



Announcing!

The Ohio ARES VHF Contest

January 20, 2024



Purpose

ARES is tasked with being able to provide communications “When all else fails.” Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES is sponsoring the ARES VHF Contest (Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF / UHF Contest got a little long-winded). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the timeframe of the contest, with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators, ARES members are strongly encouraged to participate. How else are you going to win the ‘bragging rights’ session of your next ARES meeting?

When did you say it was?

The contest is January 20, 2024. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 9 AM through 4 PM Eastern. Why January 20th? After receiving several emails last year if we could have the contest the same time as the ARRL’s VHF Contest, I decided to try it this year. Yeah, a civilized timeframe that doesn’t rob sleep, and allows time with the family. Why, you can even watch a few cartoons in the morning!

Please register at <https://ohsimplex.org/submit-operation/>

Where you gonna be?

You may operate this contest from anywhere. There are certain benefits for venturing out from your warm, comfortable home station. EOC stations can gain extra points. Portable stations can gain even MORE extra points – that is, if your frozen fingers will still be able to operate a keyboard. Portable stations MUST use portable antennas, nothing permanently attached...kind of like Field Day on ice. We are not going with any mobile operation this time. The image of a bunch of vehicles running around with portable towers, 150 pounds of antenna hardware and an occasional grounding anchor is best left to the ARRL contesters.

Da Bands – a la’ Mode

Because local emergency communication takes place primarily on the 2 meter, 6 meter and 70 centimeter FM bands only, the contest is limited to those 3 bands. Within each band, we will have these modes: FM Simplex, “Everything else” Simplex; DIGITAL simplex contacts will make up a third mode on each band. Contacts with a station count once per mode- if you can talk the other guy into abandoning “his frequency” and meeting you on SSB or CW, more power to ya! NO REPEATER CONTACTS WILL

COUNT. If you get bored, you certainly are welcome to chat amongst yourselves on repeaters, or simplex, or cell phones, or smoke signals.

Da Contacts

The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. You can make as many overall contacts as you like, they will then be multiplied by the number of counties you've reached. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM or ASM. Pretty simple- any more complex and we'll confuse the scorekeepers.

Da Score

Each FM Simplex contact counts as 5 points.

Each non- FM simplex contact counts as 2 points.

Each digital simplex contact counts as 10 points. (Detect a pattern here?)

Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM or ASM adds 25 points.

Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 25 points.

Operation from an EOC add 200 points to your total contact score.

Operation from a portable location add 100 points to your total contact score.

Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties you contacted.

To name a few. For more information on the scoring, please visit our website below.

Da Logs

Please use any of the appropriate computer logging programs, paper dupe sheets, a well worn slide rule or rusty abacus. Just keep all that to yourself, we can't find anyone with the time to go through all the detail contacts.

For more information and log submission, please visit <https://ohsimplex.org>

If you need an antenna, here is a J-Pole that you can make: <https://w8wky.org/simple-j-pole-antenna/>