

The Printed Circuit

The Monthly Publication of the
Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
June , 2020



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SPECIAL FIELD DAY EDITION

Message from the President

I want to thank everyone who participated and is going to participate in Field Day this year. That includes everyone who participated individually working long hours getting those QSOs. Those people who worked together in small groups taking a chance with breaking social distancing advice. And especially those who volunteered to help in all the different ways. A huge amount of time and effort goes into getting ready for the event, so I want to especially thank the Field Day Committee:

Jerry Kessler (N4JL) - Chairman

STATION CAPTAINS

- Ted Zateslo (W1XO) - CW Station
- Ryan Kroeger (KN4SCE) - Phone Station
- Tom Brooks (K4TB) - Satellite Station
- Don Pace (KK4SIH) - Digital Station

COORDINATION and SUPPORT

- Theo Titus (K4MVL) - Training
- Randy Pierce (AG4UU) - Phone Station Trailer

- Nick Simoncini (KG4NJS) - Centralized Generator
- Gerry Gross (WA6POZ) - Porta-Potty
- Chief Fusilier (KA5USN) - Tom Brown Park
- Will Coarsey (KN4PKF) - General Support
- Austin Porter (KN4YRH) - General Support

At the beginning of the year it looked like we were going to have one of the best Field Days in TARS history, but 2020 threw us a curve ball. COVID struck and made social distancing mandatory. Tom Brown Park was closed to groups so we could not gather where we have been for the last several years. We needed to keep apart so we did not spread the virus to our at risk members. Solving this problem was easy. We have radios, an easy way to create an air gap (or spark gap in some of our cases). But you know what, even though we were thrown a curve ball, we can still knock it out of the park.

Everyone can help. The key is to participate. Turn in your scores, just make sure to include your club affiliation as "Tallahassee ARS". Field Day is fun, you learn things and improve your skills. My first Field Day (2014) I made a total of 0 contacts. Not a QSO and that was just 6 years ago. I learned a lot that weekend and continue to learn things every time I participate. It all makes me a better operator.

So remember everything you learn this year. We will be back at Tom Brown Park next year and it is only a short 12 months away. Planning will begin in a few short months, so get involved.

Thanks again to everyone

Don Pace
KK4SIH

2020 Field Day

Field day is one of the main events each year for the club going back as far as anyone can remember. Unfortunately COVID is causing us to change our plans. Instead of operating as a club in Tom Brown Park we will operate individually from our homes or other places that insure social distancing.

How will this work you might ask? Well the first thing is you will operate using your own callsign. You can operate at your normal station, in you back yard, in your car or wherever you want. The way we operate as a club is by filling in “Tallahassee ARS” in the “Club or Group Name” field when you turn in your scores. The ARRL is going to do a club aggregate tally for this year as a recognition of the challenges COVID brings supporting social distancing.

A few other things we will be doing as a club to help:

Field Day is a good time to ask questions and get help. Take the opportunities on the the scheduled nets to ask questions or for help. Also feel free to send an email to: tallyamateurradio@gmail.com and ask questions.

There will be some more email sent to everyone from the club with tips & pointers. One good presentation with changes for this years field day is at: <http://tiny.cc/fdsd>.

If you just operate for one hour or you operate all twenty-four Field day is a good opportunity to get on the air and make contacts.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Take a few minutes to upgrade your logging software or print out logging/dup sheets. The rules have changed this year and you want to make sure your logging software is up to date. You also may want to try it out and make sure it is still working. If you are using a computer, you also want to make sure your system updates are done early. The worst feeling in the world is when you go to do something and your computer decided to update in the middle of something important.

Verify the equipment you are going to use still is working correctly. If you test everything now you have time to order the parts you need to fix anything that is broken, missing or has gotten used on other projects. You also want to make sure

your radio settings are what they should be for the modes you are going to work. You don't want to be in my shoes several years ago and wonder why 20m is dead for me but every one else it doing great just to realize several hours later that the filters are set super narrow from a previous experiment.

Review the exchange you will be using for Field Day. Make some notes/flash cards of the exchange and frequencies you will be using for quick reference.

