

North Carolina QSO Party 2015

Soapbox

This is my first NCQP and I had a blast ! Fun times ! Sorry about the paper logs, not set up on a logger program yet. Hope this is OK

73,
Ron, AB4Z

Running with the NC QSO Party

About six months ago I purchased one of those computer logging programs. Now understand that I hate computers so this was a big step for me. Anyway, the program has like this master log and then there are like sub-logs to use for contests. Of course, I loaded (really my neighbor loaded) the NC QSO Party contest log. Now this logging program is slick. All I do is enter the call; tab and enter state/providence/country; tab again and enter the NC county. The computer tracks the counties worked, states worked, Canadian provinces, OX, band, mode, time, etc. Really slick.

So, Sunday morning I am fired up and ready. Made the first contact. Enter the call, tab and enter NC, and tab and entered the county. When I hit the whippie button, nothing. Perhaps I did not hit it hard enough. Again, nothing. Out comes the instruction manual. Those manuals are written by computer nerds for nerds. No help. Then, there it was. The "HELP" button right there. Did I mention about nerds writing this stuff? No help.

Flexibility is the key to any military operation. So I decide that I will hand write the info and then manually enter it into the master log. Slow!!! In the mean time I am losing contacts left and right. Time for a new plan. Turned off the computer, grabbed a stack of scratch paper and few pencils and go for it. Remember, a paper and pencil will function correctly all the time.

Now I am really rolling. Using technology that I understand. But then, I started working stations that I knew. Immediately I would forget their name and screw up my CW. My CW probably would more resemble the cross between a mumble and a stutter. Face it, I am not the worlds fastest CW operator. When called by multiple stations, I would follow good procedure and respond to the slow guy!!!!

The NC QSO Party was a lot of fun. Guess what? After I finished, I had to hand tally all of the counties, states, Canadian provinces, OX, etc. After all of that was complete, I went back to the computer and it worked fine. I hate computers.

73,

Charles , WB40CM

I had a great time.

Last year I met someone at the Winston-Salem Hamfest and they asked me if I was going to participate in the NC QSO Party that year and I said no.

The person asked me why and I told them I did not have a HF rig yet and they agreed that was a good reason. J

I am glad I have one now.

Thanks again,

Ron Barber—W4CHI

Well another year has come and gone and what a difference a year makes. Last year we had temps in the 70's with sunny skies and this year we had a thick coat of ice on the antennas at the beginning of the contest. The weather report looked bleak but we pushed forward to a rocky start. I knocked the ice off the antennas about 10 minutes before the contest but as time would pass and we traveled the SWR would begin to climb. At our first stop there must have been over an inch of ice on the antenna! As we traveled south the temperatures finally went above freezing but our day ahead would be pouring rain. About 90% of our trip was wet, cold, and ice.

I spent most of the day on Saturday preparing the "wife's" SUV for the trip. Running a power cable, installing the antennas, operating desk modifications, etc... It took a good part of the day but everything worked maybe a little too easy. ;)

Well just before the start of the contest we lost CW keying, \$%##&! Reboot and everything was working. Well for a while anyway. As it turned out we rebooted a couple more times before I changed out the keyboard and a USB hub. We didn't experience another keying problem so lesson learned. We had to retune(ATU) our antennas every once in a while due to ice but everything worked well. Our trip was shortened near the end of the contest due to darkness and weather plus having to travel secondary roads didn't seem fun and we were running short on time. But we did manage to hit 27 of our 29 planned counties.

Many thanks to Mike KA4RRU for taking part in this adventure with me. He's a tremendous operator and a very good friend it was nice having another op and driver along.

80 - 83

40 - 407

20 - 614

1104 x 64

Total counting bonuses = 214,868

Elecraft K3, Hustler resonators.

Thanks everyone!!!!

N4E/mobile

Kyle WA4PGM and Mike KA4RRU

I had an absolute blast this year! Thank you to all the organizers who make it possible to have that much fun in only 10 hours. I also have to thank Ivy and David Shepherd of Mt. Airy NC, who hosted my station in their home, fed me dinner on Saturday night, and gave me a place to crash. They also let me hang all kinds of crazy looking wires in their trees, even in the front yard! I also need to thank Jesse Lindley, K4AX, for helping with antenna deployment, arranging the location, and grilling some brats. The whole weekend was wonderful. I put in the most serious effort I ever have for this event and I was really glad to be able to provide some Surry Co. points to all who called. Thank you RARS, and all the clubs who help sponsor the event for making it so much fun.

