

SOAPBOX NCQP 2014

Had fun following the mobiles around. Thanks guys for a great job. Not easy or cheap to do anymore with the price of gas. Good show of fixed stations also. 15m was open pretty decent to here but not too many guys to work there. Checked 10m but no go. Thanks to all for the QSO's and to the organizers for a fine job. Your website was full of good info! I'll be mobile in April as W0E for the MOQP, hope to see some of ya there!

Thanks 73 Mark KI0I

Two years ago, the NCQP seemed to be dying on the vine, I only made 197 QSO's, and only one was above 40 meters! This year, there were lots of causal ops making it possible to break 100 Q's on 40 phone and 20 even opened well for about 3-1/2 hours, what great luck (after the disturbances from Wed-Sat.) and what a Renaissance!

Late morning, it seemed like it might be a very long day, I could tell the majority of the activity was on 20 and everyone was skipping over here near DC. And running on 40 phone proved unproductive. Then just after noon stations on the far edges of NC started coming thru on 20 and I had a good run on 40 phone just before then also. After a 15 minute lunch break, I heard KM1C in Pamlico loud on 20 phone and eventually for a brief 20 minutes or so the whole state was loud on 20. Despite trying to run up there, results were poor, but I kept adding CW and phone Q's on 20 and even a few on 15 backscatter. Thanks to a move by me, W4DW was the only station worked on 10 M and the only one on all 5 bands. So, I went to 40 not expecting much and had a great phone run of 25 stations and another good one not long after. Numbers on 75 and 80 were not quite up to 2 years ago despite good conditions, but even the mobiles were good copy.

Many thanks to all of the mobiles for really putting on a show especially compared to 2 years ago when W4MY was nearly a lone mobile wolf. I worked Bert, N4CW, Paul, AA4XX, Jeff, NY4N, N4E, and John, AD8J many times, "well played!" as the golf commentators say. Also worked was KB4QQJ. There were some desperate begs for N4CW to work 20. Guys, he would have if he could have; he had SWR problems with the 20M whip. I only occasionally checked for spots, and tried when I could to spot the mobiles. I probably missed 3-5 counties that were workable from here. Breaking the mobile pile ups seemed pretty easy, thankfully. My hardest struggle was a fixed station on 20 phone in Watauga despite being S9 here.

Both 150 point bonuses were earned and all were pretty easy except for Hyde County. If a county has the privilege of being a bonus, it ought to be on for most of the party.

Many thanks for all of the QSO's; working 3-5 QSO's with the same station was pretty common thanks to the good conditions. Thanks to RARS for organizing a great fun party!

N8II

SO1R! Only worked RTTY mode, that's my specialty. It was a little lonely on the bands yesterday, lots of fading and flutter courtesy of the CME. Thanks for adding a digital category.

WB2RHM/4

Unfortunately really poor band conditions for this one. I had hoped to improve upon last year's score but it was not to be. 40 never really opened until late and I never heard many of the stations I saw posted on the cluster. I was happy to be able to get the 300 bonus points and thanks goes to ND4W in TRA for pulling me out of the noise on 80 near the end on the contest. Had conditions been better, I would have probably made more of a full time effort. Thanks to all the friendly NC ops and, as always, to the rovers for helping improve the multiplier score. See you next time.

Dave
W9QL

FTDX5000MP with a G5RV at 35 feet, low power

There was front coming from the West and the RF from North Carolina banged into the front of the front and fell into the panhandle. Good conditions. Worked six mobiles on CW but missed the battleship which most likely was only sideband. A great QSO party.

KN4Y

Original plan was expedition to rare counties but crewing at NY4A for ARRLDX CW and work didn't leave enough prep time. Plan B was activate Pender County from our beach cottage on Topsail Island. Got antennas put up on Saturday and the contest was a blast. Great participation in state, out of state and DX. Thanks to the NCQP organizers for really getting the word out. There were a LOT of counties activated by mobiles, expeditions and locals. The pileups on 20M SSB gave this mostly CW op a workout. Especially trying to type with one hand and holding a hand mic in the other with peak rates over 200! Thanks to all for their patience and apologies to a number of DX stations I just couldn't pull out although I did get a DL, EA and I in the log.

