



News and Events — January 2024

WELCOME TO 2024

Greetings fellow TCG types. January finds us right smack in the middle of contest season. The CQWW events are behind us, and the ARRL DX Contests are rapidly approaching. Meanwhile, we've got the RTTY Roundup, NAQP and Sprint contests right around the corner. There are plenty of opportunities to have some fun on the air during these cold winter months. To help us keep track of the upcoming contests for 2024, Tim N3QE has created this clever "Periodic Table of Contests" for 2024.

PERIODIC TABLE OF SELECT AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS
<https://Radiosport.World/>
2024

Start Day (UTC) — 1 — 2 — End Day (UTC)
 Start Time (UTC) — 0000Z — 2359Z — End Time (UTC)
 Contest Name — Select Contest of weekend as chosen by N3QE

off-the-air SSB VHF/UHF
 Multimode CW Digital

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
6 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	7 4 2359Z NA Sprint CW	4 2 0000Z ARRL DX SSB	3 6 2359Z SP Polish DX	7 4 1500Z 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	5 1 varies ARRL Digital	2 6 2400Z Marconi Memorial HF	7 3 1400Z NAQP CW	4 8 0600Z NA Sprint CW	8 5 0400Z California QSO Party	6 2 2100Z ARRL SS CW	4 6 2200Z ARRL 160	
13 1800Z NAQP CW	14 0559Z CQ WPX RTTY	10 0000Z NA Sprint RTTY	11 10 2359Z JIDX CW	10 0359Z Volta WW RTTY	13 0700Z ARRL June VHF	14 1300Z IARU HF	11 12 1200Z WAE CW	14 2359Z WAE SSB	15 0000Z Oceania CW	12 13 0600Z WAE RTTY	9 10 0000Z ARRL 10	
20 1800Z NAQP SSB	21 0559Z ARRL DX CW	17 18 0000Z BARTG HF RTTY	16 18 0200Z CQMM DX	20 21 0700Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	16 19 0659Z All Asian DX CW	15 16 2000Z NAQP RTTY	20 21 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 18 0559Z ARRL September VHF	14 16 0300Z Worked All Germany	19 20 1500Z ARRL SS SSB	16 18 1459Z Croatian DX	
26 2200Z CQ 160 CW	28 2200Z NAQP RTTY	24 25 1800Z NA Sprint SSB	24 24 0559Z Florida QSO Party	27 28 1600Z CQ WPX CW	25 26 2159Z ARRL Field Day	22 23 1800Z RSGB IOTA	27 28 1200Z WW Digi	24 25 1200Z SAC CW	21 22 1200Z CQ WW SSB	26 27 0000Z CQ WW CW	23 24 2400Z RAC Winter	
© 2023 Tim Shoppa N3QE https://Radiosport.World/		30 31 0000Z CQ WPX SSB				29 30 0000Z UK/EI DX SSB	31 1300Z CQ WW RTTY	1 28 29 0400Z CQ WW RTTY				30 1 0000Z CQ WW RTTY

N3QE writes: Click on the thumbnail below to download a full-resolution PDF sized for printing. It is formatted for 17 inch by 11 inch Ledger size paper but is certainly readable when printed on 11x8.5 or A4 paper. The table is especially handsome when printed on 17x11 Gloss Cardstock available at better-stocked FedEx Office locations. For a full high-resolution version suitable for printing, visit Tim's site at the link below:

<https://radiosport.world/>

NEW WEEKLY RTTY CONTEST

WRT, the Weekly RTTY Test - <https://radiosport.world/wrt.html>

Due to popular demand for a conventional (non Sprint) weekly RTTY Test, starting Thursday evening Jan 4th (Friday Morning UTC) from 0145-0215Z we will hold a half-hour RTTY Contest. Rules are similar to the highly successful Wednesday CWT - notably unique callsigns are a multiplier. .

This standard format 30 minute RTTY test will allow us to stay on top of our game, test station upgrades in real contest conditions and most importantly keep RTTY alive and well.

We strongly encourage all operators, seasoned or new to RTTY to participate. Special note to new(er) RTTY ops, if you have any questions, comments or issues working the test please make a post on our Facebook page for the Weekly RTTY Test (WRT) Include details of your setup in your post, and we will be happy to assist you or find someone that can. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/861286202404786>

General Rules

- * Held every Thursday night, 0145-0215Z (Friday UTC)
- * Everyone Works Everyone
- * Each unique call (once per session) is a multiplier
- * 1 Point per QSO
- * 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 Meter bands
- * 100 Watt (Low-Power) and 5 Watt (QRP) Categories.

