

North Carolina QSO Party 2022

Soapbox

Fun weekend, I couldn't make it down to operate with K4HA cuz of WX up here, but I made the best of it. Operated SC QP, on Saturday , CQ 160 SSB on Sat. nite for a short time and then NCQP on Sunday. Many thanks to Bert, N4CW for many, many contacts and counties in BOTH QP's. N4YDU & K4HA for several Q's also. Not sure if I got any other Smithchart guys. Lots of guys from Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers were on for NCQP: N2JJ , K4RUM, W2GDJ, N2SQW, K1VMT, WA2JQK, WB2FUV. Most scored in the 10K + range.

73, Bob W2XL

PS: Back to POTA in a week or two !

I live and work in Missouri. NCQP is a sentimental event to me, because it connects me with home, plus my mother and grandmother died in separate years during the last week of February. Ray, KE0YOG, who posted, is a cherished lifelong friend and professional colleague and peer.

73, Keith KB4IRR

This was my first real attempt at a contest. I decided on expedition class, since I had some experience working portable. My initial location was foiled by all the rain, so I decided on an open portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway. I arrived to find it closed, but a northern section that showed closed was, in fact, open. I was able to locate two good places for a county line stretch, for a total of 3 counties. first was Mitchell/McDowell, then Yancey/McDowell. it was extremely foggy and we had some rain. I set up on a makeshift work table in the back of my jeep. my deep cycle battery held all day, to my surprise. I used portable tree steps to hang my EFHW. I don't think anyone had more fun than I did. Many thanks to those that worked me, and I deeply appreciate the work that the committee puts in to make this a great contest. Look for me next year!

73'S! K4MLY

Too many log programs have PER (Person) translate to Perquimans (PEQ) and it is causing confusion and busted QSOs

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six but that did not happen. Many thanks to the organizers, already looking forward to next year. Jim,

AI4WL

I enjoyed the NC QSO Party again this year, Thanks to all that made it possible.

K4REB

Glad I got to give out some Avery County contacts.

WB8CAC

Great time wish it went on Sunday (Church)

KA4TLC

Great QSO Party. Looking forward to 2023!

KE4GTQ

After working the NAQP RTTY on Saturday I wanted to support our state to the south with some contacts. I like supporting QSO parties and with the VA QSO party coming up next month I hope others return the favor. I think I worked all the one by 2 calls for the "DUKE" bonus points. I only heard maybe one out of state station calling CQ. I really question why someone would want to call CQ for an out of state QSO party. Had some good fun in the little bit of time I operated. CW always seems better in the QSO parties.

K8LF

K3/10 driving a 100 watt amp to two switchable dipoles. Thanks for the fun! Band Condx seemed good from here. C U next time, 73,

Dan KE0TT

Poor Conditions here. Sunspots number 22 with a K index of 4.

K5ZE

Very sad weekend and hard QP. I took part in honor of my father who passed away on Friday.

OM2VL

I started the contest with intentions of running HP Mixed Mode as I did last year. It became very evident with the early success I was having with phone and very little activity on RTTY that I needed to stick with phone. Starting out on 20m I realized there was an active European contest going on so I switched to 40m and ran the frequency for almost 2 hours. Then I switched to 15 and 10 meters as they were both open. I was amazed at the number of groundwave contacts I made into GA, SC, TN, and AL. I finished out strong on 40 & 80 meters. I believe I worked around 60 NC Counties which far exceeded last year. Also, worked every state and

DC except Alaska and half the Canadian Provinces.

Generally a very positive experience with several hourly run rates well above 100. Only negatives were for about two hours on 20m someone was keying up on my frequency trying to disrupt my run. Fortunately, it was only with a key and I was able to easily work stations above and below the S9 carrier. Also had the typical stations verbally frustrated that there was a contest every weekend.

Looking forward to next year's event and will most likely work the phone mode exclusively.

KT4Q

I spent a lot of time getting ready for the SC and NC QSO Parties and making sure that I "got it right". Prior to both contests, I spent time looking at Google Earth maps, determining GPS coordinates, looking at Google Street Views and also using a county line utility provided by randymajors.org (Research Hub). Using this research, I picked my three operating locations (one in South Carolina and two in North Carolina).

First, I should point out that my Expedition station is not capable of operation while in motion. I set up the radio, computer, antenna tuner, WinKeyer and power supply on the passenger seat of the car. The antenna is a portable telescoping tripod/mast that extends to about 33 feet which is ideal for 40 meter operations. It can be tuned easily to 20 meters and for 75/80 meters, I use a large loading coil that I can "jumper" into the antenna circuit. Additionally, extending from the antenna base are four 35 foot wire ground radials. For power, I use a 2KW gas generator and place it 50 feet from the vehicle/radio and drive a short ground stake at the generator so that it does not contribute to the receiver noise floor. I set up the antenna 50 feet from the other end of the vehicle – once again, to minimize electrical noise from the generator.

I traveled to SC on Thursday and met with the folks that owned the property where my three county line was located. They were able actually show me the survey stake for the three county corners. I mentioned to them that the survey stake did not completely agree with my research...it seemed to be about 20 feet off. The owners were surprised that I knew that. They said that a few years ago the state bought an easement on their property to put in a simple access road and moved the survey stake a bit.

