

North Carolina QSO Party 2024 SOAPBOX

I would like to start by congratulating the NC QSO Party committee, especially the committee chairman, Marty (W4MY). Another job well done!!

Again this year my wife, Laurie (N1YXU), and I entered as a Multi-One entry. Laurie worked all SSB and I worked all CW. We swapped Op Positions every 90 minutes and that seemed to work well. The callers were always there and our rates stayed up with an overall average of 105 per hour. I tried to get something going on both 10 and 15 but to no avail. The time spent there, even though it produced 38 Qs and 2 mults was not really a good investment. The rest of the bands were outstanding. It was pretty easy to find an open CW run frequency, but SSB was not so much fun. Laurie tried in one of her earlier shifts to get on 40 but it was taking too much time to find an open frequency so she went back to 20. Fortunately, she found a great frequency in her 1730 to 1900 shift and just ran and ran. Then when I took over for the final hour I moved to 80 cw and had a ball. Thanks to my beverages, the band was quiet and the callers didn't stop until the final bell rang.

In the end we missed RI, AK, NV and UT for WAS. Also missed a few Provinces but not sure if they were on. The last 2 hours on 40 SSB and 80 CW really helped get our County mult count up. Thanks to everyone for the Qs ? the repeats and the fun 10 hours Laurie and I get to play radio together each year.

73,

Laurie - N1YXU

Bruce - N1LN

Both - aka NC4KW

Score includes working all bonus stations for 500 bonus points. I barely caught NC4QP thanks to their call from BEA on 40 phone. It pays to read through the rules and check out the bonus calls which I did not do. I wasn't fully committed to the NCQP this year. I had a very busy couple of days Friday and Saturday. The band conditions were slightly better than last year, but the solar flux was not quite enough to open 20M to the Raleigh area and farther north and east. N4CW/M roamed around E/NE NC and I only was able to work him once on the PEQ/PAS line on 20. This cost me several mults. I only heard N4NTO and a couple of other rovers/portables once they hit 40. Thanks to N2CU/M for his great operating and being workable on 20 most of the time (even got him on 15 once). Western and southern NC were workable for several hours on 20, but the triangle metroplex was not. I could work some of the big guns on scatter, but my local noise covered over the weak ones. My best 40M phone run was over 30 stations in the 19Z hour when a lot was happening on 20. QSO total was definitely the lowest in

recent years on 40 phone thanks to 20 being open well from the start to most of NA. From late afternoon onward Bert, N4CW/M was worked on most of his route and other rovers/portables were heard for the first time. 80/75 suffered from a lack of activity despite good conditions from 23Z onward. I like this QP, but more activity is needed plus a little bit of luck with higher solar flux. Many thanks to all and especially the mobiles and portables, and the ops who activated rural counties.

73, Jeff, N8II

I send out a great big thanks to the organizers and sponsors of North Carolina QSO party, and especially to all those that participated it was a fabulous time. I set up in one of the parks started about 7:00 in the morning and didn't get packed up till about 10:00 at night. I ran the QSO party from 10:00 in the morning till 8:00, never stopping to eat, drink, or use the restroom. It was that busy. Nothing but pileups the whole time. Of course I'm sure it helped that I was in a fairly new park. I made over 900 contacts, multiple DX's and just had a blast. Thanks again to all and I can't wait till next year.

Well, we had a wonderful time operating N4RAL at our club station for the entire contest. We ran continuously the entire time, had lots of Phone operators, lots of visitors/loggers, and only ONE CW operator. Brantley K4CBW was our MVP. I know of at least one person who is committing to learn CW to help with that next year. Our log shows 972 QSOs without dups. 993 contacts with dups, but I think the dups are different counties for the same call. I guess you'll weed those out after we submit. We are happy with that count and felt like we showed up and did our part.

Thanks for a great party!

