<p style="text-align:center">The Fun Contest</p>

Maryland-DC QSO Party Rules

<p style="text-align:center">Effective 3 August 2019</p>

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 on the second Saturday in August, from 10:00am to 12:00 midnight EDT (local time in Maryland).

    a. EDT = Saturday from 10:00am to 12:00am Sunday morning.
    b. UTC = Saturday from 1400 to 0400 Sunday.

3. Summary of Changes for 2019:

The contest will begin two hours earlier than last year.

All entries must be received prior to 0400 UTC (12:00am) September 10, 2019.

Because our Post Office is not open at that hour, we will retrieve all mail at our earliest convenience on September 10, 2019 and no entries will be accepted that arrive in our mailbox after that time.

4. Station Categories: There are four station categories. The categories are listed in point value order. You should select the first category for which you qualify. (Example: If you are QRP, Mobile, and Club station, you enter as a Club station as Club Station appears first in the list of the three categories you qualify for).

    a. **Club Station (**Club or CLB) – There are two definitions for this category. Both require that all stations be operated from the same fixed location.

        i. A station operated by a single operator using a single transmitter and using a club call sign throughout the duration of the contest or

        ii. A station operated by multiple operators using a single transmitter or using multiple transmitters and using a club call sign or a single call sign to make all contacts throughout the duration of the contest.

    b. **Mobile Station** (Mobile or MOB) – A station operated from inside a vehicle in motion or parked, regardless of the number of operators or number of transmitters. The station transmitter(s) must to be operated from inside the vehicle using antenna(s) mounted on the vehicle.

    c. **QRP Station** (QRP) – A station using a transmitter whose transmitted signal does not exceed 5 watts PEP.

    d. **Standard Station** (Standard or STD) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter whose transmitted signal exceeds 5 watts PEP.

5. Modes: Only three transmitting modes are allowed.

    a. **Phone:**

    b. **CW:**

    c. **Digital:** Any digital mode may be used.

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6. The Exchange: The exchange is simple. You give your **Station Category** and **Location** (See paragraph 4, above for station categories) to each contacted station. Your location will be your country (non-Canadian DX station), state or province (Canadian and non-MDC stations), county or city (MDC stations) as indicated below.

    a. **Maryland and District of Columbia Stations:** Stations operating in Maryland, Baltimore City, or Washington DC will indicate their station category (e.g. Club, Mobile, QRP or Standard) and their location (Country or City) using the abbreviations in Table 1, below:

County/City	Abbreviation	County/City	Abbreviation
Allegany	ALY	Howard	HWD
Anne Arundel	ANA	Kent	KEN
Baltimore City	BAL	Montgomery	MON
Baltimore County	BCT	Prince George's	PGE
Calvert	CLV	Queen Anne's	QAN
Caroline	CLN	St. Mary's	STM
Carroll	CRL	Somerset	SMR
Cecil	CEC	Talbot	TAL
Charles	CHS	Washington	WAS
Dorchester	DRC	Wicomico	WIC
Frederick	FRD	Worcester	WRC
Garrett	GAR	Washington DC	WDC
Harford	HFD		

Table-1

    Example: *W3VPR this is N3ADF Mobile station in Queen Anne's (QAN if using CW) county*
                     N3ADF this is W3VPR Club station in Anne Arundel (ANA if using CW) county

    b. **All others:** Stations not operating within the state of Maryland or the District of Columbia will indicate their locations as their Country (DX stations other than Canada), the Province (Canadian stations), or their US State.

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
Maritime	VE1 Nova Scotia, VE1-VE9 New Brunswick, VE1 or VY2 Prince Edward Island
Quebec	VE2 or VA2
Ontario	VE3 or VA3
Manitoba	VE4
Saskatchewan	VE5
Alberta	VE6
British Columbia	VE7 or VA7
Northwest Territories	VE8 North West Territories, VY1 Yukon Territory, and VY0 Nunavut Territory

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 work only stations located in Maryland or the District of Columbia.

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

    d. Club stations (and multi-operator stations, excluding Mobile) must operate from a single location.

    e. Mobile stations must be operated from inside a mobile vehicle, whether in motion or parked, and with antenna(s) mounted on the vehicle.

    f. A mobile vehicle shall be further defined such that all licensed vehicles are considered mobile vehicles, regardless of whether they can move or not. Incomplete or damaged unlicensed vehicles may be considered immobile, and therefore can be declared as fixed locations rather than mobile vehicles. Finally unlicensed but operational vehicles will still be considered as mobile vehicles.

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

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

    i. Cross mode contacts are prohibited.

    j. Stations may be worked only once per band per mode except as exempted by paragraph **k** below. This means that any stations (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.

k. Mobile station 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 three 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.

l. Stations will send the category that reflects their highest point value for stations they worked. In order from highest to lowest point value are Club stations, Mobile stations, QRP stations and Standard stations.

Example: A station that is both Mobile and QRP will send their category as Mobile.

m. Alaska and Hawaii count as States only.

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

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

Example: You may not participate in the "3905 Century Club" and claim those contacts for the MDC QSO Party.

p. Contacts made during concurrent contests may not be included.

Example: You may not participate in a European DX CW contest and claim those contacts for the MDC QSO Party.

q. 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.

r. 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.

s. Stations submitting a paper log for the MDC QSO Party must also submit a Summary Sheet. There are two versions of the Summary Sheet:

Version 1 – A Summary Sheet for non-MDC Stations (Stations not operating in the state of Maryland or the District of Columbia).

