



# Getting Started on HF



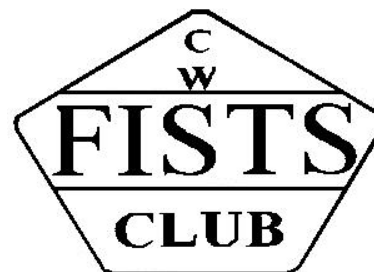
## Part 3 – Contesting

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Director

Kendall Amateur Radio Society





# Contesting

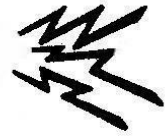


- Contesting in General
- Why? To improve operator proficiency and to work states and entities needed for various awards.
- Compete for score. Maybe a combination of goals. BUT
  - One does not need to formally submit a log if the goal is simply to pick up needed states or DXCC entities.
  - WAS: ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW and SSB). ARRL RTTY Roundup.
  - DXCC: ARRL DX Contest. CQWW and CQ WPX (all have a CW and SSB weekend).
- If just getting started:
  - Read the contest announcements in QST for date, time, rules and exchange.
    - CQ sponsored contests? See web page.
  - New to contesting?
    - Use Search and Pounce e.g. select spots or tune up-down band for stations.
    - Begin with SSB.
    - Listen to be sure of the other station's exchange and then jump in.
  - Hesitant on CW?
    - Wait until day two when the "big gun" contesters become desperate.
    - Make sure you know his exchange and the next serial number. Then jump in.
    - They will be more than willing to slow down for you because by now your single QSO could be worth 200 or more points due to the multiplier effect.



# Writelog

\$30 initially plus \$30 per year renewal



- Setup
- Band Map
- Spots, Packet Window
- QSO entry window
- Utilities: Super Check Partial and Same Call
- How to use Search and Pounce
- MMTTY Window



# Ports (What's Connected?)



Provides complete capability for rig control, SO2R, antenna control.

**Port Setup--What is Connected?**

	CW	DVK	Antenna relay	Rig Type	Baud Rate	Poll	Comm PTT
COM1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Icom IC-7700	9600	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
COM2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Rig	default	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES
COM3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Rig	default	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES
COM4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Rig	default	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES

LPT1	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LPT2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LPT3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All mode PTT on RTS

Rotator control on COM port

Left (or only) Rig: None | DCU-1

Right Rig: None | DCU-1

DVK type: None

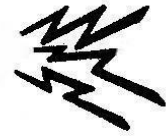
CW keyer type: PC generates

SO2R Control: None | COM1

Buttons: Wave File Locate..., CW Speeds..., CW PTT..., OK, Cancel, Help



# Messages



Can run an entire contest using “F” keys to send CW, Voice or RTTY messages and exchanges. See user manual at [www.writelog.com](http://www.writelog.com) for more information.

