

# Stimulating VHF+ Contest Activity

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# Why Contest?

- More activity
- Easier to make contacts
- Enjoy limited operating time
- Test station limits
- Get familiar with hardware, software, and propagation



# VHF Contesting



- Tough from small station
  - No tower
  - Boom length <5'
  - 50 W max
  - 6 m often closed
- Need local participation
- Good score: >15 QSOs
- 17 other hams in my 1 sq mi Minneapolis zip code!
- 11,547 hams in MN

# Recruitment

- Local radio clubs
- Public-service hams
  - Contest as training
  - Simplex operation
  - Unfamiliar callsigns
- New licensees
- Get competition in SOFM



# Resources

- [Quick-start guide](#) (2 pg)
- [VHF contest intro](#) (10 pg)
- [ICS 205](#) (frequency assignment)
- [ICS 217A](#) (suggested mode/frequency)



# Retention

- 30-min FM focus times (x3)
- Multi-op (from club/emergency station)
- Mentorship before and after contest
- Help setting up WSJT-X and logging
- Guidance through bureaucracy
  - Log submission
  - LOTW submission
  - 3830scores reporting



# Club Activities or Presentations



- WA5VJB cheap yagi build
- Intro to Contesting
- Basic N1MM+ Logger Use
- Setup and use of WSJT-X (FT8)
- Rover operations
- Web Resources
  - NLRs spreadsheet
  - APRS Propagation
  - Chatrooms
  - PSKReporter

# Goals

- Increase activity
- Support operator learning
- Engage new licensees
- Improve readiness for service
- Expand VHF+ community
- Be conscious of cost





# Summary

- Work with your local club(s)!
- Contest as training
- Encourage FM activity
- More activity → more excitement
- Support learning and growth (new bands, modes)



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