TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP

Where Radio is a Contact Sport

News and Events, July 2026 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

June came and went fast. We did not have any giant contests, but there were still some interesting ones, and as usual there was plenty going on around the hobby. Here at the station, weather and work seemed to be perfectly timed to make sure very little got done. Somehow the to-do list did not get shorter. It just grew legs and started breeding.

July brings a few bigger contests, especially the IARU HF World Championship and NAQP RTTY. This year also brings something special: WRTC 2026 runs alongside IARU. We should make every attempt we can to work all of the WRTC stations on as many bands and modes as possible — CW and SSB.

WRTC qualifying is not perfect. No contest is. Location still matters. Propagation still matters. But WRTC is about as close as we get in amateur radio to putting the best operators in the world on a reasonably level playing field and seeing what happens. Same geographic region, similar stations, same contest, and a whole lot of pressure.

So what makes the best operator?

It is not just being able to run rate for hours. It is not just great typing skills, although those are two pillars that help. It goes much deeper than that. When you study the true greats, they have a combination of skills and mindsets:

- Situational awareness
- Planning Raw skill
- Desire to win
- Callsign vocabulary
- Time management
- The ability to hear the band, understand what it is telling them, and make good decisions because of it

Those skills are not limited to WRTC. They can be applied every weekend. Every contest is a chance to get sharper.

We are all limited by our locations, our stations, our antennas, and our budgets. But we are not limited in our ability to become better operators. Set goals. Raise the bar for yourself. Push harder. Get out of your comfort zone. Be the best op you can be and maximize the station you have.

The biggest improvements are rarely a new tower. Sometimes they are the little things: a coax stub to knock down a harmonic, an RX antenna aimed at the Caribbean, cleaning up a

bad connector, improving station ergonomics, or even getting a better chair. Anything that helps you stay in the chair, make better decisions, and lose fewer minutes matters.

A 48-hour contest is 2,880 minutes. Every one of them matters. Propagation does not care about your plan. You may plan to work the first six hours, sleep, and then be fresh for the morning EU run. But if 20 meters decides to stay open to JA and EU all night, the plan has to change. You have to be awake enough, aware enough, and flexible enough to make hay when the band gives you the chance. That is operating. That is contesting. That is how we get better.

Looking ahead, Huntsville Hamfest is coming up in August. Who is going? I have never been because it normally falls on NAQP SSB weekend, but this year it does not, so we will be there.

Of special interest this year is the Mini Contest University on Friday, August 21, before the main Hamfest weekend. Anyone who has never attended a Contest University should seriously consider it. Those that have attended probably are already planning to. It is a great learning experience, but it is also a great social experience. You get to be around people who care about the same crazy stuff we do: antennas, strategy, radios, scoreboards, and how to squeeze a few more QSOs out of a weekend.

Several TCG members will be involved as professors at the first-ever CTU in Huntsville, and it is sure to be… interesting.

Registration is here: Mini CTU / ARRL National Convention Registration

73, Ron, WV4P

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Lebanon Hamquest
de Bert W4KW/Cathy W4CMG

The 2026 Lebanon Hamquest will be held July 11th at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN. Held in the air-conditioned "Made in Tennessee Building," the event features indoor vendors, tailgating, educational forums, and VE license exams.

- **Location:** James E Ward Agricultural Center, 945 E. Baddour Pky, Lebanon, TN.
- **Date & Time:** Saturday, July 11, 2026, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

There will be a TCG Table at Hamquest, so wear your TCG shirts and come join us to share information about TCG. If you have some “wall paper” – you know, the “bling” that decorates your shack to show you “CONTEST WINS”, please bring drop it off at the table, so ops can see what support from our fellow TCG members can elevate an operator’s contesting skills to achieve.

After a full morning, join your fellow TCG’ers for lunch at the Lebanon Shoney’s, where the meeting room has been reserved for the TCG lunch from noon thru 2 PM on the 11th. Be sure to let Bert, W4KW know you are coming, so he can let Shoney’s know how many to expect from our team! Address: 814 S Cumberland St, Lebanon, TN 37087

WRTC is almost here!
de Mark Pride K1RX

WRTC is essentially the Olympics of Amateur Radio Contesting - and is almost upon us! On 8th July 2026, competitors that have qualified to represent their Qualification Area (unlike the Olympics, which has participants competing for their country) will arrive in the United Kingdom to prepare for this once every 4 year event. The host nation changes each time and, this time, for the 10th WRTC, it's being held in the UK! There will be 50 teams of two, each with an assigned referee. Each will be allocated an HF operating site in South East England, where they will take part in a 24 hour SSB/CW contest (the IARU HF Championship) over the weekend of 11th/12th July. So, WRTC is kind of a contest within an existing contest.