Scope out where you are going to be operating. If you are going to set up a special antenna for Field Day is the tree branch you are going to hang it still there? Is your antenna(s) still resonant on the bands you are are planning to use? If you are going to run off of your generator, do you have gas and have you changed the oil recently?

The Internet is your friend - Google "arrl field day tips" for tips on field day.

Remember that your club affiliation is "Tallahassee ARS" when sending in your scores

Share your field day setup with us before, during and after Field Day by sending mail to tallyamateurradio@gmail.com . We will post it on the web page and in the news letter

If you need help/advice ask on the local nets or send mail to:
tallyamateurradio@gmail.com

We are putting the Field Day 2020 emails on <https://k4tlh.net> in case you miss any of them

Don

KK4SIH

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2020 TARS MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2020

1900 hours, on Repeater K4TLH (147.03 MHz)

Net control was Gerry, WA6POZ. Stations checking in were:

KK4SIH, Don WA4WES, Dave KD4MOJ, Doug

KA5USN, Chief KD4UXJ, Larry KN4TRT, Paul

KN4FCC, Todd KN4UXI, Tim NT4B, Bob

K4FLA, Phil

KN4TDL, Jeff

K4NRD, Pat

N4JL, Jerry

W4LCR, Clay

K4MVL, Theo

K4SBZ, Stan

KN4WOW, Ed

WA6POZ, Gerry

Don, KK4SIH opened the meeting after check-ins. Don thanked Gerry, WA6POZ, for serving as net control this evening. Don asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes from the May 2020 meeting published in the Printed Circuit. There were no objections and the meeting minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Doug, KD4MOJ provided the Treasurer's report. There were no membership renewals and no expenses since the last report. The club received \$18.23 from Amazon Share. The details of the report were provided in the Printed Circuit. There were no questions to Doug regarding the Treasurer's report and the report was approved without objections.

Gerry, WA6POZ provided an update regarding testing. The first testing session was held at the American Red Cross with a limited number of people (5 test takers and 3 VEs). All 5 test takers passed their exams and results were emailed in at 7:45pm and the new hams had call signs by 8:30pm the same day! Next testing will be on the Saturday of Field Day (June 27) and there are currently two sessions planned, one at 10AM and another at 1PM. Again, number of participants limited to 5 test takers and 3 VEs. Those who are Generals taking the test for Amateur Extra will be given priority, as the Amateur Extra questions will change as of July 1. Gerry also noted that the American Red Cross will not be permitting meetings from external groups until October 2020 at the earliest, so the TARS club will need to continue radio / virtual meetings until at least October.

Under Old Business, Don, KK4SIH discussed Field Day (June 27-28, 2020). Don thanked Chief, KA5USN, for working with the City of Tallahassee to reserve space at Tom Brown Park, but the city will not be issuing any permits until after July 2020, so the club cannot use that space for Field Day. Jerry, N4JL, did let the club know that ARRL has modified the field day rules so that individual stations may contact other individual stations and all stations may aggregate their individual activities and contacts to count as part of the club (K4TLH) score. There was some

discussion about using club repeaters or Zoom accounts to provide some level of coordination among club members for support on Field Day. Jerry recommended the use of the club repeaters as Internet use is not in philosophical use of radio equipment and radio frequencies for emergency drills. Don, KK4SIH, said that we could still use Field Day and Zoom to provide mentoring and provide advice for new hams who may be trying to participate in field day activities for the first time in Summer 2020. There will be additional emails and discussions on the Tuesday and Thursday evening nets to get more input from club members and make final decisions about how TARS will participate in Field Day activities for this summer.

There was some discussion about the possibility of a common logging program, but this will not work because logs must be kept by individual operators and not all can use the club callsign. Stan, K4SBZ, has provided a Power Point presentation with some good information about field day activities and recommended logging programs, some free and some for a small charge, that would be available for use to log field day contacts.

