

Charlotte Hamfest GoBox Contest Rules Judging Criteria

The contest period is Saturday March 8, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Any licensed Ham with a Hamfest ticket is eligible. All GoBox entries must be fully operational, and must be demonstrated while attached to a Hamfest supplied wattmeter and dummy load. A single outlet, 110 Volt/15 Amp, AC power source will be provided. The Judges' opinions about assignment of points is final.

- **Entries.** All entries must be in working condition at the hamfest. The GoBox must be capable of portable operation in places such as: an EMCOMM tactical location, a school gym or lobby, a field shelter, disaster service center, or a public service event. Some required elements are listed, and extra bonus points are awarded for portability, durability, flexibility, usability (considering a relief operator will be a user). An included antenna system is expected, however, during judging, a wattmeter and dummy load will be provided to demonstrate the station in operation.

There are two categories of GoBox entries: 'Standard' and 'Mobile only'.

To qualify for the '*mobile only*' category: The container must be no larger than 2 cubic feet (ie. 12"x12"x24"), and weigh no more than 30 pounds total, including all equipment and power source. Equipment must be easily installed in a 'non-Ham' vehicle, must include a temporary 'mobile' antenna, and require a transmit current no more than 12 amps, without altering the vehicle in any way (ie. via Cigarette lighter plug).

- All go box entries must include the 5 following required elements:

1. Container - can be commercially made (ie. tool box, suit case, tackle box, ammo can), or it can be homebrew (wood, plastic, canvas, metal) - but an ordinary cardboard box, paper, or plastic shopping bag is deemed inadequate. Points are awarded for equipment protection, portability, durability, weather resistance, and flexibility.

2. Power source - The power source must be on site with the go box. It does not have to be in the same container but it must be used to demonstrate the station. Power source examples might include a deep-cycle battery, AC to DC power supply, or battery box, and must have capacity to sustain station operation for 8 hours. Bonus points will be awarded for a secondary backup power contingency or for non-commercial power as per Field Day alternate power rules. '*Mobile only*' entries must comply with the additional 'mobile only' limits described above; a 12VDC 'vehicle source' will be provided, but extra points are awarded if the GoBox doesn't need it for operation.

3. Transceiver - must transmit and receive on the amateur bands. It can be single band or multiband. It can be a mobile, portable, or a base station. An operational HT might earn optional bonus points for flexibility, ie. crossbanding, but is not considered the main GoBox transceiver. Points awarded for capability, flexibility, ease of use (for a relief Ham operator).

4. Antenna system - must be usable on the bands used with the transceiver, and must have feedline appropriate for a GoBox environment. It must be more than a rubber duck, dummy load, or a wire attached to the transceiver without a feedline (coat hangers are deemed inadequate). Points awarded consider ease of use, portability, safety, gain, and durability, for use in a GoBox environment.

5. Modulation - A microphone is assumed. Digital modes must be demonstrated for digital credit: (CW at least 13 wpm, Packet, APRS, or WINLINK/WINMOR). Other more esoteric digital modes won't count for a "GoBox environment".

- **Disqualification:**

ANY ATTEMPT BY A PARTICIPANT OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL TO DELIBERATELY CIRCUMVENT, DISRUPT OR DAMAGE ORDINARY AND NORMAL OPERATION OF THIS CONTEST OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST IS A VIOLATION. SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, THE CONTEST JUDGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY THE OFFENDING PARTICIPANT.