Fin, NC4FG

RARS President

N4NTO 15 county Rove



Wow, what a rove! Started in Dare and roved through 15 counties. Zigged and zagged throughout NE NC. Grand fun! 73, Tripp, N4NTO and Johanna N4JSO at the helm. Yes, conditions were great at the end, and rates were fantastic, but it was also Sunday night and I go to work at 5:30am on Monday, so ending at 8pm is good with me. More importantly, my fun meter took a stomach punch when straddling MAR/HAL after dark, right outside of Hobgood NC. Scary place. I left some Qs on the table, but my rove had to QSY from that scary place. I guess I could figure out a mobile antenna and nix the roving. 73, Tripp, N4NTO

The NCQP is a really fun event. Like Curt, I also miss the first 2 hours or so which is disappointing. Seems like following the NAQP format would be ideal. A 12 hour contest with 10 hours max of operating time. To me, that's the ideal set up for a QSO Party. Maybe run it from 10 am to 10 pm with 2 hours of off time. Provides some flexibility for the later arrivals and can accommodate the early-to-bed ops. That would also provide for more 80m time. As it is, you really only get about 90 minutes or so on 80 meters. Kind of an under-utilized band in this event.

Great event. Lots of fun and activity. One I look forward to.

Just would like to be able to participate for 10 hours ?

73 Russ K3PI

Didn't get on until late afternoon but when I started calling, the pileups began. I haven't been on phone much lately so it got a little hectic at times but I LOVED IT!

Thanks for all the Q's.

Kenwood TS-590SG

Elecraft KPA500/KAT500

ZS6BKW inverted V @ 50ft

73, Don W4BBT

What fun. Bands were not so good. 80M was much better than expected. 10 meters was a major disappointment. But about 7.5 hours of non-stop running. What more could I ask for?

Only issue was when I blew up my balun running 80M. I always keep a spare on hand because they really don't like my flagpole on 80M.

I was a long way from number 1 this year. Needed binoculars to even see Nate N4YDU he was so far ahead of the pack. Congrats Nate!

Details:

Call: K3WA/4

This was a Sunday Funday for us. K3TD retired and moved to TX so I missed having him on the team. Dave, N4CWZ, jumped into his place with gusto and got his first taste of bouncing keyboards, tuning a screwdriver antenna by ear, and handling pileups when the Rx antenna is nothing like the antenna back home. But he got his sea legs very quickly and helped put up a very good mobile score. The town and country powerline noise was a continuous factor. Stronger signals helped a lot with only a couple times that the noise brought operations to a halt until we passed through.

Conditions were not multi-band good although we hoped to include some 10M runs. We never saw anything on the bandmap that was worth giving up the great pileups on 20 and later on 40. We did do a brief excursion to 15 but again, the rate just wasn't there. Crossing even the biggest counties there was always activity from one county line to the next and often we felt bad having to leave some folks waiting in the pileups when we had to move on.

Plans changed a bit when we realized how much time it would take to navigate the top of Stokes to get into Surry. We sort of made up for it later by a short excursion into Richmond.

Raw stats:

Counties: 17

Miles: 370 (about 600 Km.)

QSOs: 927

Mults 64

Peak Rate: 287

Contest Average: 105

A mobile qso party is a unique experience and having so many followers made you all like friends. And we REALLY didn't bust your calls as often as it seemed. Typos are rife with a bouncing keyboard that always seems to throw a wrong letter or number in there somewhere! Thanks for being there and your understanding.

73,

Jim K4QPL

Dave N4CWZ

Activated 2 of the three counties I really wanted to activate.? Setting up portable took about as much time as expected, but the antenna problems took up more time, and the backup got left behind.? Oops.? 40m was most effected/reduced, 20m was better.? Had no 80m set up, so that's just chips left on the table.? Better prep next time. Probably should have tried more CW but it ain't my strength. Killed too much time looking for my misplaced phone, which had crawled, all by itself, into one of the spaces between the seats.? At least it was in the car and not lost in the weeds on the POTA sites.? :o Also need to factor in the transit times mo betta.? Live and learn. W4KAZ

Buying, transporting, and unloading nearly three tons of bagged mulch (140 42-pound bags) consumed much of the weekend, so I had only a couple of hours to play in this party on Sunday.

Thanks for the Qs.

73, Mike N4CF

Hard to get NC from Southern VA on the high bands, but managed a few with good "ears" !conditions were good and the noise level was very low.

Thanks to all , 73 Riley K4ORD

Thanks for allowing me to join my call sign is KA4HIM and I will be operating out of my mobile comms trailer in Clay county. I will be running a Twofer operation, North Carolina QSO and POTA. Hope to hear from a lot of you out there. Will be operating from 10 to 8 running an Icom 7300, my homemade hex beam, and my screwdriver. Looks to be a lot of fun.