As part of New Business, Stan noted that if folks have questions about Field Day and respond to the club email address, someone will need to monitor the email inbox. Don said that he would make sure the inbox is checked. Gerry, WA6POZ announced that the Hamfest in Huntsville, AL scheduled to be held in early August 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Chief, KA5USN asked about Red Cross preparations relative to Tropical Storm Cristobal and Gerry stated that the Red Cross is not planning anything because the storm is not expected to affect the Tallahassee area. The Red Cross does have plans in place to shelter people from other areas who come to Tallahassee in local hotels as group shelters cannot be used due to the COVID-19 virus. KN4TRT, Paul announced that the Ft. Walton Beach Hamfest has been rescheduled to November 12-13, 2020.

At this point, Don, KK4SIH encouraged everyone to join Theo's presentation on Zoom.

Theo, K4MVL, presented a 40-minute presentation on Zoom. His presentation was an overview of the critical performance parameters of your amateur transceiver. Emphasis was on the receiver side with both FM and SSB operation covered. Topics included receiver testing and the interpretation of the data as well as primary transmitter performance parameters. References to additional source materials and industry standards were provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd, KN4FCC

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2020

Doug Ferrell , KD4MOJ, Treasurer

	<u>for period</u>	<u>year-to-date</u>
<u>Beginning</u>	22-Jun-20	Jan 1, 2020
<u>Balances:</u>		
Cash on hand	\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account:	\$ 3,586.82	\$ 2,688.20
Savings Account:	\$ 3,101.91	\$ 3,101.52
Total:	\$ 6,688.73	\$ 5,789.72

Summary of Month's Activity:

Total Receipts:	\$ -	\$ 1,458.83
Total	\$ -	\$ 638.72
Expenditures:		

Receipts Derived From:

Members Dues:	\$ 60.00	\$ 740.00
Fifty/Fifty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
Donation (KI4NBU & N1HJ)		\$ 630.00
Veteran's Radio	\$ -	\$ -
Fund		
Field Day Radio	\$ -	\$ -
Fund		
Interest (Savings)	\$ -	\$ 0.39
smile.amazon.com	\$ -	\$ 46.44
Total	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,458.83

Expenditures:

American Red	\$ -	\$ -
Cross:		
Fifty-Fifty	\$ -	\$ -
ARRL Insurance	\$ -	\$ -
Spagetti 100 -	\$ -	\$ -
TARC		
TARS & Feathers	\$ -	\$ -
Plaque		

Storage & Supplies	\$	-	\$	284.57
Field Day	\$	-	\$	-
VE Expenses	\$	-	\$	-
Tower/Repeater Maintenance	\$	138.90	\$	138.90
AG4UU				
Florida Dept of State	\$	-	\$	61.25
Post Office Box:	\$	-	\$	154.00
Total:	\$	138.90	\$	638.72

Transfer Checking -> Savings:

Ending Balances - Apr 22, 2020:

Cash on hand	\$	-	\$	-
Checking Account	\$	3,507.92	\$	3,507.92
Savings Account	\$	3,101.91	\$	3,101.91
Total	\$	6,609.83	\$	6,609.83

*Veteran's Radio Fund	\$	500.00
*Field Day Radio Fund	\$	697.00

July TARS meeting

The July TARS meeting will be held on July 9, rather than July 2. It will be start at 7:00 with the business portion of the meeting on the .03 repeater and then transition to ZOOM for the presentation. Randy Pierce (AG4U) will be giving the presentation starting around 7:30.

From Stan, K4SBZ:

Please read this message from the ARRL. It will help answer many of the questions being asked about Field Day.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-contest-program-issues-field-day-2020-faq>

Logging Software for Field Day and Contests

Many people still use paper logs, both for every day use and for contests. Most, however, have found that computer logs are much more efficient and offer a wealth of benefits. Simply type the contact information into the logging screen and you have a permanent copy of your log that you can use to keep track of your WAS and DXCC status, upload to various QSL sites and produce many other listings, depending on the software used. If you set up CAT control, the computer can input the time and frequency for you making logging as simple as typing in the callsign. Following a contest, you can upload a Cabrillo formatted log to the contest website to “officially” enter in the contest and see you score along with others after the scores have been tabulated.

There are many software loggers available. Asking which is the best is like asking which is the best automobile.

