Maryland-DC QSO Party Rules
Effective 9 August 2011

1. Contest Sponsor. The Anne Arundel Radio Club (AARC), PO Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035

2. Contest Dates. This contest is conducted in two operating periods over the 2nd weekend in August.

Period 1: Saturday from 12:00pm EDT to 00:00am EDT or Saturday from 1600 UTC to Sunday, 0400 UTC.

Period 2: Sunday from 12:00pm EDT to 20:00pm EDT or Sunday 1600 to 00:00 UTC.

3. Summary of changes for 2011:

- **Every station submitting a log for the MDC QSO Party <u>must also</u> submit a Summary Sheet.** This is not a new requirement. Because so many participants initially failed to provide a Summary Sheet last year, we felt it necessary to remind everyone of this requirement.

- **Maryland-DC stations submitting a log for the MDC QSO Party <u>may not</u> use a 1x1 call sign (aka Special Event Call Sign) as their call sign during the contest.** Using a 1x1 call sign draws additional attention and gives the station using a 1x1 call sign an unfair advantage.

- **50 Bonus points will be awarded for a confirmed contact with W3VPR, the club call sign of the AARC or KI3DS, the club call sign of the AARC, Jr.**

4. Station Categories. There are four station categories:

a. **Club Station** (Club or CLB) – There are two definitions for this category:

   (1) A station operated by a single operator using a single transmitter operating from the same location using a club call sign throughout the duration of the contest or

   (2) A station operated by multiple operators using a single transmitter or multiple transmitters while operating from the same location using a club call sign or a single call sign used to make all contacts throughout the duration of the contest.

   b. **Mobile Station** (Mobile or MOB) – A station operated from inside a vehicle in motion or parked. The station transmitter(s) is/are operated from inside the vehicle using an antenna or antennas mounted on the vehicle.

   c. **QRP Station** (QRP) – A station using a transmitter whose transmitted signal does not exceed 5 watts PEP.

   d. **Standard Station** (Standard or STD) – A station operated from a fixed or portable location by a single operator using a single transmitter whose transmitted signal exceeds 5 watts PEP.

5. Modes. Only three transmitting modes are allowed.

a. Phone

b. CW

c. Digital. Any digital mode may be used and all contacts will be counted as a CW contact.

6. The Exchange. The exchange is simple: You give your **Location** and **Station Category** (See paragraph 3, above, for station categories) to each contacted station. Your location will be your country (non-Canadian DX stations), state or province (Canadian and non-MDC stations), county or city (MDC stations) as indicated below.

a. **Maryland and District of Columbia Stations**. Stations operating in Maryland, Baltimore City, or Washington, DC will indicate their station category (e.g. Club, Mobile, QRP or Standard) and their location (County or City) using the abbreviations in Table 1, below:

County/City	Abbreviation	County/City	Abbreviation
Allegany	ALY	Howard	HWD
Anne Arundel	ANA	Kent	KEN
Baltimore City	BAL	Montgomery	MON
Baltimore County	BCO	Prince George's	PGE
Calvert	CLV	Queen Anne's	QAN
Caroline	CLN	St Mary's	STM
Carroll	CRL	Somerset	SMR
Cecil	CEC	Talbot	TAL
Charles	CHS	Washington	WAS
Dorchester	DRC	Wicomico	WIC
Frederick	FRD	Worcester	WRC
Garrett	GAR	Washington, DC	WDC
Harford	HFD		

Table-1

> **Example:** *KB3ATI this is AA3RR Standard station in Anne Arundel (ANA if using CW) county*
> *AA3RR this is KB3ATI I'm QRP in Garrett (GAR if using CW) county*

b. **All others.** Stations not operating within the state of Maryland or the District of Columbia will indicate their location as their **Country** (DX stations other than Canada), their **Province** (Canadian stations), or their **US State**.

