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# Announcing: The 2017 CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest

**CW: 2200Z January 27 to 2200Z January 29**  
**(Log deadline Feb. 3)**

**SSB: 2200Z February 24 to 2200Z February 26**  
**(Log deadline Mar. 3)**

**A**re you looking for an operating challenge? If so, we've got a double dose for you!

Operating "top band" — 160 meters — is always a challenge, but with the promise of great DX when you "get it right." Operating a contest is always a challenge as well, competing with other stations for every contact and then competing again for the highest score. The CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest combines both as one of the most challenging operating events on the ham radio calendar each year, but with great opportunities to work new stations in new places and improve your operating skills.

Your goal is simple — contact as many stations as you can in as many countries as you can within the 48-hour contest period (single-operator entries are limited to 30 hours of on-air time; multi-ops, 40). The CW weekend comes first, from 2200 UTC on Friday, January 27, through 2200 UTC on Sunday, January 29. The SSB weekend is a month later, from Friday, February 24 through Sunday, February 26, also from 2200-2200 UTC. Remember to abide by any frequency or power restrictions imposed by your country's radio regulations, and try to spread out at much as possible within your band limits.

The contest exchange (the information you *exchange* with the other station) is also simple: A signal report in RS(T), and your location — either U.S. state or Canadian province, or CQ zone for stations outside the U.S. and Canada. (If you're not sure of your CQ zone, visit <<http://bit.ly/1BHtmsP>>.)

There are several operating categories: Single-operator/high power (up to your country's legal limit); single-op/low power (up to 150 watts); single-op QRP (no more than 5 watts); single-op assisted (high power only), and multi-operator (high power only). Single-op assisted and multi-op stations may use *passive* spotting assistance such as a DX Cluster, spotting nets, or a CW Skimmer; all other single-op categories must be unassisted, using only what you hear on the band to locate and identify stations. *Self-spotting* or asking someone to post a spot for you is never

allowed and may be grounds for disqualification. (Additional definitions and restrictions may be found in the complete rules, along with rules for remote operation.)

Scoring is based on the number of contacts you make and where they're located, as well as your number of *multipliers*, the total of states, provinces, and DX countries that you contact. If you're a casual contester, don't even worry about your score as it will be calculated for you by the contest robot when you upload your log. Serious competitors will want to find the right balance of contacts and multipliers to maximize their scores. (The complete rules have more details about points and multipliers.)

After the contest, we encourage you to submit your log, even if you don't think you have a chance of winning anything (you might be wrong!), as it will help our log-checking process. If you've used a logging program, it's easy — just have the program output a Cabrillo file and email it either to <160CW@cq160.com> or <160SSB@cq160.com>, depending on the weekend in which you've been operating. If there are problems with your log, the robot will send you an email telling you what needs attention; otherwise it will send you an email with a tracking/confirmation number.

If you've logged on paper or don't have internet access, paper/disk logs may be mailed to: CQ 160 Meter Contest, 17 W. John St., Hicksville, NY 11801 USA. Indicate CW or SSB on the envelope. Mailed logs must be postmarked by the deadline (see below).

Logs must be submitted/postmarked within five (5) days after the end of the contest, February 3 and March 3, respectively. Hardship cases that require more time for log submission will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Email your request and reasons to <director@cq160.com>.

See the complete rules on the CQ website <[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)> or the CQWW 160 website <[www.cq160.com](http://www.cq160.com)>. Questions may be emailed to <[questions@cq160.com](mailto:questions@cq160.com)>, but read the complete rules first. Rule #1: Have fun!