N1MM Logger Plus - The most popular contest logger is N1MM Logger Plus, which is free to download (<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>). It is the most powerful and, therefore, most complicated. In addition to logging, it has CW macros and can decode RTTY with the aid of MMTTY or 2Tone. There are many YouTube videos and other tutorials on how to use it. N1MM+ is not designed to be an everyday log, although some hams do use it that way.

N3FJP Logging Software - Also very popular is a group of loggers from N3FJP (<http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html>). This is the logger used by TARS when we do a group Field Day. It is easy to install and easy to use. The Field Day logger is a one-time \$8.99. Each separate logger for different contests is also \$8.99. However, for \$49.99 you can get all the contest loggers, plus the every-day ACLog (a \$24.99 value), with free life-time updates. This is a real value. ACLog is very useful for daily use with many listings available and the ability to automatically upload your log to Logbook of the World (LoTW), eQSL and ClubLog.

There are a number of other logs that you may use. A few popular logs include:

DXKeeper – DX Labs has a suite of free software for managing an amateur radio station. DXKeeper (<http://www.dxlabsuite.com/dxkeeper/>) is the logging module. (Modules may be installed independently). It is very easy to use and is useful for daily use as well as contests.

WriteLog – WriteLog for Windows (<https://writelog.com/>) is very powerful

contest logging software for CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Registration is \$30. There is a free demo copy. It is for contest use only.

Win-Test – Win-Test (<http://www.win-test.com/>) is another very powerful contest logger. It also has CW macros and a RTTY decoder as well as an integrated voice keyer. It costs 50 Euros (converted to dollars by PayPal) and has a free demo copy. It is for contest use only.

DXLog – DXLog (<http://www.dxlog.net/>) is a full-featured contest logger. It is free and is for contest use only.

FDLog - FDLog (<http://www.fdlog.info/more-about>) is a free set of software programs for logging contacts during Amateur Radio Field Day operations. This program cohesively ties together the stations in the Field Day activity, maintaining copies of all data on all computers via a wireless network. It has several features for managing the Field Day activity. It is capable of preparing nearly the whole FD Entry form for ARRL submission, making it much easier to actually send in the results.

See the N5PA Website (<https://www.n5pa.com/contest.software.php>) for a longer list of loggers with links to their websites.

*** Please send any questions or comments about this article to: ***
*** Stan, K4SBZ at K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com. ***

FIELD DAY SAFETY

Field day is a time of excitement for everyone but take some time out to think about safety so that a fun afternoon does not turn into a painful experience.

These are a few ARRL recommended practices for a large gathering but they are still valid if you are just working from your home station or out in your yard. Make sure that:

Fuel for generator properly stored.

Fire extinguisher on hand and appropriately located.
First Aid kit on hand. First Aid - CPR - AED trained participant/s on site.
Access to NWS alerts to monitor for inclement weather.
Tent stakes properly installed and marked.
Temporary antenna structures properly secured and marked.
Site secured from tripping hazards.
Site is set up in a neat and orderly manner to reduce hazards.
Stations and equipment properly grounded.
Access to a means to contact police/fire/rescue.
Minimize risks and control hazards to ensure no injuries to the public.
Monitoring participants for hydration and ensure an adequate water supply is available.

In addition since we are in Florida and it is summer:

It is going to be hot - make sure you drink lots of water
The sun is bright - If you are in the sun put on sunscreen
Be wary of lightning - Disconnect your radios when it is close, or not so close
There are going to be critters about - make sure you watch for pesky fire ants, mosquitos and other creepy crawlies

Field Day Band Forecast

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

The ARRL Field Day rules say that you can operate on the “160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above.” That’s a big help – anywhere except the WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 Meters). But where should you actually operate? And when? Which modes?

Let’s start off with a general rule for HF: You should operate on the higher bands (20, 15 and 10) during the daytime. At dusk, move to 40 meters. After dark, operate on 40, 80 and 160 Meters.

To narrow that down a little more, 20 Meters is the “Money Band” during the day. 40 and then 80 are the best choices at night.

But, if you want to make the most contacts in the most ARRL and RAC sections,

you need to have all of the bands in your arsenal. Here is a band-by-band synopsis of the current band conditions, as I see them. “Your mileage may vary” – by mode, time of day, changing propagation and capabilities of your station. A summary of the band’s frequencies and modes follows each band’s forecast.