This is your opportunity to work these special stations and apply for your award!

The WRTC contest will be live on a dedicated online platform provided by World Radio League. This is a live scoreboard where you can track your favourite team in real time. Also, when you contact one of the special WRTC stations, you can see it on the WRL platform. What's more, you can check which of the 50 WRTC stations you still need to contact. Can you work all 50 of them? If you're an SSB operator, there are 250 possible QSOs across 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m. Similarly, there are 250 possible QSOs if you are a CW operator. If you are both an SSB and CW operator, 500 QSOs are possible with WRTC stations alone!

Certificates will be downloadable after the contest, which will display your total number of QSOs made with these special callsigns. There are different award tiers depending on how many you contact. Check out the following webpage for full details of the award programme: www.wrtc2026.org/wrtc-2026-competition-awards
So, what are the special callsigns? Well, we can't say just yet! These will be announced on Thursday 9th July. You will find this on the WRTC website – www.wrtc2026.org – and also on our social media platforms by searching WRTC2026. You can be sure that these 50 callsigns will be all over the bands during this contest! See how many you can find!
A look at the World Radio League platform is a must. Visit www.WorldRadioLeague.com and sign up early for free to stay tuned when the live scoreboard page for WRTC goes live!

So, if you have the capability to be on the HF bands over the weekend of 11/12th July (from 12:00Z Sat – 12:00Z Sun), why not try to work as many of these special stations as you can! Many of the WRTC sites should be easy to work on the HF bands. The teams will be using yagi antennas on 10/15/20 meters and dipoles on 40 and 80 meters. They will run just 100 watts of output power, so they may not always be really loud… but, hopefully the propagation will be favourable. The exchange is signal report and ITU zone (so, if calling from the east of the USA, for example, "59, 8" on SSB and "599, 8" on CW would work).

We also want to promote the YouTube daily TV shows at 16.30z (17.30 BST) daily from 8th July, plus the contest livestream. This is the link to follow. Ask to subscribe to the channel.
WRTC 2026

73, Mark Pride K1RX (and the WRTC Committee)

CONTEST ACTIVITY: Here is a selected list, as of this publication, of those who put up scores on 3830 Scores Summary in June:

ARRL Digital Contest

SO1R-24 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4PA(WV4P)		x	608	24	7,438	TCG
AA4DD			210	9	2,514	TCG
W4SDX			3	.5	13	TCG

SO1R-8 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X			128	3	598	TCG
NR4L		x	39	2	407	TCG
K4HWS			19	1.5	206	TCG

Kentucky QSO Party

Cnty Exped LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KT4RH			104	0	0	33	3.5	14,144	TCG

MO Mobile LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			1611	0	0	59	12	381,496	TCG

SO Fixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4NZ	SO2R		56	0	0	39	4	4,568	TCG
NS4X			26	1	0	17	2	1,101	TCG
KEØL			17	5	0	18	1.5	902	TCG
K9QJS			6	4	0	10	1.0	260	TCG
NR4L		x	4	0	0	4	1	32	TCG
WV4P		x	4	0	0	4	1	32	TCG

SO Fixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG			23	0	0	21	1	2,032	TCG
W4SSF			23	0	0	20	2:11	1,940	TCG
K4KYN			17	0	0	15	1.5	1,020	TCG
KØEJ			11	4	0	13		776	TCG
WA4JA			0	18	0	13	2	668	TCG
W3TB			15	0	0	13	0:47	490	TCG
K4HWS			4	1	0	5	.25	190	TCG
KV8Q			4	0	0	4		164	TCG
WM4Q			4	0	0	4	.5	16	TCG

SO Mobile+Driver LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	RTTY Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM			1097	5	0	55	12	246,988	TCG

Atlantic Canada QSO Party

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WN8Y			0	9	6	2	56	TCG
NR4L		x	4	0	3	1	9	TCG
WV4P		x	3	0	3		9	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4KYN			12	3	12	2.5	180	TCG
WA4JA			0	5	5	1	40	TCG
W4CMG			4	0	4		21	TCG

ARRL June VHF Contest

Limited Rover QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W9WI/R			5	5	4	25	TCG

Single Op Port-All Modes QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4RXR			152	47		7,144	TCG