Stanly County ARC, aka-K4OGB, Operators working the NC QSO Party! Great time reaching out to YOU! Thanks for the QSO's!

Here are a couple pictures that my buddy took of myself and W2XL during the contest. We are still concerned that there was no Portable-NC-Multi category this year, like there was last year. We went out of our way to find a location and go portable just for that category. W4PH and K4J were in it last year according to the results. Why did it go away ???? Otherwise a great contest as usual.

Thanks, Bob K4HA



I wanted to put PEQ (Perquimans) on the air for the NCQP. It has been years since I've done any phone operation, so I got out my big-name headset and footswitch. The headset fell apart. Then the logging software refused to work so I did it the old-fashioned way using the hand mike and the paper log. It took me several hours after the party to get my log in the computer and on to the website. Had a lot of fun. One fellow did not believe me when I said I was in PEQ. He said there was no such entry in NC. After a while he figured it out. Someone recorded me calling CQ and was playing it back on 80 meters. Kind of a shock for me to hear me calling. I see two contacts that I did not make that are in the eQSL log at about that same time. Do not know what to make of it. On to next year.

73, Bill, N4GBK

On behalf of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club and from me personally, I want to extend our deepest appreciation to you both for another splendid NCQP. Marty, having you join us on the grounds of the battleship was frosting on the cake as you and Phil pounded brass eloquently and doing the heavy lifting. I am also grateful for your elmering and encouragement with my fledging CW skills. I will keep them up.

The Azalea club held its regular monthly meeting the following Tuesday night, and the buzz around the room from the 29 members present was how excited they were to be back on the air as a bonus station using the battleship's call sign of NI4BK, an Amateur Radio adaptation of its original WWII navy callsign of NIBK. Everyone hopes that the Azalea club proved its worth this year and that we can continue to be considered a prime contributor to NCQP going forward.

We are also grateful for your certificate. I will scoot to Kinko's to have a high quality version printed and framed to present to the club at its next meeting on March 19.

Marty it was a delight to host you in the Port City.

73 de Bill Morine, N2COP

Vice Director – Roanoke Division

Representing ARRL members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia

This year we decided to go to a somewhat rare county and set up a portable operation. We chose Johnston County because of the low number of log entries over the past years. We have a ham friend (K4NYS)who lives in Wendell and is not very active. So he let us use his property and gave us a room to play in. We put up 2 - 80/40/20 meter inverted V's at 60 feet about 300 feet apart. We set up our radios and laptops networked together and all worked just fine. It was nice having the space to separate the antennas since we usually have less than 200 feet when we goes other places. The contest was fun as usual and put together well by the NCQP

administration. Thanks again and hope to see Y'all next year, maybe from another rare county. Thanks to Chuck K4NYS for the use of the property.

73's

The Bob's

W2XL & K4HA

Contest:	NC QSO PARTY				
Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Mult	Pt/Q
3,5	CW	31	93	0	3,0
7	CW	55	165	4	3,0
7	LSB	15	30	1	2,0
14	CW	94	282	51	3,0
14	USB	75	150	18	2,0
21	CW	40	120	5	3,0
21	USB	18	36	3	2,0
28	CW	8	24	3	3,0
28	USB	3	6	1	2,0
Total Both		339	906	86	2,7
Score: 78 316					
1 Mult = 3,9 Q's					
		10:00 H			

I would like thanks for organizing again excellent QSO Party! Nice activity of mobiles and resident. Thanks for the so many QSOs especially who back to my CQ on SSB. I had excellent run on 20m. I worked 17 new counties from my needed 20 for my US County Award 2nd time. (still need: Cabarrus, Camden, Haywood) NCQP is very special and emotional contest for me. 2 years ago on this day passed away my father OM3TCG. ❤️😭 Laci, OM2VL

First of all, thanks to Jim, W4TMO, for planning and executing/driving the trip that put 18 counties out there for the world to work. Conditions Were generally better than the previous day, from our perspective. Maximum rates were pretty good: 1 min 6/min, 10 min 3.8/min, and 60 min 3/min. Average for 1132 valid Q's was 2/minute. Many thanks to those who endeavored to follow us. The ten (or so) most-worked stations were: DL3DXX (39), OM2VL (31), K0PC (30), K9CW (25), W5TM (24), VE9VIC (22)W8PI and N1CGP (20), WB9HFK (19), WX4G and VE3AQ (17), and W4NZ (16). Apologies if I left somebody out, I counted those by hand from the log.

