Rules: 2016 North American QSO Party (CW/SSB/RTTY)

1. **Eligibility**: Any Amateur Radio licensee may enter.

2. **Object**: To work as many North American stations as possible during the contest period.

3. **North American Station**: Defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*, with the addition of Hawaii.

4. Contest periods:

January/February 2016 Events

CW: 1800 UTC January 9 to 0600 UTC January 10, 2016 (second full weekend in January)

SSB: 1800 UTC January 16 to 0600 UTC January 17, 2016 (third full weekend in January)

RTTY: 1800 UTC February 27 to 0600 UTC February 28, 2016 (starts on last Saturday in February)

July/August 2016 Events

RTTY: 1800 UTC July 16 to 0600 UTC July 17, 2016 (third full weekend in July)

CW: 1800 UTC August 6 to 0600 UTC August 7, 2016 (first full weekend in August)

SSB: 1800 UTC August 20 to 0600 UTC August 21, 2016 (third full weekend in August)

5. **Entry Classifications**:

a) Single Operator:

i) One person performs all transmitting, receiving, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.

ii) Access to spotting information obtained directly or indirectly from any source other than the station operator, such as from other stations or automated tools, is prohibited.

iii) Only one transmitted signal allowed at a time.

iv) May operate 10 out of the 12 hours of the contest. Off-times must be at least 30 minutes in length. In order to count as off-time, the difference between the times of consecutive contacts must be greater than or equal to 31 minutes (ie, 30 intervening minutes, during which no contacts occur). The contest period ends at 05:59:59 UTC.

v) Any use of assistance such as packet spotting networks, skimmers and the like will place the operation into the multioperator category.

b) Multioperator Two-Transmitter:

i) More than one person performs transmitting, receiving and logging functions, etc.

ii) A maximum of two transmitted signals at any given time, each on a different band. Both transmitters may work any and all stations.

iii) Each transmitted signal must have at least 10 minutes between band changes. Ten minute periods are defined as starting with the first logged QSO on a band.

iv) May operate for the entire 12 hours of the contest.

v) Multioperator stations are required to use one name throughout the entire contest.

6. **Output Power**: No greater than 100 W. Use of external amplifiers capable of more than 100 W output is not allowed. QRP (5 W) entries will be recognized in the results. Entries from stations choosing to use more than 100 W will be classified as check logs.

7. **Mode**: CW only in CW parties. SSB only in phone parties. RTTY only in RTTY parties.

8. **Bands**: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters only, except no 160 meters for the RTTY contest. You may work a station once per band. Suggested frequencies are 1815, 3535, 7035, 14,035, 21,035 and 28,035 kHz (35 kHz up from band edge for Novice/Tech) on CW; and 1865, 3850, 7225, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,500 kHz (28,450 kHz for Novice/Tech) on SSB. When operating on 160 meters, please respect the DX window of 1830 to 1840 kHz and keep SSB operations above 1840 kHz. When operating RTTY on 20 meters, please respect the PSK window, 14,070 to 14,073 kHz, and the NCDXF beacon frequency of 14,100 kHz.

9. **Station**: All radio transmitters, receivers and antennas used by an entrant must be associated with one station, either at a fixed geographical location or as a mobile/portable station. A station may be operated remotely. Use of multiple stations during the contest using the same call sign, whether directly or remotely operated, is prohibited.

10. **Exchange**: Operator name and station location (state, province or country) for North American stations; operator name only for non-North American stations. Multioperator stations are required to use a single name throughout the entire contest. The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication or the use of Amateur Radio modes or bands different than those specified for the contest to solicit contacts during the contest period is prohibited.

11. **Multipliers**: Multipliers are all 50 US states, including Alaska and Hawaii, the 13 Canadian provinces/territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) and other North American entities as defined by the ARRL *DXCC List*. The District of Columbia counts as Maryland. Non-North American countries, maritime mobiles and aeronautical mobiles do not count as multipliers but may be worked for QSO credit. Multipliers count again on each band.

12. **Valid Contact**: A valid contact consists of a complete, correctly copied and legibly logged two-way exchange between a North American station and any other station. Proper logging requires including the time in UTC and band for each contact. Regardless of the number of licensed call signs issued to a given operator, one and only one call sign shall be utilized during the contest by that operator.

13. **Scoring**: Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of the number of multipliers worked on each band.

