

N4D's Expedition NCQP 2021



Our club, WNC Ham Activators ARC, NC4NP, is based in Franklin NC. We do POTA, limited SOTA, a few contests and special events. Our favorite contest is NCQP and this is the second year we have participated as a club in the Expedition category. This year, we operated as N4D.

We planned extensively for NCQP, both searching for a good location and planning our operating strategy. Team members went out in the field many days, trying to locate a good site that would allow us to operate on a county line. It was a real challenge out where we are in the western part of the state. Rugged, mountainous terrain and very limited cell service are major limiting factors.

Ultimately, we chose a county line location in Whittier NC, which is located in Jackson and Swain Counties. A bridge spans the river there and the county line is the middle of the river. We operated with an 80-10m OCF antenna fed by RG8X. The antenna center and both ends were supported with telescoping 28 ft poles and rope. It was erected so that the long portion of the OCF was well past the county line in the middle of the river, meeting the county line requirements for Jackson & Swain Counties. The rig was located on the Swain side.

The rig was an Icom-7100 that was powered with batteries that were charged occasionally with a



generator. The transceiver was set up temporarily in a large recreational vehicle. We had a team of four participants and we each rotated around: an operating position, a logging position with a laptop using N3FJP's NCQP Logger, a spotting position, and resting. We operated nearly the full duration - just a few minutes late getting started. Our large club banner was set up for the event and several people stopped by to ask questions. The operation was nearly all SSB with a few CW contacts at the very end. We had planned more CW ops but never got to it.

Band conditions on the higher bands were really poor, from our perspective, and we made very few contacts on 20m. That prevented us from getting 11 western states but we felt very good about the final outcome, with 39 states and 48 NC counties. *(Ed:- 804 Q's well done)*

A great time was had by all in our group and we look forward to competing again next year.

WNC Ham Activators ARC Ops:

John - K4SGR / Howard - WB4GUD / Cozette - KL4RL / ND1J – David / K2KJD Chip, who couldn't actually participate that day but was involved in the planning.

Submitted by ND1J David, Trustee for NC4NP.