1. **Contest Sponsor:** The Anne Arundel Radio Club (AARC), PO Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035-0308

2. *Contest Dates*: This contest is conducted in a single 14-hour operating period beginning on the second Saturday in August at 1400 UTC and ending at 0400 Sunday UTC.

3**. Entry Acceptance:** Valid entries must be received within 30 days from the end of the contest.

 4. **Station Categories**: There are eight station categories. You may only enter under one category.

    a. Club Station (Club or CLB; category A) – A station operated by a single operator using a single transmitter and using a club call sign throughout the duration of the contest or a station operated by multiple operators using a single or multiple transmitters, using a single call sign (whether a club call sign or individual call sign throughout the duration of the contest. Both require that all stations be operated from the same fixed location.

    b. Roving Station (Rover or ROV; category B) – A MDC mobile 0r portable station which operates from three or more MDC contest locations as listed in Table 1 during the contest period.

    c. Oddball Station (Oddball or ODB; category C) -- Vehicles which by their nature may have no 'inside', and do not otherwise qualify under the Mobile Station category definition, may operate in this category. The radio operator will normally be in a position in which the vehicle is normally operated (seat, saddle, etc.). This category includes, but is not limited to, motorized vehicles (like motorcycles, motor bikes, Segways, motor scooters, etc.), transport powered by animals (like a horse and buggy), gravity powered vehicles (like soap box derby cars), and human powered vehicles (like bicycles, tricycles, skateboards etc.). In the case of unusual vehicles, the antenna may be mounted on the vehicle and not attached elsewhere, or the antenna may be mounted directly on the transceiver. Operators who choose this category are encouraged to submit a photo of their stations for display on the MDC QSO web site, which will earn you 50 points.

    d. Mobile Station (Mobile or MOB; category D) – A station operated from inside a motorized vehicle in motion or parked, regardless of the number of operators or number of transmitters. A station transmitter(s) must be safely operated from inside the vehicle, using antennas mounted on the vehicle and not attached elsewhere. The vehicle must be located at least 500 yards from the home QTH of the station when operating, or from property owned or rented as a residence by the operator(s). Power must not be sourced from a utility/power grid. For safety reasons , a single operator should only operate while parked.

     e. QRP Station (QRP; category E) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter with a transmitted signal which does not exceed 5 watts PEP.

    f. Standard Station (Standard or STD ; category F) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter with a transmitted signal exceeding 5 watts (PEP) but not exceeding 150 watts (PEP) during the contest.

      i. Fixed Staton- An amateur radio station established in a permanent structure with equipment that is not intended for portable operation. This can be typically found in homes, schools,

amateur radio clubhouses, and some public buildings. Fixed stations are generally powered from AC mains electrical supply available in the building.

ii. Portable Station- An amateur radio station set up in a temporary location. Portable stations include the same basic equipment as fixed and mobile stations. Mobile stations using antennas that are not connected to the vehicle are considered portable stations.

g. Amplified Station (Amplified or AMP; category G) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter with a transmitted signal exceeding 150 watts (PEP) but not exceeding 600 watts (PEP) during the contest.

h. Unlimited (Unlimited or UNL; category H) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter with a transmitted signal that has exceeded 600 watts (PEP) during the contest.

5. **Modes:** Only three transmitting modes are allowed.

a. Phone: Any phone mode may be used.

b. CW: Only International Morse Code may be used.

c. Digital: Any digital mode may be used, such as PSK31, RTTY, FT8, and FT4.

6. **The Exchange:** The exchange is simple. You give your Station Category (e.g., Club, Mobile, QRP, etc.) and Location to each contacted station. Your location will be as follows:
- For stations outside of Canada and the United States, use your country.
- For Canadian and non-MDC stations, use your province or state.
- For MDC stations, use your county or city as indicated below in Table 1.

No.	County/City	Abbreviation	No.	County/City	Abbreviation
1	Allegany	ALY	14	Howard	HWD
2	Anne Arundel	ANA	15	Kent	KEN
3	Baltimore City	BAL	16	Montgomery	MON
4	Baltimore County	BCT	17	Prince George's	PGE
5	Calvert	CLV	18	Queen Anne's	QAN
6	Caroline	CLN	19	St. Mary's	STM
7	Carroll	CRL	20	Somerset	SMR

8	Cecil	CEC		21	Talbot	TAL
9	Charles	CHS		22	Washington	WAS
10	Dorchester	DRC		23	Wicomico	WIC
11	Frederick	FRD		24	Worcester	WRC
12	Garrett	GAR		25	Washington DC	WDC
13	Harford	HFD				

Table 1

NOTE: The Exchange for FT4 or FT8 transmissions is slightly different. Details of the FT4/FT8 QSO procedure are described below in paragraph 14.

