

# **WINTERHEAT**

# **2023**

**A Guide for Promoting and  
Operating Winterheat**

**From Jerry Nagle NA9LE**



Spreading the word is key to any successful event. Most amateur radio events and contests have been around for decades and are well known by veteran operators and usually featured on contest calendars. This guide will give you some talking points to jumpstart this awesome event in your area.



Winterheat is a month-long amateur radio simplex event. The goal and purpose is for amateur radio operators to make as many contacts as possible over a month-long period of time using only designated simplex frequencies. One contact per day, per frequency is allowed with any station per 24-hour period using UTC time. This is a technician friendly event using 6m, 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, and 33cm FM frequencies and also using DMR, Dstar, and Fusion simplex on 2m and 70cm.





Check into nets with traffic, and tell others you meet on the air.

- Mention the Winterheat event. Use the “what the event is about” description above, feel free to put it in your own words, add the next talking points as you see fit depending on the type of net.

- Check into as many nets as possible to spread the word. We as participants make this event what it is. The more people you tell and get signed up, the better the event will be for you and others in your area. Don't worry about passing the same traffic on weekly nets as others may be listening that were not on the previous net.

- Logging and general info is found on [hamactive.com](http://hamactive.com).
- This is an awesome event for new operators to get to know others in simplex range of your station.
- It's also an awesome event to test the simplex range of your station and experience how propagation behaves day to day.
- From an Emcomm perspective, it's important to know the simplex capabilities of your station and who you can reliably contact via simplex should local repeaters go offline.

- Organize a simplex net for 00:00 UTC or whatever works best for your area to get your “regular contacts” in the immediate area out of the way and then take turns calling CQ winterheat to pull in distant contacts. It's not out of the ordinary to make 100 mile plus contacts when conditions allow. Techs will get first-hand experience of how HF nets work where not everyone can hear each other and some check-ins will be via relay stations. Pick a local “big gun” station to act as net control. •





- Run open squelch. I've made dozens of contacts with stations that wouldn't normally be heard had my squelch not been open. Leave it open with the volume up just enough to hear the quieting of a station keying up while in the shack doing other things. You will be surprised by what you will pick up.



- Forward these PDFs to all your local clubs (even ones you may not be a member of) to publish in their email lists and newsletters. Even clubs outside of your area that will get others involved. The more the better!
- Send copies to your state Section emergency coordinator for distribution to DEC's and EC's throughout your state.



- If you have CERT, REACT, or other local groups in your area, get them involved as well. It's an excellent opportunity to see where your station needs improvement. I've been very impressed with the new operator's efforts to optimize their station's simplex capabilities from the previous year. Some started with an HT and a J-pole and were able to make plenty of contacts.



## **Social Media**

Social Media is the ultimate tool for promoting in your local area. The creators don't have access to every little group across the country. So, use Twitter, Facebook, Discord, podcasts or whatever means you have at your disposal.



## In Conclusion

We are trying to make the jump from a regional event to a nationwide event. This is absolutely possible with your help. Look over the FAQ section on [hamactive.com](http://hamactive.com) for more info to assist you in making this a success in your area and be able to address any questions you may get. You can also direct them to email me at [NA9LE@hamactive.com](mailto:NA9LE@hamactive.com) and I'll be glad to help in any way I can!

73 from Jerry NA9LE

Web: [hamactive.com](http://hamactive.com)

Facebook: [Winterheat](#)





This procedure organizes the process for making local Winter Heat contest contacts. While making contacts is fun, the times when everybody tries to contact everybody else can get very chaotic. This procedure should help.

### **PREPARTORY PROCEDURES:**

1. Assign a Net Control Operator of the night.
2. Tactical callsigns can be used during the net. However, all stations must identify with their **complete** FCC call sign at the end of their communication and least every 10 minutes on every frequency per FCC regulations.
3. Make a list of your most reliable LOCAL contacts using the table below. When Net Control designates it's your turn, use that list to make contacts **and indicate whether you will log the stations called or whether they need to do so.**



## WHEN THE NET BEGINS AND YOU ARE FIRST UP:

1. **Use your whole list.** Begin with 147.570 *and stay on the frequency until the end.*
2. **Log the members you called that acknowledged you** *so all they need to do is confirm.*
3. When complete ask if there is anybody you missed, is new in the area, or needs you for a contact.
4. Then turn control back over to the NCO who will then call the next operator.

## AS THE NET PROGRESSES:

1. **When you are down the list, when called mark the log sheet with the station(s) who called you. When it is your turn, do NOT call the ones who already called you earlier.** *They should have already WinterHeat logged you & all you should have to do is confirm.*
2. **When it is your turn:**
  - a. **Acknowledge those stations that already called you earlier** by indicating over the air “(your callsign) already copied CALLSIGN#1, CALLSIGN#2, CALLSGN#3, etc.”.
  - b. **Proceed with calling and getting acknowledgements** from the uncompleted portion of your contact list. *Marginal stations should be contacted by one on one to confirm contact.*
  - c. **Log the stations you called that acknowledged you** into WinterHeat so *all those stations need to do is confirm.*
3. When complete ask if there is anybody missed, new in the area, or needs you for a contact. **This is the time for a station that is unable to hear you, but you can hear them to try and make contact with you or the NCO to let you know. You should then try to make contact later in the net.**
4. When you are finished, turn control back to the NCO of the night.
5. Wait for the NCO to call you for your next turn, move to the next frequency, and repeat the above procedure.

## **FINISHING THE NET:**

1. When all the members have completed, the NCO ask if anyone has been missed.

## **RELAYS:**

Relays can assist in helping stations to make contact, such as clearing a frequency to reduce QRM. However, all stations **MUST** then establish successful direct station-to-station contact (without a relay) in order to be entered as a contact into WinterHeat.

## **FREQUENCIES:**

There are six (6) main frequencies. They are 147.570 (FM), 147.525 (FM), 147.555 (Digital), 446.700 (FM), 446.400 (FM), 446.600 (Digital).

147.555 and 446.600 are reserved for digital use C4FM which is the Yaesu digital. These are the one we use.

There are other digital modes 145.790 and 446.0750 are for DMR(Motorola) and 145.670 and 446.225 are for D-STAR (ICOM)

