7QP
Seventh Area QSO Party

Prepared by

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What is a QSO Party?

- **Short** operating event
  - 8 hours to 2 days (7QP is 18 hours...Sat-Sun)
- **Theme**
  - Geographic - state, call area
  - Club QSO Party - FISTS, QCWA, FOC
- **Usually scored like a contest**
  - Points for contacts (3 CW, 2 SSB, 4 digital in 7QP)
  - Multipliers (states, DX, 259 7th counties)
  - OK to re-Work mobiles/rovers after they change counties
What state parties?

- Almost every state has one
  - in every month of the year
- Also regional parties this weekend
  - INQP, New England QP, etc.
- Seventh QSO Party (7QP) is first weekend in May (May 2-3, 2020)
  - 160-10 meters (no WARC), SSB, dig & CW
What activity is planned?

- Most QPs have a web page & reflector
  - E-Mail plans, questions, discuss and brag
  - Activity map or list

- 7QP has a website:
  - Info, rules & map at http://www.ws7n.net/7QP
  - Info from 7qpinfo@codxc.org
Planned Activity list

http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=START&Page=2

many mobiles, portables and rovers
Why do 7 QP?

• Be the target of a pileup (feels like being DX)
  - Rare county or on a county line = REALLY busy!
• Shake down your mobile/portable station
  - Test the club’s Field Day setup
  - Test emergency equipment under 18 hour load
• Improve contest & message handling skills
• Improve CW skills or get over mic. fright
• Fill the log - can make MANY QSOs in 18 hrs
• Prizes
2019 7QP

- 735 logs submitted
- 203 of 259 counties with activity
- (24 of 56 in Montana)
- Over 1100 7th stations on the air
- Results are posted on website
  - http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=activecounties
Changes for 2020

DIGITAL MODES - PSK & RTTY  added

http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules
What skills do I need?

• One or all 3 modes:
  - 7QP is 160-10, SSB, Dig and CW

• The desire to make contacts
  - Butt in chair up to 18 hours

• Ability to keep a legible log (more later)
My Station?

- There’s always HF activity in a QSO party
  - 40 meters most popular (local and DX QSOs)
- Rig, antennas, logging system
  - Fixed station - QRP, LP, or HP and low dipole: 80, 40, 20
    - 10-15 will likely be less busy in 2020
  - Mobile - 20-40-80 meters and CW are advantages
  - Portable/Rover - good antennas are a plus
- Operators - Tech’s can operate SSB and CW on some HF bands or guest/club operate on all bands
Don’t think about winning

Think about:

-Making your state heard
-Improving your skills
-Improving your station
-Having FUN!
Logging?

- **small** handwritten logs (<40 QSOs)
  - Manual re-entry is required, meaning.....
  - Entry error potential = loss of score
- Prefer computer-generated data files via e-mail or webform
  - Accuracy guaranteed, easier to score
  - Cabrillo format advised, but not required
  - Most logging programs create acceptable entry files
    - TR4W, WriteLog, NA, N3FJP, LOGic, CQ/X
    - N1MM+ is free, works for simultaneous state QP's
- LAST RESORT - An Excel data base.....
  - Minimum data: Date-time-band-mode- station worked-his QTH
Scoring?

• No need to score your log
  - Log checker does that anyway
  - You can calculate unofficial CLAIMED score

• How about 7QP weekend with Four* QPs going on at once?
  - Generate ONE log, let the log checker throw out the QSOs that do not apply
  - Logging program in GENERAL QSO mode or use N1MM Logger, others (test before May !!!)

* INQP, 7QP, DEQP and NEQP… also Italian ARI contest
Send signal report and your county. Examples of your messages:

“CQ 7QP KJ9C KJ9C in Montana” (W0AG calls)

“W0AG 5-9 MTGAL” (W0AG sends 59 TN)

“Thanks. KJ9C 7QP”

Note that the county abbreviation for logging is FIVE characters that start with “state”... so MTGAL is for Gallatin county Montana.

Use the county list at

http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=geo
How high can I score?

- Fixed stations -
  - HP >1000 QSOs - LP 500 QSOs - M/M 1800+
- Portable
  - HP 1200+ QSOs (accounts for county line x2)
  - LP 500 QSOs (one county)
- Mobile - 100 watts - 600+ QSOs
- RECORDS FOR EACH CLASS
  - http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/2019_ByCat_Records.pdf
PRIZES?

- Certificates for notable effort
- Plaques for top scores in 7QP classes
- Worked All States, USACA awards
- http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=awards
7QP Prizes?

- **DOZENS** of Sponsored Plaques for top scores in:
  - HP, LP, QRP single op fixed stations in 7th
  - HP, LP, QRP out of area
  - Top multi-operator (M/S and M/M) entry
  - Portable (ala Field Day style)
  - Expedition (mobile and rover)
  - More

- **Certificate for state winner** if more than 25 QSOs
Mobiles always welcome

- 12 volt radio and reliable battery
- $15 Hamstick - or more $$$ antenna
- Computer log on laptop interface to rig
  - easier than paper, especially on the move
- A map and a PLAN
- Options to make life easier:
  - GPS and mapping software (espec. if aero mobile)
  - Driver (or a pilot) = safety
K9WX/m
KJ9C/m
solo op
WN9O rover (W9IU Op)
Murphy may strike
have alternate routes
WA0KGU – Porcupine Mobile
KB9AX/aero mobile
Dan (pilot) & Dave N9KT (opr)
K5KG/m
FL QSO Party
(Legal for highway travel?)
Expedition/Portable?

- Portable = One location only, temporary setup (Field Day style)
- Can operate from a two county line
N9FN/p
Expedition/Rover?

- Can be a mobile that uses temporary antennas (antennas may be set up beforehand)
- Can be a “Field Day” type setup that changes locations (new county, can be worked again)
- Mobile = Antennas must be usable while traveling (land, air, water) but may park 100% of the operating time
WN9O
(rover)
WN9O/portable
WN9O (Station A&B)
WN9O (Station C)
What can I do now?

• Visit the 7QP website at www.7qp.org
• Subscribe to the Yahoo MTQP reflector
  - Option - Hourly, daily or weekly updates
• Look at the Advice on the 7QP website
• More operating tips on INQP site Inqp.org
• Stir up activity in your club
May 2-3, 2020
1300-0700 UTC (18 hours)

• Make plans to be on from home??
  - (invite guest ops, be a M/S or M/M)
• Spot the mobiles and rovers!!!
  - (But be careful how you use spotting network)
• Take it on the road yourself:
  - Mobile - in 3-20 counties. Sit on a line for double points (and be a double multiplier).
  - As a portable (or Rover) (get landowner’s OK)
  - Find a county where you can set a new record
  - Prepare for the pileups
New Contest

State QSO Party Challenge

• Recognize radio amateur participation in US State and Canadian Province QSO Parties.
  - 47 parties in all

• Scoring:
  - Total number of contacts X Number of QSO Parties entered.

• “Entered” means at least 2 QSOs.

• Scores submitted to 3830Scores.com (but please also send in your log to help the QP scorers)

Info at http://stateqsoparty.com/
QUESTIONS ???

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