Examples:

```
W3VPR this is N3ADF Mobile station in Queen Anne (QAN if using CW) county.
N3ADF this is W3VPR Club station in Anne Arundel (ANA if using CW) county.
```

7. **Canadian Provinces:** The following are the Canadian Provinces and Territories used for the purposes of this contest.

Province	Call Area and Description
Newfoundland & Labrador	VO1 or VO2
New Brunswick	VE1-VE9
Nova Scotia	VE1
Prince Edward Island	VE1 or VY2
Quebec	VE2 or VA2
Ontario	VE3 or VA3
Manitoba	VE4
Saskatchewan	VE5
Alberta	VE6
British Columbia	VE7 or VA7
Northwest Territories	VE8
Nunavet Territory	VY0
Yukon Territory	VY1

Table-2

Example:

```
W3VPR this is AG4RR mobile in Kentucky
  AG4RR this is W3VPR we're a Club station in Anne Arundel
  (ANA if using CW or digital) county.
W3VPR this is VE3XYZ, I am a Standard station in Ontario.
  VE3XYZ this is N3ADF. We are a Mobile station in Washington DC  Whiskey Delta
  Charlie (WDC if using CW or digital).
```

8. **Miscellaneous Rules:**

a. Make lots of contacts.

b. Have the most fun allowed by law!

c. Stations not located in the state of Maryland, or the District of Columbia may only receive credit for contacts with stations located in Maryland or the District of Columbia (MDC section).

d. Stations located in the state of Maryland or District of Columbia may work stations anywhere.

e. Club stations must operate from a single location.

4

f. Mobile stations must be operated from inside a mobile vehicle, whether in motion or parked, and with antenna(s) mounted on the vehicle or the radio itself and not attached elsewhere.

g. All licensed vehicles are considered mobile vehicles, regardless of whether they can move or not. Unlicensed vehicles which are incomplete or damaged are considered immobile and must be declared as fixed locations rather than mobile vehicles. Finally unlicensed but operational vehicles will still be considered as mobile vehicles.

h. The use of repeaters, digipeaters, satellite retransmission, or the Internet (e.g., EchoLink) is not allowed.

i. Only simplex contacts are allowed except when split frequency QSOs are made within the same band.

j. Cross-mode contacts are prohibited.

k. Stations may be worked only once per band per mode except as exempted by paragraph l. below. This means that any station (so long as one is in one of the locations listed in Table 1) may contact any other station on any band up to three times, provided a different mode is used each time.

l. Stations that change their location from one MDC entity (as listed in Table 1) to another, shall be considered as a 'new' station, and may be worked again from this new location in all contest modes for contest credit for both stations involved. Similarly non-MDC stations who change their location from one US State, Canadian Province, or country to another shall also be considered a 'new' station.

m. A station that is both QRP and either Mobile or Rover may only enter one of these categories.

n. For the MDC QSO party, Alaska, and Hawaii count as States only.

o. Participating stations may not count Maryland as a state they have worked. The emphasis is on working Maryland Counties, Baltimore City or Washington DC.

p. Contacts made during a net operation may not be included.

Example:

> *Maryland-DC Stations submitting a log for the MDC QSO Party may not use a 1x1 call sign (aka Special Event Call Sign), however contacts made with station using a 1x1 call sign will be accepted.*

q. Marine Mobile stations within the waterways of the various Maryland Counties, Baltimore City and Washington DC may participate from the entities in which they are located. Marine Mobile stations on the Chesapeake Bay and more than 100 meters from shore shall be prohibited from participating in this contest.

r. All MDC QSO Party 2023 submissions must be made using the online submission form found at **http://www.w3vpr.org/qso_party_submission_2023** and that submission must contain either a Cabrillo log, a WSJT-X log, or both.

s. Self spotting in any form is not permitted. Self-spotting is defined as the practice of sending a spot advertisement of your station's call sign and current operating frequency.

9. **Authorized and Suggested Frequencies:** Contacts on WARC bands and 60 meters are not allowed. All other bands may be used. The following are suggested frequencies for use during the contest.

a. CW: 3.557, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045 50.095, 144.095

b. SSB: 1.895, 3.821, 7.230, 14.271, 21.371, 28.371, 50.131, 144.141, 431.141

c. FM: 52.525, 146.55, 146.58, 223.40, 446.00

d. Digital: In accordance with the ARRL Band Plan

10. **Scoring:**

a. **Contact Points** will be based on the mode used to complete the contact, as follows:

1) 3 points if the contact was made in CW mode (using International Morse Code)

2) 2 points if the contact was made using any non-voice digital mode

3) 1 point if the contact was made using phone, to include digital voice

b. **Multipliers for all entrants:** The total of all Contact Points will be multiplied by each of the following multipliers in sequence. (See example below.)