Single Op-All Modes HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KEØL			65	45	4	2,925	TCG
AC6ZM			11	0	2	99	TCG

Single Op-All Modes LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ6T	SO2R		226	152		37,240	TCG
W4SDX			42	28	4	1,176	TCG
KR4EE			39	28	4	1,092	TCG

Single Op-Analog HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K1GU			42	24	2.1	1,008	TCG
AD4EB			26	14	2	364	TCG

Single Op-Analog LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØEJ			30	19	1.5	570	TCG
W4NZ			30	18	1:24	540	TCG
K4DXV			9	8	00:52	72	TCG
WA4JA			7	7	2	49	TCG

SO3Band-All Modes LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	350	177	24	61,950	TCG
WF7T			20	16		320	TCG

SO3Band-Analog LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KS4X			21	15	1	315	TCG

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W4NZ			123	35	62	5	40,934	TCG
AD4EB			59	25	42	2.5	12,663	TCG
AC6ZM			35	9	22	1:30	3,224	TCG
W4CMG			6	6	6	1	252	TCG

SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x	6	6	6	1	216	TCG
WV4P		x	6	5	6	1	187	TCG

All Asian DX Contest, CW

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	251	171	14	42,921	TCG
W4NZ			270	157	11:39	42,390	TCG
KØEJ	SO2R		254	144	8.5	36,756	TCG
NS4X			105	82	3	8,610	TCG
NR4L		x	51	43	3	2,193	TCG
W4CMG			12	12	1	144	TCG
AD4EB			8	8	0:30	64	TCG

SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4HWS			35	32	1.5	1,120	TCG

SOSB/20 HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SDX			3	3	.5	9	TCG

SOSB/20 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			56	43	4	2,408	TCG
AA4CS			3	3	1	9	TCG

West Virginia QSO Party

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K9QJS			6	0	0	5	1.0	160	TCG
AC6ZM			6	0	0	5	1	160	TCG
NR4L		x	5	0	0	3	1	130	TCG
W4CMG			4	0	0	4	1	32	TCG
WV4P		x	4	0	0	3	1	24	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			0	12	0	8	2	196	TCG
W4NZ			7	1	0	6	1	190	TCG
AD4EB			3	0	0	3	0:15	118	TCG
AA4CS			1	2	0	3	1	112	TCG

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	65	4	151	TCG
AC6ZM			51	1:34	100	TCG
AD4EB			34	0.5	70	TCG
AA4DD			40	2	69	TCG
NS4X			34	1	66	TCG
W4NZ			27	1	57	TCG
NR4L		x	21	1	45	TCG
W4CMG			23	1	37	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			13	1.0	37	TCG

Single Op QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
KEØL			68	3:59	399	TCG

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	12	11	1	154	TCG
NR4L		x	12	8	1	112	TCG

3830scores.com
Contest Score Rumors

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.

ARRL America250 Worked All States https://www.arrl.org/america250-was
73 de Cathy W4CMG

ARRL is celebrating a year-long Worked-All-States operating event celebrating America's 250th Anniversary. This is in conjunction with ARRL's 2026 Year of The Club celebration (be sure to check out all of the club-oriented activities planned in 2026!). This event will be exclusively

driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Summary:
- The America250-WAS begins as a **Basic Worked All States Award** by contacting all 50 States in 2026. Endorsements are also available and published on the ARRL website.

ARRL Tennessee Section Activity

As you might have already heard, I was the ARRL America250 W1AW/4 Tennessee Coordinator. All states have two separate weeks to run for the event. The weeks for each state run from Wednesday through Tuesday UTC, so our activities actually started on Tuesday night. The weeks for Tennessee are:

- June 10 – 16 **DONE**
- September 16 - 22

It was fun, but a lot of prep activity was needed to prepare for our first round of W1AW/4 operations. Tennessee is a long state, so for this time of event, it was helpful for our ARRL TN Section Cabinet members to divide up the state to work on promoting the event. Since 2026 is also ARRL's "Year of the Club", we focused on working with clubs, ARES groups and organized Nets within TN to engage them to operate during our week. Several signed up as clubs, as well as many individual operators who learned about the event. Many of the operators started out operating as part of a club activity and signed up for additional shifts once they figured out that this event is a LOT OF FUN!

ARRL provided several templates and documents to get our efforts underway, and I was provided with a basic template that was used in previous similar for in-state sign-ups from David Thomas, KM4NYI the TN Section Manager. These were a great start, but as we got closer to our activation date, getting times scheduled got interesting, since the goal was to keep W1AW/4 as many of the 24 hours in a day as possible. With **56 activators –** some clubs and some individuals – we needed something more detailed than the 3-hour slots that we has started out using for high-level scheduling for clubs.