Equipment: TS-480SAT, 80-40 trap dipole; 20M dipole, both at about 25' (8M) and

about 20' (6M) from the water. Hustler 4BTV vertical mounted on boat dock. Fortunately the winds weren't strong and didn't have to use the mobile hamsticks clamped to the boat lift. Logging: N1MM
See you next year!

73,
Jim, K4QPL

Decided to operate QRP this year.

Station is a K3 at 5W and antennas are 80M dipole with open wire fed by a tuner on 80 and 20 and a 40M on 40 and 15.

Conditions were good on all bands but tough getting the in-state stations to hear me on 40M SSB. Worked several Europeans on 20 and 15. They were doing all the work. Thanks to all the mobiles especially N4CW.

W4UX Score includes bonus for W4DW qso. Great activity again this year. NC is ideally situated to give me good propagation on all bands. Nice to hear the prolific mobiles. It's fun to chase them around. Thanks to all. FTdx5000 and Butternut HF6V vertical.

Eldon - W1END

This was my first NCQP! Since NC is just across the border, I lived on 40m until going to 80m for the last hour or so. I even "ran" on 40m for 2 hours. Thanks to all of the mobiles, expeditions who put those "rare" countries on the map. I worked the Battleship and worked all of the bonus stations. Conditions were always great on 40m! This QP will be on my 2015 contest calendar.

73's WN4AFP

It was a beautiful day to be driving around the western part of NC. Operated solo in the new "lone Ranger" category and operated parked in 5 counties. I had about the same number of contacts as last year but 13 less mults. Last year was with wire antennas and this year was with just Hamsticks on the roof of the Honda Accord.. The first four locations were cemeteries on the tops of hills. The last location, after dark was a Walmart parking lot. The rig was a Kenwood TS-480 barefoot. Thanks to everyone that followed me around.

AD8J

FT-990, MFJ-1026 as Preamp. Force 12 C3 at 64' and 80/40 Fan Dipole at 50'.

No significant propagation to NC on 15 and 10. First time I have "played" in this contest and it was enjoyable.

N1CC

K3/10 at 5 watts to two 74' dipoles up about 25-30' and fed with ladder lines and Johnson Matchboxes. Lots of mobile activity, enjoyed the party. Also connected with ni4bk and w4dw for bonus points. Thanks for your copy of my QRP, and hope to C all of U next time.

73, Dan,
ke0g

Total score includes 300 bonus points. Had a good time all day. Good bunch of hams in NC!
WB2P

Kx3, 5w, verticals. Not sure if my claimed score includes bonus points. Pretty good conditions for QRP. Tnx for the contacts!

VA3RKM

As my two Miniature Schnauzers, Freddie and Eddie and their (UCE provided vanity calls K-9FRE and K-9EDD) will gladly confirm, conditions today were Ruff, Ruff, Ruff.

Despite conditions, this was another fine NCQP and I thank everyone for the Qs everyone provided. This "Old Man" is getting too old to hang in there for this much BIC time...

My hat is off to the N4E Crew who provided N4C with 24 Qs, whoever you are, you were on a roll and what a great job county hopping job you accomplished.

73,
Jack N4C / W0UCE

I spent the first few hours on SSB and decided to keep at it - pretty rare for me to bail on CW. Fun time with decent participation. The organizers are doing a fantastic job.

73, Nate/N4YDU

I agree that sending the call in the exchange is redundant, particularly since I make it a point to send my call between each contact anyway. SS is one contest that requires the call and only because it is part of a message header. I was bummed when they took the date out of the header but only because my birthdate is Nov 17 and I got a lot of "Happy Birthdays".

As far as the signal report, I started out the contest on CW with 599 and the county. After someone mentioned that I didn't need to send the report, I just started sending the county TWICE. That worked great as I had very few

requests for a repeat and sending the county twice had a nice sound to it. So I liked that on CW.

SSB didn't feel as good so I said 59 and the county. I think that was faster than saying the county twice. Every few contacts I would use the phonetics for the county to help out the copy.

