

LMARS Rookie Challenge & Contest: 2026

>Two or more applicants must sign up a category for category to be activated <

- **Purpose:** The LMARS Rookie Challenge & Contest is all about gaining exposure to and experience in operating HF, and other Ham related activities such as Public Service, Contesting, antenna building, and more. To have a fun 'Hamming' adventure. And finally, getting a chance to gain 'bragging rights' with what you have achieved and win some great prizes. Winners will be announced at the annual Christmas Party in December.
- **Challenge Period:** Start: May 1, 2026 00:01 Local; End: October 31 2026, 23:59 Local
- **Participation:** The challenge is open only to LMARS members in good standing at time of challenge and throughout the challenge period. Dues must be current and paid in full at the starting time of the rookies participation in the challenge.
- **Licensing:** The challenge is open to Technician, General Class; Extra Class Hams. You must be licensed on/after January 1st 2023 to participate. You MUST operate within your license privileges.
- **Categories:** Categories are based on your starting license level.
 - Category #1: Technician Class licensees:
 - Category #2: General Class licensees; Extra Class licensees
- **Operating Locations:** You can operate from any legally accessible location, your home station or other locations such as POTA, portable, beach, etc.
- **Equipment:** LMARS will not provide gear.
- **Awards:**
 - Bragging rights for what you achieve.
 - Special recognition at our meetings and Christmas party.
 - Certificates of Achievement.
 - A new Yaesu FT-4XR handheld radio to the top scorer in each category. (HT radio prize will not be awarded to only a single entrant in a category, two or more entrants are needed in a category. One prize per person.)
 - AND... Other prizes which may be added during the competition.
- **Ways to Score:**
 - **Making HF Contacts:**
 - You must operate within your license level privileges.
 - HF bands include 6m through 160m.
 - Scores for making contacts on the HF bands are based on the mode of operation.
 - Successful contacts (QSO) with a call sign can only be counted once per day for each band and mode. [EX: Contact with KW4DH on 10m, 20m, & 40m is 3

- individual contacts. Contact with KW4DH on 10m (SSB & Digital), 20m (SSB & Digital), & 40m (SSB & Digital) is 6 individual contacts.
 - You can operate anytime day or night during the challenge period.
 - Contacts made while operating under the club call sign of N4EH do not count toward your HF contact count.
 - Submit a copy of your contact log with your monthly submission. This can be scanned paper logs or or exported logging program logs.
 - Max Power is limited to 100 watts.
 - Exchange minimum: SSB/CW: Signal report, location (QTH); Digital: As the mode was designed.
 - Points: Digital- 1 point per contract; SSB phone- 2 points per contact; CW- 3 points per contact

- **Participating in a Contest:** Contests must be scheduled contests listed in Bruce Horn's 'Contest Calendar', (12-month Contest Calendar or 8 day Contest Calendar).
 - 15 points: For participating in any listed contest and presenting a Cabrillo file for the contest showing a minimum of 50, or more QSOs for participation in that sponsored contest. First 50 contest contacts count as HF contacts, remaining contest contacts can not be submitted as HF contacts.
 - 15 points: For log submission into the contest. Include a copy of the email confirmation of contest Cabrillo file submission.

- **Join Your Local ARES Group:** Join and participate in your local ARES group. Locally we have Orange County ARES and Seminole County ARES. Details to join and participate are on their websites or inquire during a LMARS meeting.
 - 25 Points: Each month will earn points if you joined and/or and participated in any of the local groups meetings.

- **Participate in Club Events:** Public Service Events and Club Events are a great place to learn and have fun. Any of the Ham Radio events that happen during the challenge count, such as: HAMs in the Park; Field Day; Red, Hot, & Boom; Winter Springs 4th July Celebration; Winter Springs Hometown Harvest count.
 - 25 points: For each event you help setup and participate in.

- **Give a Presentation:** Do you have knowledge of... Possess a skill... or if you learn about a Ham Radio topic, and you're willing to give a presentation or teach a class you can earn extra points. Classes/Presentations can be scheduled during meetings, Field Day, and HAMs in the Park. Such Classes/Presentations could include: LMARS annual Go-Box Contest & Challenge; APRS, what it is and how to use it; Baluns & Ununs, what they are and how to make them; Winlink, what it is and how to use it; Etc.
 - 50 points: For a Class/Presentation you put on.

- **Join a Committee/Board:** Join and participate in one of the Club or Event Committees/Board. These include: LMARS Board; Field Day; HAMs in the Park; anything taking place during the challenge.
 - 50 points: When you join and participate in a club committee/board.

- **Participate in a Net:** Our area has various active nets such as Orange County ARES, Seminole County ARES, and the Seminole VHF Traffic Net. Participate in and become a part of a net to earn additional points.
 - 3 points: For each scheduled net that you participate in.
 - 15 points: For each SVTN radiogram sent or received.
 - 50 points: For learning and becoming an active net control operator.

- **License Upgrade:** Upgrade from Tech to General or Extra Class; Upgrade from General to Extra)
 - 50 points: Points can be earned only one-time during the challenge.

- **Activity Log Submission:** Monthly submission of activity log is mandatory. Each submission must be received by the 10th of the month.
 - 10 Bonus Points: Submit the log by the 5th of the month
 - **Submit Logs to:** Challenge manager/designee; or lmarscontest@gmail.com

Have any questions or need additional details about any of the rules, clubs, or committees, please reach out to Dave Jordan AA4KN, n4csitwo@bellsouth.net .