

# HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

## **GENERAL**

As a first-time happening, the HamCation QSO Party is a somewhat non-standard event, so here are some Frequently Asked Questions, and answers thereto. If you have further questions, ask, and we will answer!

### **What the heck is a "QSO Party"?**

If you made it here, you are likely a contester who knows the answer. But if not, do not be scared away!

It is an event where you try to briefly talk to as many people as you can. Sort of think of it like walking around HamCation, checking out name badges. "Hi Bill, I'm Tom. Where in 8-land you from? Aren't you glad you're not up there where it's 22 degrees?" And see how many people you meet. Do not be afraid - just jump in!

### **How can I replicate the fine outdoor dining experience of HamCation?**

Sorry, cannot help you with that one. Call GrubHub, DoorDash, or your XYL.

### **Can I talk to anybody?**

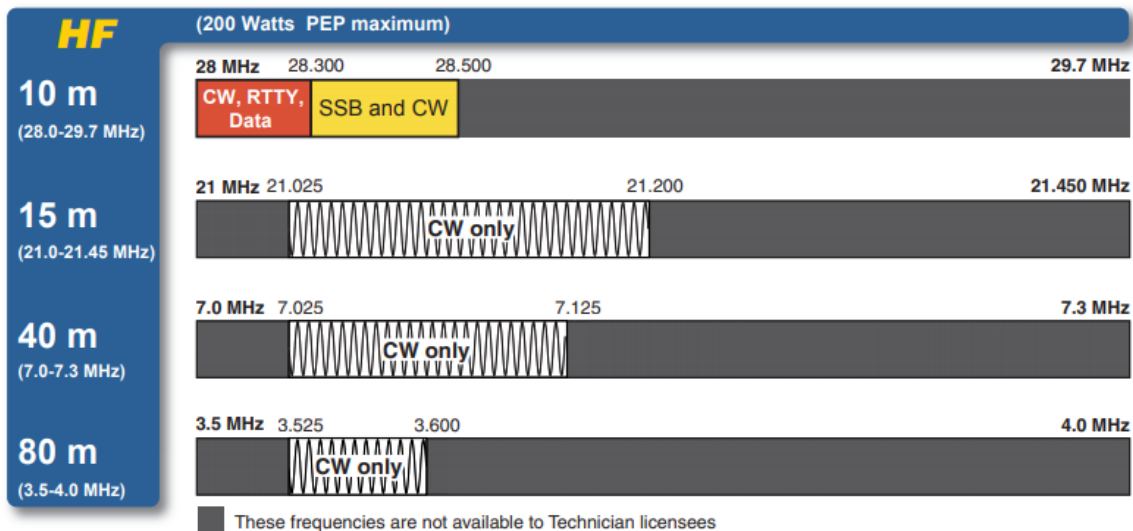
Yep! While most QSO Parties are state-centered events where people outside that state can only work the people inside that state, in the HamCation QSO Party you can talk to anybody anywhere. If you are lucky, you can find somebody where it is even colder than where you are.

### **I have a Technician Class license; how can I participate?**

As a Technician, we suggest you ask a friend who has a General Class license, or higher, if you can sit with him and operate in the QSO Party. This is a perfect way for you to become acquainted with the fun and challenge of contesting.

# HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

With a Technician Class license here is where you can operate:



## What temperature do we use?

You can simply use the expected Saturday high temperature at your QTH. But if you would like to keep a current temperature report, go ahead - we are not checking those things in this casual, fun event!

## Fahrenheit or Celsius?

Use what you use in your country. Just please don't use Kelvin or Rankine!

## How do we send below zero temperatures on CW?

Use "N" for "Negative", i.e. "N10" for minus-10.

## What is the reason for the HamCation 1x1 Special Event stations?

***For extra fun, there will be 1x1 bonus stations to spell out "HAMCATION". Work them all and add 100 points to your score.***

HamCation Special Event stations are:

K4H – W4A – K4M – W4C – N4A – K4T – W4I -K4O – W4N

"H A M C A T I O N"

## HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

Special Event stations will all be in Florida but in different counties. They will be at good contest stations with experienced operators. There will be one station, K4O, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando, keeping the HamCation tradition alive there for 2021!