John Getz
AD8J

Thanks to the organizers and workers who put this fine QSO party together. I was very happy to be able to participate again in this years contest. Last year I entered as a SSB out of state entry and was very happy to receive a beautiful trophy for my efforts. This year I was very happy to see the inclusion of a CW only category to the list. I wrestled with the decision of whether to enter as an all CW or a Mixed category entry. I was a bit concerned there would not be enough CW action to hold my interest, so I decided to do both. My objective in either case was to take home another trophy to match my SSB one in one of these other two categories.

Thanks to Paul AA4XX and N4E for great mobile efforts, which gave me 10 contacts each, N4CW provided 7, AD8J and NY4N each with 6, W4PH with 5, and three QSO's each for K4REB (who provided my only HYD contact) K5EK, and KI4SVM. Having operated as part of a mobile team in the 2007 NCQP, I learned first hand how much fun, but also how much work mobile contesting can be. The mobiles really add a lot to the fun of a QSO party and are greatly appreciated.

I appreciated Marty W4MY sending out the postcard reminder prior to the contest date and I did use the info to update my calendar. I think the personal touch of such a mailing is a good way to keep participation up. You might also consider sending information to all the major contest club leaders in case you are not already doing so. Most have e-mail reflectors and could sendout the invitation to their many members who are dedicated testers.

I see Marc W4MPS was one of the operators who put Transylvania County on the map. You were probably the operator I enjoyed chatting with on 40 SSB about my trying to catch you on 20 meter CW earlier. Fortunately I got you also on 40CW. You guys had quite a pile-up going when I heard you on 20 meters.

I like the fact that this is a Low Power or QRP contest, however there are many operators who never get on the air without turning on their big amplifier. I don't know what you can do to get the message across, but I know this is a problem. It would not be so bad if only the stations west of the Mississippi used higher power, but close in, it causes problems and is not fair overall.

In summary, I think the NC QSO party is one of the best and most enjoyable. I hope it continues to grow in support. As a parting suggestion, I think you need to start

tabulating the record scores in each category so that those who achieve those positions will be encouraged to come back to defend the titles each year and others will try to beat those records. Many QSO parties do this and it would be a good time to start for the NCQP.

73 Dick Church, N4ARO

Another reason is that those you are County Hunters need a RST, I believe. I sent rst and county, and believe this is OK. However, I do not like serial numbers.

NY4N

The only reason that I can think of to keep the signal report is that it acts as a filler to give ops on the other end an extra moment to enter the call and county in their log. (Not a problem when the logging program is connected to the radio and is extracting the exchange data automatically for CW or DIGI, but for us phone ops and the paper loggers, the exchange could get too efficient and too quick when manually entering the exchange in the log.)

w4ft

There have been several replies to my suggestion now, and it appears on the surface that most disagree with my proposal - mostly from non-phone ops. However, it also seems that they have simultaneously missed my point, supported my point, and suggested another alternative, all at the same time. Cool!

Let me be more specific, after which I invite comment, particularly from those that have responded.

1. My primary point is that the rules require that the exchange include sending the call again, along with the county. Let's remove the requirement for sending the redundant callsign. It takes extra time, almost nobody does it unless they need the fill, and it confuses people trying to figure out how to execute an exchange (at least at the start), so let's remove it from the rule.
2. I suggested sending the signal report instead of the call sign because this is what most people already do in our contest. This is probably the most common exchange used in contests.
3. The non-phone ops have suggested that they'd prefer not to have a signal report. Works for me. Sending just the county is even more efficient!

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loggers, the exchange could get too efficient and too quick when manually entering the exchange in the log.)

Consider the ARRL DX Contest this weekend. Their rules give the exchange for phone and CW as follows.

4. Contest Exchange:

4.1. W/VE stations send signal report and state or province.

4.2. DX stations send signal report and power (number or abbreviation indicating approximate transmitter output power).

And the RTTY Roundup uses this:

4. Exchange:

4.1. United States: Signal report and State.

I used those as the template for my suggestion. Today, most ops use computer logging which do most of the heavy lifting. Unless the CW and DIGI ops are manually transcribing the exchanges to the log, the logging program picks up the exchange info automatically in most exchanges. For us phone ops, we have to type everything in, so standardizing the exchange and making it more efficient is of great interest.

Under the current rules, a typical phone exchange is supposed to sound like this. Most don't, but this is what the rules actually call for.

