



News and Events, January 2025 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The year 2024 is just about over as I write this, and what a year it has been. The solar flux has been measured at its highest levels in years, and ten meters has fully come to life. Contest records continue to fall as great propagation and strong participation continue to fuel higher and higher scores.

As a club, the TCG accomplished several milestones in 2024. We hosted our first round of Zoom presentations, in which a wealth of knowledge was shared among the group. Those meetings are still available from the K4TCG.ORG web site and are well worth reviewing. Our newsletter has continued, currently under the capable hands of Brad, WF7T. A major highlight of the newsletters has been our member profiles. Please consider submitting yours for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. Our club roster has expanded throughout the year and continues to grow. Our club was featured in an NCJ article. We held meetings at K4RO and had another successful TCG lunch following the Lebanon Hamfest. TCG also sponsored a tent for the upcoming WRTC-2026 event.

There have also been considerable individual efforts towards increasing contesting enjoyment. Ron WV4P and Tim N3QE started a new Weekly RTTY Test. The WRTs have proven to be a great place to get your feet wet with RTTY contesting. Also, Ron, along with Bryan W5MX and a host of other ops organized quickly to host W1AW/4 as a distributed multi-multi in this year's IARU HF World Championship. AD4EB made his first trip to K3LR and got to experience multi-multi contesting at the highest levels. Jim even helped steer the K3LR team to a new record in the ARRL DX CW contest. K4RO got to experience his first state QSO party mobile in the TNQP and had a great time. W4CMG became a member of the elite First Class Operator's Club. W9WI again won the Dayton CW Pileup competition.

The TN QSO Party web site has a new look and feel, thanks to recent efforts by Mike, W0AG. See later in this issue for more information from Mike regarding the site. TCG would like thank Greg Tomerlin, K4KO, who built and maintained the TN QSO Party site for many years. Greg also handled the RadioActive Report back in the day and had done a lot of work for the TCG and the Tennessee QSO Party. Thanks Greg! Big thanks also to W9WI, AC6ZM, and others who have worked over the years to keep the TNQP.ORG web site updated. We could not have done this without you!

Happy New Year to all in TCG, and here's to a great 2025!

73,

—Kirk K4RO

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TNQP.ORG WEBSITE CHANGES

Our TNQP website is undergoing some major changes! After looking at various options, our hosting site has been relocated from WordPress.com to QTH.com. Many of you will recognize, or perhaps use, QTH as it targeted to ham radio and its founder is KA9FOX, Scott Neader. The service has been excellent so far and offers a multitude of options.

In conjunction with the new hosting arrangements, the site is also being revised and updated for a more modern web experience. It is still in development and will be changing as improvements are made, but it is available now for all to browse and test. If you happen to notice any strange happenings, please send an email to me at w0agMike@gmail.com and I'll get it corrected. Otherwise, enjoy the site and let me know if something should be added or updated.

CONTEST ACTIVITY

Here is a selected list, as of this publication, of those who put up scores on [3830 Scores Summary](#) in December:

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2024 Dec 6

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K4EA			757	81	20	16	159,580	TCG
W4NZ			457	64	3	7	62,042	TCG
K0EJ			438	60	7	4.5	60,099	TCG
KM9P(K0EJ)			361	57	3	4	43,860	TCG
WM4Q			237	56	3	7:30	26,712	TCG
W6UB			126	45	1	3.7	11,868	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K3IE			493	67	6	13	73,292	TCG
K1GU			524	65	4	9.5	73,140	TCG
AC4G			366	63	8	8:50	53,899	TCG
WD4CFN			115	41	1	2	9,912	TCG
KQ4E			62	27	1	3	3,556	TCG

SO Unlimited HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			926	82	16	16	186,494	TCG
AF4T			417	71	6	8.68	65,835	TCG
W4UT			302	75	6	6.5	50,382	TCG

SO Unlimited Limited-Ant HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AF4T			417	71	6	8.68	65,835	TCG

SO Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			546	66	5	15:40	78,810	TCG
WF7T			306	68	5	5	45,990	TCG
W3TB			304	59	3	6:09	38,254	TCG
W4CMG			108	39	3	5:20	8,760	TCG

SO Unlimited Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			546	66	5	15:40	78,810	TCG
W3TB			304	59	3	6:09	38,254	TCG