Daytime

20 Meters: As previously mentioned, 20 Meters is the “Money Band” during the day. It is also the busiest. That’s because you can work the world on 20 Meters. Don’t expect to hear many locals here. Their signals are going over top of you to the ionosphere to be reflected down hundreds of miles away. It’s difficult to work Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina on 20. Most of your contacts will be west of the Mississippi or north of the Mason-Dixon Line. 20 may be a little slow during the middle of the day and then pick up after 3 pm. After sunset, 20 usually closes down, but has been known to be open all night.

20 Meters starts at 14.000 MHz and extends up to 14.350. As with most bands, CW occupies the lower end, from 14.000 to 14.150 MHz. Only Extra Class operators are allowed in 14.000 to 14.025. Imbedded in the CW band are “watering holes” for PSK31 (14.070), FT8 (14.074), FT4(14.080) and RTTY (14.083 to 14.110). Voice (SSB) occupies the upper end of 20, from 14.150 to 14.350. General Class operators must stay above 14.225 MHz. The band will be busiest between 14.225 and 14.300. If you are looking for an opening to call CQ, you stand a better chance of finding one above 14.300 MHz. Avoid the SSTV watering hole at 14.230. You should probably also avoid 14.280 which seems to be a favorite for Latin American hams.

15 Meters: 15 Meters is an alternative to 20. It is also a longer distance band with the West Coast and South America most common. 15 is more likely to be open during mid-day, closing around 4 pm.

The range for 15 Meters is 21.000 to 21.450 Mhz. CW occupies the lower end up to 21.200 MHz, with the first .025 MHz reserved for Extras. Technicians may operate CW, but not voice, on 15 Meters. You will find PSK31 at 21.070, FT8 at 21.074, FT4 at 21.140 and RTTY from 21.080 to 21.110 MHz. SSB starts at 21.200 with Generals restricted to above 21.275 MHz.

10 Meters: During this low sunspot period, 10 Meters has mostly not been open except for short periods. However, during the early summer months, 10 has been

known to be open for long distances, with the skip usually favoring the West Coast and South America. This usually occurs during late morning and early afternoon. However, at the time of this writing (two weeks before Field Day), 10 has been open later. I have made FT8 contacts around the clock.

The 10 Meter spectrum is quite large: from 28.000 MHz to 29.700. The lower end, up to 28.300 is for CW. The PSK31 sub-band is at 28.070. RTTY starts at 28.080. FT8 is at 28.074 and FT4 is at 28.180 MHz. Voice starts at 28.300 with no sub-band set aside for Extras. It's important to note that Technician Class may operate up to 28.500 MHz.

Nighttime

40 Meters: 40 Meters is actually open most of the day for short-range contacts, so you will nearly always find a little activity there. 40 opens up right around, or just before, sunset. As the Gray Line moves westward, so does the range for 40 until it reaches the West Coast or beyond. From sunset on, 40 is very crowded.

40 Meters is the 7 MHz band, extending from 7.000 to 7.300 MHz. CW occupies the lower end up to 7.125 MHz, with the usual .025 beginning reserved for Extras. The PSK31 watering hole is at 7.080 (note that the “.070” pattern is broken here). RTTY starts at 7.0430, FT8 is at 7.0740 and FT4 is at 7.0475. Technicians have CW privileges along side the Generals on 40. SSB starts at 7.125 for Extras and Advanced Classes and at 7.175 for Generals. The range from 7.175 to 7.200 is the busiest. Look out for the “Good Ole Boys” who occupy 7.200 MHz. They don't take kindly to anyone encroaching on “their” frequency. The section above 7.200 also has a couple of European shortwave AM stations. Remember that from 10 MHz down, SSB is Lower Sideband. Doing “search and pounce,” it's easier to start high and tune down into the signal.

80/75 Meters: After dark, 80 Meters starts to open up and remains open all night. 80 is not as crowded as 40. Many hams fill their logs on 40 Meters, then move down to 80. Most activity will be East Coast and Mid-West.