1x1	CALL	STN	CTY	GRID
K4H	N4EEB	SO	VOL	EL99
W4A	K5KG	M2	SAR	EL87
K4M	W4WF	M2	ORA	EL98
W4C	N4UU	M2	ALC	EL89
N4A	W4LT	M2 TARC remote	HIL	EL88
N4A	NX4N	M2	HIL	EL88
K4T	K4SBZ	M2 SSB	LEO	EM70
K4T	N4BP	M2 CW	BRO	EL96
W4I	N1TO	SO	IDR	EL97
K4O	K8MR	M2 fairgrounds	ORA	EL98
W4N	K2DM	M2	SUM	EL88

### **Can I get QSL confirmations for my contacts with the 1x1 Special Event stations?**

Yes, QSL confirmations will be available on the ARRL LogBook of the World (LoTW)

For information on LoTW, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>.

### **Will there be Awards and Certificates?**

Yes, top scores in High Power, Low Power, and QRP categories will receive a plaque sponsored by ICOM.

Certificates will be available to every station that submits their score to [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com).

Certificates will also be available to every station that that submits their score to [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com) and contacts all nine 1x1 "HAMCATION" Special Event stations.

# HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

## **LOGGING YOUR CONTACTS**

Logging software is not necessary since you will not be required to submit a log for the HamCation QSO Party. All you need to keep track of is how many contacts you make, as each contact is worth 1 point. Also, you will want to keep track of the 1x1 “HAMCATION” Special Event stations you work. Working all nine, it is worth 100 extra points.

However, you will likely wish to log your contacts to keep track of who you work and how many stations you contact. Here are suggestions for logging programs to use in the “HCQP”:

### **N3FJP AMATEUR RADIO SOFTWARE**

This is contest logging software more appropriate for someone new to contesting and contesting software. It is available at <http://www.n3fjp.com/>.

If using N3FJP, we suggest using the 10-10 Contest module

### **N1MM LOGGER PLUS**

N1MM LOGGER PLUS is logging software specifically designed for ham radio contesting. It is free software and is available at [n1mmwp.hamdocs.com](http://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com). This is excellent software, but is quite complex, and not for anyone unfamiliar with contest logging programs.

## *HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ*

For users of N1MM+, a User Defined Contest (UDC) module is available for the HamCation QSO Party. Download the HAMCATION UDC from here:

**<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/mmfiles/hamcation-zip/>**

It will download as HAMCATION.ZIP. **Upon unzipping HAMCATION.ZIP, follow the ReadMe instructions inside to load the three files:**

- **HAMCATION.udc**
  - Install in: /UserDefinedContests
  - When “Opening New Log in Database”. Log Type will show “HAMCATION”
- **HAMCATION.sec**
  - Install in: /SupportFiles
  - HAMCATION.sec file is a list of the nine 1x1 special event stations. This provides a feature that allows the operator to keep track of working the nine 1x1 stations.
  - Windows/Multipliers/Sections/States - nine 1x1 calls will show, and will be checked off as they are worked.
- **HAMCATION\_CH-002.txt**
  - Install in: /CallHistoryFiles
  - Config: Check “Enable Call History Lookup”
  - Associated Files: Select “HAMCATION\_CH.txt:

### **Will other logging software work?**

Yes, any other software that accommodates the CWOps CWT ought to work, entering the name in the Name Field and the QTH and Temperature in the Member Number field. You may have to not use a space between the QTH and Temperature to avoid jumping out of that field.

# HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

## What is LoTW?

ARRL LogBook of the World (LoTW) is a free service offered by the ARRL that provides a reliable means of maintaining and validating QSOs. It is a system used by over 100,000 amateurs all over the world.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

All contacts made by the nine 1x1 Special Event "HAMCATION" stations will be posted to LoTW after the QSO Party.

## BEFORE AND AFTER THE HamCation QSO PARTY

### What should I do to prepare for the QSO Party?

- Read the rules here:
  - <https://www.hamcation.com/special-event-station>
- Read the rules.
- Read the rules .... **Did we say, "read the rules"!!!**
- Check out and test your station equipment and antennas.
- For SSB, test your audio setting to make sure your audio is "clean."
- Log into [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com) to be sure you are familiar with submitting your score after the QSO Party.
- Clear the deck with your family – make sure they know you will be busy working this fun event.
- If you are going to use logging software, test it with some test QSOs.
- Do not forget to delete those test QSOs from your log.
- Prepare drinks and snacks.
- Relax!

# HamCation QSO PARTY - FAQ

## **What must I do after the QSO Party?**

- Before Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, go to [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com) and submit your score.
- If you have logged the QSO Party, submit your log to LoTW.
- Mark February 11-13, 2022 on your calendar to come in person to Orlando HamCation.
- Reintroduce yourself to your family and treat your Honey to Valentine's Day!

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K5KG