# Yavapai Amateur Radio Club 2 Meter Challenge

During the month of April 2020, from April 1st through April 30, the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club will host a *contact challenge* on 2 Meter FM Simplex.

During our "social separation" many of us are staying home with sometimes little to do.  But the nets are more active and there is more activity on HF.  More of us are enjoying operating.

YARC is holding a "contest" on 2 meters to provide our members the opportunity to make contacts using their privileges; to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of simplex operations; and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.  The contest is open to any licensed radio amateur, the object being to make as many two-way QSO's with as many different hams, in as many different cities as possible during the month.

Remember, this is a FUN contest. All participants are encouraged to submit their logs, even if they only make a few contacts. It is not necessary to have a big "contest station" to participate. This contest can be worked with only a 2 meter handheld.

1. **Contest Period:** This will be a month long event, beginning April 1, at 07:01 UTC (00:01 hrs MST) through May 1, 06:59 UTC (April 30, at 23:59 hrs MST).

2. **Contacts** are limited to FM simplex on the 2 meter band. Repeater contacts for points are not allowed. All stations (Fixed or Mobile) may transmit only on one radio at a time. (Multiple operators in a team, using the same call sign, cannot use more than one radio at a time, or transmit from different locations, using the same call sign). For example, if several operators want to use a club call sign, they must designate a single power level and location, just like any single operator. All stations are either Fixed (which includes portable) or Mobile. Even if you start the contest as a Fixed station, as soon as you operate from another location, you will be considered a Mobile. For all contacts, at least one station must be located within the state of Arizona. Operators must use the same power level for the duration of the contest.

3. **Contest Frequencies**: Frequencies essentially follow the ARRL VHF Contest Rules and VHF band plan.  Please be sure to stay within the area allocated for 2 meter FM simplex operation. No stations may operate outside the traditional simplex portion of the band.
   a. Suggested frequencies: 146.475, 146.490, 146.505, 146.550, 146.565, 146.580, 147.420, 147.435, 147.450, 147.465, 147.480, 147.495, 147.510, 147.525, 147.540, 147.555, 147.570. *Frequencies that have a potential conflict with repeater inputs (low end of 146 Simplex) and the National Calling Frequency have been omitted.* (See additional note at the end of this document.)

    b.  Do not contest on 146.520 - the National Simplex Calling frequency!  If you make contact on 146.520 move to an acceptable frequency for a QSO for your log entry.

    c.  Share the frequencies - remember this is a Fun Contest, so if someone jumps in after you've made a contact, let it go. Have a good time.

    d.  Solicitations for simplex contacts on a repeater are permitted. Get more people to switch over to simplex and make contacts. However, contest contacts on repeaters are not permitted. You must make all of your contacts on 2 meter FM Simplex only.

4. **Exchange**: There are 3 exchange items - Give your **call sign**, the name of the city, village, town or township from **where you are operating** and your **power level**. Rovers and mobiles must be within the city limits of whatever city they claim to be operating from.

    a.  City or Town: This is simply the name of the city or town you are operating from. If you do not live within the city limits, use the name of the town or municipality to which mail or a package would be addressed. For mobile entries, use the name of the city, town (or jurisdiction) where you are located.

    b.  Power levels are defined as follows:
        1.  •QRP - 5 watts or less.
        2.  •Medium power - greater than 5 watts, but less than 100
        3.  •High Power - 100 watts or more

Remember, this is a contest to make QSOs.  You have a month to collect/log contacts. Longer discussions are encouraged not just "5-9" and then "QRZ".

5. **Entry Categories:** There are two entry categories: Fixed and Mobile. You may enter only one category for the contest. If a station gives out more than one multiplier during the contest, that station will automatically be entered into the mobile category.

A.  A **"Fixed"** station location means that the participant must operate the entire duration of the contest from one specific location. This category would also include setting up a temporary, portable station at a remote location, "Field-Day" style.

B.  A **"Mobile / Rover"** station is an operator who operates from a vehicle, with the option of activating more than one multiplier during the duration of the contest.

6. **Scoring:** Each station you work is worth 1 point.

A.  A station can be worked only once, (unless it is mobile). A mobile station may be worked more than once only if it moves to a different city, village, town, or township. Similarly, a mobile station may contact a fixed station more than once only if he/she has not already worked that station from the same location.

B.  Multipliers: After you add up your score, you can get extra bonus points.

Count the number of different cities, villages, towns, or townships you contact, then multiply your score times that number.

7. **Awards:** Certificates will be awarded to the top scoring entrant in each category and power level, as well as overall high score, so you have lots of chances.
The categories are as follows:
   a. FIXED-QRP
   b. FIXED-MEDIUM
   c. FIXED-HIGH
   d. MOBILE-QRP
   e. MOBILE-MEDIUM
   f. MOBILE-HIGH
   g. Overall High Score

8. **Reporting:**
   a. Hand-written logs should be mailed to: 2 Meter Contest, c/o YARC, PO Box 11994, Prescott, AZ 86304. Email electronic Cabrillo-formatted logs to: WB7THP, dbauer2250@aol.com
   b. Entries that have been hand-written must be submitted on Official Log Sheets.
   c. Entries that have been electronically generated must submit their log file in the Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of electronic files are not acceptable substitutes. Logs created with word processing or spreadsheet software are considered electronic logs and must be submitted in Cabrillo format.
   Please note that if you use a logging program it will likely create the Cabrillo-formatted file for you.
   d. Entries must be emailed or postmarked no later than 03:59 UTC, May 30, 2020.
   e. Rovers / Mobiles must clearly state on their logs the location they were transmitting from for each contact. There is no requirement to submit separate log sheets for each location.
   f. All log times should be recorded in UTC.

9. **Club Competition:**
   Members of the Yavapai ARC may group together as a club station. Club members must use the W7YRC call, when operating in the contest as a club entry. The W7YRC entry will not be scored in competition with individual entries, but will be recorded for fun and comparison only.

10. **Miscellaneous:**
   a. If the contest committee cannot read your writing, the claimed contact(s) will be disqualified.
   b. If an overwhelming number of claimed QSO's (more than 50%) cannot be read, the entire entry may be disqualified at the discretion of the contest committee.

c. Any duplicate contacts claimed for credit will be removed from the log with no additional penalty.
d. A QSO with busted exchange data will be removed from the log with no additional penalty.
e. Aeronautical mobile and maritime mobile stations may be worked for QSO credit only.
f. In all cases, the decision of the contest committee will be final.
g. The use of remote transceivers or internet links is strictly prohibited.
h. This contest is being conducted on the honor system. Let's all play fair and have fun!
i. Forms and log sheets can be found on the W7YRC website: [www.W7YRC.org](www.W7YRC.org) The logs which are received and contest results will be announced on the W7YRC website. Questions concerning the contest should be addressed to WG7W@ARRL.net. The Contest Committee of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club will make any decisions concerning Rules interpretation or contest submissions, and the decisions of the Committee will be final.

## Note to newer hams:

While it is always good to learn manual programming of your radio (particularly hand-helds), programming simplex frequencies either manually or with computer software is relatively easy. There are no repeater offsets or pl tones to worry about.

If you must pre-program your hand-held radio, it is good practice to maintain a 20 khz spacing between programmed frequencies, which would give you 146.440, 146.460, 146.480, and 146.500 below the national calling frequency. Above that are 146.540, 146.560, etc. The same spacing works for 147.420 – 147.560.