

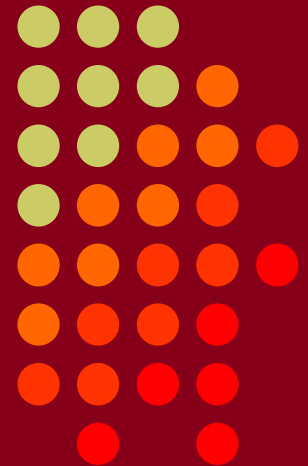
CTU Presents

***Contest Categories – Make the
Most of Your Entry!***

Mark Haynes, M0DXR

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Welcome to this session



- A few words about me
- 2E1ERN, 2E0APH, M0DXR, G9W
- Licensed for 25 years
- Contesting for 24 years
- All bands, all modes – love it all!



Familiar comment...



“Theres no point me entering a contest with all of these mega stations. I’m never going to win”



Lets explore this...

Factors effecting how well we do

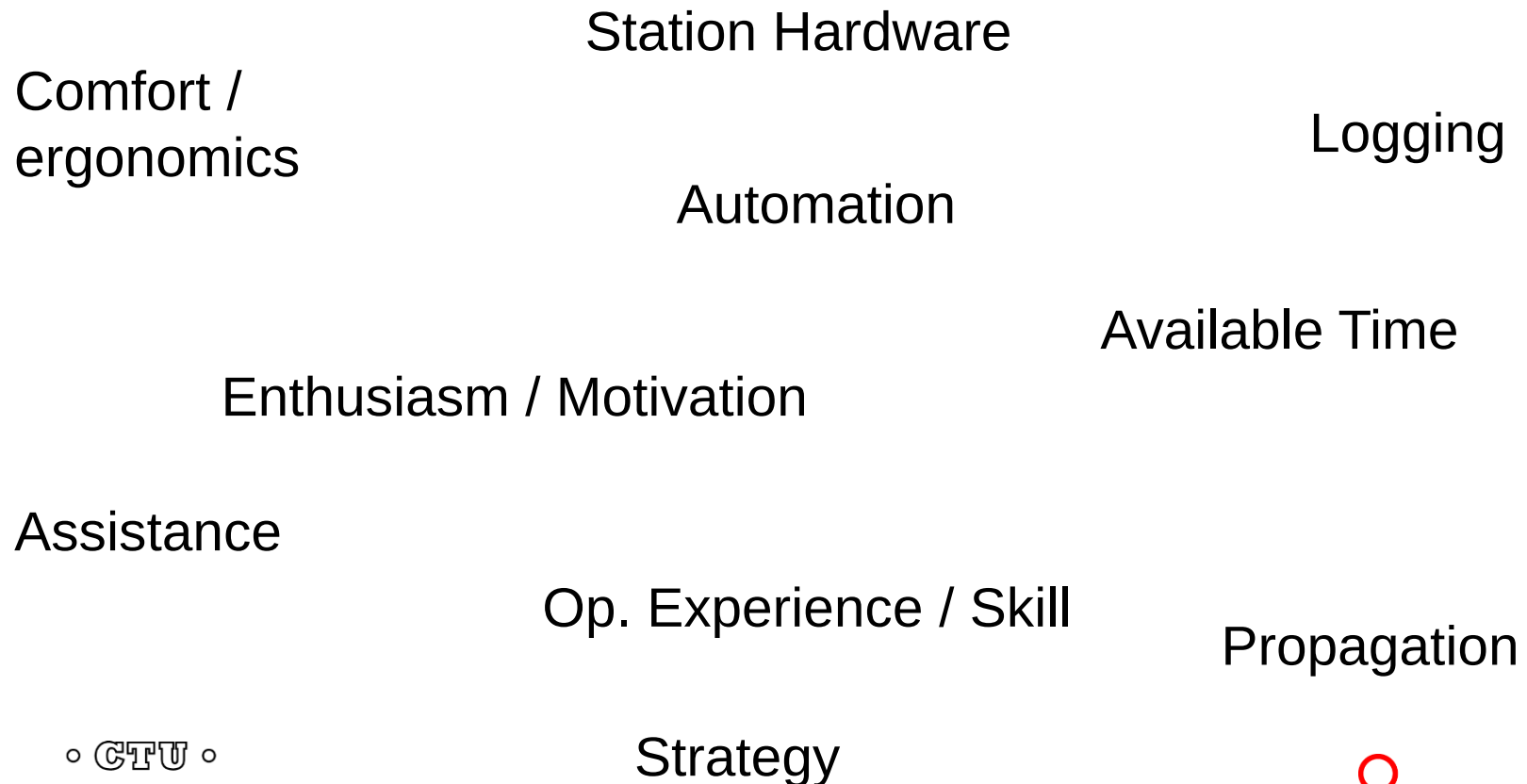


- I suppose we should define what we individually define as 'doing well'
 - High country placing
 - High continent placing
 - High world placing
 - Better than last year
 - Personal targets - Beating your mate down the street, making 100 contacts, working 50 DXCC, etc

Factors effecting our success



There are many!