CQ contest, CQ Contest, Whiskey 4 Fox Tango, W4FT, contest
Alpha Bravo 4 Charlie Delta
Alpha Bravo 4 Charlie Delta, Whiskey 4 Fox Tango, WAKE, Whiskey Alpha Kilo.
Alpha Bravo 4 Charlie Delta, Transylvania, Tango, Romeo, Alpha.
QSL, W4FT QRZed.

This is what an exchange would be with my suggested change, and is actually what most phone ops do.

CQ contest, CQ Contest, Whiskey 4 Fox Tango, W4FT, contest
Alpha Bravo 4 Charlie Delta
Alpha Bravo 4 Charlie Delta, 5-9, WAKE, Whiskey Alpha Kilo.
5-9, Transylvania, Tango, Romeo, Alpha.
QSL, W4FT QRZed.

And for the most efficient, this is what it would be without the redundant call or the signal report, assuming a clean copy on both ends:

CQ contest, Whiskey 4 Fox Tango, contest
AB4CD
AB4CD, WAKE
Transylvania
W4FT QRZed.

This last example happens when both stations have 59+ armchair copy and both know it. It happens, but isn't the general occurrence. I'm sure that CW and digi ops don't use phonetics, they don't need them.

There's one more advantage to this change (at least to removing the redundant call sign requirement). New contest ops who are trying to figure out how to do an exchange won't be as confused. Hey, maybe we should include an example of a correct exchange in the rules?

The point is that repeating a call sign in the exchange is redundant, takes extra time, and most people don't do it. So let's take it out of the rules.

73,
Cliff W4FT

After listening to a wide variety of exchanges in the 2014 NCQP, I noted very early that the vast majority of people did not execute an exchange as specified in the rules. Instead, there were a number of different exchanges. Some passed only their county, others passed a signal report and county, others passed their name and county, and a small minority passed an entire ragchew with their county. There were other variations on the theme, but the only commonality was that they passed their county and almost nobody passed their call as part of the exchange after contact was established. (It's kind of redundant and a time waster.)

Currently, the rules specify the following:

"In State Stations work everyone. Send call sign and NC county. County abbreviations help here.

Out of State Stations work NC stations only. Send call sign and QTH (State, Province, or "DX".) Sending signal report (i.e., 59) is optional."

I would like to suggest that the exchange specified in the rules should be changed for next year.

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Out of State Stations work NC stations only. Send signal report (i.e., 59) and QTH (State, Province, or "DX".)"

If necessary, pull the language from one of the ARRL contests that use the exchange. (I tried, but their site appears to be offline as I type this.)

During the contest, most people did this already. It is also the exchange used by a number of other contests. Sending your call sign again when you do the exchange is redundant and appeared to be confusing to some. I could count the number of stations that actually used the exchange specified in the rules on one hand, with plenty of fingers left over! When I did hear it, the stations on one or even both sides of the exchange seemed confused or tongue tied. (Mind you, my experience is phone only, not cw or digital.) It seemed that the exchange detailed in

the rules was rapidly abandoned by everyone early on -- including all of the RARS and NCQP stations!

If the intent was to force those contesters that repeatedly ask QRZ and will make 20 contacts before giving their own call, well, that didn't work at all, so that's not an argument - especially since nobody's following the exchange suggested in the rules anyways.

So, why don't we change the rules to match what has become the de facto exchange used by the vast majority and eliminate some confusion. I think it'll make things work a little smoother for everyone because everyone - ok, most operators - will use the same standard exchange.

Opinions??????

Respectfully submitted & 73,
Cliff W4FT

Thanks for the contacts and bonus points in the QSO party!! I had a ball running back and forth between mobile lone ranger and supporting K4EG at their club house.

73 for now,
Randy_KB4QQJ

I would like to suggest that the phone frequency of 7260 be changed so that the mobile window is not 7250 - 7260. In this range are the following nets:
7251 Southcars
7255 Eastcars
7258 Midcars

On Sunday I got in a pissing match with a frequency cop when I was on 7257. He said that that I was interfering with Midcars on 7258. I told the "pig farmer" that I was on lower sideband and my signal should be going down, not up in frequency. I suggested that he go to a narrower filter. That got him all flustered and he accused me of being an "appliance operator". I made another 30 Q's and moved off that frequency.