Version 2 – A Summary Sheet for MDC stations (Stations operating within the State of Maryland and/or the District of Columbia.

t. Self spotting in any form is not permitted. Self-spotting is defined as the practice of sending a spot advertisement of your own station.

Instructions for completing the Summary Sheet, including examples of the two versions, can be viewed and downloaded from the MDC QSO Party website. The two versions of the Summary sheet are available for downloading as a .pdf file and as a MS Word Document from the MDC QSO Party website:

https://www.w3vpr.org/MDCQSOPlinks

9. **Authorized and <u>Suggested</u> Frequencies:** The use of WARC bands and 60 meters is prohibited. 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:** Points will be earned as indicated below:

    a. **QSO Points:** (Points for making contact with a station of a particular category)

       (1) Each QSO with a **Club station** is worth **10 points.**

       (2) Each QSO with a **Mobile station** is worth **5 points**.

       (3) Each QSO with a **QRP station** is worth **4 points**.

       (4) Each QSO with a **Standard** station is worth **1 point.**

       (5) Each QSO with a **Standard** station while using **CW** is worth 3 points.

       (6) Each QSO with a **Standard** station while using a **Digital Mode** is worth 3 points.

       (7) Each QSO whit a **Standard** station while using **Phone** is worth 1 point.

    b. **Multiplier points for MDC Stations:** Stations in Maryland and the District of Columbia earn one multiplier point for individual contacts with:

       i. **Each Maryland County, and cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC) – 24 maximum.**

       ii. **Each State (less Maryland) – 49 maximum**

       iii. **Each Canadian Province**

       iv. **Each country (Canada, Hawaii and Alaska do not count as countries)**

    c. **Multiplier points for non-MDC Stations:** Stations not operating from within Maryland or the District of Columbia earn one multiplier point for initial contacts with: Each Maryland County, the cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC) – 25 maximum

    d. **Bonus Points:** 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 50 bonus points must be claimed either via Website entry, or on the a Summary Sheet which must be submitted with your log.

       Note: W3VPR is a club station. If you contact them, you receive both the points earned for contacting a Club station and the 50 Bonus points for contacting the Host Station for the Maryland-DC QSO Party.

    e. Total Score: You do not need a degree in mathematics to determine your score.

       i. Add the number of QSOs with stations in each group listed in paragraph 10.a. above.

       ii. Multiply the number of total contacts in each category by the category point value as described in paragraph 10.a. above to determine the total QSO points.

       iii. Add the number of additional QSO points from paragraph 10.b. for all modes listed.

       iv. Multiply the number of total additional QSO points for each mode by the mode value as described in paragraph 10.b. above to determine the total additional QSO points.

       v. From all categories and modes, add the total QSO points and additional QSO points to calculate the total contact points.

       vi. Add the number of Multipliers as described in 10.c. above.

       vii. Multiply the total number of Multipliers by the total contact points.

       viii. Add any bonus points claimed, and that is your total score.

11. QSO Party Logging software: There are several logging software programs that support the MDC QSO Party. 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 GelLog 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. Listing the above information about logging software available for the MDC QSO Party 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.

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

a. The participant's **QSO Party Log.** These may be in the Cabrillo format, in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, LibreOffice Calc spreadsheet or in a legible hand-written form. If we cannot reasonably read your hand writing we will not count the contact. Cabrillo logs do not require a Summary Sheet.

b. A completed **QSO Party Summary Sheet is** required if a Cabrillo log is not submitted. Paper QSO Party logs submitted without a completed QSO Party Summary Sheet will be considered invalid. The two versions of the Summary Sheet are available as both a .pdf file and as a Microsoft Word document from the MDC QSO Party website: **http://www/w3vpr/MDCQSOPlinks**

c. Logs and Summary Sheets must be received within 30 days following the end of the contest. Since the contest ends at midnight, entries will not be accepted past midnight 30 days later.

   Example: The contest ends at 0400 UTC (12:00am EST) on a Sunday, so we will accept entries electronically, via webside or email dated as received by 0400 UTC (12:00am EST) fiveTuesday's later. Emailed or website entries will not be accepted after that time. Because our Post Office is not open at that hour, at our earliest convenience that Tuesday morning we will pick up our mail at the Post Office and conclude accepting entries of all types at that time.

d. Though we encourage the use of website entry, you may also submit your Logs and Summary Sheets vis the US Post Office or by email.

   WEBSITE

   https://www.w3vpr.org/MDCQSOPentry

   USPS

   MDC QSO Party
   P.O. Box 308
   Davidsonville, MD 21035-0308

   E-Mail

   MDCQSOP@w3vpr.org

e. All decisions by the Maryland QSO Party Contest Committee concerning any log and/or summary sheet will be considered final. By submitting your entry, you agree to abide by the decisions of the Maryland-DC QSO Party Contest Committee.

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13. Prizes: 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 as long as 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 his/her accomplishment.

    b. All other participants will receive a certificate indicating their official standing in their category.

    c. The station from each state, province, or DX entity with the highest score will be recognized with a separate certificate if there are at least three entries from that state, province or DX entity. Otherwise the recognition will be included in whatever certificate is awarded.

    d. Any station submitting a log with at least 10 QSOs will receive a "Participating Certificate".

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

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

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

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

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

Good Luck to All !!!