



# VHF+ Contesting

- ARRL contests occur in June, January, September
- CQ Worldwide VHF Contest in July
- Available to all license classes
- Average stations can yield solid results
- QSO rates are lower than HF contests

# VHF+ Contesting

- More about location than station
- In general VHF+ contests are more relaxed and cooperative than HF contests
- VHF+ contest weekends bring out a great number of operators
- Most operation is SSB and done with horizontally polarized antennas
- CW is used and intermingled with SSB. Stations will switch back and forth depending on conditions.

# What equipment do I need ?

- All band radio capable of SSB such as Yaesu 991, Icom 7100 etc.
- Directional antennas such as moxons and yagis will help with noise reduction
- VHF+ antennas are small, easy to build, affordable, easy to mount and transport
- Verticals for FM category, can be done with a tape measure yagi and a handheld or small mobile radio
- Logging software

# Operating Tips

- It is weak signal work and noise is a constant challenge
- Monitor the calling frequencies searching above and below for activity
- When openings occur, they can be intense and of short duration
- Know your grid square

# FM Only and Other Fun and Informative Stuff

- FM is gaining in popularity, as 146.520 is now available to operators in ARRL contests as well as 6M, 1.25M, and 70CM
- VHF Contest Calendar – QSL.net
- ARRL VHF Contest rules page
- Facebook and Youtube are flooded with talk groups and videos and are a valuable resource

# Six Meter International Radio Klub

*If you have been around 6 meters for any length of time, you have most likely heard about the SMIRK Contest. It's loads of fun! You can meet SMIRK members or become a SMIRK member during this contest, just call "CQ SMIRK", and you are sure to get some answers. Click the tabs for rules, results, etc.*