**CW/RTTY/SSB Memory Setup** [X]

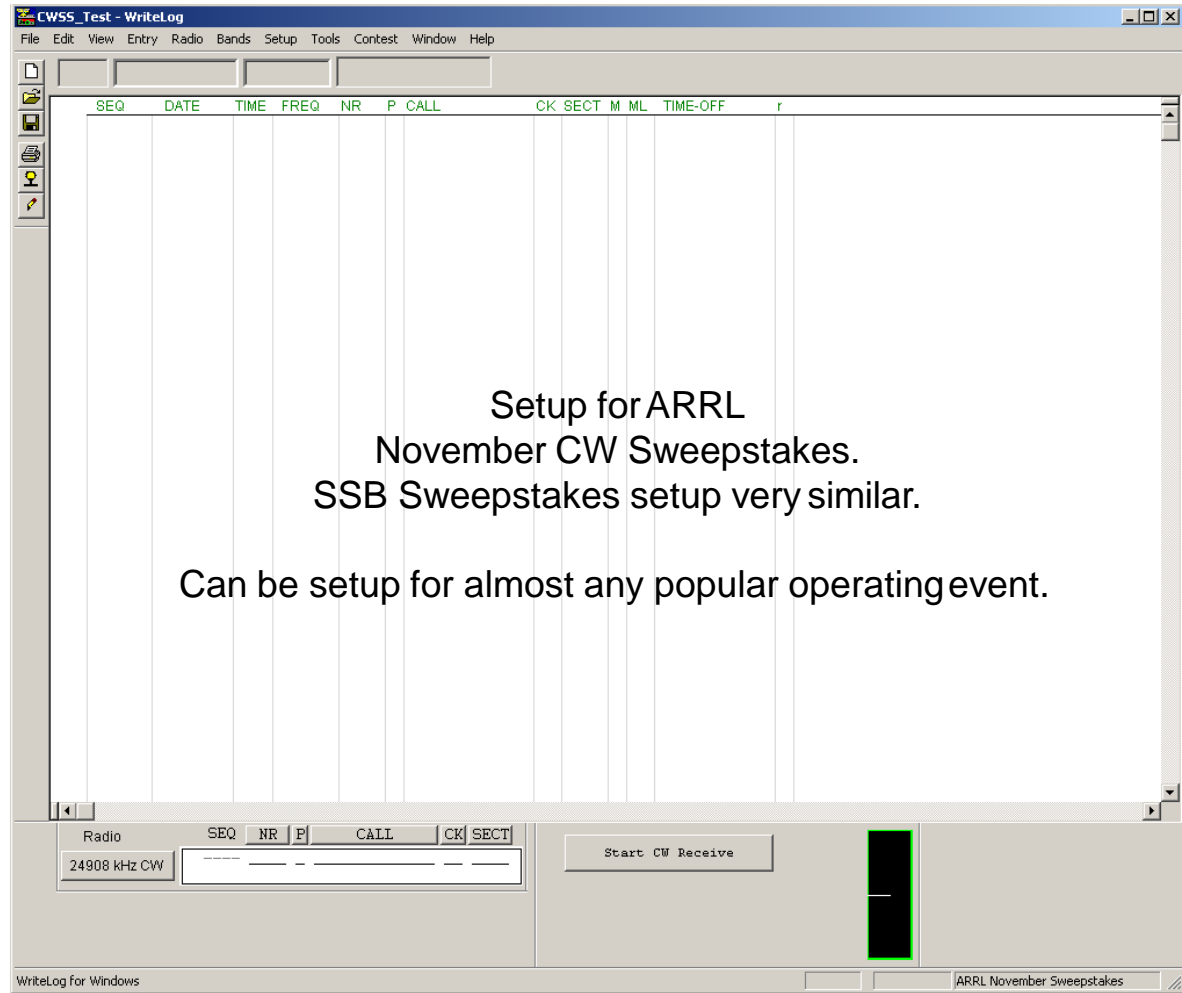
F2:	CQ CQ CQ TEST DE K5NOF K	Browse...
F3:	%C NR % U K5NOF 75 STX K	OK
F4:	TU QRZ SS de K5NOF K	Cancel
F5:	%C de K5NOF K	Help
F6:	K5NOF	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Normal keys
F7:	%C NR % U K5NOF 75 STX K	<input type="radio"/> Shifted keys
F8:	TU	<input type="radio"/> SSB
F9:		<input type="radio"/> Shifted SSB
F10:		
F1&F11:	CQ SS de K5NOF K	



# Writelog log window, QSO entry window & CW decoder



- Log can be converted to ADIF to input to master log and upload to LoTW.
- Can be converted to Cabrillo format to submit to contest sponsor for score.
- If running S&P, take your time filling in the exchange window (lower left) until you are sure. Then hit the “F” key with your call and take it from there.
- Use CW decoder to be sure of what you “think” you are hearing.
- You will be surprised by your increase in proficiency at the end of the contest whether you are going for score or not.





