

Rules for 2025 VHF Fall Sprint Contests

1.0 Contest Purpose: Encourage weak signal VHF/UHF amateur radio operation & have fun.

2.0 Contest Time and Date:

1. 50 MHz: 1800 UTC to 2200 UTC time on Saturday, August 9, 2025
2. 144 MHz: 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Monday, September 22, 2025
3. 222 MHz: 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Tuesday, September 30, 2025
4. 432 MHz: 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Wednesday, October 8, 2025
5. 902 MHz and up: 8 AM to 2 PM local time on Saturday, October 25, 2025

Note: Sprint contestants must operate no more than four hours between your first contact and your last contact in the 144, 222, and 432 MHz sprints.

3.0 Modes of Operation: All simplex modes of operation are allowed. (CW, SSB, FM, AM, and Digital) Contacts through repeaters or via satellite are not allowed and will not count as contest contacts.

4.0 Classes: Stations will be classified as either **Single Op HP**, **Single Op LP**, or **Rover**. A portable or mobile station that operates from only one grid is considered a Single Op station. A Rover must operate from at least 2 grid squares. **A Rover can have more than one operator, but only one operator on the air at a time! Two person teams are encouraged for safety.**

4.1 Power: Power output used for contacts will be used to classify contestants into either High or Low power categories. You may want to place your station information such as rig, output power, antenna etc. in the notes section of your entry. The following are the power level limits for the HP, LP and QRP groupings on the 3830 web site.

- a. QRP: up to 5 watts PEP. (QRP entry data used for informational purposes)
- b. Low Power: up to 200 watts PEP. (any band)
- c. High Power: up to 1500 watts PEP. (any band)

4.2 A transmitter used to contact one or more stations may not be subsequently used under any other callsign during the contest period with the following exceptions:

- a. Family stations where more than one call sign has been issued, and then only if the second call sign is used by a different operator
- b. Remote stations used by individual amateurs that have limited or no access to their own stations

This rule does not permit any operator to use multiple call signs at the same station to manufacture contacts to another station in the contest.

5.0 Contest Exchange:

50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz sprints use 4 digit Maidenhead Grid Square exchange (ex FN20). Microwave 902 and up contest exchange **must** be the full 6 character grid (ex FN20ke).

6.0 Reporting: Operator score **must** be entered on the 3830 web page in the form provided for the particular sprint. The web page address is <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Your grid square goes in the web site box for "QTH." Microwave use 6 digit grid. Rovers use the first grid activated as QTH.

The results must be posted on the 3830 web page **within 14 days of the event.**

Winning entries MUST SUPPLY A LOG for review by the sprint chairman if requested to make the score official. The Log can be a mailed paper log or emailed as an attached text file in an ARRL recognized format. ARRL log sheets are the preferred paper format.

Send Requested Logs to Sprint Chairman:

Phil Miguelez WA3NUF

Email: philnuf@aol.com or postal mail:

Phil Miguelez

445 Ivy Street

Warminster, PA 18974

6.1 Scoring: For 50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz, 1 point per QSO on any band. A station may be worked once using an analog mode (SSB / CW/ FM / AM) and once again using a digital mode for a total of two times per band. Analog modes cannot be made on generally recognized digital frequencies while digital contacts must be made generally recognized digital frequencies.

Count grids worked only once per band regardless of mode worked. Example: Working EN80 on both Analog and Digital counts as one multiplier, not two.

Multipliers would be the total number of unique grid squares worked for that specific band/sprint.

Final score: Multiply QSO points by the multipliers. Each Sprint is scored separately. Distance based total kilometers worked would be an optional entry for information only. (Distances are not very accurate from 4 digit grids.)

6.2 Rover Scoring: 50, 144, 222 and 432MHz, 1 point per QSO on any band. Multiplier would be the total number of grid squares worked regardless of mode for that specific band/Sprint.