Suggested Frequencies

- * 3.585-3.590, 7.083-7.090, 14.083-14.090, 21.083-21.090, and 28.083-28.090 MHz

Exchange

- * W/VE - Name and State
- * DX - Name and Country Prefix

Logging

- * N1MM users can use the WRT UDC module available from the WRT home page, <https://radiosport.world/wrt.html>
- * For other loggers without WRT support, we suggest using the NAQP contest. Ignore the logger's multiplier count; instead manually count unique callsigns for the multiplier.
- * Claude VE2FK has set up a call history file for the WRT. Go to the "Associated Files" tab when opening a WRT log and hit the "Change" button for Call History Filename to load it.

* Reporting

Report your results on 3830scores.com

WRT Organizers: N3QE Tim Shoppa and WV4P Ron Koenig

QDURE OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

QSL chores got you down? Spending more time filling out cards than making QSOs? Looking for an alternative to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau? You might want to consider investigating the QDURE outgoing QSL service.

I used to spend literally dozens of hours per year answering bureau QSLs. I spent countless hours printing labels, affixing labels to cards, sorting the cards, then mailing packages of cards to either the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau, or directly to DX bureaus in other countries. It was a task that I grew to dread, and if I waited too long, the job seemed to grow exponentially larger. Bureau cards never sleep.

Over a decade ago, I discovered the “Global QSL” service. Two enterprising 4X hams created the first (that I know of) service that provided a turnkey outgoing QSL bureau service. All that was required was generating an ADIF file of the contacts to QSL, and upload that file to the service. Global QSL handled everything from there. While it cost a little more than manual QSLing, the time savings was phenomenal. The ease and speed of managing QSLs electronically allowed me to clear out a growing backlog of QSL cards, and as of today I am 100% current on bureau card replies. Once I discovered the online QSL service, I never looked back.

Unfortunately, the guys who were running GlobalQSL became silent keys, and their service ended. Luckily, another contester told me about the “QDURE” service, which is run by Spain’s version of the ARRL (URE.) The concept is identical – you simply submit an ADIF file of QSOs to be QSLed, and they handle the rest. The QDURE web site allows you to pick a card design, or upload your own custom design.

I’ve been using QDURE since 2021, and have been pleased with them ever since. Orders up to 100 cards cost about 12 bucks. It gets cheaper per card with larger quantities. One nice thing is that they put up to 6 QSOs on a single card, resulting in more savings. When generating my ADIF files, I typically stack every band-mode worked on a card with a particular station, in order to reduce future requests. I use my general logging program Logger32 to generate the ADIF file, and it keeps track of which QSOs I have sent to the QSL service. It could not be easier. You may learn more about the QDURE service at the link below:

<https://qsl.ure.es/en/como-funciona/>

Upload your QSL layout -> Upload your ADIF -> Confirm your QSO via Bureau

Do not waste your time and save on Ink Stickers Shipping

Now you have no excuse for not confirming your QSO **SIGN UP NOW**

GRATITUDE FOR TCG-SPONSORED CONTEST AWARDS

It's always nice to see TCG-sponsored awards received with appreciation. Don't forget, if you are fortunate enough to earn a contesting award, take a moment to write a quick thank you note to the contest sponsor. They always appreciate hearing that their work and resources are appreciated by the recipients. Below we have two such examples. Congratulations to all!

On behalf of the FY5KE contest team, I wish to thank you both for this plaque for CQWW 2022 SSB.

73 Larry, F6FVY op FY5KE

On behalf of the Bristol Amateur Radio Club, I want to thank TCG and Mark, K0EJ for producing and sending the impressive award plaque. I have attached a pic of myself, K4DR (L) and Ben, KT4O (R) accepting the award at our annual Christmas dinner meeting tonight.

Regards, David K4DR



NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Several TCG ops have reported working lots of new call signs from TN and the surrounding area during recent contests. These call signs are not on the TCG roster, and in some cases they are brand new (or at least unfamiliar) call signs. There has been some discussion on how to reach out to folks and let them know about the TCG. Some of the different ideas discussed included creating a database of new calls, initiating a letter writing campaign, a telephone call campaign, and other approaches. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to help out.

After looking at all of the options, your TCG officers have concluded that the best way to reach out to new potential members is also the simplest. Namely, we suggest that each of our members take a moment to send a QSL card to any non-members in our club circle worked during a contest. Perhaps include a sentence or two about TCG and where to find us at K4TCG.ORG. Just imagine getting a half dozen cards from some group that you never heard of. You might even check them out, just out of curiosity if nothing else. Please consider taking a moment to find new TCG-area call signs in your contest logs, send out a few cards, and help spread the word about the Tennessee Contest Group. Let's reach out and introduce more people to the joys of contesting.

TCG JANUARY ZOOM SESSION

Please mark your calendars for the next TCG Zoom session, scheduled for Thursday January 11 at 7:00 PM Central time. That's 8:00 PM Eastern time.