So I'm thinking that 7230 might be a better center frequency to publish. Being lower in the band might also might make it possible to use one setting on the mobile antenna for both CW and SSB. With the higher frequency I had to get out of the car, loosen two set screws and readjust the whip length every time I switched between SSB and CW on 40 meters. That's pretty technical work for us "appliance operators".

Other than this problem, I had a great time being mobile in the contest. One of my biggest piles was when someone spotted me as

AD8J/YAN. The cluster system flagged me as being in Afghanistan and this brought the DXers into the contest. Someone alerted me to this and since I was on SSB, I made it a point to keep mentioning NCQP and Yancey County. However it was still a big pile.

I'm already looking forward to next year. I love the "Lone Ranger" category.

John Getz
AD8J

Well, once again, the team of W4PH and K2JB had a great NCQP expedition. Our setup is a 6X10 cargo trailer with a fold-over 40 ft crank up which allows us to operate inside with relative comfort. Antennas were a 40/20 meter folded dipole and an 80 meter dipole for our last stop. We set up in Polk County and had a great initial run there on 40. We then moved to the Rutherford County Welcome Center at Lake Lure and did fantastic on 20 and 40. From there we moved to a small pull-off in Henderson county and then on to Bald Mountain in Buncombe County. We were hoping that 80 would be our cash cow like last year but it didn't turn out that way. We finally went to CW the last hour which confirmed to us that we should have switched sooner but that's what contests are all about. As soon as one is finished, you already know what you will do better next year.

We ended up operating from four counties with 58 counties and 32 state multipliers worked for a total of 252QSOs, and we heard a lot of familiar calls. But more than that, we had a beautiful day to contest and lots of curious people stopping and asking about ham radio.

Thanks to all the NCQP committee for putting this together and for what has to be many, many hours of behind the scenes efforts before and after to make it such a great success. See you down the log at the next NCQP.

73's
Howard, W4PH
& Dean, K2JB

A special thanks to all the op's & those that called into K4EG for the NCQP. Some of the newer guys got a good taste of what all the fun's about! A total of 12 op's during the NCQP kept things hopping. A special thanks to KB4QQJ for making sure the station was ready & logging program updated. The rig, antenna's & logging worked flawlessly, with no appearances by Murphy. Also a special thanks to K4LAL for being a Captain & keeping us on course. Fun was had by all, including Ms. Eliana who had a nice little run of her own. Brother Christopher, KJ4UBL had better watch out! The rough numbers:
Goal 350 Q's & a lot a fun
Actual Q's 380 Counties worked 63 Multipliers 104 Club Mixed Cat.
Most fun I've had in quite some time playing radio.

KG4ZOI

My 14 year old son, Bryan (KK4TTU), and I were really excited about participating in this year's QSO party and committed to blocking off our calendars for it. We even went and registered for N4B as a special event call sign for it. [I have since come to my senses and realized that just operating in a state QSO party doesn't really qualify as a special event, so I won't do it again and would encourage others to really think about it before doing it themselves.]

We were going to be Expedition class, multi-operator, SSB in Carteret County at a friend's place in Atlantic Beach. We started setting up on Saturday and I realized that the power cable for the TS-2000 wasn't in the case. I had brought the spare TS-140 just in case, but we both wanted to use the newer radio. So, off to Radio Shack to get the parts to build the cable, though without the proper connector block, just the pins. That gave Bryan a chance to practice his soldering skills and we now have an emergency cord that can be used for just about any radio. What good is a contest that doesn't involve a little solder smoke beforehand?

The antenna was a 20 meter OCF dipole. There weren't any trees, so we did the best we could from running the antenna from the roof peak and out to the yard. Fortunately, the neighboring homes were vacant for the weekend, so our antenna building activity was barely noticed. The radio tuned up to it and would work across 10, 20, 40, and 75 at less than 1.5:1 so we were good to go.

As the contest started we had several quick entries, then realized that the laptop time was set to GMT and the logging software was assuming it was Eastern. Lesson learned: double check with a dummy log the day before! We had some really good runs, then we took a break for a bit and drove down to Fort Macon and walked around a bit, then came back and worked until the end. We only had 282 contacts, 43 counties, 20-something states and a few DX at the end of the contest, but we had a good time and was able to have a nice relaxed pace. More importantly, we had fun.

