

# RAC Contests Log

This year was my first time participating in the RAC Canada Day contest on my own. It was a lot of fun and also very instructive. Here are a few things I learned.

First, everything you need to know about the RAC contests (Canada Day or the Winter Day) is located on [RAC website](#).

## Logs

At the end of the contest, logs must be submitted to RAC. They will accept paper logs for submissions with less than 100 entries, but they really prefer electronic logs, which must be formatted as Cabrillo.

A Cabrillo file is really just plain text file formatted in a very specific way. For more information, see:

- This [RAC pdf](#)
- The [WWROF website](#)

For example, here's a copy of my Cabrillo file (with only a few entries as example):

```
START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CREATED-BY: RAC_Contests.ods v2020.07.04 by VA7FI
CALLSIGN: VA7FI
LOCATION: BC
CONTEST: RAC CANADA DAY
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
CATEGORY-MODE: SSB
CATEGORY-POWER: LOW
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: UNLIMITED
CLAIMED-SCORE: 11564
CLUB: Sun Coast Amateur Radio Club Society
NAME: Patrick Truchon
ADDRESS: REDACTED
ADDRESS-CITY: Roberts Creek
ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE: British Columbia
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: V0N 2W1
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: Canada
EMAIL: va7fi@rbox.me
OPERATORS: @VA7FI
SOAPBOX: First Canada Day contest on my own. Lots of fun!
QS0: 14186 PH 2020-07-01 0008 VA7FI          59 BC      VE3PJ          59 ON
QS0: 14198 PH 2020-07-01 0012 VA7FI          59 BC      WB0TEV         59 14
QS0:146520 PH 2020-07-01 0112 VA7FI          59 BC      VE7DX          59 BC
QS0: 14211 PH 2020-07-01 0139 VA7FI          59 BC      N800           59 201
QS0: 14152 PH 2020-07-01 0148 VA7FI          59 BC      VE2CJR         59 QC
QS0: 14165 PH 2020-07-01 0159 VA7FI          59 BC      VE6RAC         59 AB
```

## END-OF-LOG:

The first 21 lines give RAC all the information they need about the operator. The other lines show the contacts made, ending with an END-OF-LOG tag.

RAC does NOT want this emailed to them in the body of the email. Instead, this should be saved in a plain text file named (in my case): VA7FI.LOG and attached to the email.

Regular testers use logging programs which can generate these files while providing many bells and whistles during the contest to facilitate the logging process. Many people have recommended [N1MM](#). RAC also has its own [Contest Software](#).

But since I'm not a regular tester and I didn't have time to familiarize myself with a logging program that would run under GNU/Linux, I simply used a spreadsheet to log my entries and tweaked it as the day went on to add a few features like duplicate check and