FT Challenge 2024 Dec 7

SO Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			104	215	4:30	9,890	TCG
K3FH			109	39	5	4,329	TCG

SO Unlimited Classic LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K3FH			109	39	5	4,329	TCG

OK DX RTTY Contest 2024 Dec 21

M/S HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
NJ4P		x	1105	3007	197	101	24	896,086	TCG

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4DD			162	372	30	9	5	14,508	TCG
W3TB			125	300	33	6	3:48	11,700	TCG
NS4X			134	199	39	8	2	9,353	TCG
W4GKM			53	189	11	3	1:37	2,646	TCG
K3FH			28	67	9	2	1.5	737	TCG

SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
WN8Y			129	193	34	11	8	8,685	TCG

SOSB/40 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			75	279	13	5	3	5,022	TCG

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2024 Dec 14

M/S LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4EA		x	1078	167	25	720,104	TCG

SO CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K1GU			811	132	12	428,208	TCG
W6UB			146	35	6.4	35,040	TCG

SO CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			525	122	11:24	256,200	TCG
AC6ZM			166	71	5:11	47,144	TCG
K4AMC			121	53	2:32	25,652	TCG
KQ4E			78	31	3	12,480	TCG

SO CW Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM			166	71	5:11	47,144	TCG

SO CW Unlimited HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			1592	168	24	1,069,824	TCG
K3IE			1172	159	19:00	746,028	TCG
N8UM			413	85	7	140,420	TCG
WM4Q			82	79	3	25,912	TCG
W3TB			110	50	2:43	22,000	TCG
K3FH			50	26	2	5,200	TCG
K9QJS			15	15	1	900	TCG

SO CW Unlimited Limited-Ant HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3TB			110	50	2:43	22,000	TCG
K3FH			50	26	2	5,200	TCG

SO CW Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W9SN			537	150	10	322,200	TCG
WF7T			268	99	5	106,128	TCG
W4CMG			102	40	04:09	16,320	TCG

SO CW Unlimited Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG			102	40	04:09	16,320	TCG

SO CW Unlimited QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WD4CFN			203	63	8:40	51,156	TCG

SO Mixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K0EJ			365	96	4	127,872	TCG

SO Mixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			51	16	2.5	5,632	TCG

SO Mixed Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			51	16	2.5	5,632	TCG

SO Mixed Unlimited HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4RO			1329	293	18	1,411,088	TCG
NS4X			355	132	5	179,520	TCG
W4UT			152	81	4	45,522	TCG
AF4T			123	73	4.78	33,142	TCG
W4HRC			131	45		20,250	TCG
W4NZ			100	55	2:40	19,800	TCG

SO Mixed Unlimited Limited-Ant HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AF4T			123	73	4.78	33,142	TCG

SO Mixed Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			541	163	18	302,528	TCG

SO Mixed Unlimited Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			541	163	18	302,528	TCG

SO SSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			127	24	12:00	11,430	TCG
WA4JA			92	40	3.5	7,360	TCG

SO SSB Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			127	24	12:00	11,430	TCG
WA4JA			92	40	3.5	7,360	TCG

SO SSB Unlimited HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	1797	168	27:20	603,792	TCG

SO SSB Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K9UC			297	88	20	52,272	TCG

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 2024 Dec 28

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			140	2.5	309	TCG
AA4DD			70	3	143	TCG
W3TB			55	1:18	108	TCG
W4NZ			20	00:30	39	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
AF4T			128	3	292	TCG
W4CMG			10	00:32	27	TCG

RAC Winter Contest 2024 Dec 28

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K4KYN				117	0		32		0		5		29,952	TCG

Single Op QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K1GU				50	0		9		0		2.8		1,908	TCG

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x		222	178		54		50		12		455,280	TCG
AD4EB				525	0		45		0		7		136,530	TCG
W3TB				210	0		30		0		4:46		31,560	TCG
W4UT				46	4		21		3		2		12,912	TCG

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				152	0		20		0		5:30		15,120	TCG
K3IE		SO2R		79	0		23		0		01:22		14,122	TCG
WN8Y				0	3		0		50		1		100	TCG

Single Op CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4NZ				65	0		15		0		1:48		8,670	TCG
K3FH				38	0		6		0		2		1,236	TCG
AF4T				24	0		8		0		1		1,184	TCG

Single Op CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4AM				20	0		5		0		.56		4,000	TCG
K4AMC				22	0		4		0		2:00		336	TCG

Single Op Phone LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	14		0		8		1		1,280	TCG

Didn't see your score listed? Next time, make sure to submit your score summary to 3830scores.com, and use the pull-down menu under "Club" to select "Tennessee Contest Group." Of course, it's also important to make sure that the Cabrillo file that you submit to the contest sponsor also contains the following line: *CLUB: Tennessee Contest Group*. This will ensure that your score will contribute to the TCG club aggregate score.

