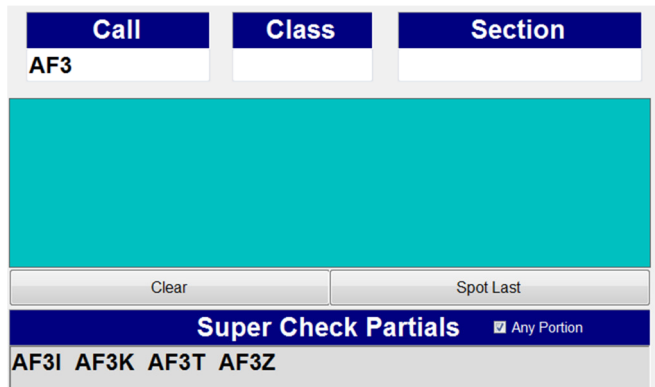
continue logging this QSO by pressing TAB or ENTER the aqua box will turn RED and display the QSO details (date, time, band, mode) where and when this station had already been worked. Press ESC to get out of that situation.



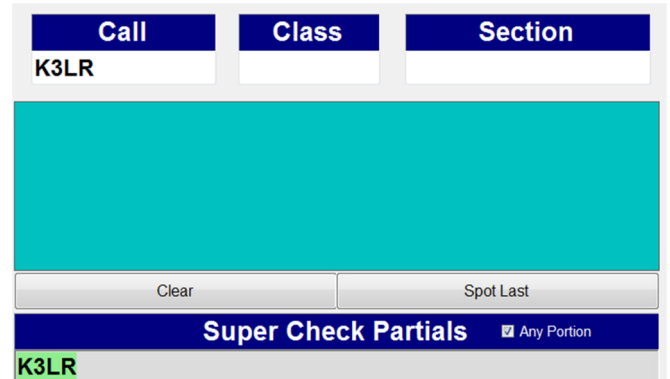
A Possible Duplicate almost always takes precedence over any Super Check Partial. You could ask the “other guy” to repeat his call sign. If it matches the Possible Duplicate then you can be confident you had it correct and it is a duplicate. Say “Worked Before”.

Other color schemes you may encounter:

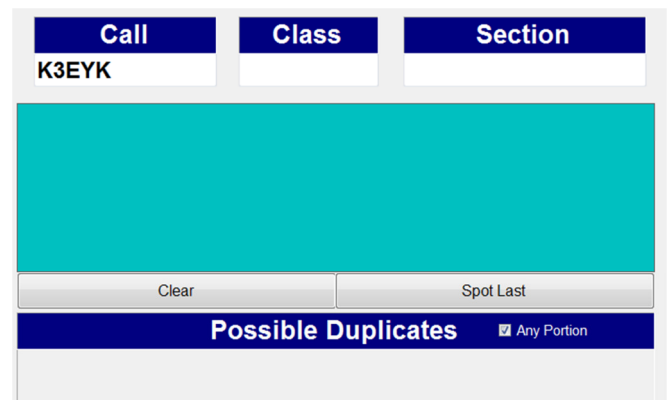
Any partially entered or fully entered call sign that has black letters and a white background is a Super Check Partial suggested call sign.



Any fully entered call sign that has black letters and a light green highlight is the only matching call sign for what was typed into the CALL box. Presumably this is a good match.



Any partially entered or fully entered call sign that displays nothing in the bottom box is an unknown. There is no call sign that exactly matches, and there are no closely similar call signs that might want to be considered. Let's assume this operator is not a frequent contester and has not been included in the Super Check Partial database. If you trust what you heard then just go with it. If you are unsure of what you heard, ask the “other guy” to repeat his call sign.