7. Canadian Provinces. The following are the Canadian Provinces and Territories used for the purpose of this contest:

Province	Call Area and Description
Newfoundland & Labrabor	VO1 or VO2
Maritime	VE1 Nova Scotia, VE1-VE9 New Brunswick, VE1 or VY2 Prince Edward Island
Quebec	VE2 or VA2
Ontario	VE3 or VA3
Manitoba	VE4
Saskatchewan	VE5
Alberta	VE6
British Columbia	VE7 or VA7
Northwest Territories	VE8 North West Territories, VY1 Yukon Territory, and VY0 Nunavut Territory

Table 2

Examples: KI3DS this is AG4RR mobile in Kentucky

AG4RR this is KI3DS we're a Club station in Anne Arundel (ANA if using CW) county

W3VPR this is VE3XYZ. I am a standard station in Ontario
VE3XYZ this is W3VPR. We are a club station in Washington, DC Whiskey Delta Charlie (WDC if using CW).

8. Miscellaneous Rules.

a. Make lots of contacts!

b. Have more fun than a barrel of monkeys!

c. Stations not located in the state of Maryland or the District of Columbia may work only stations located in Maryland or the District of Columbia.

d. Stations located in the state of Maryland or the District of Columbia may work stations located anywhere.

e. Club stations (and multi-operator stations) must operate from a single location.

f. Mobile stations must operate with an antenna mounted on the vehicle.

g. The use of repeaters, digipeaters, or the Internet (e.g., EchoLink) is not allowed.

h. Only simplex contacts are allowed except when split frequency QSOs are made within the same band.

i. Cross mode contacts are prohibited.

j. Stations may be worked only once per band using any mode. For example: Station "X" can work Station "Y" on each band using each mode for a total of three contacts per band. The only exception to this rule is when a mobile station changes location.

k. Mobile stations that change their location (enter/depart Baltimore City, enter/depart the District of Columbia, change Maryland counties, or cross state lines) may be worked again as a "new" station.

l. Stations will send the category that reflects their highest point value to the stations they worked. For example: A mobile station operating QRP would indicate they were mobile versus QRP.

m. Alaska and Hawaii count as States only.

n. Participating stations may not count Maryland as a state they've worked. The emphasis is on working Maryland counties.

o. Contacts made during a net operation may not be included. For example: You may not participate in the "3905 Century Club" and claim those contacts for the MDC QSO Party.

p. Contacts made during a concurrent contest may not be included. For example: You may not participate in a European DX CW contest and claim those contacts for the MDC QSO Party.

q. **Maryland-DC stations submitting a log for the MDC QSO Party may not use a 1x1 call sign (aka Special Event Call Sign)**.

r. <mark>**Every station submitting a log for the MDC QSO Party must also submit a Summary Sheet.**</mark> The Summary Sheet is available as a pdf file and as a MS Word document:

http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/2011_MDC_Summary_Sheet.pdf

http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/2011_MDC_Summary_Sheet.doc

8. Authorized and Suggested Frequencies: The use of WARC bands and 60m is prohibited. All other amateur bands may be used. The following are suggested frequencies for use during the contest.

a. **CW** - 3.557, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.045, 144.045

b. **SSB** - 1.895, 3.821, 7.230, 14.271, 21.371, 28.371, 50.131, 144.141, 432.141

c. **FM** - 52.525, 146.55, 146.58, 223.40, 446.000

d. **Digital** - According to the ARRL Band Plan.

9. Scoring. Points will be earned as indicated below:

a. **QSO points.**

(1) Each QSO with a **Club station** is worth **10 points**

(2) Each QSO with a **Mobile station** is worth **5 points**

(3) Each QSO with a **QRP station** is worth **4 points**

(4) Each QSO with a **CW station** is worth **3 points**

(5) Each QSO with a **Digital station** is worth **3 points**

(6) Each QSO with a **Standard station** is worth **1 point**

b. **Multiplier points**. One multiplier point is awarded for initial contacts with each station worked as described below.

