

2015 SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY...

The 2015 South Carolina QSO Party is over, logs checked and rechecked, lists for possible tweaks for next year made and we're announcing the winners.

First of all, the SCQP Steering Committee thanks everybody who participated in this years event. We never expected our efforts to almost achieve a 60% increase in the number of logs submitted. We went from 90 logs in 2014 to 165 logs in 2015.

Almost 95% of the submitted electronic logs were delivered to the Committee in the first 24 hours post event. This was due to a random drawing for a BBQ Dinner provided by the SCQP Steering Committee. It was very well received and the Committee is planning on repeating this for next year and maybe expanding it to include all logs once the log submission deadline has passed.

It took close to 10 months of discussions, writes, rewrites, re-rewrites, phone calls, emails, passing the new rules around to experienced QSO Party operators in other states, check, recheck, re-recheck and finally publish the new rules. Some of the advances were a new type of on-line Summary Sheet, bonus stations, new points system and new categories. The SCQP is one of the only state events that has the same categories for out-of-state participants as in-state participants (23 per/76 total). The SCQP website was completely redesigned and a Facebook page was created to provide real time updates and information not only on the SCQP, but other QPs around the nation, DXpeditions and contests and other items of general interest to the SC Amateur community.

The SCQP Committee put on a traveling road show to promote the SCQP to SC ARC clubs. The presentation was designed and produced by Swamp Fox Contest Group member Gil Huggins, KS4YX. Tom Francis, W1TEF/4 traveled from one end of the state to the other (Charleston to Greer and in between) presenting the new SCQP to clubs large and small – 8 clubs total. Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP and Kevan Nason, N4XL also presented the SCQP to several clubs and Alan Fitzsimmons, W4ANT provided an excellent introduction to contesting which was funny, but informative at the same time. The core group put in a lot of effort to make it work.

What follows is a “view from above” - basically a look at all the different types of stats we can now generate courtesy of Dave Westbrook – KJ4IZW who built the log scoring and statistics software package. Dave/IZW worked closely with Dave Edmonds – WN4AFP to come up with a comprehensive set of statistics that the Committee can use to evaluate our past performance and look at ways to improve our future efforts.

For those who aren't into the nuts and bolts, use [this link](#) to read commentary from participants.

2015 Points of Interest

165 logs were received with the high to low average score of 7,683.

A total of 9,491 log entries with the high to low average number of log entries being 52 Qs. When reviewing the actual logs, this number was very accurate. The most Qs was well over 500 (two logs) and our minimum was 3 Qs – the center of the curve was in the vicinity of 50+ Qs which is exactly what the SCQP Committee was looking for.

2,364 “Unique Calls” (operators participating) were recorded.

80M Contacts Logged: 837 best hour – 0000z/394 log entries.
40m Contacts Logged: 6244 best hour – 1800z/723 log entries.
20m Contacts Logged: 2362 best hour – 1800z/635 log entries.
15m Contacts Logged: 41 best hour - 1400z/35 log entries.
10m Contacts Logged: 2 (10 meters opened up shortly after the event closed down).

40 meters was the work horse band with 20 meters coming in second with a 1/3 as many Qs made. This has proved true for most state QSO parties this year.

The primary mode used by participants was SSB (69%) with CW coming in second (29%) and Digital far behind in third (2%).

All states were represented in the event except for Alaska.

We missed our goal of activating all 46 SC counties – we were down on counties as 2014 only had one that was not represented. Missing SC counties for 2015 included Abbeville, Chesterfield, Williamsburg and Fairfield.

There were 5 mobile stations this year. Bill Chartier – N4IQ/M, Wayne Brown – N4FP?M (former F-106 pilot, USAF Academy graduate), Mike Newland – NC8N/M, Ronnie and Tammy Livingston – W4RWL/M and Dwayne Livingston – N4LDL/M.

Ronnie (W4RWL) and Tammy (N4TAL) Livingston visited and operated from 16 counties as W4RWL/M (SSB) which is a “record” number of counties activated by a mobile station. The bar has been set and the competition begins – will an OM/XYL or other tandem team take the 2015 Mobile Activations Champs to the woodshed or will the Champs keep their position at the top of the pile – we'll have to wait and see.

We also had a unique First-Of-A-Kind - A Multi-Multi mobile station! Bill Chartier, N4IQ and his brother Phil Chartier, AC4Q ran two mobiles in tandem under Bill's call sign. A clever approach to operating and one that will be emulated by other operators in the future.