And of course



Your shacks distance from necessities...



The most important factor...



Category selection



Category Selection



Questions.

- Would you enter the Multi-Multi category of CQWW SSB as a single op?
- Would you enter SOAB HP with a 200w radio?
- Would you enter SOAB HP if the station manager (your other half!) only gives you permission to play radio at night?

Think about how your entry can count for more!

Category Selection



Think about your stations strengths vs. its weaknesses when making your selection.



Category Selection

Lets look at CQWW CW's categories



Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op

Multi-Multi

Multi-Two

Multi-Single HP

Multi-Single LP

Single Op HP

Single Op LP

Single Op QRP

Single Op HP Assisted

Single Op LP Assisted

Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP

Single Band 160 LP

Single Band 160 QRP

Single Band 160 HP Assisted

Single Band 160 LP Assisted

Single Band 160 QRP Assisted

Single Band 80 HP

Single Band 80 LP

Single Band 80 QRP

Single Band 80 HP Assisted

Single Band 80 LP Assisted

Single Band 80 QRP Assisted

Single Band 40 HP

Single Band 40 LP

Single Band 40 QRP

Single Band 40 HP Assisted

Single Band 40 LP Assisted

Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP

Single Band 20 LP

Single Band 20 QRP

Single Band 20 HP Assisted

Single Band 20 LP Assisted

Single Band 20 QRP Assisted

Single Band 15 HP

Single Band 15 LP

Single Band 15 QRP

Single Band 15 HP Assisted

Single Band 15 LP Assisted

Single Band 15 QRP Assisted

Single Band 10 HP

Single Band 10 LP

Single Band 10 QRP

Single Band 10 HP Assisted

Single Band 10 LP Assisted

Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna
- You don't own an amplifier

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna
- You don't own an amplifier
- Your partner doesn't want to spend the nights alone

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna
- You don't own an amplifier
- Your partner doesn't want to spend the nights alone
- You cause awful neighbor RFI on 10m

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna
- You don't own an amplifier
- Your partner doesn't want to spend the nights alone
- You cause awful neighbor RFI on 10m
- MUF is 18MHz

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection - Scenario 1



- You're a single op
- You have no 160m antenna
- You don't own an amplifier
- Your partner doesn't want to spend the nights alone
- You cause awful neighbor RFI on 10m
- MUF is 18MHz
- You've never been a fan of using the custer/RBN

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

**The answer is 20m Single
Band Low Power or QRP!**

Category Selection – Scenario 2



- You and your friend want to enter from your station

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection – Scenario 2



- You and your friend want to enter from your station
- You have two operating positions

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection – Scenario 2



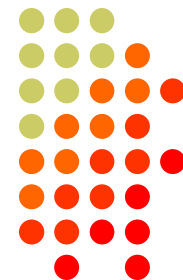
- You and your friend want to enter from your station
- You have two operating positions
- You have two triband yagis for 10/15/20 and the low bands dipoles/wires

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection – Scenario 2



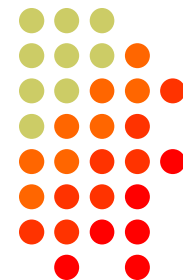
- You and your friend want to enter from your station
- You have two operating positions
- You have two triband yagis for 10/15/20 and the low bands dipoles/wires
- You both are available for the entire weekend

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection – Scenario 2



- You and your friend want to enter from your station
- You have two operating positions
- You have two triband yagis for 10/15/20 and the low bands dipoles/wires
- You both are available for the entire weekend
- Propagation is good on all bands

Multi-Multi
Multi-Two
Multi-Single HP
Multi-Single LP
Single Op HP
Single Op LP
Single Op QRP
Single Op HP Assisted
Single Op LP Assisted
Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP
Single Band 160 LP
Single Band 160 QRP
Single Band 160 HP Assisted
Single Band 160 LP Assisted
Single Band 160 QRP Assisted
Single Band 80 HP
Single Band 80 LP
Single Band 80 QRP
Single Band 80 HP Assisted
Single Band 80 LP Assisted
Single Band 80 QRP Assisted
Single Band 40 HP
Single Band 40 LP
Single Band 40 QRP
Single Band 40 HP Assisted
Single Band 40 LP Assisted
Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP
Single Band 20 LP
Single Band 20 QRP
Single Band 20 HP Assisted
Single Band 20 LP Assisted
Single Band 20 QRP Assisted
Single Band 15 HP
Single Band 15 LP
Single Band 15 QRP
Single Band 15 HP Assisted
Single Band 15 LP Assisted
Single Band 15 QRP Assisted
Single Band 10 HP
Single Band 10 LP
Single Band 10 QRP
Single Band 10 HP Assisted
Single Band 10 LP Assisted
Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Category Selection – Scenario 2