14. **Team Competition**: You may wish to form a team with fellow NAQP participants. If so, your team must consist of two to five Single-Operator stations whose individual scores are combined to produce a team score. Although clubs or other groups having more than five members may form multiple teams, there are no distance or meeting requirements for a team entry. Teams must be registered prior to the start of the contest. Use one of the following online forms to register your team:

CW team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg.php**

SSB team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/ssbnaqpteamreg.php**

RTTY team registration: **www.ncjweb.com/rttynaqpteamreg.php**

The 2016 NAQP calendar

Mode	Times/Dates	Logs Due	Log Submittal
CW	1800 UTC Jan 9 to 0600 UTC Jan 10	January 17	***NCJ* Web site:** **www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php** **Alternative submission methods:** See Rule 16 in text.
	1800 UTC Aug 6 to 0600 UTC Aug 7	August 14	
SSB	1800 UTC Jan 16 to 0600 UTC Jan 17	January 24	
	1800 UTC Aug 20 to 0600 UTC Aug 21	August 28	
RTTY	1800 UTC Feb 27 to 0600 UTC Feb 28	March 6	
	1800 UTC Jul 16 to 0600 UTC Jul 17	July 24	

These team registration forms automatically provide confirmation of team registration by return e-mail. Inclusion of team information in submitted Cabrillo logs is not required, as teams are determined ahead of time through the team registration system.

15. **Log Formatting**: All logs containing more than 100 QSOs must be submitted electronically via web upload. The file format for electronic logs for *NCJ*-sponsored contests is Cabrillo (ver 2.x or 3.x). For those participants logging on paper, please use the manual log entry Web-to-Cabrillo online forms available at the links below to submit your logs. Paper log forms are available on the *NCJ* website, **www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Paper-Log-Form.pdf**, for the convenience of those who log on paper during the contest. Printouts of computer logs will not be accepted, regardless of the number of contacts. Please confirm that your output power is properly stated in the header portion of the Cabrillo log before submission. "LOW" indicates the use of 100 W or less, while "QRP" indicates 5 W or less. Submissions that indicate the use of high power will be used as check logs.

Single-Operator entries should have a Cabrillo line that reads: "CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED." Some logging programs default to "CATEGORY-ASSISTED: ASSISTED." Be certain to change this to NON-ASSISTED, or you will be placed in the Multi-Two category.

16. **Log Submission**: Entries must be date-stamped or postmarked no later than 7 days after the contest. Methods of log submission in order of preference are as follows:

a) Upload Cabrillo-formatted log via web form (use for all modes): **www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php**.

b) Mail a CD disk containing Cabrillo log file to the appropriate address listed below.

c) Manually convert paper or computer log to Cabrillo log using one of the following tools:

CW: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpcw_cab.php**
SSB: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqpssb_cab.php**
RTTY: **www.b4h.net/cabforms/naqprtty_cab.php**

d) Mail original paper log to the appropriate address listed below.

CW logs: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 3117A Fen Way, Bozeman, MT 59718 USA

SSB logs: Bill Lippert, ACØW, 2013 6th Ave SE, Austin, MN 55912-4321 USA

RTTY logs: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, 300 Berry St – Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668 USA

17. **Disqualifications**: Entries with score reductions greater than 5 percent may be disqualified. Any entry may be disqualified for illegibility or for illegal or unethical operation. Such disqualification is at the discretion of the contest manager.

18. **More Information**: Questions regarding the contests, including requests for Log Check Reports may be addressed to the appropriate contest manager at the e-mail addresses list below:

CW: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, **cwnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**
SSB: Bill Lippert, ACØW, **ssbnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**
RTTY: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, **rttynaqpmgr@ncjweb.com**

19. **Awards**: Plaques will be awarded for the high score in each of the categories given below, provided there are a minimum of five entries in the category. If a plaque is not sponsored, the winner may purchase it. Certificates of merit will be awarded to the highest scoring entrant with at least 200 QSOs from each state, province, or North American country. Certificates of merit will also be awarded to the overall second and third-place finishers in the multioperator category for each mode.Plaques will be awarded as follows:

Mode Category Sponsor

CW Single Op, North America — Florida Contest Group
CW Multiop, North America — Minnesota Wireless Association in memory of Dave, KTØR
CW Team — CW Ops
SSB Single-Op, North America — South East Contest Club
SSB Multiop, North America — Tennessee Contest Group
Combined (operator) CW/SSB Single-Op, North America — Southern California Contest Club
RTTY Single Op, North America — Icom
RTTY Multiop, North America — Icom
RTTY Team — Icom