This was our first true contest for both of us. I'd done Field Day fairly aggressively over the years, but only for a shift or two. We both had a great time and you know it is a win when your son says "That was cool. When is the next contest?"

Thanks to everyone for a great NCQP in 2014, with a special thanks to the RARS group for doing such a top-notch job in getting interest stirred up.

Mike
KD4OKR

Thanks to all the organizers, for you did a great job and of course to the many participants out of state as well as in nc.
..n4gf roger and xyl jean

Totally a last minute decision to operate the NCQP. I had registered the call N4E earlier and asked my wife if she would drive and she said "How about asking Mike if he'll go". So a call to Mike and he had plans to attend a hamfest instead.

I decided to operate "Lone Ranger" until my wife says she'll drive. It was an early start Sunday morning to get to our starting point of Warren County, NC.

I had spent most of Saturday preparing the vehicle by installing 40 and 20 meter on a magnet mobile plus a 80m resonator mounted to the bumper hitch. At first smoke signals showed a horrible noise on 40 meters!! 20 was ok but still a little bit more noise than I had hoped. The noise blanker didn't help much and any troubleshooting didn't help.

We arrived Warren and Northampton line at 9:15am with plenty on time to setup and check out the equipment. At the start on the contest conditions seemed poor with only 84 contacts the first hour and I'm on my 3rd county. Conditions finally picked up with 20 meters being the productive band. My SWR was a little high on 20 with a 2 to 1 so my signal couldn't have been the best. The antennas (80/40/20 Hustlers) seemed to play well with working stations in Europe and most of the USA.

To be honest none of this would have happened if it wasn't for my wife "Pam". She is a true sweetheart and what a trooper staying behind the wheel the entire QSO Party. We made a quick stop for her to pickup some snacks, gas, Micky D, Starbucks :), and to pee a couple times. N4E hit 25 counties and was back at it stopping point with 45 minutes to spare!!

20 meters takes top honors at being the most productive with 741 Qs. Thanks especially to the DX worked, DL, OK, HB9, ZS, others!!

40 meters was the toughest band with lots of engine noise but the band never seemed like it should if you know what I mean? 215 contacts

Once the sun went down I stopped and installed the 80m resonator. 48 contacts in the last few minutes of the contest.

The weather was great with temps in the 70's, sunny skies, prefect QSO party weather to be mobile in February. It was a lot of fun if I could cure the engine noise that would be awesome. Back home around 9:45PM we were both tired and ready to hit the sack. I

asked Pam today if she would do it again next year and she replied, "I'm ready!"

With the side trips the trip was around 550 miles, 2 tanks of gas, a Icom 706MKIIG, laptop, Hustler resonators, and GPS.

Thank you everyone for the contacts and a HUGE thanks for the NCQP group. THANK YOU for your hard work promoting the contest, improving the contest, and the work after the contest.