1) **Maximum Transmit Power Multiplier:** Based on the highest power level used for any contact.

a) 3 If the Maximum Transmit Power does not exceed 5 watts PEP.

b) 2 If the Maximum Transmit Power exceeds 5 watts PEP but not 150 watts PEP

c) 1 If the Maximum Transmit Power exceeds 150 watts PEP.

d) 1 if the Maximum Transmit power exceeds 600 Watts PEP.

2) **Entrants Category Multiplier:** Based on the category for which the station is entered.

a) 1 if the Entrants Category is Club or CLB station.

b) 3 If the Entrants Category is Rover or ROV station.

c) 4 if the entrants Category is Oddball or ODD station.

d) 2 If the Entrants Category is Mobile or MOB station

e) 1 If the Entrants Category is QRP station

f) 1 If the Entrants Category is Standard station

g) 1 If the Entrants Category is Amplified station

h)1 If the Entrants Category is Unlimited or UNL

c. **Multiplier points for MDC Stations:** Stations in Maryland and the District of Columbia earn one multiplier point for making initial contact with the following:

1) Each Maryland County, and cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC) – 25 maximum.

2) Each State (less Maryland) – 49 maximum

3) Each Canadian Province – 13 maximum

4) Each DXCC country except the United States of America, Canada, Hawaii, and Alaska

5) Multiplier points described in 1) through 4) above will be added together before being used as a multiplier.

d. **Multiplier points for non-MDC Stations:** Stations not operating from within Maryland or the District

of Columbia earn one multiplier point for making initial contacts with: Each Maryland County, the cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC) – 25 maximum

 e. **Bonus Points:**

1. **Fifty bonus points** will be awarded to each station submitting a contest log with at least one confirmed contact with station W3VPR (The call sign of the Anne Arundel Radio Club). The Fifty points may be claimed on the website entry.

2. **Fifty bonus points** will be awarded for each entrant in the Oddball Station Category submitting a photograph of their station as operated. The station may be displayed on MDDC Qso Partyweb site.

3. Since Cabrillo Files are required No bonus points for Cabrillo File Web Submission will be awarded in 2023. This form is found at https://www.w3vpr.org/QSO_Party_Submission.

4. **FIVE HUNDRED bonus points** will be awarded for working all 25 MDC jurisdictions during the MDC QSO party.

5. Inaccuracies in form of submissions, especially flagrant ones, may result in reduction of awarded bonus points,

f. **Total Score:** You do not need a degree in mathematics to determine your score. If you can add and multiply you are in good shape.

i. Add the number of contacts made using each of the three Modes listed in 10.a. above.

ii. For each Mode multiply the number of Contact Points noted in 10.a.1), 10.a.2) and 10.a.3) above, by the number of contacts made using that same mode, as just computed. Add those 3 numbers together to produce the number of Contact Points earned.

iii. Determine the Maximum Power Multiplier noted in 10.b.1) above, and Category Multiplier noted in 10.b.2) above.

iv. Next, based on whether you are entering from within Maryland-DC (MDC) or outside of Maryland-DC. Determine either your In-State Multiplier Points, or your Out-Of-State Multiplier Points as applicable. Consider this amount to be your State Multiplier.

v. Now multiply your Contact Points times your Maximum Power Multiplier times your Category Multiplier times your State Multiplier to create your Basic Score. The formula for this is: (Contact Points)x(Maximum Power Multiplier)x(Category Multiplier)x(State Multiplier)=(Basic Score)

vi. Next determine if you have earned any bonus points. If you have contacted W3VPR during the contest, in any mode, you earn **50 bonus points**. If you worked all 25 MDC jurisdictions during the contest, you earn **500 bonus points**.

vii. Add your Basic Score to your Bonus Points to get your Total Score. The formula follows: (Basic Score)+(Bonus Points)=(Total Score). You are done. You have your Total Score.

Example:

> *If you make 1 phone, 1 CW and 1 digital contact your Contact Points are 1+2+3 for a total of 6 points. If you used a maximum transmit power of 100 watts, your power multiplier is 2, and your total is 6x2 or 12. If your entry category is Standard Station(STD), your category multiplier is 1, and your total is 1x12 or 12. If you lived in Maryland and made those 3 contacts with 3 different counties, your state multiplier is 3, and your total becomes 3x12 or 36 points. And finally, the bonus points are calculated and added to the basic score. A contact with W3VPR would add 50 bonus points for 36+50 or 86 points. Thus you would report a total of 86 points.*

viii. The judges will use this same method to compute your score based on the entries made on your online entry form. This may be done electronically to avoid issues. Failure to fill in the form completely may result in rejection of the entry form by the judges.

11. *QSO Party Logging software:* There are several logging software programs that support the MDC QSO Party, which include the creation of a Cabrillo file. Here are a few:

● http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqsoparty.html – A very large selection of logging software is available

● http://www.qsl.net/w3km/ -- Download GenLog for free!