# WriteLog

## Set up for November Sweepstakes

**Spot window**

Call	Freq	Time	Power
x UA0IT	18070.0	16	2219Z
SP8CGR	7044.0	16	2219Z
VE6XMB	14200.0	325	2221Z
x PJ7/K1XM	18088.0	290	2222Z
x JH1AGU	18155.0	42	2222Z
x HH2/OH2TA	18075.0	289	2222Z
x JR2TJZ	18074.7	42	2224Z
x HI7/EA7AAW	18078.7	290	2225Z

**Bandmap**

Shows spots and Spot frequency. Click on spot to Insert call into QSO window.

**QSO window**

Same call (dups)

**Super Check Partial**

**Running score**

Score: 0

QSO	Sec

**Packet window**

```

*** Connected to: KSDX
Welcome to the KSDX AR-Cluster node Telnex port!
Please enter your call:
Hello Alan Walters (KSN0F)
Welcome to the KSDX AR-Cluster Telnex port in Houston, TX
For more information please go to www.tdxs.net
WVU: SFI=76 A=2 K=1 No Storms -> No Storms 10/4/2010
To set filters to just see spots from the US and Canada,
SET/FILTER K,VE/PASS (or see HELP FILTERS for more filt
Since Jan 2003 the KSDX node has processed 12,416,084 D
316 nodes, 28 local / 1701 total users Uptime 20 06:05
KSN0F de KSDX 04-Oct 2218Z arc >
DX de K2UMM: 18070.0 UA0IT
DX de VA2LC: 7044.0 SP8CGR R0S8 -20 dB in S
DX de AB7NQ: 14200.0 VE6XMB
DX de NSUWY: 18088.0 PJ7/K1XM TNK!
DX de WSM2M: 18155.0 JH1AGU TNK for QSO Tos
DX de WA2SI: 18075.0 HH2/OH2TA Tnx Pekka, Vy lo
DX de N92I: 18074.7 JR2TJZ
DX de W2R2S: 18078.7 HI7/EA7AAW
  
```

**Radio**

14020 kHz CW

Radio	SEQ	NR	P	CALL	CK	SECT
AK6DV	K5KT/6	K6ALE		K6AWR	K6BR	K6CEQ
AK6M	K6AA	K6AM		K6BBO	K6BRA	K6CF
AK6R	K6AAB	K6AN		K6BDK	K6BSP	K6CKS
AK6X	K6AJA	K6ANP		K6BHH	K6BYU	K6CMI
CK6BF	K6AJE	K6AUC		K6BIR	K6BZS	K6CDD
K1SL/6	K6AK	K6AW		K6BJ	K6CA	K6CRD
K3LL/6	K6AKR	K6AWD		K6BL	K6CDJ	K6CSL

WriteLog for Windows

ARRL November Sweepstakes

5:25 PM



# Things to expect to Hear



ARRL Sections part of SS exchange -- Many use USPS  
US and Canadian Abbreviations

Call Sign Area 1	Abbreviation
Connecticut	CT
Eastern Massachusetts	EMA
Maine	ME
New Hampshire	NH
Rhode Island	RI
Vermont	VT
Western Massachusetts	WMA
Call Sign Area 2	
Eastern New York	ENY
New York City - Long Island	NLI
Northern New Jersey	NNJ
Northern New York	NNY
Southern New Jersey	SNJ
Western New York	WNY

Call Sign Area 3	
Delaware	DE
Eastern Pennsylvania	EPA
Maryland-DC	MDC
Western Pennsylvania	WPA
Call Sign Area 4	
Alabama	AL
Georgia	GA
Kentucky	KY
North Carolina	NC
Northern Florida	NFL
South Carolina	SC
Southern Florida	SFL
West Central Florida	WCF
Tennessee	TN
Virginia	VA
Puerto Rico	PR
Virgin Islands	VI