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KO4DDG – Jason Wills

I was born and raised in Central Florida in 1985, got married and moved to Tennessee in 2014. It is certainly a lot different atmosphere from the hustle and bustle of my previous amusement park town in Florida. I first got licensed in 2020, right when that whole Covid period started. I did not have an uneasy feeling about being around people, so I am not sure I can stereotype myself as getting licensed *because* of Covid. I believe my father got me interested in Ham radio. Growing up we would always turn on the AM radio at night, while waiting for the woman to get out of a store, to see what far off places we could hear signals from. I am still encouraging my father to get his Tech license. I am now an Extra Class and enjoy trying to spread the joy of ham radio by helping get people licensed, and we are now offering testing in our area. I am also a youtuber when I have the time to create content, you can find me by just searching my callsign.

For a profession I am a truck driver, 18 wheels a 'rolling, and this is where I spend a majority of my time. For a mobile setup I am running a CB radio, for those times where it becomes a lifeline, an ICOM IC-5100, and a Yaesu FT-891 working with an ATAS-120A to get out there. At the home station I am running an ICOM IC-7300 with a 4:1 = 1:1 Sloper antenna about 30 feet at the peak. I had a vertical at one point, and we all know what happens during a windstorm, so decided to keep it simple this time around. I enjoy contesting, but I am not much of a contester as some of y'all. I can dedicate 8-10 hours once in a while if the wife does not mind hearing me yell my callsign all day. My ham radio story is still being written, but I am happy to be here with you all.

73 Jason KO4DDG

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DUES & MEMBERSHIP & NEW MEMBERS

Seth N4XTT joined us in December. Welcome Seth! If current members would like to nominate new members, please e-mail K0EJ (mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com) so an invite can be sent out.

Remember that club dues are due NOW! Are you up-do-date with your dues? Do you need help navigating the HamClubOnline (<https://secure.hamclubonline.com/>) ? Pop us a message via the TCG Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/u/1/g/tcg1>) and we can assist!

TCG membership is open to all with an interest in contesting. There are no geographical limitations. All you need is a sincere interest in contesting, and the willingness to get on the air and operate with us.

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UPCOMING CONTESTS

The following table is a list of the upcoming contests which qualify for the TCG Most Radioactive Award. For more information on the MRA, please refer to K4TCG.ORG under the TCG INFO section. Thanks to AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

January 4, 2025	ARRL RTTY Roundup
January 11, 2025	North American QSO Party, CW Jan
January 18, 2025	ARRL January VHF Contest
January 18, 2025	Hungarian DX Contest
January 18, 2025	North American QSO Party, SSB Jan
January 24, 2025	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
January 25, 2025	BARTG RTTY Sprint
February 1, 2025	British Columbia QSO Party
February 1, 2025	Mexico RTTY International Contest
February 1, 2025	European Union DX Contest (new)
February 1, 2025	Vermont QSO Party
February 1, 2025	Minnesota QSO Party
February 2, 2025	North American Sprint, CW Feb
February 8, 2025	CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY
February 8, 2025	Dutch PACC Contest
February 15, 2025	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
February 23, 2025	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
February 21, 2025	North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb
February 22, 2025	South Carolina QSO Party
February 22, 2025	North Carolina QSO Party