80 - 48 Qs

40 - 215

20 - 741

1004x 70 MULTS = 210,890 points according to N1MM

Bonus on 50 for working W4DW and 2500 for the counties = 213,440 total points

73 Kyle, WA4PGM aka N4E/mobile

First, the results would have been much less were it not for Jim, W4TMO, my co-pilot, co-operator, and driver (plus, it was HIS car!). I had recently sold my old Explorer that had the antenna mount and necessary wiring, so we had to improvise with Jim's SUV -- it did come with a trailer hitch, and Jim wired in some coax to the back of the SUV as well as identify a good chassis ground within the car. When he arrived around 7:15 AM Sunday morning, we had to install the trailer hitch antenna mount (a super sturdy Breedlove mounting bracket and antenna mount). After that, we put on the antenna, an Outback Outreach, and checked it with the Antenna Analyzer for 40M. Then we installed two 50 AH AGM sealed batteries on the floor of the back seat. We mounted the K3 on a milk crate, holding it down with bungee cords, and the seat back was tilted down and also held in place with bungee cords! All the connections were made, then we were off to grab bagels and coffee before driving east to begin our day in Martin county at 10:00 AM. We were late getting there because my improvised laptop power connection didn't work; so we used a spare laptop that Jim had brought along with its AC adapter. Fortunately, Jim also had a DC-to-AC converter (there was "some" hash, but easy to live with!). We started around 10:30 with Jim driving. He had already plotted a route that we managed to complete by the end of the contest. We put 18 counties on the air for the QSO party. We tried RTTY (AFSK) several times, but there wasn't enough payback for the time we invested -- only 3 qso's! It was something we'd never tried before. This was the third mobile effort we'd made for the NC QSO parties, so we're still "fine tuning" our station and methodology. Some things we forgot about in the past quickly came back to haunt us and bear passing along. First, operating from the back passenger seat with a piece of 3/4-inch plywood on my lap for an operating desk, you soon realize that there are LOTS of bumps in the road! If you're using the little button in the keyboard as a mouse, and the computer is set for a "fast cursor" mode, it's really hard to do much cursor control of anything while in motion! I found the laptop stylus was more "idiot proof"! Then there's the line noise...what line noise? At my home QTH, whenever something goes wrong on the power lines that creates r.f. noise, I quickly notify

my power company and urge them along for a fix. When you're mobile, you drive places where you have no control over the power line quality...in Edgecomb county, the noise level was 20 dB over S9 for a good 10 minutes of driving...I couldn't hear a thing except noise! On the plus side, the only noise I heard while we were on INTERSTATE highways was when we went under high-tension lines traversing the highway overhead! But you can't tool around all those counties and stay on an interstate! Last said, I wish I had checked the antenna on 20M before we left. At some point in our escapade, we decided to try 20 CW, parked and changed the tap on the antenna, then found that the K3 had a minimum SWR of 5.7:1...yes, that's WITH the antenna tuner! So I checked the antenna with the analyzer and found that its resonance (and lowest SWR) was around 14.560 MHz...we didn't mess around and quickly went back to 40! Between now and next year's QSO party I'll resolve that problem.

N4CW/M 2014 NCQP STATS

Operators: N4CW, W4TMO

614 Q's were CW, 3 were RTTY (KN4AA, K4GHS, and K4BYN)

18 Counties (approximately 465 miles in 10 hours)

We worked 37 counties, 4 countries, 29 states other than NC, and 3 provinces

W4UX, AA4FU, and N8II worked us in 16 counties

W4NA worked us in 13 counties

KC3X, N3KR, and WB4YZA worked us in 12 counties

K8NYG worked us in 11 counties

N4C and KN4Y worked us in 10 counties

W4MBD worked us in 9 counties

KN4AA, K4BSK, W2CVW, WD4E, VA3ATT, W4CC, and W3BBO worked us in 8 counties

N4AF, K4ORD, KQ3F, K4BAI, KE4RUN, WW4DX, W4ZPR, N2JNE, K4BYN, N4NTO, W8TM, and WN4AFP worked us in 7 counties

N4CW Max Rates (per N1MM Logger):

2014-02-23 2312Z - 5.0 per minute (1 minute(s)), 300 per hour by N4CW

2014-02-23 2305Z - 2.9 per minute (10 minute(s)), 174 per hour by N4CW

2014-02-23 2348Z - 2.4 per minute (60 minute(s)), 141 per hour by N4CW

DX Worked:

DL4CW twice

EA5DFV once

UR5MM once

Lastly, we're very grateful for all the Q's from all over the place! Thanks.

Bert, N4CW

Just got home from our Transylvania County expedition. What a great weekend! First, let me apologize to all of our digital ops who were hoping to hear (see) more of NC4QP on the digi modes. Murphy paid us a visit. I had all sorts of problems on digi. My little netbook computer kept freezing, and it just got to the point where I couldn't keep continually rebooting to make a few additional QSO's. Actually, I had the same problem on CW with N1MM and my WinKey USB. It worked FB with my voice macros, but NG on CW. So, I wound up making 90% of my CW

contacts manually. OMG, I had to actually send CW with my paddle !!! RF had to be flying all over the place which is something I'll need to diagnose and correct before the next portable adventure. Nevertheless, I managed to log about 350 Q's from TRA, so I was pleased overall. More later, but many thanks to all of you who participated. NCQP is always a ton of fun!