On Friday, I traveled from South Carolina to my proposed county line spots in North Carolina. When I got to my first location on the Bladen/Cumberland line, I discovered that it had significant line noise. That's when I discovered that quite close to my proposed operating location there was a large solar electricity farm and

it was generating a lot of interference. I went to plan "B" and drove around various places where roads crossed the Bladen/Cumberland County lines. I found one such spot on Route 87. This spot was "radio quiet" and there was ample room to pull the vehicle off to operate. It was just around the corner from "County Line Road", which is close to the county line, but not actually on it. The line that I selected was adjacent to a large unplanted field on one side and on the other side was property owned by DuPont/Chemours chemical plant. The GPS coordinates for the exact location was Lat, Long: 34.84499, -78.85514. The location was confirmed by a county line road sign, my GPS function on my cell phone and randymajors.org county line utility. I also took a picture of the sign on Sunday morning in the rain.

I have run into the issue many times where the two county line signs are somewhat separated by the individual county jurisdictions. Sometimes, on county roads, there will be a difference in pavement between counties, however, on state routes, this seldom occurs. For my purposes I generally try to actually have part of the vehicle in each county based on GPS coordinates or signage that shows the name of both counties on it. As a secondary precaution against inaccuracies, I make it a point to have my operation spread out over a 135 foot line to insure that some part of the station is in each county. From the tip of one ground radial to the location of the generator is 135 feet, with the vehicle splitting the county line as much as possible.

Later on Friday, I traveled to my second county line proposed operating position. Once again, I used the aforementioned tools to determine as accurately as possible the location of the county line. On the Hoke/Robeson line, my research paid off because it was quite usable with very low radio noise and power lines were on the other side of the road. I stopped at the property owners house and got his permission to operate and set up my equipment on Sunday. This location was on Route 20 aka St. Paul's Drive a few miles west of Lumber Bridge, NC. The GPS coordinates are Lat, Long: 34.90972, -79.09398. I operated in the SCQP and spent the night in Florence, SC. Sunday morning, I drove to my first operating position in Cumberland/Bladen and operated there for several hours before tearing down the station and moving to the second county line spot. As you probably remember, we had off and on again rain most of the day, so set up/tear down/set up/tear down was not a pleasant task!

AA4TI Stephen

Many thanks for the excellent activity from North Carolina. K3TW

Thanks for the NCQP. It was great to split time between prepping for spring antenna work and the QP. When I sat at the radio there was always someone to work.

Thanks for getting my QRP station in the log and thanks for the opportunity.
73, Will, NQ2W

Very nice contest. All of the bonus stations were readily available. Thanks to those operators and the rest of the NC ops. Saw 20 meter spots but never heard any of them. IC-7610 and a wire...
K3GWK

I happened to be on the air and heard N4D and thought it would be cool to just join in on the QSO party. Thanks to all the nice people in North Carolina for getting on the air. I hope to be able to participate in both NC and SC QSO part next year.
KI5BVJ

40 was Hoping then 80 got going! Nice Party.
N1ICL

Thanks to all who participated! 73,
W9TCV

I had fun taking a little radio trip to North Carolina.
KA3TTT

Another mobile operation from my apartment parking lot. Thanks for
The QSOs.

K3/100, 40m and 20m hamsticks on RAV4 roof.
N2CU

WOW! North Carolinians were all over the bands. One of the Best QSO Parties
for activations!

K4RFK

1st NC QSO Party
KE4EA

Had fun! Thanks to all operators.
KE8AE

I was sitting in my car while my wife shopped in an antique mall.
AI5EQ

STRAIGHT KEY AND 100 W

SP6JOE

Lots of fun dropping in and out over the course of the day. 73,

Don N4RRT

Just started getting serious about county hunting :)

KD8DEU

Do not think I did as well as last year. Conditions seemed strange on 40 meters until I discovered my RF gain was turned down and the AGC was doing weird things. Could not hear anybody on 20 or 15; too close, I guess. Wrapped things up on 80 when it started to get dark. Tnx fer the Qs. AA8TA

Thanks for the contacts and fun on the radio. Thanks for sponsoring the QSO Party. 73-
Dan, W1QK

Rig was FTdx101 and Butternut vertical.
Good signals all around. Great activity.

W1END

11TH NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY.

N1NN

Great OPs in NC 450 bonus pts.

K1EEE

Some poor Mexican OP (XE1RK?) who didn't know about the contest, called cq on 14190. He immediately got swamped in a pile up. I don't think his English was good enough to understand 59-59 ASH, etc.
He just went QRT.

AI8O

Great QSO Party. Looking forward to 2023!

KE4GTQ

I enjoyed the NC Qso Party again this year, Thanks to all that made it possible.
K4REB

Lots of fun! Thanks to all! Lithuania on 1W!

KI4DEF

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any, NCQP activity on the higher bands... really hoped for a little Es on six but that did not happen. Many thanks to the organizers, already looking forward to next year.
Jim, AI4WL

Didn't know there were so many hams in my neighboring county Wake.
WA2LMC

Need more digital operators. everyone I encountered was patient and kind !
N4WHK

Will I ever learn to prepare? Just moved from WOKE County to Moore.
Day before contest hung a 40 m Dipole in the attic could not get it resonant, thank goodness for the I 7300 tuner. Morning of contest pulled my Icom 7300 out of the box sitting on top of my Elecraft K4 that hopefully will get plugged in soon.
Hooked it all up and got 31 Q on N3FJP when I discovered that it no longer accepted my password?
Not complaining or making excuses just as always had a wonderful time and really appreciate all of those that work so hard to make the NC QSO Party a fun event. THANK YOU ALL
N4EII

My computer-keyboard skills suck
great contest - screwed up on 4 qso's because of stupid
please don't let my screw up penalize anyone else. I will do better next year I hope
thanks for the fun - we appreciate what you do
K4ESE

40M antenna failed. Batteries ran out before I did. Not bad for only 1 band, no NC multipliers and just over 3 hours work on 1st try.
WB4E