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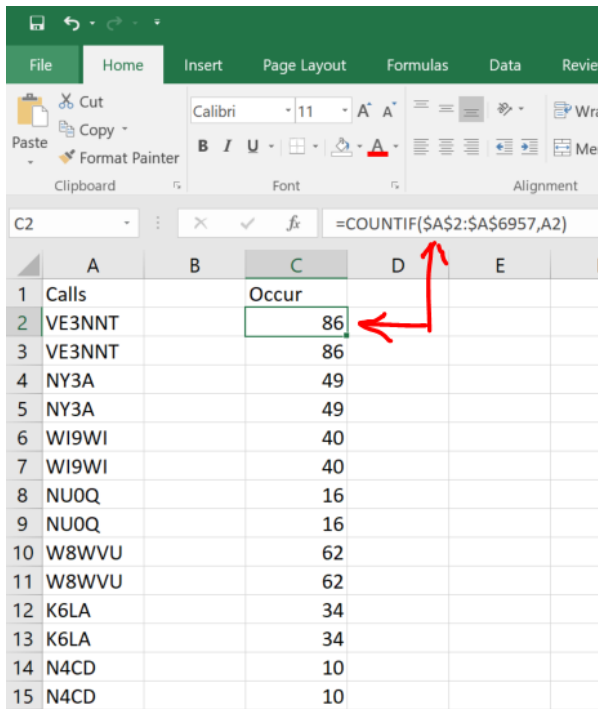
MORSE RUNNER PRACTICE FILE CREATION – Jim AD4EB

One of the ways I prepare for operating mobile in state QSO parties is by using VE3NEA's Morse Runner contest simulator. Before this year's 2024 FQP, I practiced daily for 5-6 weeks to prepare for the large pileups anticipated. This write-up describes how this was done.

I have found the key to getting higher rates is to be able to pick out callsigns the very first time they are heard. And in big pileups, you often only hear partial callsigns. So I use the simulator to practice pileups containing only callsigns that are expected to be heard in a particular contest. The top 200 most anticipated callsigns were used during the 2024 FQP practice sessions, and the hope was to learn them all by their partial characters.

Morse Runner uses Super Check Partial database files of the master.dta file format. The file resides in the Morse Runner root directory, and must be named master.dat. The remainder of this write-up describes one of the ways to create custom master.dat containing the desired practice callsigns. The way I do it uses Excel and MEdit.exe like so:

- 1) Copy the desired cabrillo logs into Excel as one long list of callsigns (delete all but the actual callsigns).
- 2) Find the number of occurrences of each callsign using the Excel COUNTIF function. There are good YouTube videos on how to do this:

