Fall 2026 Classic Exchange (CX) Rules

CW
Sunday 1400Z Nov 1 - 0800Z Nov 2
Tuesday 1400Z Nov 3 - 0800Z Nov 4

SSB
Sunday 1400Z Nov 15 - 0800Z Nov 16
Tuesday 1400Z Nov 17 - 0800Z Nov 18

Bands
160-80-40-20-15-10-6-2

Modes
CW, Phone

Power
Keep it legal.....

Objective: Encourage the restoration, operation, and enjoyment of radio equipment that was the pride and joy of our ham shacks decades ago. This includes commercial, home-brew, and military radios. The state of the art radios of yesteryear are now the classic radios of today! Get a cup of coffee, watch the filaments glow, dip the plate and peak the load, and enjoy two weekends of classic radio enjoyment!

You need not operate a Classic rig to participate in the CX. You may use any rig in the contest although using new gear is a distinct scoring disadvantage as your multipliers are directly related to the age of the equipment you use! However, you can still work the "great ones" with modern equipment.

Unless indicated stated, the rules are per mode (CW or Phone).

Entry Categories: There are two categories:

A: Three or fewer receiver-transmitter pairs
B: Four or more receiver-transmitter pairs

A transceiver counts as a single receiver-transmitter pair.

Radio Qualification: Each receiver, transmitter, or transceiver must be used in a minimum of 3 QSOs to qualify for scoring.

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Suggested CX Frequencies (+/- QRM):

	CW	AM	SSB	FT-4/FT-8 (Avoid)
160M	1.810	1.890	1.920	
80M	3.545	3.860	3.840	3.573 – 3.578
40M	7.035 and 7.100 – 7.125	7.270	7.250	7.047-7.050 7.074-7.077
20M	14.045	14.280	14.260	14.074-14.083
15M	21.045	21.400	21.380	21.074-21.077 21.140-21.143
10M	28.045	29.000	28.600	28.074-28.077 21.180-28.183
6M	50.095	50.400	50.125	
2M	144.100	144.300	144.200	

I always get comments about "those (fill in the blank) digital signals" that come up on frequency. Realizing that most CXers probably do not use FT-4 or FT-8, I've added a column in the frequency guide of digital frequencies to avoid.

Note that I moved the 40M CW frequency down to 7.035 to avoid possible collisions with the 40M European FT-8 frequencies.

Listen up and down 5 to 10 Kc for crystal controlled stations

DO NOT OPERATE SSB IN THE AM WINDOW (3.880 to 3.890 Mc).

Classic Exchange Spotting Page: http://qsopartyhub.com/classic-exchange-spots.php

This has proven very popular especially as the high bands have opened up.

Note: Many of us do not have a computer at our classic operating positions. If you post something, it may be 10 to 15 minutes we check the spotting page. It's better to post "K3MSB will be on 28045 at 1700Z" ahead of time....

Contest QSO Exchange:

Exchange your RST, QTH (state US, province for Canada, country for DX), name, receiver and transmitter manufacturer/model (Home Brew send final amp tube or transistor type).

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Ex: K3MSB is calling CQ CX and is answered by WB2AWQ/7

K3MSB: GA HOWIE, 579 PA MARK TX HT37 RX SX111 BK
WB2AWQ/7: TU MARK 559 NV HOWIE TX MIL GO9 RX BC348Q BK

The same station may be worked with different equipment combinations on each band and in each mode.

Non-participating stations may be worked for scoring if all required information is exchanged.

All QSOs must be direct radio communications - not through repeaters or the Internet.

CX Multiplier:

Multipliers are per mode (CW and Phone).

This is the total age (in years) of all receivers, transmitters, and transceivers you used in that mode. Do not include age of ancillary items such as separate VFO, amplifier, key or bug, antenna, tree holding up antenna, operating desk, operator, or operator's dog.

If the equipment is Home-Brew, the age is when the design was published. If a non-published design, then the actual age built. Otherwise, use 25 years.

Transceivers score as separate receivers and transmitters of equal age; in other words, age times 2.

To qualify to be counted in the CX Multiplier, each piece of equipment must be used in a minimum of 3 complete QSOs for the claimed mode.

Bonus Points:

Bonus points are per mode (CW and Phone).

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CX (1976 to 2026), the following bonuses will be used.

-1) TBS-50 transmitter.
-2) Any radio produced during the decade of the 1970's (Jan 1, 1970 to Dec 31, 1979)
-3) Any radio type that you PERSONALLY used in 1976. For example, if you have an HW-16 and you used one in 1976; it does not have to be the exact same radio.

In cases where your radio falls into multiple categories, the bonus points are cumulative!

500 points per transmitter or receiver, 1000 points for a transceiver.
Max bonus points: UNLIMITED!
Bonus points are for radios that you qualify with at least 3 QSOs.

Scoring Example:

There will be CX recognition for high scores in Phone and CW as well as mixed.

Assume you qualified an AN/ARC-5 transmitter and receiver on CW (10 QSOs) and a Kenwood TS-830S transceiver on Phone (30 QSOs), and that the ARC-5 gear was first produced in 1940 and the Kenwood transceiver in 1980. In 2020, their ages for the CX multipliers would be as follows:

CW:

QSO: 10
AN/ARC-5 TX: 80 Years age
AN/ARC-5 RX: 80 Years age
CX Multiplier: 160 Years age

Phone:

QSOs: 30
TS830S: 40+40 = 80 Years age
Total 80 Years age

Mode	Number of QSOs	CX Multiplier	Bonus	Score	Category
CW	10	160	1000	2600	<4
Phone	30	80	500	2900	<4

Score = (QSOs x CX Multiplier) + Bonus

For our examples:

CW: Score = (10 x 160) + 1000 = 2600
Phone: Score = (30 x 80) + 500 = 2900

Make sure you enter your category. The bonus points in the above example are just what I picked; the real bonus points are CX event specific.

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Submissions:

Please send a copy of your log and a summary sheet containing a listing of the equipment used, with ages and number of QSOs for each mode. Here is an example summary sheet:

K3MSB Winter 2025 CX Score – CW

Radio	TX/RX	Year	Age	
SCR-274N				
BC-696 A	TX	1940	85	80M TX
BC-454 A	RX	1940	85	80M RX
BC-458 A	TX	1940	85	40M TX
BC-455 A	RX	1940	85	40M RX
R-390A	RX	1954	71	
DX-60B	TX	1967	58	
Total Age			469	Years
QSOs			56	
Bonus	0			

Score 26264 Category: 3 or fewer pairs

Soapbox information such as most interesting QSO, rig with the "best" chirp, unusual events preparing for or during CX and interesting stories about your classic gear would be appreciated and used by the CX Newsletter editor. Please send pictures of you, your shack(s), and antennas.

Paper logs are OK, but scans of your log and summary sheet via email are preferred.

Don't worry about formatting your soapbox materials; I will take care of that.

When sending logs via email:

- Please use "CX LOG" and your call as the subject line.
- Be sure your name and call are on your log and summary sheet

Logs, soapbox comments etc are due by Dec 15, 2026.

Send logs etc to:

logs@classicexchange.org

Received logs are listed on the CX website.

Send paper logs etc to:

K3MSB (see QRZ.com)

Log submission verification: After sending in your log and soapbox comments etc, check the CX Results page after a few days. I will post the logs I've received.

Questions / Comments?

info@classicexchange.org

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