73

Cameron

AJ4TW

Contest started with 40 & 20 meters but 20 went long from here after the first few hours. Then, it was basically just 40 meters until the sun started going down and we added 80 meters. Never heard SUR but got the other bonus points with no problems. Rather slow at times but lots of fun. Kudos to N4E, N4C. W4TMO & AA4XX. Hope to see ya'll next year.

73

Tom, KV8Q

First time participating in NCQP. Had fun.N4NTO

Was able to get on for only a couple of hours late afternoon, but glad to hand out Edgecombe County on 40 and 80 CW. Bands seemed to be ok. Operating at home is not quite as fun as getting out there mobile, but better than no appearance! Some Saturday hours may encourage expeditions and mobiles! W1END

Fantastic activity this year. Rig was FTdx5000 (150w) and Butternut HF6V all-band vertical. N4QM

Had to keep adjusting the tuner as ice built up on antenna and feedline.
K3TW"

Many thanks for the activity from so many counties. Working the Special Stations provided even more excitement!"

WN4AFP

Tough conditions my locationWA4HC

My first NC QSO Party! NU4N

Had a great time working everyone. See you all next year.

73 from KY Dave

CHECKLOG THIS YEAR AS I USED 400W OUTPUT POWER BY MISTAKE

4TH NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

Glad to work several stations in the NCQP this year! This served as a good tuneup for getting ready for the Virginia QSO party in a few weeks. I got a new rig setup in my truck so that I can once again go out and about for the VAQP.

Glad to hear several stations on!
K4REB

Unfortunately I was sick with the flu and couldn't be mobile this year.
WB8WKQ

Very fun. Hats off to the mobiles!!

SP6JOE no computer , no internet, worked from my summer-house , always work using straight key

WA6KHK Two new counties...6 more to go in NC and 47 for all the US!

AB3TM Couldn't put in much time, but just wanted to say hello to NC!

KV8Q Contest started with 40 but 20 went long from here after the first few hours. Then, it was basically just 40 meters until the sun started going down and we added 80 meters. Never heard SUR but got the other bonus points with no problems. Rather slow at times but lots of fun. Kudos to N4E, N4C. W4TMO & AA4XX. Hope to see ya'll next year.
73 tomW8KNO

After two nights of 160m and 2 1/2 hours of shoveling the driveway, I did not have the gumption to play in the contest, sorry. Wait till next year!
N4ARO

Enjoyed about 6 hours of chasing down NC stations and looking for all six bonus stations which I succeeded in finding. Good participation but not as many mobiles as in past years or else I just didn't hear them.

AD8J I decided not to go mobile this year as I have a new vehicle. So I operated my remote station instead. Conditions seem poor at the start and then improved during the day.

OM2VL My first NC QSO Party. Score included 500 Bonus points : K4CIA, NI4BW, W4DW, NC4QP, N4QM, AJ4TW. Most QSO's with mobiles: N4E 27/24, N4C 14/14, AA4XX 11/7, NC4QP 9/6, KC3X 4/3, W4TMO 4/3 ; fixed: AD8J 8, W4UX 5, WA2BJN 4. Thank you very much for the nice QP.
73, Laci OM2VL

VE3PYJ Exciting contest again this year. Thanks to the bonus stations.

K3GHH (65 QSOs x 3 CW) x 35 counties+200 bonus

K4EGThanks for a great contest. Bands were in pretty good shape. A few glitches but a grand ole time was had.

There were a lot of stations and I had a lot of fun.

NC4OC First time out for our little group. We had a blast thanks to all who put forth effort to make it happen.

Onslow Amateur Radio Club.

KE0GK 3/10 at 5 watts to a 74' broad-band dipole up about 50' fed with balanced line and Matchbox tuner. Lots of activity, thanks for the fun, and your great copy of my QRP sigs out there. 15 and 20 M were both very good for parts of the day, 40 M OK later in the day, 80 M rough going. Great job mobiles and portables.

73, and C U down the log.

Dan, ke0g

W4ODB always a pleasure to work each North Carolina station in this contest.

VE3PYJ Exciting contest again this year. Thanks to the bonus stations.

W4SDJ This was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

KN4Y Did not hear Surry County on CW. Great QSO party.