**WINTERHEAT**

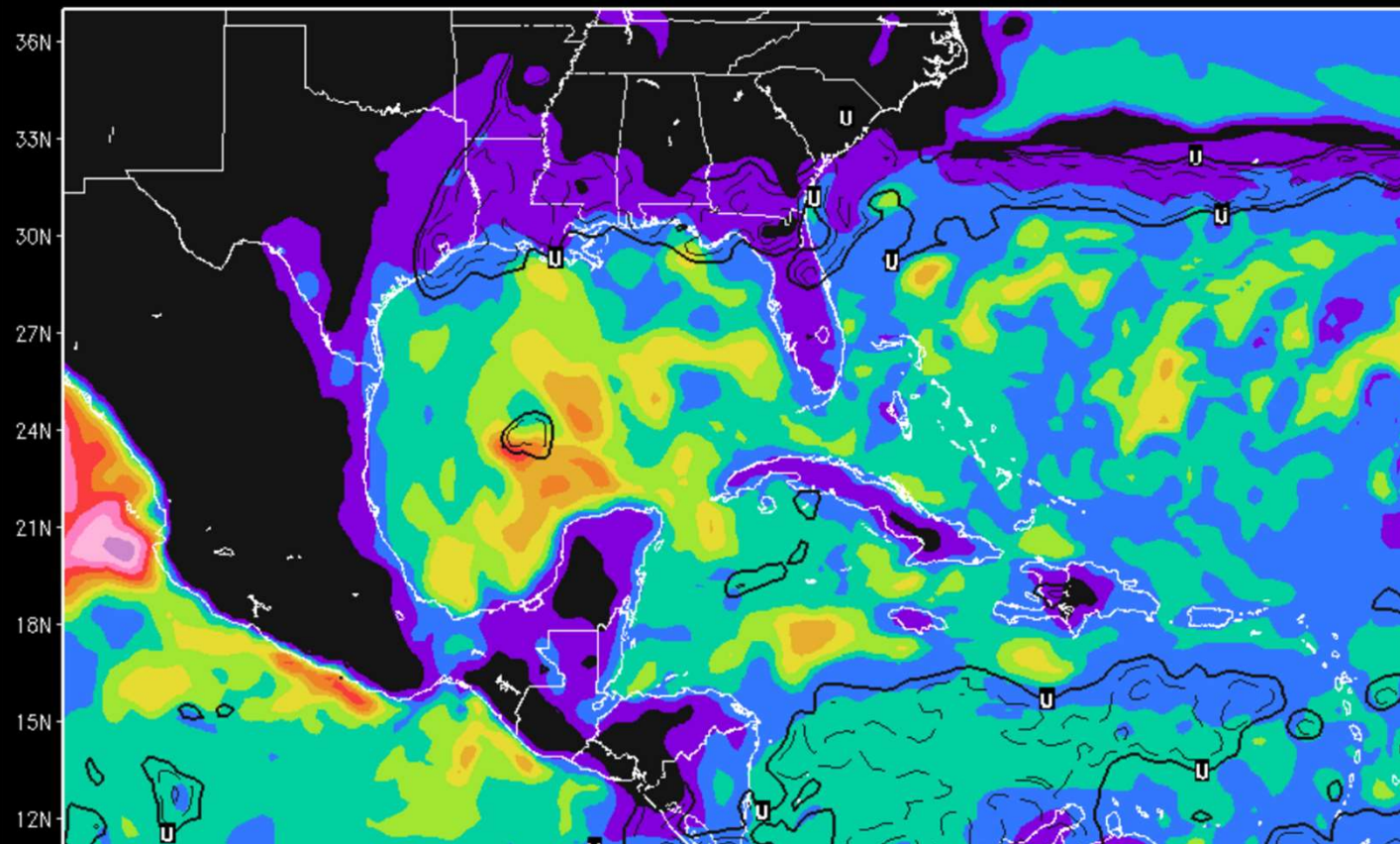
**AMATEUR RADIO**

**SIMPLEX EVENT**



# Hepburn Tropo Index Valid 1800 UTC Tue Mar 30 Gulf-Caribbean

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# Basic Operating Categories Fixed / Portable

- Single operator low power
- Single operator 3 band
- Single operator portable, QRP 10W
- Hilltopper, QRP, 6 straight hours of operation\_\_you choose start time
- Single operator FM only



# Operating hours

- 6M Daylight hours, morning and evening
- 2M and up, anytime
- Always work the beginning period of the contest
- Do not sleep in on Sunday
- Listen and call for QRP, mobiles and rovers, they are valuable multipliers

# Making a contact and exchange

- Officially a contact consists of callsign and grid square
- A grid square is one degree of latitude and two degrees of longitude
- Our grid square is EM20 / Cell phone apps are plentiful and useful
- You can work each station once per band, after making a 6M contact, ask them if they are working 2M or 70CM, multiple contacts are possible

# Sample exchange

- CS\_\_\_CQ contest, CQ contest, CQ VHF contest KB5KN EM20
- Hunter\_\_\_W2ABC
- CS\_\_\_W2ABC, EM20 (QSL )
- Hunter\_\_\_FN23 (QSL )
- CS\_\_\_Thanks, 73

# Reference Sheet

- Your call sign
- Your grid square
- The exchange\_\_\_what to say\_\_\_what you need to log contact
- Steps to correcting, deleting log entries
- Writing pad and pencil, tracking partial calls, logging failures, and general notation

# Roving

- Cover different grids increasing multipliers and fixed stations will follow you increasing your QSO total
- Only two grids need to be activated for roving credit





# Operating categories for Rovers

- Rover \_\_1 or 2 operators, one callsign, vehicle contains entire station
- Limited Rover \_\_ low power, uses lower 4 bands – 6M, 2M, 1.25M, 432Mhz
- Unlimited Rover \_\_ all bands 6M and above and full legal limit power



# Further Reading

- Facebook Groups
- VHF/UHF Weak Signal Amateur Radio
- 6 and 10 Meter Ham Radio
- ARRL VHF Contest – N0LD Rover

# Further reading

- [K5ND.net](http://K5ND.net)
- [K0NR.com](http://K0NR.com)
- [rsgb.org](http://rsgb.org)\_\_Radio Society of Great Britain\_\_ VHF/UHF Propagation
- Youtube has videos on every aspect of VHF+ contesting
- Cheap Yagi Antennas – there are several websites using the same basic designs. There are some rovers who run these.