

2020 SCQP Bonus Station Operators Guide

W4CAE (N4LDL Trustee)
Columbia Amateur Radio Club

WW4SF (NJ4F Trustee)
Swamp Fox Contest Group
(WN4AFP Bonus Station Coordinator)

This is the official South Carolina QSO Party Bonus Station Operators Guide. It is meant to assist those who will be operating the two Bonus Stations – W4CAE and WW4SF - with appropriate operating procedures and practices. New operators should read and understand them. Experienced operators should read through them to refresh memories about operating procedures for events like this. Questions concerning this Operators Guide, please contact Dave Edmonds at daveedmo@gmail.com or at 864.288.6678.

REMEMBER: The Trustees of W4CAE and WW4SF and the clubs they represent are requiring the assigned operator to act and perform professionally with the call sign the Trustees are responsible for. In return they are allowing you, the station operator, to use the call sign entrusted to them in accordance with the FCC Part 97 rules and traditional past practices for Special Event operations. *NOTE: All decisions regarding the use of the Bonus Station call signs will be made by the call sign Trustee.*

Station Identification – Per request of Bonus Station Trustee's and in accordance to good operating practices, Bonus Station operators will identify at the beginning of their shift with their own call and end their shift with their own call.

Operating Frequencies – It is paramount that you operate within the limits OF YOUR OPERATOR CLASS. Also, please operate in accordance with SCQP rules.

REMEMBER: While the Trustees are Extra Class operators, you are the Control Operator for that particular call sign while on the air. As Control Operator, you must operate within the limitations of your license class. If there is an Extra Class operator at your home station while you are operating that accepts responsibility for your operations then you may operate using all Extra Class Privileges.

Bonus Station Operators should commit to operating at least 6 hours during the 11 hour contest period. Real-life does change our plans, but the goal is to have Bonus Stations on the air during the entire 11 hour contest period.

General QP Operations – Proper procedure/practice:

A - Cluster/Website Spotting: Self spotting or soliciting a cluster spot is allowed
So please spot your Bonus Station activity.

The SCQP SPOTTER SITE IS OUR PRIMARY SPOTTING SITE DURING THE SCQP.

THE SCQP SPOTTER SITE IS LOCATED AT <http://cwfun.org/funspots/scqp/frames.html>

This spotter page will be promoted on the scqso.com and other sites.

Example (Using VE7CC):

W4ZZZ DX 14300. WW4SF South Carolina QP (CHOU) Bonus

Translation – W4ZZZ spotted at 14300. MHz WW4SF SCQP located in Calhoun County and it's a Bonus station.

1 – Bonus Station Operators should spot the Bonus Station when beginning operations on a new frequency or mode.

2 – Bonus Station Operators should spot the Bonus Station when ending the operation and in comments notify others if changing band, mode, turning operations over to a new operator or ending that particular operation.

3 – Always include Bonus Station in the Comments section of the spot. You can also use other spotting systems you are familiar with. For those who have not used a DX or Spotting cluster, VE7CC software and the VE7CC spotting network is an excellent choice. The software is free, cluster use is free and the software itself can be configured in many different ways. Dx Summit is a great place to spot <http://www.dxsummit.fi>

B – Running QSOs: Running QSOs refers to staying on one frequency and calling CQ. You may move frequency if necessary.

IMPORTANT OPERATING NOTE: The SCQP Committee encourages the Bonus Station Operator to “run” only. – Search/Pounce is counter-productive. Stations cannot work you if you are tuning around the bands looking for stations. RUN...RUN...RUN...RUN

Running: It is important that you ID every QSO you complete.

Example: A typical QP QSO is as follows:

“CQ CQ SCQP – WW4SF Calhoun County”

“W4ZZZ”

“W4ZZZ – 59 CHOU (or “Charlie Hotel Oscar Uniform”)”

“WW4SF you are 59 NC”

“Thank you – WW4SF”

This is a basic exchange – you do not have to follow this example exactly – the point is that you ID at the beginning and at the end of the exchange.

C – Eligibility for SCQP Awards: Operators of the Bonus Stations will be allowed to participate under their own call signs to compete for SC station awards.

Points while operating a Bonus Station do not count towards the personal score.

You may compete under your personal callsign before or after your Bonus Station operation. Points while operating a Bonus Station do not count towards the personal score.

SCQP Committee members are not eligible for individual awards.

D – Logging

Bonus Station Operators must log all Bonus Station contacts. Please email your Bonus Station log in ADIF format to your Coordinator within 10 days of the event.

Bonus Station Guidelines - Check List

- 1 – Stay within the confines of your license class unless under operating under the control of a higher license class operator.
- 2 – Please self-spot your Bonus Station using the spotter page at www.scqso.com
- 3 – Bonus Station operators should self-spot when changing frequency, mode or changing Operators or ending operations.
- 4 – Bonus Stations are encouraged to “run” only, instead of search and pounce.
- 5 – Bonus Stations will identify the county from which they are operating.
- 6 – Bonus Station may only use their own calls before and after their operating time. Operators MAY NOT make consecutive contacts in switching from club call to personal call for each contact.
- 7 -- Log all contacts even duplicates... Many stations may work your more than once to insure a qso and that's ok. Email your log in ADIF format within 10 days to your Coordinator.
- 8 – Please read the SCQP Rules before the contest.
- 9 – Bonus Stations are our “PR” stations. Please thank ops for participating in the SCQP. Love to encourage participants to send in their logs. We received 243 logs last year, but we worked many more stations who didn't send in a log.
- 10 – Try to operate as many hours as possible during the event.
- 11 – It's preferred that we don't have more than two operators running the same bonus station on the same mode and band.
- 12 – Most of all HAVE FUN!!!

Thanks for being a Bonus Station Op in the 2020 SCQP