As for any event, there can only be one operator per band per mode (CW, SSB, Digital) on the air at any one time, so there was a lot of coordination to ensure that operators were scheduled as such – and stayed within their operating times and modes! I tried to give each operator more than one band (and sometimes mode) for times they requested, knowing that sometimes one band and mode might give different results.

Getting the schedules built was one of those times when I found out who my friends are, and Anthony Luscre K8ZT, who served as the W1AW/8 Ohio Coordinator, came to my rescue by sharing the schedule that he used for his Ohio activation! The interactive Activator Sign-up spreadsheet was updated to reflect the TN dates and proved to be invaluable for our operations. It enabled individual operators to sign up – even at the last minute – to fill open shifts once they were added to the Activator list!

The public was able to see when ops were scheduled and on which bands and modes, so they could find W1AW/4 quite easily. It also made it easy for our "night owls" – or those having a

sleepless night – to get on the air when there were open slots at short notice – without waking up their trusty coordinator to add them to the list. **THANK YOU ANTHONY!!!**

W1AW/4 June Operations:
There were several clubs and ARES groups that operated during the event. Tennessee Contest Group was well-represented during the event, including several shifts operated by either separately or within their other Club activities: Juan AC6ZM, Mark K0EJ, Ned K1GU, Dave K4DR, Greg K4KO, Jeff K4KYN, Hoop K9QJS, Jilly KR4EE, Andrew N4MCC, Ted W3TB, Curt W4TTA, Robert (Pete) WM4Q, and W4CMG. I might have missed some who were operating incognito under their club calls – so apologies and thank you for supporting our effort if I missed you on the list.

One op to keep an eye on as a potential TCG member is a very active 14-year-old licensed ham (Micah, KB4MPS) to participate in their activities. He made 60 SSB contacts as a participant in their activities, and the same night contacted me to asked if he could do some additional shifts on his own! He became one of our "frequent flyers" for the rest of the event! See his QRZ featured video at http://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/994482 AND a separate article about Micah's activities on the ARRL America205 WAS site (https://www.arrl.org/news/young-ham-radio-operator-supports-the-america250-celebration) NOTE: I'm working on getting him excited about CW.

The W1AW/4 team came up just shy of 4000 QSOs across all modes (CW, SSB, FT8/FT4, RTTY) for the week's activities, which was **OUTSTANDING,** especially considering that there was a major solar event AND a downward slide in propagation! Andrew N4MCC stayed up during the night to keep SSB and RTTY on the air, aa well as Jilly KR4EE, who did some Digital night-time shifts. GREAT JOB, W1AW/4!!!

The W1AW/4 TN activities in September fall right into the WD4DXCC Sedco weekend, so I am working on things in advance to see if I can finagle some operating time from down there. Fingers crossed that we will be able to get something going from the location, but for those who aren't going to make it, please think about filling up some open spaces on the schedule.

Hope to see you in September operating as one of the W1AW/4 TN stations.

73 de Cathy W4CMG

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Upcoming Hamfests:
Lebanon Hamquest
de Bert W4KW

The 2026 Lebanon Hamquest will be held July 11th at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN.

- **Location:** James E Ward Agricultural Center, 945 E. Baddour Pky, Lebanon, TN.
- **Date & Time:** Saturday, July 11, 2026, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Held in the air-conditioned "Made in Tennessee Building," the event features indoor vendors, tailgating, educational forums, and VE license exams.

The Lebanon Shoney's meeting room has been reserved for the TCG lunch from noon thru 2 PM on the 11th. Hopefully we can have a Great turnout.

Huntsville Hamfest: August 22 & 23

- Huntsville Hamfest: https://hamfest.org/ in Huntsville, AL – a great place to try out equipment before you buy it!
- Sponsored by the Northern Alabama DX Club, there will be a DX dinner on the Saturday night of Huntsville Hamfest

W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention by SEDCO

- DATE: September 19, 2026
- LOCATION: LeConte Hotel and Convention Center (Formerly the MainStay Suites) Ascend, 410 Pine Mountain Rd, TN
- W4DXCC is back in Pigeon Forge TN after a brief break and a reboot of the Convention. The Hotel is available for September 18th and 19th with a special Convention price. Expect a new experience that is tailored to old and new amateur radio operators. We will also be having a Flea Market on Saturday morning.
- See the lineup of Presentations here

Hamfest Chattanooga

- **Oct 15-17, 2026 – https://w4am.net/hf2026/**

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

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. If you have someone that you would like to nominate as a new members, please e-mail K0EJ (mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com) so an invite can be sent out.