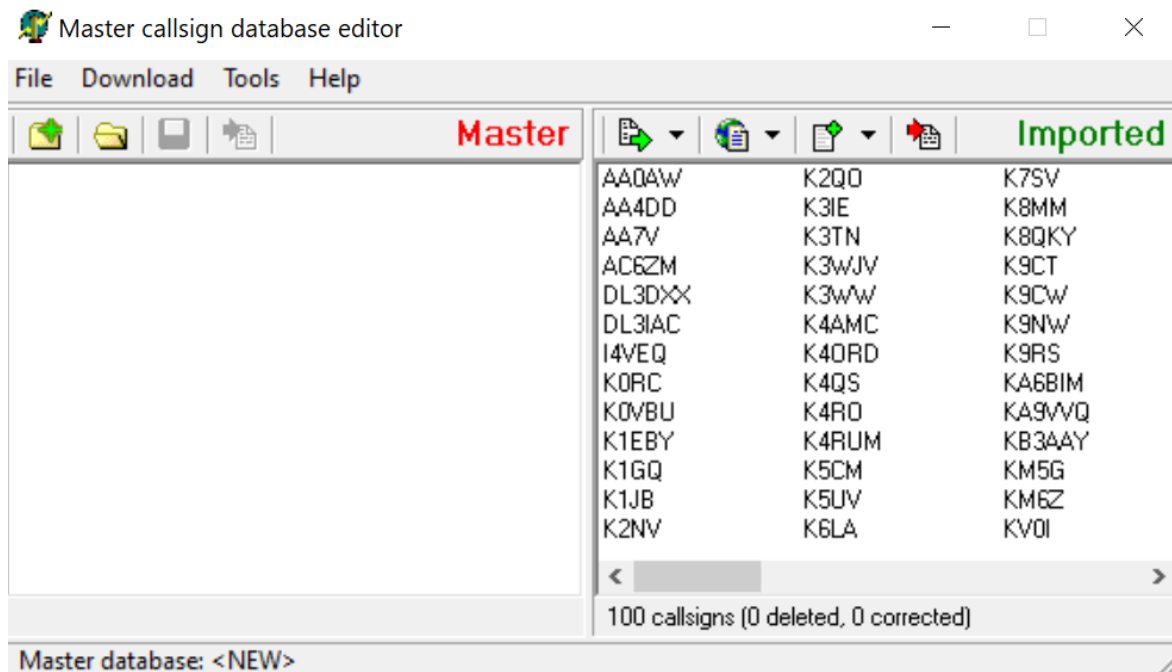


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Calls		Occur			
2	VE3NNT		86			
3	VE3NNT		86			
4	NY3A		49			
5	NY3A		49			
6	WI9WI		40			
7	WI9WI		40			
8	NUOQ		16			
9	NUOQ		16			
10	W8WVU		62			
11	W8WVU		62			
12	K6LA		34			
13	K6LA		34			
14	N4CD		10			
15	N4CD		10			

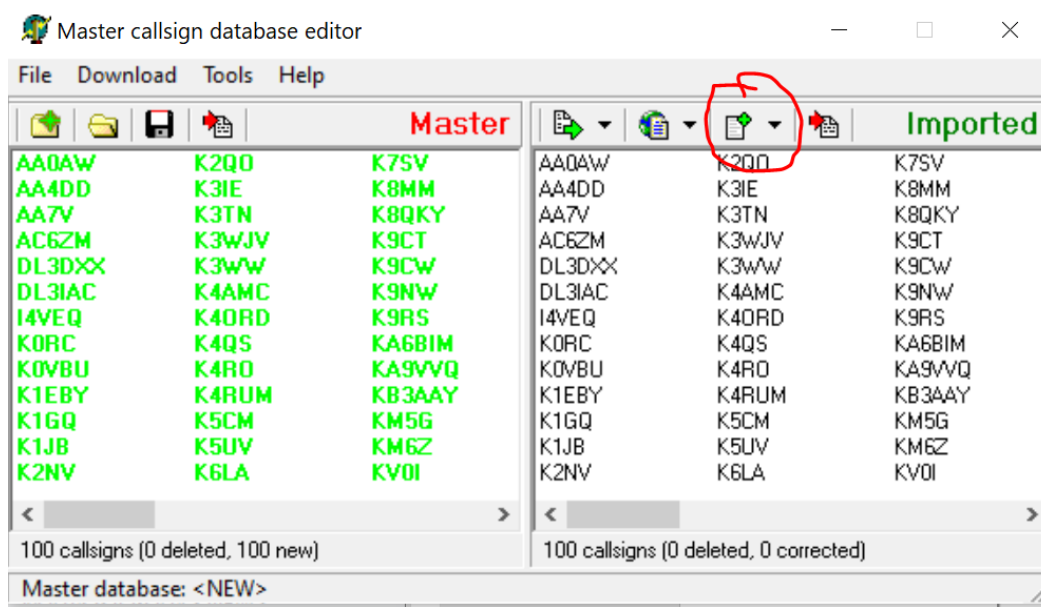
- Use Excel to eliminate duplicates, then sort by the number of occurrences:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Callsign		Occur		
2	K9CT		120		
3	OM2VL		104		
4	K3WW		100		
5	K7SV		93		
6	K9CW		88		
7	K3WJV		88		
8	VE3NNT		86		
9	WB9HFK		82		
10	W5TM		71		
11	N8II		70		