For fixed stations, Oconoe County was the most active followed by Richland, Dorchester, Greenville, York, Cherokee, Spartanburg, Calhoun,, Aiken and Clarendon.

Bonus stations added to the scores for SCQP operators. The bonus stations were the Columbia Amateur Radio Club (W4CAE) sponsoring club with the Swamp Fox Contest Group (WW4SF) in support. The results are:

W4CAE - 298 Qs – 149,000 bonus points given out.

W4CAE was operated by Earl Dean – KM4JSY, Steve Dornburg – W4JSD, Doug White – N4NYK, Mike Wieber – N4BBQ.

Bill Minikiewicz – W4FSV and Dave Chojnacki – W4DMC supported the CARC effort at Sandy Run in Calhoun County by installing antennas and FT-950 radios prior to the event.

WW4SF – 1,177 Qs – 411,950 bonus points given out.

WW4SF (Swamp Fox Contest Group) was coordinated by Kevan Nason – N4XL. Operators were Kevan, Dave Edmonds – WN4AFP, Dave Fuseler – NJ4F, Alan Fitzsimmons – W4ANT, Dave Kjellquist – WB5NHL, Bob Wilhite – KV4LV, Tom Owens – KV4TH and Dave Eslinger – K4DLE.

Gerry Choinard – K5YAA took the trophy for most bonus station points with 3,100.

Logging Programs:

N1MM	83 logs
N3FJP	52 logs (29 SCQP Log, 23 standard log)
WriteLog	10 logs
GenLog	4 logs
Aether	2 logs
Various	11 logs

We'll see everybody in 2016.

Very best regards,

The SCQP Steering Committee

2015 SCQP FINAL RESULTS – CATEGORY WINNERS

SOUTH CAROLINA

SINGLE-OP – MOBILE - **N4FP – 56096**

MULTI-OP – MOBILE - **N4IQ – 87714**

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – MIXED – **N4AW – 2388**

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – CW – **K2SX – 54000**

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – PHONE – **KB4IAN – 75700**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – MIXED - **W4OC – 45384**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – CW – **W4UX – 22534**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – PHONE – **KR4NO – 32940**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – DIGITAL – **N4CO – 4704**

SINGLE-OP – QRP – CW – **KB4GYT – 40950**

MULTI-SINGLE – LOW POWER – MIXED - **N4HLH – 6992**

MULTI-SINGLE – LOW POWER – PHONE – **WR4EC – 10081**

MULTI-MULTI – LOW POWER – PHONE – **K4WD – 6954**

OUT OF STATE

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – MIXED – **N4PN – 11573**

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – CW – **W2RR – 1436**

SINGLE-OP – HIGH POWER – PHONE – **VE3HED - 1970**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – MIXED – **N1CC - 6078**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – CW – **K5LH - 1582**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – PHONE – **W4DUK – 1840**

SINGLE-OP – LOW POWER – DIGITAL – **KC5WA - 368**

SINGLE-OP – QRP – MIXED – **N4JF - 4940**

SINGLE-OP – QRP – CW – **N2SO – 368**

SINGLE-OP – QRP – PHONE – **KB0IWG – 386**

MULTI-SINGLE – LOW POWER – PHONE – **W4DV – 1042**

Note: Category winners with 50 or more contacts will receive a SCQP Plaque or Mug. Category winners with less than 50 contacts will receive a certificate.

Please visit www.scqso.com for complete results.

Soapbox

Selected comments from 3830 and submitted logs

AD8J - Couldn't hear much from SC during the day as I'm too close. Then didn't hear much in the evening on 75/80 because it didn't seem like many SC stations were around. If it wasn't for the WW4SF bonus points, I'd have close to zilch.

That was an issue with a lot of participants this year. Conditions were spotty on the higher bands except for 20 meters which opened up after noon. Your comments regarding 75/80 are spot on and this is something we're going to work on for next year – The Editor

NN4F - Not bad, better contest now that the rules were changed... Worked 18 other SC counties, and 48 States, and a bunch of DX...

We appreciate your input and worked to make things better for everybody. We're glad that it worked well for everybody – The Editor

WA6KHK - Worked Cherokee and Union counties to finish off all South Carolina counties. Only 26 counties to go for all US counties for the second time!

Congratulations on finishing off South Carolina counties!! Good luck on the rest of the counties – The Editor

KC0MCK - First time working the contest and had lots of fun. Looking forward to the next one.

Thanks for participating – we're glad you had a good time. We're already looking forward to next year and making some improvement tweaks to the rule. We'll be looking for you next year – The Editor

N1CC - Worked W4CAE 1X for 500 points, and WW4SF six times for 2,100 points.

