

2026 MUD QSO Party

Saturday March 7, 2026 - Noon to 3pm

Organized by the
Madison, **U**nion and **D**elaware County
Amateur Radio Clubs

An annual event established in 2022



Event Rules

This is a VHF/UHF Contact Event for the Madison, Union and Delaware County (MUD) radio clubs. It is a chance to make new contacts (and hopefully new friends) across our three great clubs. Along the way, you can practice operating on the other club repeaters. Using Simplex, you can see just how far away you can operate on various bands and modes. It is held each year on the Saturday of 'Spring Forward' weekend.

Timeframe The event opens at Noon, and closes at 3pm ET.

Scope You can work any amateur station. Log all contacts made, including hams who are not a member of our clubs. Contacts do not have to be physically inside Madison, Union and Delaware counties. You can operate from any location - Home, Mobile or even HT/Portable. All operation will be with personal call signs (no club call signs).

Scoring

- **Change for 2026: 2 points** per simplex contact, per mode, per band.
 - Simplex modes are: FM, SSB, AM, CW, Digital Voice (DMR, D-Star and Fusion each count as 2 points).
- **1 point** for every contact made on each of our 3 club Repeaters.
 - Example: You can work the same station on 2m FM Simplex, 70cm FM Simplex, and again on each of our 3 club repeaters for **7** points.
- Please note: Digital Voice Modes (DMR, D-Star, Fusion) are Simplex over the air only (no Hot Spots or repeaters).
- Digital Messaging using fldigi. Contacts score as 1 point per band - no matter what mode you use (PSK-31, MT63-2000L, etc.).

Awards

- Participation Certificate: Everyone who submits a log showing a minimum of 3 contacts in each county.
- Highest Score Certificate: One award per club, to the member earning the most contact points.
(Tie breaker is total combination of bands/modes worked)
- Master Operator Certificate: One award per club, to the member logging contacts across the greatest combination of bands/modes
(Tie breaker is number of contact points earned)
- MUD Trophy: The club with the most combined points will take possession of the MUD Trophy for 1 year.

What to Log / What to Exchange

Each Log Entry Must Include:

- Time (ET)
- Repeater
- or -
- Band
- Mode

Select Repeater Name, or Log as Simplex with Band & Mode

Required Time (ET)	Repeater	Simplex	
		Band	Mode
	Madison Union Delaware	6m 2m 1.25m 70cm 23cm	FM SSB AM CW DMR DSTAR Fusion FLDigi

Simplified in 2026: Either enter the repeater name, or enter Band & Mode for Simplex contacts.

Also Log the Required Exchange:

- Call Sign
- First Name
- Location (County)
 - Where they are operating
- Station Type:
 - H=Home
 - P=Portable
 - M=Mobile

Call Sign	First Name	Location (County)	Station Type
			H
			P
			M

If you happen to make contact with someone who is not a member of our 3 clubs, you can still log the contact if they give the required exchange.

Optional Exchange (Get to know them better):

- Their home City or Township
- Their Power Level
- Their License Level (Tech, Gen, Adv, Extra)
- Their Year First Licensed

Download Electronic Log Format (Excel .xlsx format)

https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1c_Y_F1sWI6ptK9R_Xtoac7yrJBXkG3gy

Download Paper Log Format (PDF you can print)

<https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1Dnhmkut-c8UaJBNCd8PWp40NBtVW2agW>

Submitting Your Log

Deadline

- If possible, submit all logs within a week of the event (by EOD March 16th).
- Awards will be determined at the end of March, so be sure to get those logs in.

How to Submit

- You have two choices...
 - By email: Attach a log spreadsheet, scan an image of your paper log, or take a photo of each page with your phone.
Email to Mike W8MDC at MrDietCoke@hotmail.com
 - Or turn in paper logs to your club's President.

When you submit, be sure to include...

- Your call sign (enter at the top of the log form)
- Your operating location (what County were you in while operating)
- Your email address
- Which club you want your points to accumulate toward (some of us are members of multiple clubs).

