



RSGB UKAC Contests

Quick Start Guide of RSGB VHF/UHF contesting

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<https://www.rsgbcc.org/vhf/>



What is exchanged in a QSO

- ▶ Callsigns (obvious really)
 - ▶ But don't forget the /P /A etc.... You will lose points if you do.
- ▶ Signal Reports
 - ▶ Quite often 5 and 9 even if not (it's easier)
 - ▶ VHF/UHF many reports are real though 5 and 3
 - ▶ No real rules around it but log the wrong report and lose points
- ▶ Sequence Number
 - ▶ What number you are at, 1st QSO is 1, etc.
- ▶ Locator
 - ▶ E.g. IO92PA
 - ▶ The first 4 you gain bonus points for each one worked, so worth targeting ones you know you can reach but haven't worked yet.

Typical QSO

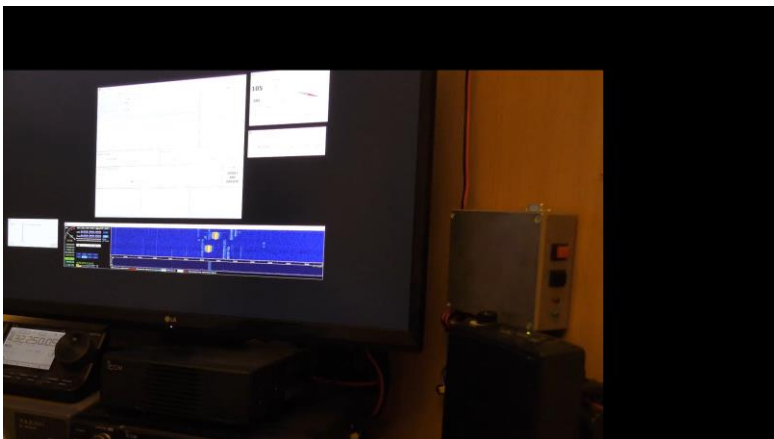


Calling Station

1. First check frequency is not in use
2. CQ Contest - CQ Contest -
<callsign> - etc
3. <responders callsign> You are
<report> Number <x> <Locator>
4. Confirm (QSL/Roger) / 73 / QRZ

Responding Station

1. Find station calling CQ contest -
turn beam if necessary/available
2. State own callsign - see if they
respond
3. Confirm (QSL) You are <report>
Number <x> <Locator>
4. Give 73 if caller not QRZ already.



What can possibly go wrong?



- ▶ Weak signal - you cannot make callsign/report/locator
 - ▶ Make the effort to try again - nobody minds repeating
 - ▶ “My Report again please” “My Locator again please”
 - ▶ If not 100% confirm what you did year
 - ▶ “You gave me 5/7 Number 62 from IO81MX roger?”
 - ▶ Try different phonetics - sometimes easier in QSB etc.
 - ▶ Mike -> Mexico Zulu -> Zanzibar Papa Alpha -> Pacific Atlantic
- ▶ QRM
 - ▶ Local stations saturating your receiver
 - ▶ Try beaming off - may still work your station but less QRM
 - ▶ Memorise call/freq and come back later - QRM may have moved
- ▶ Pileup
 - ▶ You cannot get heard above other stations
 - ▶ Don't keep trying... come back to them later
- ▶ Worked Before
 - ▶ “We have already worked Old Man”
 - ▶ Check your log - it may be their mistake
 - ▶ Nobody minds, we've all done it. Don't let it phase you.

Etiquette



- ▶ Quick Succession contesters. Don't waste time
 - ▶ Very abrupt, as soon as got your report, QSL, QRZ...
 - ▶ They just want that big score at the end of the contest
- ▶ Pleasure Contesters
 - ▶ “Hello Tim, Good to work you again”
 - ▶ “Smashing signal, 73 and good luck in the contest”
- ▶ Everyone is polite - even the rapid fire stations
 - ▶ Nobody minds repeating/confirming - we all want the points
- ▶ Know which you are working and respond accordingly



Logging - Benefits of software logging

- ▶ Tracks Sequence numbers for you, 001 002 003
- ▶ Warns if you've worked before
- ▶ Partial match callsign or locator (if you're struggling to hear)
- ▶ Can tell you where they are (so can turn beam)
- ▶ Memories - for saving and coming back later (pileups etc.)
- ▶ Grid map (easily view squares not worked)
- ▶ Very easy to submit results at end of the contest

Minos Logging

- ▶ <http://minos.sourceforge.net>
- ▶ Save Station/Location defaults
 - ▶ Equipment, Location details
- ▶ Access RSGB Schedule of contests
- ▶ Submitting results easy.

Details of Contest Entry - C:/Minos/Logs/G6GEI_2019_03_05_144 MGM MHz.minos

144MHz MGMEMAC [X] VHF Calendar Entry G6GEI [v] [Edit]

Station 7100 2M 6ele [v] [Edit] QTH Home [v] [Edit]

[How to use these settings?]