This month's session will be an open net discussion on strategies and techniques for the upcoming North American QSO Party contests. The TCG was founded specifically to compete in the NAQP contests, and we're proud of our continued strong participation over the last 30 years. The January events are always a highlight of the year, with some stations approaching rates of 200/hour for the entire contest! You won't want to miss the January NAQP contests. Complete NAQP rules can be found at the link below:

<https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

The TCG Zoom sessions are fun, informative, and a good way to say hello to your fellow members outside of the hurried pace of a contest. We'd like to encourage more members to join in. Stay tuned for more details on how to join the Zoom session. Until then, please mark your calendars for Thursday evening, January 11. We hope that you will join us for some fun discussion and contesting camaraderie.

TCG DUES RENEWAL REMINDER

TCG dues renewal notices are arriving via the Ham Club Online system. The easiest and most efficient way to renew your membership dues is use the PayPal link provided. Other methods include sending a check to our treasurer, K0EJ, or sending dues directly to the TCG PayPal address, available directly from K0EJ. It takes considerable time to keep up with the edge cases. We appreciate our members paying dues promptly, thus keeping your TCG membership current.

HOW IT ALL STARTED – Ted Edwards, W3TB

Getting my Ham Radio start ... 1962

Jim AD4EB asked me for an article about getting started in ham radio – 61 years to 1961 when I had been a SWL listener. That takes me back to when the world was black and white like the TV set. My mother used to tell the story about when I was preschooler and said that our TV was turning into a color TV because we now had shades of grey. I must have been a lot of trouble.

When I was an 8th Grader, some of us got notices that we had to go to the Principal's Office after school, and we didn't know why. What had we done that was so terrible? We went to see him, and when he closed the door we were sure that we would die. Very scary!

After closing the door, he started talking about ham radio. He opened a cabinet that was actually an equipment rack and explained that it was a ham radio station and why there were poles and wires on the school roof. It all started there, and he offered to run a licensing class weekly after school. Not long later, we were novices. My novice call was KN3UWF.

He also said that all of ham radio is run on a first name basis, so in the ham radio environment we should call him John – but when the door opened we must call him Dr. Patrician and not get it wrong in front of the school. It was very important to get that right. I don't think that I had ever called an adult by first name before, let alone the Principal.

John Patrician, K2SSH, was a CW traffic handler on 80 meters. We grow up in the image of those who taught us, so I am still really a CW Operator at heart. Now 61 years later, CW is my preferred mode. It is the “original digital mode on the original social network.” Yes, it is. My family moved after I upgraded to K3UWF, and I became W1AJS and 15 years later W3TB.

Finally, my first QSO: 11 November 1962 at 0637 Eastern time – so memorable. My one crystal was at 3714 kc/s – we didn't speak of kHz back then. Scared to death, I called CQ and was answered by KN3VKX about 50 miles away. Having learned my CW in words, I had not learned the letter “X” very well, so I wrote down the call as K N 3 V K dash-dot-dot-dash and had to look up that last letter after the QSO. Yes, I really learned the letter “X” that day! Off I went from there to ham radio adventures.

I passed my General in New York City. Nobody else showed up that day for testing, so I had the full and undivided attention of steely-eyed *Mr. Finkelman*. An hour later, I bought a Vibroplex Original bug for \$22 – a true fortune for a teenager.

It is fun to remember and recount that. What beginner stories do you have?
Somehow we all survived being beginners. Who was your Elmer?

73 de W3TB Ted

SILENT KEYS UPDATED

Our web site at K4TCG.ORG contains a section dedicated to TCG members whose keys have gone silent. The Silent Key section has recently been updated with some additional information, including a tribute to our most recent fallen member, W4BCG. I would like to thank K3FH for keeping me informed, and request that any information regarding TCG silent keys be sent directly to K4RO for inclusion on our web site.

NEW MEMBERS

No new members to report this month.

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 6, 2024	ARRL RTTY Roundup
January 13, 2024	North American QSO Party, CW Jan
January 20, 2024	ARRL January VHF Contest
January 20, 2024	Hungarian DX Contest
January 20, 2024	North American QSO Party, SSB Jan
January 26, 2024	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
January 27, 2024	BARTG RTTY Sprint
February 3, 2024	British Columbia QSO Party
February 3, 2024	Mexico RTTY International Contest
February 3, 2024	Vermont QSO Party
February 3, 2024	Minnesota QSO Party
February 4, 2024	North American Sprint, CW Feb
February 10, 2024	CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY
February 10, 2024	Dutch PACC Contest
February 17, 2024	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
February 23, 2024	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
February 24, 2024	North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb
February 24, 2024	South Carolina QSO Party
February 25, 2024	North Carolina QSO Party

Good luck to everyone in the ARRL RTTY Roundup this weekend!

73, —Kirk K4RO