You were second in the Bonus Station count. The Committee has filed this under “maybe another category” for next year – Most Bonus Points.

The unusual conditions continue. 20M was the workhorse, but from about 1630-1730 the band went dead, and huge amount of solar noise. Afterwards wasn't as good as earlier but recovered by nightfall. Noise on 40/80 pretty darn high.

From our end, 40 seems to have been the workhorse band with 20 accounting a reasonable percentage of Qs. 15 and up were horrible and we never did get a chance to work 75/80 – something to work on for next year. You're right though – band conditions were definitely strange. Look at the SCQP write up on scqso.com for the write up and stats – The Editor

W7KAM - I spent too much time on 20 meters with no luck. The band was too long for working South Carolina. Moved to 40 meters and did better. Worked one all time new county (Colleton) for my log.

That has been a common theme for GA, TN, NC and FL. Hopefully conditions were be better next year.

One off hand comment was that NVIS antennas may rule the day next year – we'll see. Congratulations on the new county – The Editor

KM4HI - Fun contest with propagation not favoring Florida stations on the upper bands. Last weekend 20m did the heavy lifting for the ARQP. This contest 20m was a bust from FL.

It wasn't only FL – GA, NC and TN also.

I did hear WW4SF on 15m SSB just barely but he didn't hear me. Did manage to work the bonus stations for eleven QSO's from the various counties and three modes.

Congratulations on an outstanding effort with the bonus stations.

Recommend that rovers and mobiles indicate their county when CQ'ing.

Unfortunately we can't control that, but you're right – it does make things easier on everybody.

No station was heard working the SCQP on 160m and there was activity on the band.

As we mentioned above, we need to work on the low bands for next year. Not sure how we're going to accomplish that, but we have some conceptual ideas rummaging around in our collective hive mind.

Thanks to the SC stations for the Q's and mults. Kudos to the WW4SF activity.

We appreciate your participation and hope to see you next year. The Swamp Fox Contest Group put on a good show with WW4SF and they will be back next year – The Editor

W4SLT - Worked SF bonus station twice for 700pts and Columbia bonus station once for 500 pts.

Thank you for participating. We'll be sure to have similar stations on next year – a little louder and a more of them – The Editor

KS4YX - This was a fun contest.

Glad you enjoyed it Gil – and thank you for all your work on the SCQP presentation – The Editor

N4FP - Had some rig and antenna issues during 1st hour that got things off to a slow start. Made 86 contacts in first 2 hours, then only 33 contacts during the next 3 hours. Noise level was very high on 40 and 20.

Wayne – that seemed to me a common theme throughout the QSO Party time slot. Glad you hung in there as long as you did. Thanks for working 11 counties – well done.

Our first county, Horry, was the best, with 47 contacts, and our last, Jasper, was 2nd best with 36 contacts. Special thanks to my xyl, Marty, WB2VYK, for her skillful driving. Overall a fun time, frustrated mainly by the midday high noise level.

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the SCQP running mobile. And a very special thanks to Marty for doing all the driving – The Editor

N4PN - It's was great...thanks to the mobiles...lots of good ops running around...no Q's on 20...never even heard one on back scatter...40m had to be the band from here...80m was open and not very noisy, but not that much activity...listened several times on 160m but never heard anyone from SC...

As noted above, 80 meter activity was sorely lacking and we need to figure out how we can improve on that. Glad you had success on 40. Thank you for participating and hope to see you next year – The Editor

N4IQ - This was a FUN FUN FUN contest!!!

Well, having created a whole new category – Tandem Multi Multi Mobile - it should have been. Thanks to you and Phil for running the counties. We're glad your on our SCQP team.

NC4SC - I had fun with this party. My station call gave a few guys a few problems. But I would sometimes say “Now Calling For South Carolina” NC4SC . That was fun....

John – I heard you do that and I laughed when I heard it. Along with KIESE (try it in CW – you'll recognize it), the two best calls of the day. Thanks for participating and please come on back next year – we'll be looking for you – The Editor

K4BAI - Good activity. Sorry couldn't make more QSOs on 20M, but we are too close except for a few on backscatter. Thanks for all QSOs and special thanks to the rovers, mobiles, and bonus stations. Looking forward to next year.

John, we want to thank you for all your long time support of the SCQP and your recent help in the revamping of the rules and awards. Your advice and comments were invaluable to all of us and without them, we would not have done as well as we did – we owe you many thanks. Looking forward to seeing you next year – The Editor