## ❖ General Interest and Calendar Items September 2023, and later

Club Website Event Calendar	<a href="http://www.RadioClub-CARC.com/calendar/">www.RadioClub-CARC.com/calendar/</a> We have a pretty good Event Calendar plug-in on our website. If you are looking for events, this might be the right place. If you know of worthy events that we should list in our Calendar please share the <i>Who, What, Where, and When</i> information with <a href="mailto:AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com">AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com</a>
Ham Radio License Exam Testing Part 1	Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club (HRAC) test dates are 3rd Saturdays, Even Numbered Months, starting at 9 a.m. <i>Location: Vietnam Veterans of America, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA</i> <i>Laurel VEC = No Fee! Pre-Registration, including your FCC FRN, is required.</i>  HRAC VE Testing Dates appear on our EVENTS CALENDAR: Additional information at their web page: <a href="http://www.w3uu.org">www.w3uu.org</a> Look for the link: License Exams.
Ham Radio License Exam Testing Part 2	South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) conducts license testing at the Public Safety Center off Claremont Road, Carlisle, PA. Exam sessions are scheduled monthly at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Preregistration is required. Our readers are encouraged to perform their own due diligence to validate any exam session in which they have an interest. Contact: <a href="mailto:n3tw@arrl.net">n3tw@arrl.net</a> or <a href="mailto:smraham@gmail.com">smraham@gmail.com</a> There is a modest fee for this testing service. Additional details at their web page. <a href="http://n3tw.org/links/getting-licensed/smra-testing-policies/">http://n3tw.org/links/getting-licensed/smra-testing-policies/</a>
Ham Radio License Exam Testing	Look for LICENSE EXAM on our website THINGS-TO-DO Calendar View. We have entries for SMRA, Keystone VHF, Cross-Keys Village, HRAC
License Exam Training Class	Ralph Brandt, K3HQI offers license exam training classes from time to time. Google him.
License Exam Training Class	The Nashua Area Radio Society (Nashua, NH) offers license exam training classes on a frequent basis. Some are online. Others are conducted in-person. Check their website for current information. <a href="http://www.n1fd.org">www.n1fd.org</a>
License Exam Training Class	If you know of any upcoming License Exam Training classes please let AF3I know so that they can be listed here. The ARRL website has a search tool. The classes I found were listed behind the keyword "online". <a href="http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class">http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class</a>
Ham Radio Lunch	The last Thursday of each month. Informal lunchtime gathering at the Hibachi Grill and Buffet. 5080 Jonestown Road -- Route 22, Harrisburg, PA Best guess – Noon. to 1:30 p.m.
CARC Weekly Coffee Time	Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Location: Sometimes at Caffe 101 in Boiling Springs, PA. On the corner, across from the clock-tower and diagonally across from the Boiling Springs Tavern. Sometimes conducted as a Zoom Meeting. Check with Richard Johnson N3EPY for info.

If you have Calendar items that you would like to share with your fellow CARC Members please send them to the Newsletter Editor – Andrew Forsyth AF3I. He can be reached by eMail sent to: [AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com](mailto:AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com)

## ❖ Cumberland Amateur Radio Club Nets

<p>CARC Two Meter VHF Digital Net</p>	<p>Every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. local time. 146.490 MHz. Most likely we will be using OpMode Domino EX 22.</p> <p>If you have experience using Sound Card Digital Modes you will feel at home with this digital net. Mostly informal in terms of conversation topics.</p> <p>If you have not yet experienced the pleasure of using Sound Card Digital Modes you are invited to seek assistance. CARC Members have all kinds of skills tucked away in remote corners of their universe. Some of these members maintain a low profile. However, if you ask they will come out and share their experiences with you. You could send an eMail message to <a href="mailto:ELMER@RadioClub-CARC.com">ELMER@RadioClub-CARC.com</a> and one of us will crawl out of our den to help you.</p>
<p>CARC Two Meter Phone Net</p>	<p>Every Sunday at 7 p.m. local time. 2 meter band. 146.490 MHz FM Simplex. Also available through EchoLink Node 259045 or search for station AF3I-L. EchoLink is great for those who have no transceiver and/or no antenna, but who do have a PC and an Internet connection. EchoLink is equally great for anyone who resides or travels outside our local area and wishes to stay in touch. Visit <a href="http://www.echolink.org">www.echolink.org</a> as a starting point.</p>
<p>CARC Ten Meter Phone Net</p>	<p>Every Wednesday* at 8 p.m. local time. 10 meter band. 28.400 MHz USB *Except Monthly Meeting Night. on the third Wednesday of the month.</p>

## ❖ Answers to the Puzzles

Answer to the License Plate Puzzle that appeared spanning Page 1 and 2



**I thought this tag (SND CSH) might belong to SANDRA CUSHMAN. She is the President of Streamlined Office Solutions, located in Monterey, California. Someone else wants me to believe the tag means SEND CASH.**

### Words of Wisdom...

If you prevent the small crimes now,  
there will be fewer big crimes later.

William Bratton  
New York City Police Commissioner  
1994-1996 and 2014-2016

### Words of Wisdom...

Friends come and go like waves of  
an ocean, but the true ones stick to  
your face like an octopus!

(No attribution)