Contest Name Band Section [Protected]

144MHz MGMEMAC [X] 144 MHz [v] AR [v]

Callsign as sent Locator as sent Exchange as sent (Postcode, QTH, etc) Power

G6GEI [X] IO92PA [X] [v] 25 [X]

Start Date 05/03/2019 [v] End Date 05/03/2019 [v] Main Op G6GEI [v] Current Mode

Start Time 19:00 UTC [v] End Time 19:55 UTC [v] Second Op [v] MGM [v]

Radio Name [v] Antenna Name [v] Screen Layout default [v]

Scoring

Commenced Kilometer Point per QSO

Bonus Scheme

None [v]

Antenna Offset 0 [X]

RSGB MGM Contest Rules DXCC Multiplier

Non UK Countries Only (M6) Locator Multiplier

UK Locs only (M5, M6) All locs; UK locs x2 (M7)

Locator Length

Allow 4 char Locators Allow 8 char Locators

Mandatory QSO Fields

RS(T) Serial Locator

No Exchange Required [v]

[OK] [Entry Details] [Cancel]



Minos Logging

Quick to add new entry

Tells if you have worked before in same contest.

Checks against history file

- Known contesters
- Callsigns
- Locators

Calculates bearings and distance

Memories to stations to 'try later'.

Rig and Rotator control for full automation.

The screenshot shows the Minos Contest Logger interface. At the top, there's a menu bar (File, Search, Tools, Logs, Help) and a title bar (Minos Contest Logger). Below that is a table of log entries with columns: UTC, Callsign, RepTx, SnTx, RepRx, SnRx, Loc, dist, brg, Exchange, Comments, Freq, Rot Heading, and Rig. The table contains several entries, with some locators highlighted in blue (e.g., JO02CE, IO91RH, IO82QL, IO85AK, IO81WU, IO91VH, JO00DR, IO91PQ, IO91TP, IO91SO, IO93MG, IO94JF). To the right of the table is an 'Auxiliary displays' section with a 'Memories' dropdown menu and two memory slots (M1: G4SNA, M2: GW8ASD). Below the table is a control panel with fields for USB, CW, Catch-up (Post Entry), Op1 (G6GEI), Op2, dist, brg, Date (08/04/18), Time (15:26), and checkboxes for Non Scoring and Deleted. There are also fields for Callsign (F1), RS(T)Tx(F2), Serial Tx, RS(T)Rx(F3), Serial Rx (F4), Loc (F5), and Exchange (F6). A 'Log' button and a 'Match Xfer F12' button are also present. At the bottom right, there's a display for '144 Mhz', 'G6GEI', '032', and 'IO92PA'. Below the control panel is a table of 'Current contest - No match No LOC' with columns: UTC, Callsign, RepTx, SnTx. To the right of this table is a 'Lookup File.csl' section with columns: Callsign, Loc, dist, brg. The bottom status bar shows 'Score: Qsos: 31; 3688 pts (:3 countries); bonuses 5000(10) = 8688' and 'Insert 08/04/2018 15:26:19 UTC'.



Submitting Logs

- ▶ Upload results to RSGB (within a week)
 - ▶ <https://www.rsgbcc.org/vhf/howto.shtml>

How to enter a VHF contest

So, you've decided to have a go in an RSGB VHF Contest - below is a brief guide to the different ways you can submit your entry. Or you can go straight to the following links:

Upload your log: [upload](#)

Enter your paper log: [enter](#)

View submitted logs to check that your entry has been received [received](#)

- ▶ Either upload export file from Minos or transcribe paper log online

Now select the date and the section you have entered. Choose your club (if any) from the drop down list. Then click on the "NEXT" button

Contest	<input type="text" value="432MHz UKAC"/>
Date	<input type="text" value="10 Apr"/>
Section	<input type="text" value="Restricted"/> 432MHz UKAC rules
Club	<input type="text" value="Milton Keynes ARS"/>
<input type="button" value="NEXT"/>	

Now enter the file name(s) containing your entry. If you have a single file that contains all the cover sheet information (e.g. REG1TEST or Cabrillo) then **only upload the one file**. If you have separate log file and cover sheet file then upload both files. Then click on the "NEXT" button

Entry deadline for the 10 Apr 432MHz UKAC is Tue 17-Apr-2018 23:59 UTC

2	17	44	05
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds

Section AR

Logfile (.log or .edi)	<input type="text" value="Choose file"/>	<input type="text" value="G6GEI_2018_...32 MHz.edi"/>
Cover Sheet (.cov)	<input type="text" value="Choose file"/>	<input type="text" value="No file chosen"/>
Your Email Address	<input type="text" value="renegade62@hotmail.co.uk"/>	