# ARRL Sections (Con'd)



Call Sign Area 5	
Arkansas	AR
Louisiana	LA
Mississippi	MS
New Mexico	NM
North Texas	NTX
Oklahoma	OK
South Texas	STX
West Texas	WTX
Call Sign Area 6	
East Bay	EB
Los Angeles	LAX
Orange	ORG
Santa Barbara	SB
Santa Clara Valley	SCV
San Diego	SDG
San Francisco	SF
San Joaquin Valley	SJV
Sacramento Valley	SV
Pacific	PAC

Call Sign Area 7	
Arizona	AZ
Eastern Washington	EWA
Idaho	ID
Montana	MT
Nevada	NV
Oregon	OR
Utah	UT
Western Washington	WWA
Wyoming	WY
Alaska	AK
Call Sign Area 8	
Michigan	MI
Ohio	OH
West Virginia	WV



# ARRL Sections (Con'd)



Call Sign Area 8	
Michigan	MI
Ohio	OH
West Virginia	WV
Call Sign Area 9	
Illinois	IL
Indiana	IN
Wisconsin	WI
Call Sign Area 0	
Colorado	CO
Iowa	IA
Kansas	KS
Minnesota	MN
Missouri	MO
Nebraska	NE
North Dakota	ND
South Dakota	SD

Canadian Area Call Sign	
Maritime	MAR
Newfoundland/Labrador	NL
Quebec	QC
Ontario East	ONE
Ontario North	ONN
Ontario South	ONS
Greater Toronto Area	GTA
Manitoba	MB
Saskatchewan	SK
Alberta	AB
British Columbia	BC
Northern Territories	NT

**Be familiar with these abbreviations to avoid a “what the %#&@ was that” moment on CW and loose the next ten characters!**



# Writelog Setup for ARRL RTTY



The screenshot displays the Writelog software interface for ARRL RTTY. It includes several windows:

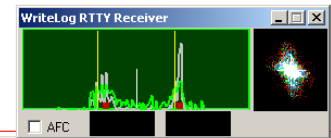
- Packet Spots:** Lists received spots with call signs, frequencies, and times.
- Bandmap:** A vertical frequency scale from 14060 to 14110 kHz.
- ARRL RTTY Test - Writelog:** The main interface with a table for logging QSOs. The table has columns: SEQ, DATE, TIME, FREQ, CALL, SNT, RCV, QTH, ML, COUNTRY, C, PREF, TIME-OFF, DQTL. Below the table is a status area showing "80M Mult OK. Need station!" through "10M Mult OK. Need station!". A score table is also present:
 

Score: 0	QSO	Sta	Prov	Dx
80M	0	0	0	0
40M	0	0	0	0
20M	0	0	0	0
15M	0	0	0	0
10M	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
- Writelog Packet Terminal:** Shows a Telnet connection to KSDX with various status messages and a list of active users.
- 60 WPM Baudot - Rttwrite:** Displays a received RTTY message:
 

```

      GUIV KK
      W7IV T
      ICE QSO-.6 QSL SURE VIA BURO AND LOTP373 QRZ? DE UP4JFR
      K
      TAA N LTOTG
      K
      BK
      KNEMU
      KPZR
      B TH 0
      CK
      #
      5R
      ETXELEULIV 73 ES GL DE KP4JFR SK
      AIAVRR 73 JOSE. GEKV7-20MQVQCB
      D TJ
      UJW.3 W
      G
      Q DX DE KP4JFR KP4JFR KP4JFR PSE K
      
```

This is using the Writelog dumb terminal.  
Click on call highlighted here or on band map  
to enter into QSO window.