Many thanks to all those who weren't in the "top ten" but were frequent contacts! Line noise levels were down throughout our route and our antenna system generally worked okay...Murphy struck: the Lil Tarheel II got jammed and stuck, yet leaving operation from 10 to 20 meters. So for 80 we were using the Bug Catcher and a 40M heliwhip.. Rig used was a K3, Dell laptop, N1MM Logger+, and antennas were a Tarheel II, some heliwhips, and a homebrew fixed with a Bugcatcher coil. Overall, our signal was down from other forays in the past. I just couldn't get a run going on SSB, and didn't waste

my time there! Lastly, I want all y'all to know I really appreciated the good operating skills and manners you showed throughout the weekend. That made for a lot more fun and Q's for everybody. My stress level was wayyyyy down because I didn't have to deal with an undisciplined/rude bunch.

Thanks again!!!

73, Bert N4CW

YL op KO4SBI did an awesome job on 40m
NC4DP Mecklenburg ARC

Operated from New London Town Hall, New London, NC, Stanly County
K4OGB

Had a blast this year. This is a personal best showing in any contest.
N1XI

Moderate success all factors considered. Fact: An antenna that functioned properly LAST week is not guaranteed to work properly TODAY. Muddled on through with broken antenna, since the spare was NOT in the vehicle. Lost track of my phone, which caused a distraction and more lost time. Managed to activate two of the three county/parks on my list. Every trip is a learning experience. W4KAZ

Also POTA at Lake Norman State Park
N4SZF

Lots of activity. Ran 80W and end fed wire.
KS4S

My 15th NCQP since 1999! Always loads of fun.
Thanks to all who make it possible: organizers,
portable stations, special stations, all participants,
log checkers, award sponsors, etc.
It's much appreciated.
Steve, WA3TMR

IC-7610 & EFHW
W4GHV

Sorry, first timer, trying to figure this out
KM4GBE

Had a lot of fun, bands were pretty good here in my QTH. K4REB

4 bonus stations
33 counties and one state
45 contacts
KD4UYR

Our NC QSO party is always great fun. Thanks, Jim AI4WL

Bands were TOUGH, Operators were all FRIENDLY, AND A GREAT SUNDAY TO SPREAD THE "FRIENDLY VOICE OF ONLSOW" TO ALL CONTESTANTS! 73 DE KN4HGI ALAN

Great QSO Party!
KE4GTQ

IC-7300, MFJ-993B, OFCF RANDOM WIRE, BATTERY POWER
AI4EW

New Location this year
N4HWH

Score includes 500 bonus pts for working all 6 POTA stations.
Overwrote a QSO on 20m at 16:59 by mistake with N4IJ
but cannot remember the call, sorry. DL3DXX

Another good event. My goal was to get my three needed counties.
I got two of them - Graham abnd Cherokee. Still need Alleghany.
Maybe next year. Had to quit a bit early due to earlier
commitment. Thanks - 73 tom Rig = TenTec Eagle @ 100 Watts.
Antenna = an Isotron-80 for 80 meters, a mag Loop (40 thru 15),
and a 10 meter dipole, all in the attic above the garage.
KV8Q

CERTIFICATE: YES
N8DNA

Rig was FTdx101 and Butternut vertical.
Very high activity this year. Made for a fun time.
W1END

Thanks for the NC QSO Party fun. 73 - Dan, W1QK

100 watts to two selectable 90' dipoles. Thanks for the fun! Lots of activity. C U next time, 73, Dan ke0tt

Conditions on 40 m early in the day were horrid - moving to 20 m proved to be very helpful. N4EF

Portable QTH - FM29jw

QSO Points: 25 QSOs * 3 Pts / CW QSO = 75 Points

Multiplier: 19 Unique Counties

75 * 19 = 1425 Total Points

Thank you for the 2024 North Carolina QSO Party.

KF3G

Tons of activity this year.

AA4TI

Thanks to the extra effort put out by all the mobile & portable ops!