(1) **MDC Stations:** Stations in Maryland and the District of Columbia earn one multiplier point for initial contacts with:

(a) Each MD County, the cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC) – 25 maximum

(b) Each State (less Maryland) – 49 maximum

(c) Each Canadian Province

(c) Each Country (Canada, Hawaii and Alaska do not count as DX countries)

(2) **Non-MDC Stations:** Stations not operating from within Maryland or the District of Columbia earn one multiplier point for initial contacts with: Each Maryland County, the cities of Baltimore (BAL) and the District of Columbia (WDC). A maximum of 25 multipliers is possible.

c. **Bonus points.** <mark>Fifty bonus points will be awarded to each station submitting a contest log with a single confirmed contact with station W3VPR (The call sign of the Anne Arundel Radio Club) or with station KI3DS (The call sign of AARC Jr)</mark>. The bonus points (50 or 100) will be claimed on the Summary Sheet.

d. **Total Score.** You do not need a degree in mathematics to determine your score.

(1) Add the number of contacts with stations in each category.

(2) Multiply the number of total contacts in each category by the category point value as described in paragraph 9.a. above to determine the total contact points.

(3) Add the number of multipliers as described in 9.b. above.

(4) Multiply the total number of Multipliers by the total QSO points.

(5) Add in any bonus points claimed, and that's your total score.

10. QSO Party Logging software. There are several logging software programs that support the MDC QSO Party. Here are a few:

- www.n3fjp.com/stateqso.htm - A very large selection of logging software is available.

- www.qsl.net/w3km/gen_log.htm - Download GenLog for free!

- www.n9oh.com/wlmods.html - Mods for WriteLog (www.writelog.com)

- www.n1mm.com – A very large selection of free logging software.

Note: You are not required to use logging software to document your contacts. Listing the above information about logging software available for the MDC QSO Party does not infer or imply an endorsement by the Anne Arundel Radio Club or the MDC QSO Party Committee. Caveat emptor and use all software at your own risk.

11. Log Submissions.

a. **All Maryland QSO Party Submissions must include the following:**

 (1) The actual **QSO Party Log**. These may be in the Cabrillo format, in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, or in a legible hand-written form. If we cannot reasonably read your hand writing we will not count the contact.

(2) A completed **QSO Party Summary Sheet.** QSO Party logs submitted without a completed QSO Party Summary Sheet will be considered invalid. The Summary Sheet is available as a pdf file and as a MS Word document:

http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/2011_MDC_Summary_Sheet.pdf

http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/2011_MDC_Summary_Sheet.doc

b. Logs and Summary Sheets must be received **30 days following the end of the contest**.

c. Your Log and Summary Sheet may be submitted via "snail mail" or e-mail to:

"**Snail mail**"

MDC QSO Party
P.O. Box 308
Davidsonville, MD 21035

"**e-mail**"

MDQSOP@w3vpr.org

d. All decisions by the Maryland QSO Party Contest Committee concerning any log and summary sheets will be considered final. By submitting your entry, you agree to abide by the decisions of the Maryland QSO Party contest committee.

12. Prizes. Prizes may be awarded in each category and category endorsement as indicated below.

- A plaque and certificate will be awarded to the station with the highest score in each category as long as there are a minimum of five entries submitted in each category or category endorsement. If there are not five entries in a category the first place finisher will receive a certificate acknowledging his/her accomplishment.

- All second and third place finishers will receive a certificate.

- Any station submitting a log with at least 10 QSOs will receive a "Participation Certificate".

  <mark>Persons or organizations interested in sponsoring a plaque or making a donation may contact</mark> MDQSOP@w3vpr.org <mark>for details.</mark>

a. **Maryland/District of Columbia (MDC).** Stations operating in Maryland will be eligible to win a plaque or certificate for the following categories.

(1) **MDC Club or multi-operator group**.

(2) **MDC Mobile**.

(3) **MDC QRP**.

(4) **MDC Standard**.

Additionally, the following endorsements are available for each category listed above:

- **YL** (All of the operators must be YLs),
- **Youth** (all of the operators must be under the age of 18), and
- **VHF-UHF Only** (This category operated only on VHF and/or UHF).

   b. **All stations other than MDC.** Stations operating outside the State of Maryland will be eligible to win a plaque or certificate in a category or category endorsement as indicated below.

   (1) **Standard**. The following endorsements are appropriate for this category: YL and Youth.

   (2) **QRP**. The following endorsements are appropriate for this category: YL and Youth.

   (3) **Club**.

Good Luck to All!!