If the rover moves to a new grid, then works a station again, a new contact is made for both stations. The new grid will be a new multiplier if the grid was not worked before. When you move to a new grid, you start over on additional new multipliers.

K2EZ/R in EM73 works EM84 as a multiplier

K2EZ/R in EM74 works EM84 as a new multiplier

Final score: Multiply QSO points by the multipliers. Each Sprint is scored separately. Distance based total kilometers worked would be an optional entry for information only.

6.3 Microwave Scoring: For Microwave, 902 MHz and above a station may be worked once using an analog mode (SSB / CW/ FM / AM) and once again using a digital mode for a total of two times per band. Analog modes cannot be made on generally recognized digital frequencies while digital contacts must be made on generally recognized digital frequencies.

The final score is the sum of the distance of all contacts in kilometers. A station worked on a new band is a new contact. If a rover moves to a new (4 digit) grid he/she can be worked again for another contact.

The 6 digit grid square exchange is required for accurate distance calculation.

Contacts within the same 6 digit grid counts as 1 kilometer.

6.4 Microwave Rover Scoring: Scored like Single Op Microwave (see paragraph 6.3), except stations can be contacted again for score after moving to a new (4 digit) grid. Grids activated are not used directly for scoring and is not reported on 3830 website.

6.5 The contest scoring is intended to be done mostly on the "Honor System". However, after the submission period has expired (**14** days after each particular sprint operating event), the Sprints Committee or Chairman for that particular event will review the top 3 submissions to validate accuracy of the submission. The Sprints Chairman reserves the right to request for review, the actual contest log for any entrant. A contest log must be submitted if requested per the instructions listed in reporting rule 6.0 above.

7.0 Rover Operation: A rover must be a portable or mobile station that makes contacts from at least two different Grid Squares. For all sprints, including microwave the rover must move to a new 4 digit Grid Square.

8.0 Assistance: Use of telephone, text, packet, chat pages or similar internet methods to **schedule** contacts during the contest is acceptable. The telephone, packet or internet channel will not be used while the contact is in progress. **No** "OK I am hearing you now" over the other communications channel. The alternate channel will not be available in any way to the

operators during the contact. The complete exchange of call signs and grids must be accomplished on the relevant amateur radio band. The preferred scheduling method is on an amateur frequency such as 144.250MHz or 432.090MHz.

Revision 2.0 by WA3NUF 05/24/25

Additional information and rules will be posted on the Packrats web site:

<https://packratvhf.com/index.php/fall-sprints>

See following for 3830 website required information. Underline identifies a user entry box.
* Indicates required sprint scoring information.

3830 information 50 to 432 MHz Spring/Fall Sprint

*** Note: Please do not post your entire log into the comments section on the 3830 Scores Web site. With the ability of entrants being able to update and make changes to their entry, we want to avoid bringing the integrity of the Sprint's events into question. ***

(**band** is 50MHz, 144MHz, 222MHz, or 432MHz) for 4 separate contest entries

Submitter's E-mail Address* _____ Send copy to this email address

Call Used* _____ Class* Single Op / Rover Power* HP / LP / QRP

Operator Call _____ Station Call _____

Op Time (hrs) _____ QTH* (Grid Square) Club (none)

	QSOs	Mults	Total Score	Total Distance, km (optional)
* band	* _____	* _____	* _____	_____

Comments _____(optional)

3830 information Microwave Spring/Fall Sprint

Submitter's E-mail Address* _____ Send copy to this email address

Call Used* _____ Class* Single Op / Rover Power* HP / LP / QRP

Operator Call _____ Station Call _____

Op Time (hrs) _____ QTH* (6 digit Grid Square) Club (none)

	QSOs	Total Distance, km	Best DX QSO, km
*	_____	* _____	* _____

Comments _____(optional)

Information is included in all forms on 3830 site:

Log submission info

<http://www.3830scores/index.php>

Link to contest rules

<https://packratvhf.com/index.php/fall-sprints>