

FCG FCP RadioSports Highlights September 2020

September is the start of a busy season for contesting. We have a total of 18 significant contests this month. Four of them are major contests. There are nine State QSO Parties, at least one each weekend. WA7BNM Contest Calendar lists a record of 108 RadioSport activities for September worldwide, more than enough to keep you busy depending on your interest – phone, CW or digital. The minor events are too numerous, too short, or too focused to warrant attention here. The more significant ones are described below.

Preview of September Weekends

September 5-6

September starts off with the **All Asian DX Contest, Phone**. This is one contest where it is important for you to read the rules before entering. The exchange is signal report and the operator's age. Multipliers are the different Asian prefixes worked on each band. Contacts on 80 and 10 meters are worth two points; the other bands one. Everyone must operate unassisted. The highest scorer on each Continent of the Single Operator Multi Band category will receive a certificate from the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

Many members are familiar with the CWT— fun, popular, weekly competitions sponsored by CWops. The **CW OPEN (CWO)**, held on the first Saturday in September, is guided by the same principles along with enhancements to make it a serious, annual competitive event. There are three separate competitions at three separate times — each is called a “session.” Each station may be worked once per band in each session. Entry can be made to any or all of the sessions. Each session is scored separately. Entry into multiple sessions will be added together for a combined score in a separate, additional aspect to this event. All entries are as single op. Two to ten operators may join together as a team. Please check the rules for the exchange, scoring and other important details.

The first of two state QSO parties (SQPs) this weekend is the **Colorado QSO Party** on Saturday of this Labor Day weekend. ALL amateur bands are included except WARC bands. This includes all bands above VHF and UHF. There are power multipliers giving extra points to QRP and low power stations. All modes are permitted with CW and digital contacts receiving four points and SSB receiving two. Operators using Mixed mode also receive four points per Q. The exchange is RS(T) and state.

The **Tennessee QSO Party** is on Sunday. It is also an all-band, all mode SQP. All QSOs are worth three points. Multipliers are the 95 Tennessee counties. The exchange is RS(T) and state. Certificates are awarded to clubs as well as individuals, so be sure to include your club name in your Cabrillo log.

September 12-13

The **Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest, SSB** is almost a Major contest and some would say that it is. Many leading contesters claim the WAEDC to be the most challenging contest of the

year. Being a true blue DX contest, only intercontinental QSOs between DX and Europe are counted. Therefore, the number of DX QSOs here may be similar to the amount of DX usually worked in the CQWW. Moreover, the unique feature of QTC-traffic adds much fun and another operating challenge to the contest. Be sure to check the rules so that you understand the exchange and the sending of QTCs.

There are two other full-fledged Major contests this weekend. The first is the **ARRL September VHF Contest**. W/VE stations may work anyone, but DX stations must work W/VE stations. Exchange of your Maidenhead grid square is required. Exchange of signal report is optional. Scoring gives higher multipliers for UHF and above bands. The **ARRL VHF Contest** is very popular for the 6 Meter band. With the right band openings, contacts with both Europe and Asia are possible with CW, FT-4 and FT-8. Such DX is a pleasure when operating in a contest where distance is a multiplier. As with most ARRL events, there is also a club competition.

There are two **North American Sprint** contests this month, one for **CW** this weekend and one for **RTTY** next weekend. Sprints have an interesting twist – with station A calling CQ and being answered by station B, station B inherits the frequency after the QSO. Station A will need to find someone else calling CQ or QSY to another frequency to call CQ again. Station B can now call CQ on the original frequency but gives up the frequency to station C who answers him. The best strategy is to search & pounce for someone calling CQ, then take over his frequency and call CQ yourself. Repeating the S&P then CQ routine gives you two QSOs on each frequency. There is also a convention about using your callsign during an exchange, so use Google to do a little research before trying your first sprint. Don't bother to spot anyone or use a DX cluster because everyone is continuously QSYing. According to N6TR, "The Sprint is the most fun you can have in 4 hours with your clothes on." If you do find sprints to be fun, almost every weekend there are usually smaller sprints that aren't on our approved list. There are also a "practice" RTTY and CW sprints every Thursday evening.

There is one minor contest this weekend, the Russian RTTY WW Contest. Multipliers are the Russian regions and the DXCC countries. Our exchange is signal report and CQ Zone.