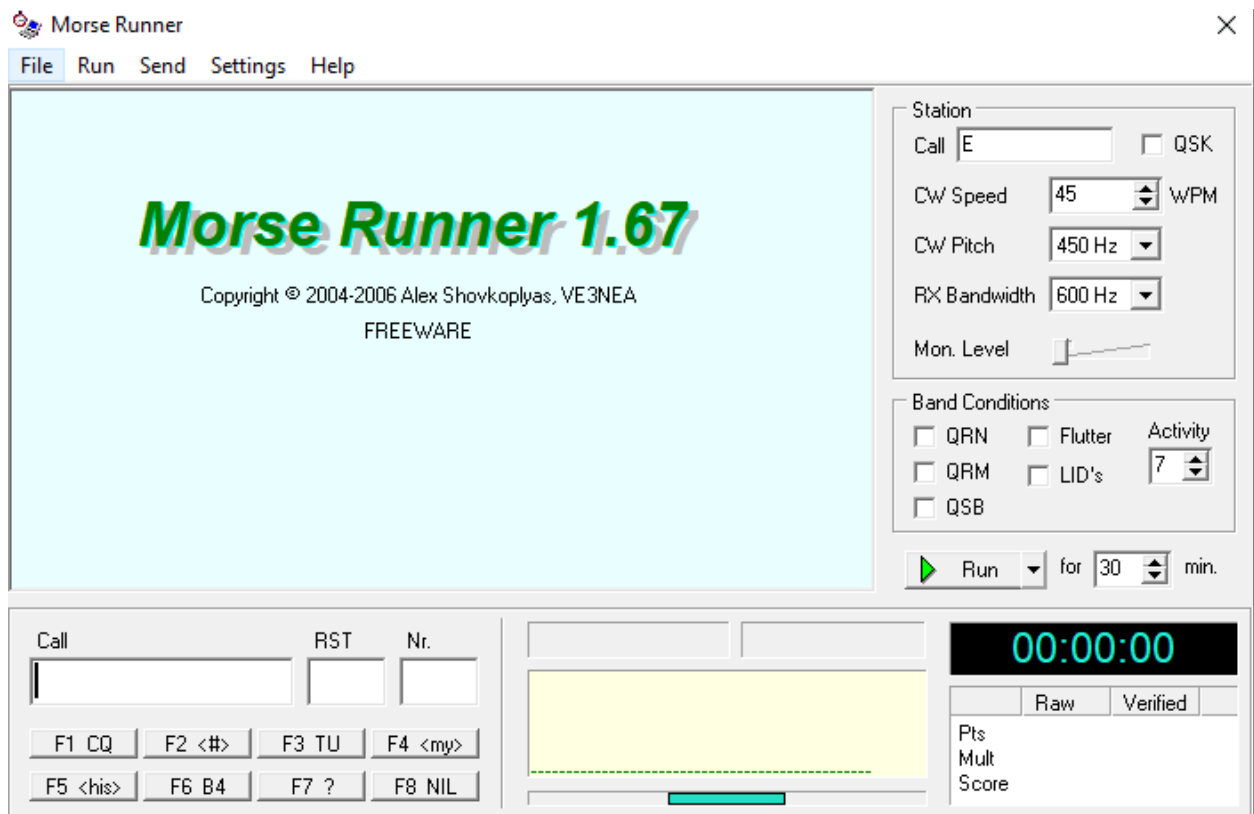
- Decide how many and which callsigns you want to practice with. I start out by taking the top 25, then the next 25, etc. Then go with larger groups as the callsigns and partials are memorized. Copy the group into notepad and save as a .txt text file.
- Now we need to convert the text file(s) into .dta Super Check Partial files. This can be done using a program called the “Master.dta Editor,” which is another VE3NEA program. Download from his website and import in the .txt file from step 4:



- 6) Convert or add the callsigns to the Master window (green):



- 7) Finally replace the existing Morse Runner master.dta file with the newly created one. Note that for the new file to be used, you must shutdown and restart Morse Runner.