Corporate Casuals – TCG Logo Items

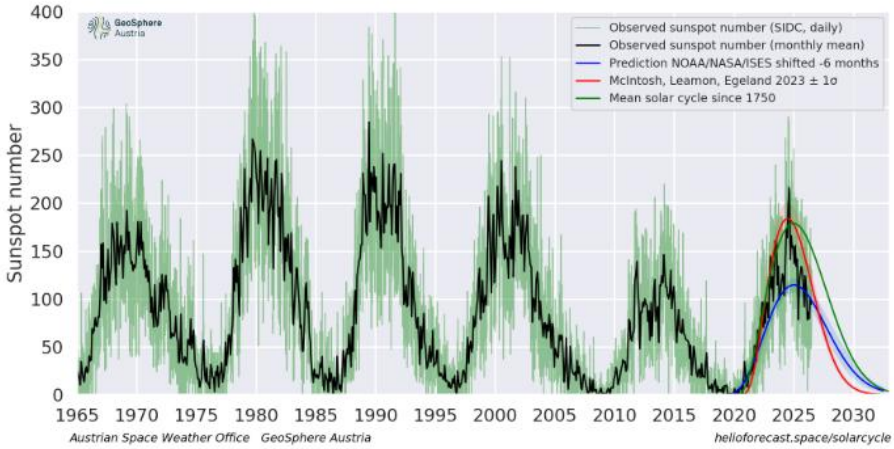
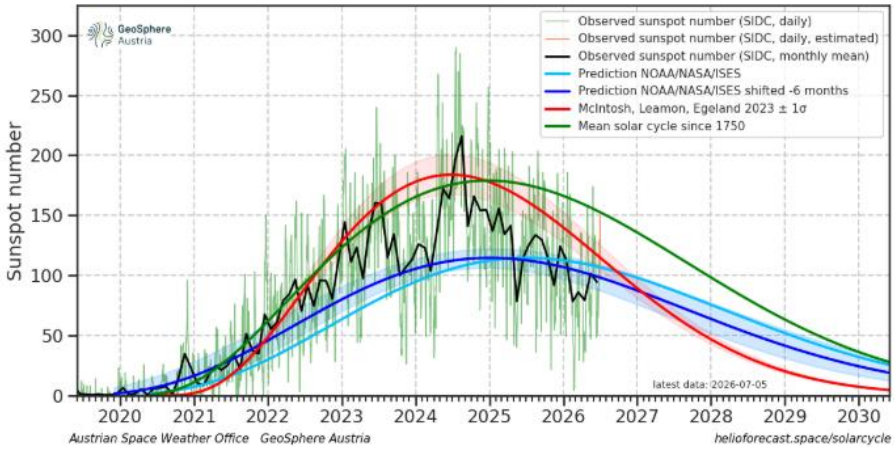
Corporate Casuals now uses what's called a /*sharelink */in which they share the TCG logo with club members through their webstore platform. The link below will take you to their website and prompt you to create an account with them. The page will look like the screenshot below (and will show the logo at the bottom of the screen).

You can add a personal callsign as a personalization ("NAMES" icon in the product) and select the placement location on the purchased item (e.g., polo, bag, hat, etc.).Once the account is created, the logo will automatically upload to the account for use: http://www.CorporateCasuals.com/logoShare/tennesseecontestgroup

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 Jim AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

July 1, 2026	RAC Canada Day Contest – July
July 4, 2026	Marconi Memorial HF Contest
July 11, 2026	IARU HF World Championship
July 18, 2026	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
July 18, 2026	North American QSO Party, RTTY Jul
July 25, 2026	RSGB IOTA Contest
July 25, 2026	Alabama QSO Party
August 1, 2025	North American QSO Party, CW Aug
August 8, 2025	Maryland-DC QSO Party
August 8, 2025	WAE DX Contest, CW
August 15, 2025	North American QSO Party, SSB Aug
August 15, 2025	SARTG WW RTTY Contest
August 22, 2025	Hawaii QSO Party
August 22, 2025	Ohio QSO Party
August 22, 2025	YO DX HF Contest
August 29, 2025	World Wide Digi DX Contest
August 29, 2025	Kansas QSO Party

Progression of solar cycle 25

Sunspot numbers including predictions: https://helioforecast.space/solarcycle