80 Meters (3.500 to 4.000 MHz) is so broad that it is sometimes broken into 80 Meters (3.5 to 3.7 MHz) for CW and 75 Meters (3.6 to 4.0 MHz) for SSB. It is sometimes difficult to get an antenna tuned to both ends of the band. The 80 Meter CW band has the first .025 reserved for Extras. Generals and Technicians share the

rest. PSK31 occupies 3.580 MHz, RTTY is from 3.590 to 3.600, FT8 is at 3.573 and FT4 is at 3.575 MHz. On the 75 Meter Band, SSB starts for Extras at 3.600, for Advanced at 3.700 and for Generals at 3.800 MHz. You will encounter a lot of rag chewers in the General portion of the band. They don't like "contesters."

160 Meters: This is known to many as the "Top Band." 160 is definitely a nighttime band, not opening up until well after dark. It is also a high QRN band, especially during the summer months and any other time when there are thunderstorms. Another factor resulting in low activity is the size of an antenna resonant at 160 Meters. Most multi-band antennas do not include 160.

The entire length of the 160 Meter band from 1.8 to 2.0 MHz is both CW and SSB with no sub-bands for Extras. There is a PSK31 watering hole at 1.838. FT8 can be found at 1.840 MHz. There are no watering holes for RTTY or FT4.

VHF

6 Meters: Most HF rigs also have 6 Meter capability. 6 Meters, the "Magic Band," is best during the summer months, especially June. During the ARRL VHF June Contest, June 13 and 14, the FT8 sub-band was as active as 20 meters. While the propagation favoring 6 Meters usually occurs during the day, the band was open to some degree all night long from Tallahassee to New England and the Mid-Atlantic during the contest. Many multi-band HF antennas will operate on 6 Meters. In a few hours, mostly on Sunday, I was able to make 77 contacts in 17 states, mostly in the Southeast, Mid-West and New England. Reports on 3830Scores.com from other hams indicate that CW and SSB were also active. Please note that I was using a multi-band HF OCF dipole, not a beam antenna. There have been recent reports of 6 meters being open to Europe for short spells.

Although 6 Meter extends for 4 MHz from 50 to 54 MHz, activity is mostly on the first MHz. CW will mostly be found from 50.0 to 50.120. 50.125 is the SSB calling frequency. You will find SSB CQs from 50.120 up to 51.000 MHz. The primary FT8 frequency is 50.313, with some activity also on 50.323. 50.318 is the FT4 sub-band. You can use FM simplex from 51.1 to 52.0 MHz. From 52.05 to 53.0 MHz, FM simplex shares the band with FM repeaters.

Modes

You can use any authorized mode for Field Day. However, most of the activity will be CW or SSB. RTTY is fairly active on FD. PSK31 will have some activity, however, PSK31 operators usually don't understand about contests and FD, so you may find them sending their "brag" reports rather than the FD exchange. If so, try asking for the necessary information. They won't know their class, but most will be operating 1D. FT8 and FT4 have both been very active in contests recently. Because of their weak-signal capability, FT8 and FT4 may be active even when CW and SSB fade out. A Field Day reporting feature is now built into WSJT-X.

Assistance

Many hams report ("spot") their contacts to the DX clusters. You can monitor a DX cluster to see who is active on what frequency. Be aware that the DX clusters are world-wide, so a spot may be by someone in Europe and not workable by you. You can usually filter the clusters to give only the modes, bands, and reporting stations that you need. There are a number of DX clusters available. One popular cluster is DX Summit at <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>.

Most of the contesting software packages provide a direct link to a cluster and also show a band map with the stations heard on the band that you are on. If you have activated the CAT capability, linking your rig to your computer, you can click on the callsign and the logger will change your rig directly to that frequency. Check your logger's user guide for specifics.

