

Black Hills Amateur Radio Club VHF/UHF QSO party

April 24, 2021 13:00 – 16:00 MDT

Purpose

This QSO party is being organized to provide the Hams in the Black Hills area with an opportunity to do something fun during this time when we are spending more time than we want to at home. It will also provide newer Hams with an opportunity to get on the air in a new way. It will give us all a chance to meet new people and chat with old friends. We will also get chance to learn more about the capabilities and limitations of our equipment.

Entry categories

There will be two categories:

Fixed – This will be operating from your home radio shack or your permanently-installed mobile rig in your vehicle. Your vehicle does not have to be located at your home QTH.

Portable – This will be using a temporary antenna and battery, solar, wind or generator power. You can set up portable in your back yard if you want as long as you use a temporary antenna and portable power. This also includes temporary installations in your vehicle using a temporary antenna and not using permanently connected power from the vehicle. HTs fall in this class.

You can operate part of the time as fixed and part as portable. Just make sure your log shows which contacts were made using which category.

We encourage everyone to operate at least part of the time from your home station so we get an idea who can talk to whom from home.

Locations

You can operate from up to 3 locations during the QSO party. Again make sure the log shows which contacts are from which location

Bands/Frequencies

All contacts will be made using **FM simplex** on 6meters, 2meters and 70 cm. We will be using the following frequencies:

6m – 52.525 MHz primary, 52.540 MHz secondary

2m – 147.510 MHz primary, 147.540 MHz secondary (#10 and #11 on the ARES list)

70cm – 447.000 MHz primary, 446.500 MHz secondary (#21 and #22 on the ARES list)

We will not be using PL tones. If you have programmed your radios using the Western SD ARES frequency list you will have to remove the PL tone on receive or you won't hear people who are not sending a tone.

Repeaters, cell phones, internet or smoke signals can be used to coordinate contacts but only FM simplex QSOs can be logged.

Power

Awards will be given in 2 power categories:

Low – 10 watts or less

High – more than 10 watts

Exchange

Each exchange must include your **call sign**, whether you are operating **fixed or portable** and **Location Number**. Please also spend a little time chatting and learn something about the ham you are talking to.

Scoring and Awards

Each contact you make from a Fixed station will be awarded one point

Each contact you make from a portable station will be awarded 2 points.

You can log another station once per band. This means it is possible to log a station 3 times. Note that you cannot log a station on the same band twice, thus it can only be logged when you are operating fixed or portable, not both (like we did last year).

Award certificates will be given for the highest score in each power category. We may give 2nd and 3rd certificates if we have enough entries.

We will also be giving certificates for the longest distance QSO on each band.

Logs

Log sheets will be available in Excel and PDF formats either attached to an email or on the club website W0BLK.com. Please use these log sheets as it will make scoring easier. You can use a paper log during the QSO party but it would be much appreciated if you submit the log on an Excel spreadsheet. We will accept a paper log if for some reason you can't get it into a spreadsheet.

Email completed logs to: **Don Jarvinen** compass@rap.midco.net.

Paper logs can be mailed to: **Don Jarvinen** 3641 Serendipity Ln Rapid City, SD 57702

Logs must be received by Monday, May 3 to qualify for awards.

We strongly encourage everyone who participates in this event to submit a log, even if it only includes a couple entries. This will help us understand where communications are possible using these bands.

If you have suggestions to improve the event, including changes to the rules or log sheets, please let us know.

Have Fun

The most important rule for this event is to **have fun**.