- You and your friend want to enter from your station
- You have two operating positions
- You have two triband yagis for 10/15/20 and the low bands dipoles/wires
- You both are available for the entire weekend
- Propagation is good on all bands

Multi-Multi

Multi-Two

Multi-Single HP

Multi-Single LP

Single Op HP

Single Op LP

Single Op QRP

Single Op HP Assisted

Single Op LP Assisted

Single Op QRP Assisted

Single Band 160 HP

Single Band 160 LP

Single Band 160 QRP

Single Band 160 HP Assisted

Single Band 160 LP Assisted

Single Band 160 QRP Assisted

Single Band 80 HP

Single Band 80 LP

Single Band 80 QRP

Single Band 80 HP Assisted

Single Band 80 LP Assisted

Single Band 80 QRP Assisted

Single Band 40 HP

Single Band 40 LP

Single Band 40 QRP

Single Band 40 HP Assisted

Single Band 40 LP Assisted

Single Band 40 QRP Assisted

Single Band 20 HP

Single Band 20 LP

Single Band 20 QRP

Single Band 20 HP Assisted

Single Band 20 LP Assisted

Single Band 20 QRP Assisted

Single Band 15 HP

Single Band 15 LP

Single Band 15 QRP

Single Band 15 HP Assisted

Single Band 15 LP Assisted

Single Band 15 QRP Assisted

Single Band 10 HP

Single Band 10 LP

Single Band 10 QRP

Single Band 10 HP Assisted

Single Band 10 LP Assisted

Single Band 10 QRP Assisted

Lots of options! The only category that would be easy to eliminate is Multi-Multi

Category Selection



CQWW also have overlay categories for single operator entries:

CLASSIC: One radio, 24 hours max, non assisted, 60 min off times

ROOKIE: Newly licensed entrants (within 3 years)

SOAB?



- There are many SOAB entries in CQWW that enter less than 24 hours of operation
- If entered in the CLASSIC category, they would be placed MUCH higher in the result rankings
- There are also entrants who do very well who were licensed within 3 years of the contest. If this were to have been stipulated on the entry, 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions likely change!
- Do you want to be placed high in World or Continent SOAB but do not have SO2R capability? Consider trading the extra 24 hours of operating for a CLASSIC entry. The serious competitors in SOAB will be running two radios. Perhaps a single band entry would meet your desires better? Maybe two single band entries! (but only with separate callsigns).

SSB											
Call	Year	Loc	Zn	Category	Score	QSOs	Zn	Cty	Hours	Operato	
GOVDZ	2020	G	14	SA LOW 80M	12,267	281	7	40	10.4		
MSA	2020	G	14	SA QRP 15M	3,952	85	9	29	9.0	GOVDZ	
GOW	2015	G	14	SA QRP 40M	5,175	104	7	38	9.4	GOVDZ	
GOW	2013	G	14	SO LOW ALL	19,594	124	31	66	5.2	GOVDZ	
GOW	2012	G	14	SA LOW 40M	22,176	288	15	62	9.6	GOVDZ	
GOW	2011	G	14	SA HIGH 10M	77,600	330	32	65	7.3	GOVDZ	

Category Selection



Check propagation. Monitor conditions on the build up to the contest and check the solar forecast. This can really help with category selection. For many years, the 10m band has experienced much change. Some years yield zero QSOs for many whilst other years allow several thousand on this band. The same, whilst rarely as poor as 10m, can also be said for 15m too.

Space Weather Prediction Center:

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/impacts/hf-radio-communications>

Low Power CLASSIC



Single Op Low Power 15m Assisted – 1st Japan Area 8!



Single Op Single Band 20m QRP



Some interesting facts...



CQWW CW 2020

- QRP 160m, UA2FF achieved world winner with 616 QSOs
- QRP 160m, 9A6K was awarded with 1st place Croatia having made just 1 QSO!
- Similarly, YE1WIL achieved 1st place Indonesia in Single Band 10m High Power having made 1 QSO!
- In SOAB HP, 1st World made 662 QSOs more than 2nd World! 2nd place made a staggering 10,920 QSOs (ZF1A) with TI7W in 1st with 11,582 QSOs.
- If ZF1A would have entered in the Multi Single category, he would have also come 2nd world!

Final thoughts...



- **Do whatever necessary to have as much fun as possible, even if this means entering a category against the suggestions in this presentation.**
- **If you're operating 24 hours or less, consider the CLASSIC category. Similarly, if you're newly licensed, check the ROOKIE box when entering.**
- **Check the rules for category information for each and every contest as they can differ quite a lot.**
- **If you want a good placing in the results table, think about all the pros and cons of your station, your situation, and YOU. Consider propagation.**
- **Have a fall back plan**

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73!

Dit dit