Monitoring the DX cluster will also enable you to tell which bands are open. When you see only a few spots on the band that you are on, it's a good time to move to another that shows more activity.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the TARS Field Day coordinators with any questions that you may have. My email address is K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com

Ham Happenings

Gerry, WA6POZ

July 2020 DX

It is possible that some of the listing stations canceled their plans due to the Corvis-19

??? to date unknown

From To	Prefix	Call, () is the IOTA designation
01-Ju ???	5T	5T5PA
01-Jul???	6O	6O1OO
01-Jul???	T6	T6AA
01-Jul???	VU	AT2JES
01-Jul01-Jan	CE9	J1RL (AN-015)
01-Jul01-Jul	UR	EM100ALK, EM100LK, EO100A
01-Jul04-Sep	VU	AT2ATT, T2SFU
01-Jul09-Sep	VU	AU2FC
01-Jul14-Aug	VU	AT0II, AT2SFF, AU2CVD, VU2DCT
01-Jul18-Aug	VU	AT2ABC, AT2BB
01-Jul18-Jul	VU	AT2EFE
01-Jul19-Aug	VU	AT2SAH
01-Jul20-Aug	VU	AU9VV
01-Jul26-Jul	XE	4A60 stations
01-Jul31-Aug	VK	VI250COOK
01-Jul31-Aug	VU	AT2DN
01-Jul14-Jul	FP	FP/KV1J
01-Jul30-Aug	5X	5X1RI
01-Jul31-Jul	V6	V6TOPG2020 (OC
08-Jul15-Jul	P4	P4/N4IQ, P4/ND7J
11-Jul12-Jul	P4	P40US
11-Jul19-Jul	UA	UE45SA
21-Jul15-Aug	5X	5X1RI9
01-Jul03-Jul	ZA	ZA/HG2DX
22-Jul28-Jul	VK	VK5KI (OC-139)
24-Jul13-Aug	TF	TF/SP7VC
25-Jul26-Jul	GM	GM4BJM (EU-012)
25-Jul26-Jul	GM	MM1E (EU-123)
25-Jul26-Jul	GM	MM2U (EU-008)
25-Jul26-Jul	GM	MM8C (EU-111)

DX sources - The Daily DX, 425 DX News, or DX Zone

Contesting

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

With the current stay-at-home restrictions, many radio amateurs are finding more time to devote to their hobby. There are many ways to enjoy amateur radio, but RadioSport (contesting) is the most competitive. You may compete against other contesters or against yourself. Although the bands may be crowded, you can enjoy RadioSport from the privacy of your own radio shack.

July is not a very busy month for contesting, although there is at least one activity every weekend. There are three major contests this month. There are a few DX contests, but no State QSO Parties. [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) lists 85 RadioSport activities for July worldwide, more than enough to keep you busy depending on your interest – phone, CW or digital. The minor events are too numerous, too short, or too focused to warrant attention here. The more significant ones are described below.

There is also one significant special event activity that many enjoy, and which could keep you entertained for several days during the first of the month.

Preview of July Weekends

July 1

Whether it is on a weekend or not, each year on July 1st, the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the **RAC Canada Day Contest** to celebrate the anniversary of Canada's Confederation. For the Canadians, this is like our 4th of July. The contest will be CW and phone only on all bands (except WARC) from 160 to 2 meters. The exchange for this popular contest is RS(T) and serial number for non-VE stations. VE stations will be reporting RS(T) and province or territory. Multipliers are the 10 Canadian provinces and 3 territories. Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations (Callsigns ending in "RAC") are worth 20 points.

July 4-5

The 4th of July weekend has two DX contests. The **Marconi Memorial HF Contest** commemorates the Second Century of Radio and its father: Guglielmo Marconi. It's a World-Wide competition: everyone can work everyone, but only on CW. The multipliers are the DXCC entities. The exchange is RST and serial number. All participants will be awarded an online PDF certificate.

The **DL-DX RTTY Contest** has somewhat unusual categories that include two single op categories where only dipole or groundplane antennas are permitted (not a bad idea). Multipliers are each DXCC country on each band, including first contact with Australia, Canada, Japan and USA. Additionally, each call area in VK, VE, JA and W will count as one multiplier on each band (W1, WA4, JA2, VK4). The exchange is RST and serial number.

July 11-12

The **IARU HF World Championship** is a Major world-works-world CW and SSB contest. The exchange is RS(T) and your ITU zone, except for the IARU member society HQ stations, such as W1AW, who will send their signal report and official IARU member society abbreviation. IARU International Secretariat club station NU1AW counts as a HQ station and sends "IARU". Members of the IARU Administrative Council and the three IARU regional Executive committees send "AC", "R1", "R2" and "R3" as appropriate. Higher points are awarded for contacts with different ITU zones and continents. Multipliers are the ITU zones, plus IARU member society HQ stations (AC, R1, R2 and R3) worked on each band.