ND9M

fun contest KA0PQW

Fun chasing the NC stations. Planned to just work SSB but had to go to CW for more QSOs NF7E (AZ)

Got my first digital contact on this one

KB9LGS

All Digital using PSK, KG5LRL

"Many thanks for another very enjoyable North Carolina QSO Party and to the stations for activating the rarer counties." K3TW

Skookumlogger, Flex 6600M, 40M EDZ fed with ladder k, Radio was not talking to computer during early part so exact frequency is not correct. Band is.

WU4G

This is a 1st-time QRP NCQP operation from Anza.

With all the radiosport GiGs behind us, I was able to focus on NCQP.

As usual, I was a bit disappointed by the NC turnout in their QP GiG.

I worked EVERY county I heard, which means only 20% of available counties.

BuMMer DewD.

The 01:00z ending time means we JUST get a 40-meter opening to NC in California when the contest comes to its unprecedented ending.

The QSO Party is over just as we are settling in to make it all happen.

Look for a write-up on this and other contests at: <http://WQ6X.Blogspot.com>

WQ6X (CA)

KX3 with Indoor Magnetic Loop Antenna K3JZD

Great conditions. Glad to be able to give out California to several stations that needed it! NN6U

Radio IC-7300, Antenna 134ft OCF wire dipole at 10m in trees.
Thanks for the fun! KK4BZ

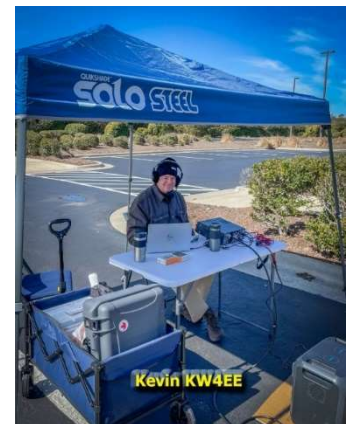
Nice to work folks in North Carolina in this very cordial QSOP.
Wish I would have found N4W and N4A, but alas, no. Thanks to all who participated and 73, W9TCV

1st NCQP. Thanks for all the fun !! W4ZTH

The conditions were up and down all afternoon. Some of the stations were very good to work with me. Thank you and see you in Sept for Salmon Run N7AME (WA)

Thanks for QSO party.
Sandra, WA1SAY

I took my field day setup to Currituck County on the coast since I noted very few submissions from this county in past years. My wife and I were also wanting to go for some walks on the beach. We stayed at the Hampton Inn Outer Banks for the weekend. This is just south of Corolla, NC. I was planning on working from a local park for NCQP, but I met the hotel manager over breakfast, and he said I could operate out of the outer edge of the hotel parking lot since they were lightly loaded. That is the background.



My equipment and experiences:

Yaesu FTdx10 running 100 watts to Superantenna vertical. This antenna can easily be setup in about 15 minutes and doesn't require any trees or the like. My power source was a Bluetti power station which has a 30 amp 12 volt "RV" outlet. I used about 33% of the battery's capacity during the operation. Although the parking lot was excellent for ease of setup, it turned out to be a nightmare for RF noise. There was a picket fence of noise with about 2 kHz spacing on the spectrum analyzer on 15 meters. I was tempted to move, but I didn't see the noise until I was completely setup and ready to go. I think perhaps the noise was from the light poles in the parking lot, but I didn't have my RFI sniffer radio with me so I couldn't try to locate the source. I have added havng that radio to my field day checklist. As such I didn't do much hunt and pounce style of operating. I found a frequency in between noise spikes and just stayed there and called CQ. Same for 20

and 40 meters but the noise was not as bad as on 15. Last but not least, it was very cold. We were hoping for 50's, but the temperature was 39-40 degrees with a 10-15 mph wind from the north. That is what eventually ended my run. It got too cold as the sun started to go down. I was wearing winter biking gloves so I could operate my keyer, but my hands eventually started to shake and I made errors. Hi hi. All of my operation was CW. Picture of me operating enclosed. It was taken by my wife. Even with the cold, it was a blast, and I'm already thinking about what county to try next year. Let me know if you have any questions.