Submitting Logs



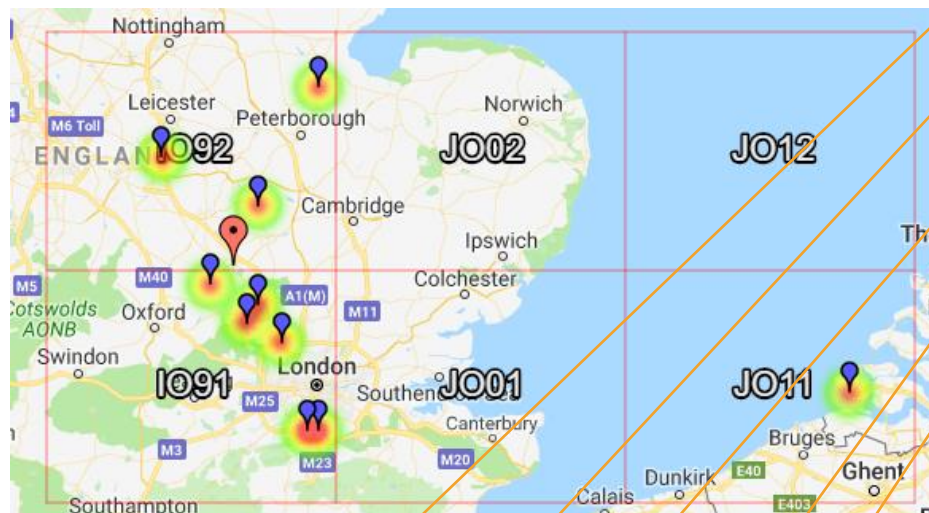
Contest : 432MHz UKAC 2018

Your log entry is being processed

- Contest : 432MHz UKAC
- Callsign : G6GEI
- Submitted : Sun Apr 15 06:17:10 2018 UTC
- Deadline : Tue 17-Apr-2018 23:59 UTC
- Section : AR
- Group : Milton Keynes ARS
- QSOs : 10
- Calculated QSO Points : 770
- ODX Call : PE1EWR
- ODX Points : 299
- Bonus Points : 1500
- DXCCs : 2
- WWLs : 3
- UK WWLs : 2

Click [here](#) to see a map of your contest QSOs

[Click here to submit your claimed score](#)



- Total 1Km points
- locator bonus points
- Total points
- Best DX Station
- Best DX Km

AR	G4AQB	IO83	30	3,373	112	5500	8,873	M0DXR/P	309	50	5 ele yagi	Five countries tonight, first for a long time!	Email
AR	M0IMS	IO81	30	3,289	110	5500	8,789	F4HBY	395	100	9 ele dk7zb yagi	thanks to all	
AR	G0SKA	IO91	24	2,747	114	6000	8,747	G4FZN/P	300	50	7 ele yağrı	conditions a little up but only on for last hour or so.	Email
AR	G6GEI	IO92	31	3,688	119	5000	8,688	MM0GPZ/P	436	50	6 Ele Yagi		Email
AL	G6AHX	IO82	23	2,661	116	6000	8,661	GD8EXI	289	10	8 element ZL		Email
AR	G0ULH	IO81	20	3,143	157	5500	8,643	GM4AFF	547	100	2m ZL special		



Getting Results

- ▶ Email confirmation after Adjudication
 - ▶ Incorrect callsigns (no /P), sequence, locators etc.
 - ▶ Update your 'Archive List' for corrections to callsigns/locators
- ▶ Adjust station / procedure for improvements
 - ▶ Different antenna
 - ▶ Different location
 - ▶ Different radio
 - ▶ Different Mic / Compression settings
 - ▶ Better coax
 - ▶ Better technique
 - ▶ Hunting or Hunted or both & ratio
- ▶ Arrange test schedules online with other testers
 - ▶ Facebook group UK VHF/UHF contesting

/P Operation

Home QTH not suitable?

- High Noise
- Poor Elevation

Operate mobile/portable

- Remote location - good elevation - low noise
- Must stay @ location for duration of contest
- Make sure you give /P callsign !
- Get land-owners permission
- Safety First
 - Public safety - injury to others
 - Own safety - overhead cables etc.



Come out /P one evening - Invitation



- ▶ 'Top Farm' Lidlington IO92RA
 - ▶ 52.03581, -0.56060
 - ▶ Boughton End Lane off A507 (J13 to Ampthill)
- ▶ Tuesday or Thursday evening from 7pm
 - ▶ Check contest dates on club diary
- ▶ Great take off point
 - ▶ 434ft ASL - good but not Dunstable Downs
 - ▶ 360 degree unobstructed views

MKARS has land owner permission to operate from this prime location. Gated access (we have the lock code). Max of 3 vehicles allowed. No tents/structures but portable mast ok.

Contact me (Tim G6GEI) to arrange.
07976 262 497
renegade62@Hotmail.co.uk