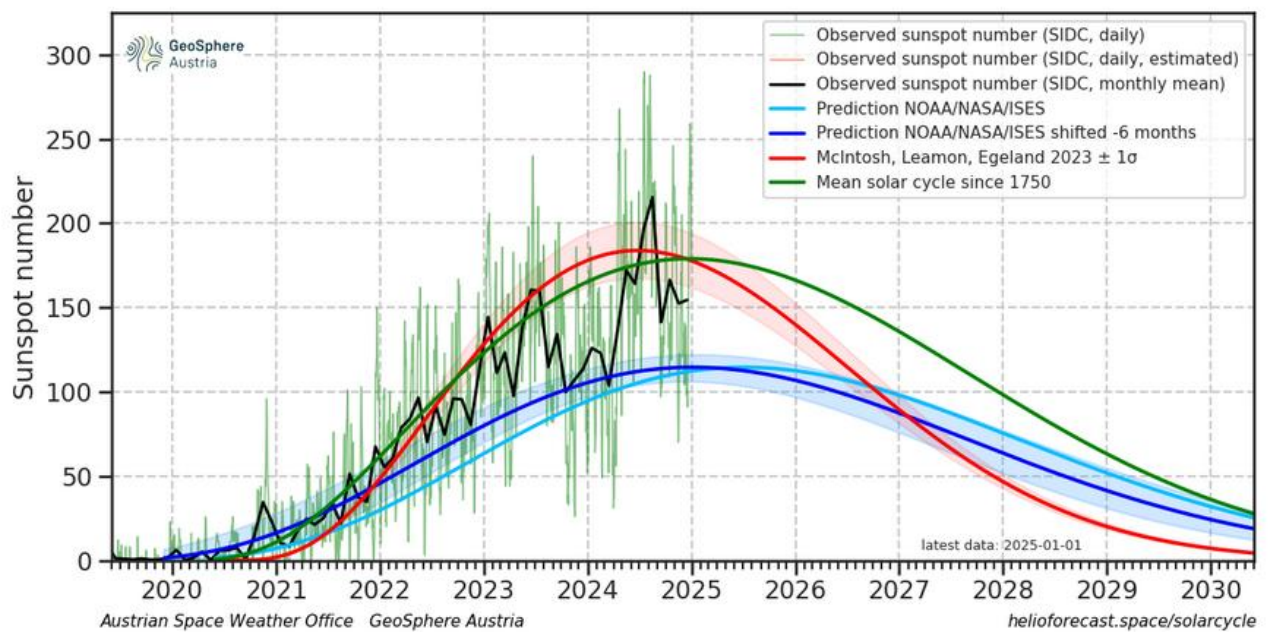
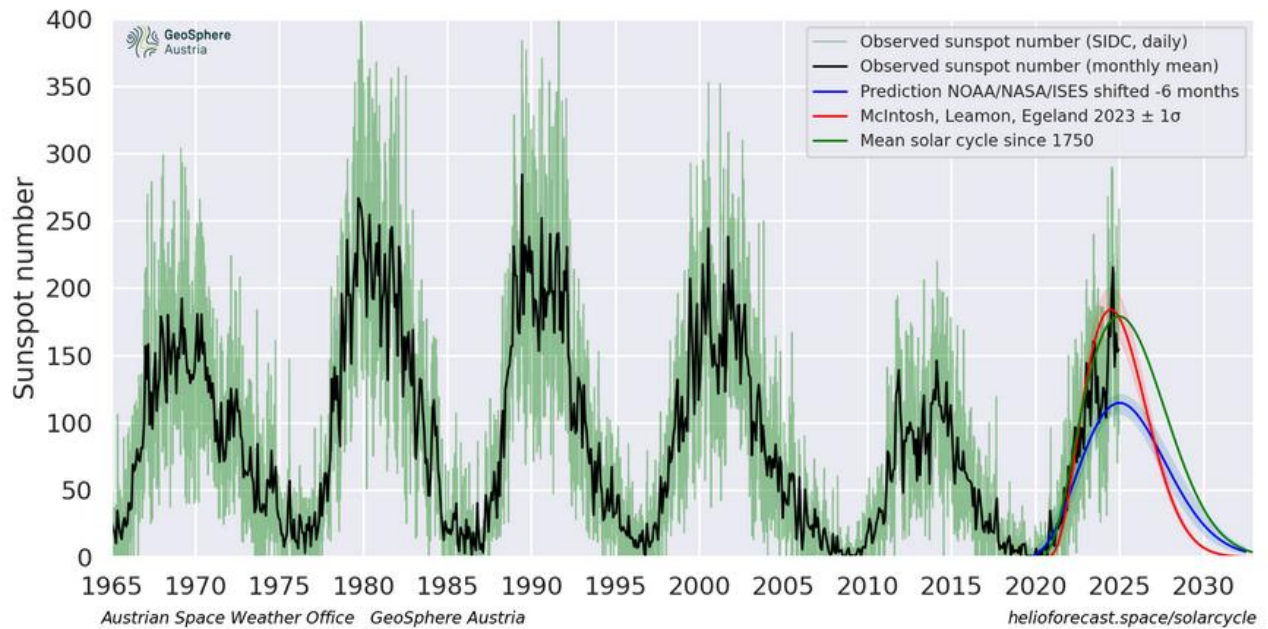


When I practice with Morse Runner, I set my Call to 'E' (saves time), Speed 45 wpm, Activity 7, and duration 30 mins. Use whatever setting you are comfortable with. I also practice using Rufz.



Lastly, let this serve as a friendly reminder to watch the TCG Google Group for calls to join teams for the upcoming North America QSO Parties (NAQP).

Wishing you a healthy, happy, safe and prosperous 2025! 73 Brad WF7T



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