

# Lancaster County Maidenhead Grid Contest Rules

## Primary Objective

For local hams to contact other stations in as many Maidenhead Grid Subsquares as possible in Lancaster County.

## Secondary Goals:

- 1) To encourage local ham activity.
- 2) To introduce newly upgraded hams to some HF operating procedures like calling CQ, logging, using phonetics, chasing rare DX, and talking to people they don't already know!
- 3) To give APRSers, geocachers, and transmitter hunters something else to do while they drive around the county!

## Date and Contest Period

Noon to 9:00 PM local time, Saturday, May 23, 2009.

## Frequencies/Modes

All contacts must be made on 2 Meter FM simplex frequencies only. Although repeater contacts are not valid this year for point credit, you are encouraged to use area repeaters to announce your operation and your simplex operating frequency. Please do not abuse or monopolize any repeater, however, and always be courteous and yield to other users. Suggested 2 Meter simplex frequencies: 146.55 and 146.58. If these frequencies become congested, consider using 146.43, 146.46, 146.49, or any other simplex frequency of your choice. 146.52 is the National Simplex Calling Frequency and should not be used for contest contacts.

## Entry Categories

- 1) *Fixed*. All contacts made from a single QTH/Grid Subsquare.
- 2) *Mobile*. All contacts made from a maximum of 12 different Grid Subsquares
- 3) *Unlimited*. Contacts may be made from any number of grid squares and may include any combination of mobile, fixed or portable operation.
- 4) *Handheld*. 5 watts or less. May include portable operation from one or more Grid Subsquares.

All categories may include helpers, loggers, navigators, guest ops, etc. (but all contacts must be made using the same callsign and in the presence of the callsign licensee.)

## Contest Exchange

Each station should exchange their first name and the last two letters of their current Grid Subsquare. Use of phonetics is strongly encouraged.

## Simplified Logging

Information logged for each contact must include the operator names and the last two letters of yours and the other stations' Maidenhead subsquares. Logging of date, time, mode and frequency of contacts is not required.

## Scoring

- 1) *Fixed Category*: Multiply the number of different grids worked times the total number of contacts made.
- 2) *Mobile Category*: Add the total number of grids worked from each of your operating grids and multiply that sum times the total number of contacts made from all grids.
- 3) *Unlimited Category*: Same scoring as Mobile Category.
- 4) *Handheld Category*: Same scoring as Mobile Category if operation is from multiple grids; same as Fixed Category if operation is from one grid only.

Additional contacts with the same station (unless one or both of your grids has changed) will be considered duplicates and will not count, but there is no other penalty for duplicate contacts.

**Active Elmer Bonus!** If you team up with a new ham (licensed after January 1, 2008), a prospective ham, or a ham who does not own a radio of his or her own, multiply your total score by 1.1 (a ten percent bonus!)

## Reporting

Logs and summary sheets should be emailed, mailed or given to Greg KTØK by June 31.

## Miscellaneous

All contacts must be made using the same callsign, but you may recruit team members to operate, log, or navigate. If more than one operator uses your callsign, the exchange should include the actual operator's

name. Only one signal/transmitter may be on the air at a time. Team members may take turns operating, but may not operate other radios at the same time!

Mobile Category stations may give contacts to other stations from any grid subsquare they are in if they choose, but may only count contacts from a total of 12 subsquares. In other words, if you are driving through other subsquares, you may still make contacts and give your current subsquare to benefit others, but they do not count toward your score. You may determine your 12 "best" grid subsquares after the contest and choose those as your official 12 for scoring purposes. If you wish to count your contacts made from more than 12 subsquares, you must change your entry category to Unlimited.

Don't feel limited by your normal mobile antenna or handheld rubber duck antennas...be creative!

Think of ways to maximize your contacts and efficiency. Consider taking a list of stations who want to contact you and then call them one at a time (similar to our ARES Net checkin format). Remember to be courteous and let others share the frequency. Maximizing efficiency and "data throughput" on crowded frequencies is great practice for emergency communications and HF operating!

This is a great time to throw the GPS (or map!) in the car and drive out to the country, tour a few grid subsquares or have a picnic from your favorite park, and get on the air!

### **Awards**

Award certificates will be given to each team member of the top three stations in each category. Additional awards possible as merited.

### **How to determine your Grid Subsquare**

There are many ways to determine your Grid Subsquare:

- 1) Determine your latitude and longitude and enter those coordinates into the Grid Square Calculator at: <http://www.arrl.org/locate/grid.html> or:
- 2) Set your GPS unit to display your position in Maidenhead Grid rather than lat/lon. This is by far the easiest method for mobile stations to use, **or:**
- 3) Use the Lancaster County Grid Square map supplied with the Contest Forms package.
- 4) **DO NOT** rely on the grid square information for your home QTH provided by QRZ.com! Those grid squares are determined based upon the center location of your Zip Code and are commonly **WRONG!** Zip Code areas and Maidenhead Grids do not coincide! Once you determine your true Maidenhead Grid Square, you may wish to log on to [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and correct your listing info.

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# Lancaster County Maidenhead Grid Square Contest Summary Sheet

## Entrant Info

Callsign Used \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Helpers (Calls and/or names. Circle those claimed for Elmer Bonus)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Entry Category

Fixed \_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_ Handheld \_\_\_ Unlimited \_\_\_

**Fill out Score Summary A or B, whichever applies. If you prefer, you may leave the following summary sections blank and we will calculate your score for you. Be sure to include your log!**

### A. Score Summary (If all contacts are made from one grid)

Your Grid \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Contacts Made		Number of Grids Worked		Points
	<b>X</b>		=	

Elmer Bonus **Total Points X 1.1 = FINAL SCORE** →

### B. Score Summary (If contacts are made from multiple grids)

	Your Grid	Number of Contacts Made	Number of Grids Worked	
1				(Unlimited Category: Use a separate page to add rows for additional grids as needed)
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
			<b>X</b>	=
		Total Contacts	Total Grids Wkd	Total Points

Elmer Bonus **Total Points X 1.1 = FINAL SCORE** →

# Lancaster County Maidenhead SubGrids

(Use last two letters for contest exchange; use of phonetics is encouraged)

