

# RARS HF Challenge

Rules & Regulations, version 1.0

## 1. Introduction

The RARS HF Challenge is to be a friendly competition among RARS club members. The aim is to encourage operation on the HF bands, and further to encourage sharing of operating tips, tricks, and tales among members.

## 2. Object of the Challenge

2.0 To have fun!

2.1 The object of the Challenge is to have QSOs with different US States, Canadian Provinces, DXCC countries, and NC counties.

2.2 A QSO with any of these entities counts for 1 point, regardless of band or mode.

2.3 Operation is open to the HF bands, 160m - 10m, including WARC and 60m bands. Please observe band plans where applicable.

2.4 A QSO is defined as exchanging any kind of information *directly with* another station. The intent here is to have an honest QSO -- not count every NC County represented on the Tarheel Emergency Net you just checked in to. See the "Categories" section for further information.

## 3. Challenge Period

3.1 Each year, the Challenge begins January 1 1200z and runs through the following January 1 1159z.

3.2 **For 2005, the challenge period is April 15 2005 1200z - January 1 2006 1159z.**

3.3 Tally sheets are due by February 15 at 7:00 PM Eastern. Inclusion of unused valentines is optional.

3.4 You may submit tally sheets throughout the year so you can show off your progress -- in fact, this is encouraged.

## 4. Categories

The Challenge is made up of four separate entry categories. An operator does NOT have to choose a category at the beginning of the Challenge, and may change categories (with possible QSO omissions) during the year.

### 4.1 Limited Category

The "Limited" Category consists of entries that are limited in **one** of the following ways:

- All QSOs occur on one band.
- All QSOs are made using CW.
- All QSOs are made using a digital mode (RTTY, PSK, MT63, SSTV, etc).  
The specific mode may differ from one QSO to another, but all must be (non-CW) digital.
- All QSOs are made while mobile.
- Output power used is < 5 W for all QSOs.
- Other "limiting" circumstances as OK'd by the Challenge Master. Just ask!

Note that there are no power limits in Limited, unless you qualify by QRP.

### 4.2 Little Pistol Category

This category is open to all bands and modes, with a top power limit of 150 W.

### 4.3 Big Gun Category

QSOs may use any band and mode, at any legal power level.

### 4.4 Ragchew Category

All QSOs in this category must be at least 10 minutes in length. Any band, mode, and legal power level is accepted.

### 4.5 Special Ragchew Rule

QSOs may be counted simultaneously in the Limited, Little Pistol, or Big Gun category AND the Ragchew category. For example, if I work a mix of "pileup" DX throughout the year using my 100W TS-850, I may enter those QSOs in the Little Pistol category. Should I happen to have a QSO lasting more than 10 minutes with a DX station, that QSO may count **both** toward my LP points, as well as toward a Ragchew score.

## **5. Validation and Scoring**

As this is a friendly competition, no QSLs are required to validate QSOs. We operate on the honor system. Be forewarned that you may be called upon at a club meeting to "tell the tale" of how you bagged a rare QSO!

5.1 For the top three claimed scores in each category, logs (tally sheets) will be checked at the end of the year.

5.2 The Challenge Master will have final authority as it relates to interpretation or amendment of the rules, and awarding of Challenge points.

5.3 If an entry is added or deleted during the year, it will count for credit. Entities will be counted based on the reference materials available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/dxcclist.txt>

<http://ncinfo.iog.unc.edu/library/counties.html>

**Remember, the first Object of the Challenge is to have fun!**