# Writelog

## Setup for ARRL RTTY using MMTTY

**Packet Spots**

Call	Freq	Time	Power	Mode
x J07CVU	21286.0	42	22332	
x UA0IT	18070.0	16	22332	
x JH1OCC	18120.0	42	22342	
x HI7/EA7AAW	18078.5	290	22342	
x KSDAR	18155.0	312	22352	
x EU7SD	1830.5	19	22362	
x T88CQ	18150.0	76	22382	
M SV8/DF7XE	7006.0	27	22392	
M OK1WCF	3581.5	13	22412	
x JK4CHT	18114.0	42	22442	
M SP1DTG	3581.9	16	22442	
M UY2VM	7010.5	23	22442	
x N5XES	28400.0	303	22452	

**ARRL RTTY Test - WriteLog**

SEQ	DATE	TIME	FREQ	CALL	SNT	RCV	QTH	ML	COUNTRY	C	PREF	TIME-OFF	DGTL

80M Mult OK. Need station!  
 40M Mult OK. Need station!  
 20M Mult OK. Need station!  
 15M Mult OK. Need station!  
 10M Mult OK. Need station!

VE6BIR/3

Score: 0	QSO	Sta	Prov	Dx
80M	0	0	0	0
40M	0	0	0	0
20M	0	0	0	0
15M	0	0	0	0
10M	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Radio: 14084 kHz FSK

**WriteLog for Windows**

60 WPM Baudot - Rttyrite

```

4JFR KP4JFR PSE K
|
CQ CQ DX DE KP4J R KP4JFR KP4JFR PSE UM
CQ CQ DX AV4;'14 KP4JFR KP4JFR PSE MZRG:4JFR KP
  
```

FT  
CUNHIOCEZEFVK

**RTTY Control panel**

Control Demodulator (IIR)

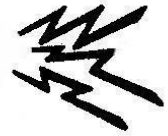
FIG	Mark	1991	Hz	Type	Rev.	HAM
UOS	Shift	170	Hz	SQ	Not.	BPF
TX	BW	60	Hz	[Green Bar]		
TXOFF	AV.	70	Hz	ATC	NET	AFC

Waterfall plot showing signal activity.

Most use MMTTY because it  
Is easier to tune. Look at the  
detail below.



# Conclusion



- We have talked about how to convert paper logs to digital format and how to use Basic Log to do this.
  - Why? To be able to upload your QSO's to LOTW and into logging software.
- We have been to the LOTW webpage to show how to get started and we have talked about using Logbook of the World and eQsl in addition to QSL cards.
  - Why? Obtain confirmations for your QSO's without the need to mail cards (except for cards needed for IOTA confirmations).
- We have talked about logging software.
  - Why? Operating aids such as packet cluster, spot announcements, gray line depiction. An electronic log to manage LoTW and eQSL uploads. Utilities to easily track your progress toward various operating awards.
- We have talked about contesting and contesting software.
  - Why? Operator proficiency, award entities, and to have fun!
- Disclaimer:
  - There is an entire universe of opinion on these subjects.
  - Many different logging and contesting programs (such as TRLog, Log Window, N1MM, HRD, N3FPJ). All are good in their way.
  - Not here to advocate specific software; a matter of personal preference.
  - I have simply described what I do, what I use and why.



# DX Code of Conduct



- Listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, and then listensome more –
  - **Never** tune up on the DX's frequency.
  - Don't trust the call on the DX packet cluster, listen to what the DX says.
  - Don't call unless the DX's signal is strong enough to copy.
  - Don't call on the DX's frequency unless you are **sure** he is not working split.
  - Don't call until your are sure DX has completed the current QSO.
  - Don't call when the DX responds to another call sign.
  - Don't call when the DX queries another call not like yours.
  - Don't call when the DX queries other geographic areas.
- When you call –
  - Send your complete call, once, listen -- twice, listen – three, four times max.
  - When DX answers –
  - Send your exchange or signal report once and only once.
  - DX will ask for fills if needed.
- If DX answers with your correct call sign –
  - (Generally) don't send your call again unless part of the exchange.
  - He already told you he knows who you are!

Extras are the biggest violators; particularly those nearing or on the "Honor Roll".