73,

Kevin KW4EE

I was camping at Satterwhite Point on Kerr Lake (Vance County, NC) during the 2024 NCQP. My activation took place in my fifth wheel RV. My equipment included a Yaesu FT-891 (running 90 watts), a MAT 30 tuner, and (2) homebrew mono-band dipoles I have tuned for 20 and 40 meters. I was only able to raise one antenna at a time up in a tree on my campsite. All of my NCQP contacts were limited to 20 and 40 meters only.

My location was also within a designated POTA entity, K-3845, so I did a NCQP / POTA activation. I also dedicated some time on 40 meters to hunt NC Counties and the NCQP Bonus Stations.

As for my most memorable experience, while working a pile-up on 20 meters I made contact with stations from the Netherlands, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Spain just to name a few. These stations were wiping out the U.S. stations that were calling. Band conditions were obviously working in our favor.

My home QTH is in Franklin County, NC, but I enjoy getting a "rare" county on the air during the NCQP. I hope this answers your questions. Let me know if you need any further information. Please share my thanks to all of the NCQP organizers for a great QSO Party.

'73

Lew K4TCT

I had planned for possibly 2-3 county line activations that day, but the Avery/Caldwell county line on the Blue Ridge Parkway was very productive all day and into the evening so I stayed put. Being set up on the Parkway also made my operation a POTA activation, which was an added bonus. I was concerned about the snowfall that had occurred at the higher elevations the night before since I would be driving from Ashe County and mostly on the Parkway, but thankfully there was only one hairy stretch on the way which was all ice.

I operated out of the back seat of my truck (photo attached) and brought my Icom IC-7300 along which is my shack radio and my primary contesting rig. I used ham stick antennas with an external antenna tuner, running with up to 100 watts on both CW and Phone, primarily on 20, 40, and 80 meters. My Bioenno 30Ah battery lasted over eight hours, at which point I switched batteries. I made an effort to conserve power, but would boost to 100% whenever I couldn't break through a pileup to get a new multiplier, and that usually worked after a few more attempts.

I look forward to this contest more than any other and this year is by far my best score of all the contests I've participated in over the last few years. I learned a few lessons this year which I plan to apply in next year's event. Bottom line is that I had an absolute blast and I thank all of the operators - in state, out of state, and DX - for making this such an enjoyable contest!

73,
Paul - N1XI



I have been operating mobile in the PA and NY QSO parties beginning in 2010 since my home QTH is close to the PA border. Last year my wife and I stayed in Myrtle Beach during the winter and I began thinking about bringing my mobile setup down to get some operating time in. This year I did and operated several contests as a part-time participant. The SC and NC QSO parties fell within our time frame, so I ran the idea past my wife, and she gave me the OK to go and have some fun. The first thing I did was to loosely plan a route that would take me along the SC-NC border into some counties that were not scheduled to be activated. Saturday's operation went off without any real problems, so I looked forward to repeating the fun on Sunday in NC.

My goal was to operate county lines, if possible, to take advantage of the two-for-one QSO count. I arrived at my starting location at the Brunswick/Columbus county line about 10 minutes before the opening bell. Everything was working OK so when the clock reached 15:00 I started a run of 270 QSOs in one hour and 15 minutes. As the rate slowed it was time to move on. Unfortunately, it took 1:48 to reach the Robeson/Scotland county line. Lots of operating time was lost due to travel, but that's the way it goes for a single-op mobile with no driver. I wasn't able to find a suitable county line at my next stop so I operated a single county (Richmond) before moving on to the Anson/Union county line. As the sun began going down, I decided to give 80m CW a try and added another 50 QSOs before pulling the plug a little after 23:00. I just didn't feel like making the 200+ mile drive home in total darkness.

My mobile setup consisted of an Elecraft K3, Tarheel 75A on the roof of a Chevy Equinox, TuneMatic Lite screwdriver controller and a Yamaha CM500 headset. Logging was done on a Lenovo laptop running N1MM+. I ran off the vehicle starting battery but will have a dedicated LiFePO4 battery next time, which should keep the output power more stable instead of varying between 60-100 watts.

I ended up making about 200 more QSOs in the NC party than in SC, and it was a very fun weekend. I hope to be able to do it again next year.

73, Tom N2CU

I always enjoy the NCQP since is it one of the better state QSO parties. Keep up the good work! 73 de Drew K9CW