



8th Annual Two Meter Contest

Rules, Entry Form, Log Sheet



N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

Date & Times: Saturday, January 12th, 2008 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 13th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only
(See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only
(See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

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Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour
Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

Examples:

"N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

"K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

"W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring:

Each Contact, non WASH Member:	1 point
WASH Member:	2 points
(*) Club Stations:	3 Points

Multipliers:	Number of different ZIP Codes	
Power:	Stations running 10 watts or less:	2
	Stations running over 10 watts:	1

Final Score: Total Points x Multipliers x Power

(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a "club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call].

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.n3sh.org (after January 1st, 2007).

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to:

WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-2546

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2008

Each log submitted with SASE and received on or before the deadline will receive a main prize raffle ticket to WASHFest 2008 on February 24th, 2007!



Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used.

To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

See the FAQ Page for a clarification on our position on the use of FM Simplex Frequencies

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Why is the contest in January?
- A: Why not? Seriously, we were looking for a date in the winter with few local conflicts, and the 2nd full weekend in January seemed to fit the bill.
- Q: Wasn't this originally an FM Only contest?
- A: We had many requests to expand beyond FM, since there are more and more multi-mode rigs available than ever. Those who've tried it seem to like it, so we've stuck with it!
- Q: Why the odd choice of frequencies?
- A: We deliberately kept and are keeping the FM frequencies to those above 146.52 MHz Simplex so that those who wish to communicate but not participate in the contest have frequencies available to do so. The SSB & CW frequency range is based on the ARRL Band Plan for 2 Meters and should avoid interference with weak signal and other types of operating modes.
- Q: Isn't that a lot of trouble for a 4 hour contest on a Saturday?
- A: You might think so, but there is quite a lot of activity going on that you may not be aware of. We had some complaints from people trying to work friends simplex, and even a few simplex nets that we weren't aware of, upset that the contest had interrupted their routines. So again, if you hear an existing net operating, or someone coming on your frequency asking you to clear for a net or a schedule, please be courteous enough to relinquish the frequency. You may not be required to do so under FCC §97 Rules, but we are asking you to do so as part of being a contest participant.
- Q: Who can I work?
- A: Anyone who wants to work you. Distance is not an issue; we've had FM simplex contacts covering over 100 miles in the past, and stations from OH, WV, and MD joining in. If you can hear them, you can work them!
- Q: Can I work someone more than once?
- A: You can work each station **once per mode**. And mobile stations can be worked **once per mode from each ZIP code they operate from**.
- Q: Why ZIP codes?
- A: We wanted to tie the multiplier to geography in some way. Counties were too big. The first year, we tried municipal names... and that turned out to be unwieldy. So unless we want to come up with an arbitrary grid (like the **Breezeshooters** did for the Groundwave contest), the ZIP code seemed to be the best compromise.
- Q: Are you really sending a **WASHFest** main prize ticket to anyone who sends in an entry by the deadline?
- A: Yes! All we ask is that you include an SASE for us to mail it back to you, along with the contest results.
- Q: Anything else I need to know?
- A: Above all else, this contest is designed to be fun. Go out and have some fun with it!

Remember

The **WASH 2** Meter Contest is supposed to be a Fun Contest.

Go out and have some fun working people for four hours on a cold and quiet January Saturday evening!

About the Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception – the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

Suggested Operating Techniques

1. If you hear someone calling "CQ Contest" (aka "running a frequency") and you haven't already worked them, call them.
2. If you hear someone "running a frequency" and no one answers them, do not jump on the frequency to call "CQ Contest" yourself. You may be covering up someone they hear that you don't, it's their frequency until it's relinquished, and it's rude. If they quit and change frequency, then and only then, feel free to call "CQ Contest" yourself.
3. Someone running a frequency will be called by stations you haven't worked yet. Jumping on that frequency to call those stations is poor operating procedure, and is quite rude. The frequency "belongs" the station running it until they relinquish it — first come, first served.
4. Yes, rude behavior can be grounds for disqualification. Please be a considerate operator and remember, everyone is trying to have fun, not just you!
5. If you come across a QSO of non-contesters, or a net about to start, feel free to ask them for a contact. If they decline, politely acknowledge and change frequency.
6. Do not stray out of the suggested frequencies. Please leave them free for non-contesters to operate on.
7. And finally:

Have a great time and enjoy the contest!