● http://writelog.com – A very large selection of logging software is available

● http://www.n1mm.com – This free software can be adapted to a large number of on-air contests.

NOTE: You are not required to use logging software to document your contacts. The above listing does not infer or imply an endorsement by the Anne Arundel Radio Club or the MDC QSO Party Committee. Caveat emptor (Buyer Beware!). Use all software at your own risk.

12. Logs: All Maryland OSO Party Submissions comply with the following rules:

a. The **participant's QSO Party Log**. These must be in the Cabrillo format. No handwritten logs are allowed in 2023! All entrants must use the WEBSITE ENTRY form.

b. Website entries with associated logs must be received within 14 days of the contest.

c. The WEBSITE ENTRY form can be found at: *https://www.w3vpr.org/QSO_Party_Submission*

 d. All decisions by the Maryland QSO Party Contest Committee concerning any Maryland DC QSO Party submission, will be considered final. By submitting your entry, you agree to abide by the decisions of the Maryland-DC QSO Party Contest Committee.

13. **Awards:** Prizes may be awarded in each category and category endorsement as indicated below.

a. A plaque and certificate will be awarded to the station with the highest score in each category if there are a minimum of five entries submitted in that category or category endorsement. If there are not five entries in a category the first-place finisher will receive a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment.

b. Any station ranking in the top 10 ten in their category will receive a printed certificate

c. Any station ranking lower than 10th in their category but logging more than 10QSO Party Contacts will receive a printable version of a Participation Certificate.

d. Additionally, the following endorsements are available for each operating category:

i. YL (All of the operators must by YLs).

ii. Youth (all the operators must be under the age of 18).

iii. VHF-UHF Only (This category operated only on VHF and/or UHF frequencies).

iv. Worked all MDC jurisdictions.

Persons or organizations interested in sponsoring a plaque or making a donation may contact MDCQSOP@w3vpr.org for details.

14. **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CONTESTANTS USING FT4/FT8:** The Nevada QSO party has developed a method by which the ARRL Field Day mode may be used for FT4 and FT8 QSO Party Contacts. We have been using a variation of this same system for the Maryland DC QSO Party since 2020.

The Nevada QSO party system uses the 6 letters A-F, which are used in standard Field Day entries, to represent the 6 categories allowed in their QSO Party. At this point the MDC QSO Party also has 6 categories, thus we will duplicate the Nevada system.

Our system requires location numbers 1 through 25, and as just explained, the category letters A-F. Because most digital modes allowed in the Maryland DC QSO Party, allow the correct exchange information to be relayed between contestants, no special rules are required.

But when using the WSJT-X software to transmit and receive FT4 or FT8 messages, the "special operating activity" box should be checked under the file > Settings... > Advanced tab, and the "ARRL Field Day" button should be selected. If you are a MDC station, your location number and category and the "MDC" should be entered in the "FD Exch:" box. If you are a non-MDC station, your location number is "1", which should be followed by your category designation, and then your ARRL section, or "DX".

Examples:

 MDC standard station operating in Prince George's County: FD Exch: 17F MDC
 San Diego, California mobile station: FD Exch: 1C SDG
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania QRP station: FD Exch: 1D WPA
 German unlimited station: Fd Exch: 1F DX

When you select the special operating activity FD mode, your TX 6 message, which is sent as your "CQ" request, is automatically initialized to "CQ FD (callsign) (grid square)". You should change the "FD" to "MDC" to let listeners know that you are participating in the MDC QSO party. It would then look something like this: "CQ MDC W3VPR FM18".

<div align="center">Good Luck to All !!</div>

Addendum #1: N1MM users.

For those users who have elected to use N1MM software, please be aware of the following. Below is a list, provided by N1MM, of 13 VE multiplier abbreviations used by 30 QSO Parties. These are represented on the first and third lines, and are the acceptable Canadian Province abbreviations used in the Maryland-DC QSO Party. Under each, on the second and fourth lines are the mappings for those Provinces. If a user decides to enter the prefix or other mapping selection, rather than the two letter Provincial code, the following chart will be used. Thus if a user entering VE1 as the station's Province will have it automatically logged as NS for Nova Scotia. Once N1MM has entered the correct exchange, a user may force log an incorrect exchange if desired. That is often the case when the VE station doesn't know what to send, and the logging station wants to log what was actually sent.

Province	NB	NS	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB
Mapping	VE9	VE1 VA1	PQ QUE QU VE2 VA2	ONT VE3 VA3	MAN VE4 VA4	SAS SASK VE5 VA5	ALB ALT VE6 VA6
Province	BC	NT	YT	PE	NU	NL	
Mapping	VE7 VA7	NW NWT	YK YU	PEI VY2	VY0	VO1 V02	

		VE8	VY1			NF LB	

Table 3