73,

Marc, W4MPS (NC4QP)

When you wrote below you were starting on digi that was a challenge for me to find you. I might have already told you but I worked the KX3 PSK mode inputting with the keyer and reading off of the display on the radio. A bit tricky to do at first but it is doable. Otherwise, how'd you do? Well, I won't be winning any prizes but I definitely improved over last year. Didn't operate the last four hours as my daughter came by at 4PM. But, got a good 6 hours of contesting and believe I might be getting the bug.

Pete

WH6LE

Hi Guys!

I had a good time yesterday, although I got off to a bit of bad start. My location was a pretty bad RF environment and I was battling +20 noise levels before I moved my station. Actually moved it twice before I found a better location!

I did end up giving out Jackson and Macon counties in succession so it looks like I have a bunch of dupes, but they were in different counties.

Thanks and 73, pat KI4SVM

I would like to thank NC4QP for activating Transylvania County. It was an excellent QSO party, I may have the high score for Ohio SSB.

-Ray, KD8IZZ

Well NCQP 2014 is in the books. I want to thank all the RARS group for making it another fine event. I know a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and it's appreciated. Thank You.

I managed 5 counties as mobile lone ranger and still got to help start-up and shut down my local club. I was amazed at the pile up generated when I was in Rockingham county! I think I could have stayed there and made a day of it! Operated mostly CW. Rig was a KX3 into several top loaded mobile antennas. For this trip I used an American Morse Mini-B paddle on a leg strap. Logging while in motion was done by speaking the contact into my voice recorder. At the stationary sites it was an Acer Aspire using N3FJP's contest logger. Worked flawlessly.

BCNU in 2015!!
Randy_KB4QQJ

Murphy hit me too. Fldigi flaked out and disappeared on me. When I brought it back up my Qs where gone. Thank God I found a temp file that had them in it.

73,
Dwayne N4MIO

I had lots of fun this year. I did Union County and then drove over to Anson County. The fun started when I exported the .adi file to a thumb drive to transfer from my home laptop to the netbook I used mobile. Suddenly 59 contacts lost their County Sent data. I did Anson County on the Netbook, getting Anson County in County sent. When I moved the adi file back to the laptop, I suddenly had grown from 84 to 137!! This happened using N3FJP NC log v. 2.0 on both computers.

As my solution, I went into the file on the netbook and edited Union county in where it belonged on the early contacts and finished the party with Union as my county.

Bill, W4WNT

Once again this year we had the honor to sign W4DW in the NC QSO Party. The team consisted of my wife Laurie (N1YXU) and Jim (KG4NEL) on SSB, Howie (WA4PSC) and myself, Bruce (N1LN) on CW. What a great time we had, as it is always good to be the target station. When the starting gun went off at 10:00am (EST) the Qs started out with W9QL on 20 SSB and didn't stop until we drove across the finish line at 7:59 (EST) with N3TG on 40 CW. By that time we had 1164 Qs in the log that included 41 counties, 54 sections and of course the 1 allowable DX. The DX activity did seem to be down this year with only 57 in the log from 26 unique countries.

We would like to thank the RARS organizing committee for running another great NCQP and Marty (W4MY) for once again giving us the opportunity to pass out the bonus points.

73 from the W4DW team,

Laurie N1YXU
Jim KG4NEL
Howie WA4PSC
Bruce N1LN

Just thought I'd share some pics of my operating location for my short stint with the NCQP. That's a hunters tree stand I'm using for an antenna mount and Servo the SOTA Dog standing guard.
Tommy, W4TZM

Hmmm, still not happy (see below) anywho, it's attached. For my sanity, when our new computers arrive on Tuesday (goodbye forever Windows XP) I'll be loading logging software, so no more hand-typing of logs (and then re-typing for LOTW) for me. Last year when I'd make 5-10 contacts per contest/QSO party, it wasn't so time-consuming. Looking forward to another step forward in my ham radio career (besides the Kenwood 570 that I bought last week!)
thanks so much for the help
Anne KC9UHH (WI)

Thanks to you and the rest of the NCQP crew for putting on a good show. This is the first year I've been able to participate, usually have conflicts on that weekend, and found it very enjoyable. You guys have definitely increased the visibility of the NCQP and hopefully we'll see continued growth as a result.

73, Mike N4GU
