

So you wanna try contesting

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Agenda

- Is Contesting for me?
- How do I get started?
- Equipment considerations
- Basic techniques
- Brain chemistry
- Advanced techniques

Is Contesting for me?

- Do I like to DX?
- Do I prefer rag chewing?
- How is my concentration?
- Do I possess a competitive spirit?
- How much time can I devote to this?



How do I get started?

- Listen, listen and copy, pileups
- Attend friendly contest Field day, observer or test at events
- What modes do I prefer?
- Sharpen skills, Can I listen to QRM for long periods of time?
- Use tools. Morse runner
- Special event calls



Equipment consideration

- Do I want to dabble or get serious?
- Do I want to use my own station, borrow, rent...?
- Antennas. Nothing but Antennas.
- How much physical space do I have?
- Transceivers considerations
- Amplifiers considerations
- Accessories, computers and interfaces
- Logging programs, WL, N1MM, TRlog
- Ergonomics and environment
- Power and lighting
- Body equipment and physical energy



Basic Techniques

- Set goals and adjust.
- Become familiar with equipment and logging
- Practice breaking pileups and test
- If CW then bring speed up!
- Contest strategy
- Multipliers vs QSO count
- Try minor contests first
- Know the exchange.... don't be a gummy
- Copying and sending
- Scanning techniques
- Listening, searching and pounce
- Frequency offsetting vs zerobeat
- Listen to the best operators
- Which band to I start on and when do I change?

Brain Chemistry

- Gee time flies
- Body energy
- Distractions
- Instant score counter....just one more.
- Satisfaction and addiction!
- Listening, concentration, focus skills. Our brains change



Advanced Techniques

- Extend hours
- Radio fitness
- Spotting techniques
- Band monitoring and prediction tools
- SO2R, Multi Single, Multi-Multi
- Progressing, speed and copying skills
- Time to upgrade!