July 18-20

There are two Major contests this weekend, the bigger of which is the **North American QSO Party, RTTY**. All of the NAQPs are fun with everyone limited to 100 watts maximum, so Little Pistols can compete well with the usual Big Guns. Small stations can generate very effective "runs" in the NAQP contests.

This week's other Major contest is the **CQ Worldwide VHF Contest**. The contest allows VHF operators the opportunity to experience the enhanced

propagation available at this time of year, and for interested amateurs to collect VHF Maidenhead grid locators for award credits. It promotes VHF activity on the 6 and 2 Meter bands with participation from around the world. The exchange is callsign and Maidenhead grid. Maidenhead grids are multipliers.

July 27-28

The fourth weekend of July is always the date for the **RSGB IOTA Contest**. Islands of the Air has always been a very popular contest. However, with travel restrictions and personal distancing, fewer remote islands are expected to be activated this year. Only single operator categories are recognized due to COVID-19 constraints. Mode may be CW, SSB or mixed. Island stations should give RS(T), a serial number and their IOTA number for an exchange. "World stations" (non-IOTA) should give their RS(T) and a serial number. Contacts with "World Stations" are worth 2 points, while contacts with Island Stations are 10 points. The multipliers are the total number of IOTAs per band per mode. Even though there will be fewer IOTA stations this year, this is still a good DX contest.

Special Event

Although not a contest the annual **13 Colonies Special Event** <http://www.13colonies.us/> is a hugely popular activity to celebrate the 4th of July. The event gets under way on July 1 at 1300 UTC and runs nearly a week through July 7 at 0400 UTC. Special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs K2A through K2M will represent the original 13 US colonies, plus bonus stations K2Z and WM3PEN in Philadelphia. The British even recognize our independence by supplying a bonus station with GB13COL in Durham, England. The exchange is RS(T) and your state. All bands, including the WARC bands (but not 60M) may be used because this is not a contest. All modes may be used, but it is up to the individual special event stations which ones to use and where to operate. All entrants are eligible to apply for handsom certificate with endorsements showing the number of colonies worked and the bonus stations worked. You do not have to have a “Clean Sweep” to get a certificate. Unlike a contest where you can bull your way through making as many contacts as possible, the 13 Colonies Special Event requires patience, skill and more patience seeking the special event and bonus stations. Can you get a “clean sweep?”

About Participating

Before participating in any of these contests or events, please familiarize yourself with the times, frequencies, exchanges, rules, etc. associated with the event. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html>) can provide most of the information, as well as a link to the contest’s home page, which will give you a “flavor” for the contest and let you know about any plaques or other special prizes like a bottle of wine or a frozen salmon. Alternatively, you can Google the name of the contest or event and go directly to their home page.

If you are a new or casual contester, there is never a better time to start or return to contesting than now. Pick one of the easier contests, such as a State QSO Party or one of the minor DX contests, and jump in. (No, first read the rules as suggested above.) You do not have to score a lot of points but do spend some time in the chair having fun. As you are enjoying the leisurely pace of one of these slower contests, picture it on steroids as a major contest

with wall-to-wall stations all calling CQ. After it is completed, submit your log to the contest sponsor and report your activity on 3830Scores. Then look at the contest results on 3830 to see how you compared with all others. With this contest completely under your belt, check the Schedule of Contests to see what next weekend has in store for you.

Summary

Contest	Type	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other Digital
RAC Canada Day Contest	DX	1-Jul	0000Z	C	S		
DL-DX RTTY Contest	DX	4-Jul	1100Z			R	
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	DX	4-Jul	1400Z	C			
IARU HF World Championship	Major	11-Jul	1200Z	C	S		
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Major	18-Jul	1800Z	C	S	R	D
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Major	18-Jul	1800Z			R	
RSGB IOTA Contest	DX	25-Jul	1200Z	C	S		

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TARS Officers

73,

Dave

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