There are two state QSO parties this weekend. Stations trying to work all counties in the **Texas QSO Party** will have a real challenge – there are 254 of them. You do have both Saturday and Sunday to work on that though. An interesting twist for non-Texas stations is that you may add 500 bonus points to your score for each Texas mobile worked in five different counties regardless of band or mode. If you work the same Texas mobile in five additional counties, you add an additional 500 bonus points, etc. The exchange is signal report and state. All modes are acceptable.

The **Alabama QSO Party** is Saturday only and is for CW and SSB (plus Mixed) modes. Multipliers are the 67 counties. The exchange is RS(T) and state.

September 19-20

The Major contest this weekend is the **North American Sprint, RTTY** on Sunday night. Check the description of the NA Sprint, CW last weekend for information about this unique contest style.

All of the Scandinavian countries play host to the **Scandinavian Activity Contest**. Non-European stations receive one point for every complete Scandinavian QSO on 14, 21, and 28 MHz and three points for every complete QSO on 3.5 and 7 MHz. The exchange is RS(T) and a 3-digit serial number. The contest is for CW and SSB only.

This is a big weekend for state QSO party fans. There are four SQPs this weekend. The **Iowa QSO Party** is an all-mode contest. There are 33 Iowa counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. It runs for 12 hours on Saturday only.

The **New Jersey QSO Party** is also an all-mode contest. There are 21 New Jersey counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. It runs for 12 hours on Saturday only.

The **New Hampshire QSO Party** is also an all-mode contest. There are 10 New Hampshire counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. The contest runs both Saturday and Sunday.

The **Washington State Salmon Run** is an all-mode state QSO party. Although digital modes are accepted, FT8 and FT4 contacts are not. There are 39 Washington counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. The contest runs both Saturday and Sunday. The Washington State Salmon Run is a favorite because you could potentially win a frozen salmon.

September 26-27

The final weekend of the month has another major contest – the **CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest**. The contest draws over 15,000 participants and over 3300 log submittals from around the world. There are three types of multipliers: each CQ Zone, each DXCC entity and the W/VE states and provinces. This is a full 48-hour contest. There is also a club competition. The CQ club eligibility radius is 250 miles. The exchange is RST and CQ zone.

About Participating

Before participating in any of these contests or events, please familiarize yourself with the times, frequencies, exchanges, rules, etc. associated with the event. The **WA7BNM Contest Calendar** (<http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html>) can provide most of the information, as well as a link to the contest's home page, which will give you a "flavor" for the contest and let you know about any plaques or other special prizes like a bottle of wine or a frozen salmon. Alternatively, you can Google the name of the contest or event and go directly to their home page.

If you are a new or casual contester, there is never a better time to start or return to contesting than now. Pick one of the easier contests, such as a State QSO Party or one of the minor DX contests, and jump in. (No, first read the rules as suggested above.) You do not have to score a lot of points but do spend some time in the chair having fun. As you are enjoying the leisurely pace of one of these slower contests, picture it on steroids as a major contest with wall-to-wall stations all calling CQ. After it is completed, submit your log to the contest sponsor and report your activity on 3830Scores. Then look at the contest results on 3830 to see how you compared with all others. With this contest completely under your belt, check the Schedule of Contests to see what next weekend has in store for you.

Summary

Contest	Type	Weight	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other Digital
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	DX	5	5-Sep	0000Z	C			
CWops CW Open	DX	5	5-Sep	0000Z	C			
Russian RTTY WW Contest	DX	5	5-Sep	0000Z			R	
Colorado QSO Party	QSO	7	5-Sep	1300Z	C	S	R	
Nebraska QSO Party	QSO	7	5-Sep	1300Z	C	S		D
Tennessee QSO Party	QSO	7	6-Sep	1800Z	C	S	R	D
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Major	8	12-Sep	0000Z		S		
Texas QSO Party	QSO	7	12-Sep	1400Z	C	S	R	D
Alabama QSO Party	QSO	7	12-Sep	1500Z	C	S		
ARRL September VHF Contest	Major	10	12-Sep	1800Z	C	S	R	D
North American Sprint, CW	Major	10	13-Sep	0000Z	C			
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	DX	5	19-Sep	1200Z	C			
Iowa QSO Party	QSO	7	19-Sep	1400Z	C	S	R	D
New Hampshire QSO Party	QSO	7	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S	R	D
New Jersey QSO Party	QSO	7	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S		
Washington State Salmon Run	QSO	7	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S	R	D
North American Sprint, RTTY	Major	10	20-Sep	0000Z			R	
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Major	10	26-Sep	0000Z			R	
Maine QSO Party	QSO	7	26-Sep	1200Z	C	S		