Suggested Simplex Operating Frequencies / Modes

These are *suggestions* to improve your chances of making contacts, but any frequency / mode at 6m or above is permitted.

<u>Modes / Bands</u>	<u>6m</u>	<u>2m</u>	<u>1.25m</u>	<u>70cm</u>
FM Simplex	52.525	146.535 *	223.500	446.000
SSB (USB)	50.125	144.200		446.025
SSB (USB) - Alternate Frequencies		146.550		446.075
AM	50.400	147.500		446.500
CW		144.150		432.070
DMR Simplex (CC 1, TS 1, TG 99)		145.510		433.450
DSTAR Simplex		145.670		438.010
Fusion Simplex		145.790		441.000
Digital Messaging / fldigi - All modes <small>Note: These freq are for SSB (USB) Modulation You <u>may</u> use FM modulation on another frequency (consistent with the ARRL Band Plan), but not on the FM Simplex voice frequencies above, and not over club repeaters.</small>	50.290	144.144	222.070	432.200

* We are intentionally avoiding the 2m National Simplex Calling Frequency 146.520 to reduce impact to other hams in the area.

Also Make Contacts Via Our 3 Club Repeaters

Madison County Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Repeater

- 147.285 (+ Offset, Tone 82.5 Hz)

w/Echolink at KE8RV-R (node 989602) - Log as a Repeater contact

Union County Amateur Radio Club (UCARC) Repeater

- 145.35 (- Offset, Tone 127.3 Hz)

w/Echolink at KE8ANU-R (node 794012) - Log as a Repeater contact

Delaware County Amateur Radio Association (DELARA) W8SMK Repeater

- 145.17 (- Offset, Tone 74.4 Hz)

 Please keep repeater QSO's short - 1 minute or less.

 We are intentionally avoiding all other repeaters to reduce impact to other hams in the area.

NetLogger - Self Spotting and Back-Channel Chat

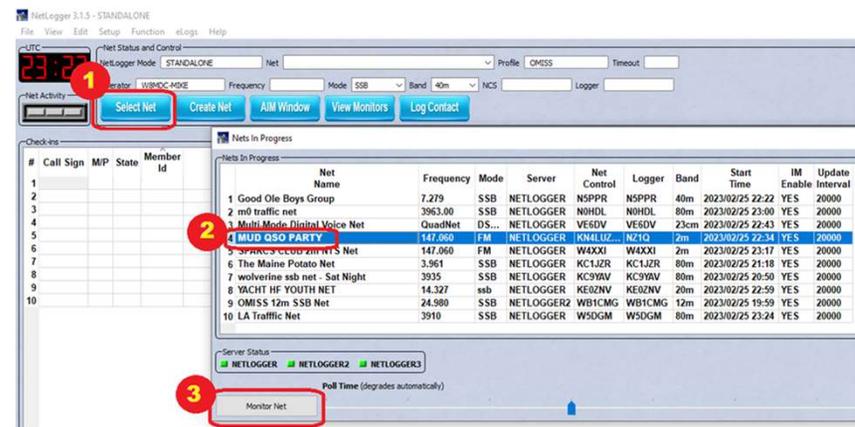
We will use NetLogger desktop software as a chat room communications back-channel for this event. This is optional, but may help you coordinate simplex contacts with others.

If you have not installed NetLogger, download it (for Windows / Mac / Linux) from <http://netlogger.org>

Set your *Call Sign* and *Operator Name* on first use.

To join during the event, Click...

1. **Select Net**
 - Click on **MUD QSO Party** in the list
 - Click **Monitor Net** button (lower left corner)
2. **View Monitors** to see who is online
3. **AIM Window** to join the chat



Tip: Install the software before the event.

YouTube Installation Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4hJBTY_1zs

Digital Messaging (fldigi)

Again this year you can make contacts using digital messaging with fldigi.

There are many encoding modes available such as PSK-31, MT63-2000L and others. You can use any mode of your choice, but using more than one will not increase your score.

It is recommended that you use the NetLogger chat to help coordinate with others on mode, frequency, and offset.

 *There is no 'broadcast' digital message for a Bonus Point this year.*