

2006 ILQP Summary Analysis

There were a total of 210 logs received for the 2006 ILQSO Party containing 2036 separate calls. Of the logs received 110 were from Illinois Stations and 100 were from non-Illinois stations including 7 from the 9 Canadian Provinces and 93 from 49 states. The state of Ohio accounted for 10 of the logs received. Illinois fixed stations turned in 76 logs, Illinois portable stations accounted for 19 logs and 15 were from Illinois mobile stations. Kane and Sangamon counties turned in 9 logs each, while Cook and Lake each accounted for 8 logs of the 76 logs received from Illinois counties.

Only the state of Hawaii failed to show up in any of the logs received while the state of Ohio accounted for the most participants with 103, followed by California (93), Texas (85), Pennsylvania (79), Michigan (77), New York (75), Indiana and Florida (62) and Wisconsin (61) rounding out the top ten states with numbers of participants.

The Winners:

With K9ZO off on a DX-pedition, the IL Fixed category was ripe for a winner, and KI9A responded. Chuck and Carl, K9CS had an almost identical total QSO total, with the QSO point total going to Carl, but Chuck had a considerable multiplier advantage which he translated into a winning score. Chuck was the only IL station to work at least 80 IL counties. Barry, N2BJ and Mark, N9UM were not far behind. Mark actually had the highest multiplier total of any entrant in the contest, but 90% of his contacts were on phone. Between Barry and Mark, no one in the contest should have missed Will or Lake counties on phone! K9LJN with a CW-only entry was a close fifth.

Another wide-open category was created when perennial IL Mobile winner, KF9D, took part of the day off for a family obligation and operated as a part-time fixed station instead of taking to the highways. While there were logs received from 15 Illinois mobiles, activity reflected in all logs received indicated that 22 mobiles participated and activated 25 counties where no other activity was reported, with KJ9C taking the prize. Mel came over from Indianapolis to activate fifteen counties in eastern and southern IL and in the process made the most CW QSOs (909) and landed a commanding win over the rest of the field. WN9O activated eleven counties and was a comfortable second, with N9JF a distant third. N9BIL saw the most counties (16), followed by NY4N, N9JF and KJ9C (15), WN9O and K9LU (11), NC9F (9), N5RP (8), W9TY, KQ0B and K9BIG (6), K9LY and AA9ZZ (4), AD9P, K0RW (3), W9DY, W3CR, N9XP, K9TA and KC9FQV (2) while KC0QEY/M and K9JK operated from 1 county each. W3CR made the most phone QSOs (232). Once again it was demonstrated that working IL counties as a mobile is extremely difficult; no mobile station worked more than half of them, and W9DY with 49 was the closest.

The four-county corner of BOON/DEKA/OGLE/WBGO again produced an IL Portable winner, this time with N9GZ and W9HB teaming up as N9GZ. However, K9WA on his three-county corner made a real contest of the category, topping N9GZ both in raw QSOs and in multipliers, including 68 IL counties. AA9DY had a very high multiplier total as

well, as did KF9TL. N8XX (as N9Q) made a lot of participants happy by providing four contacts per QSO but lacked a microphone to expand his potential audience. N9YPN made more phone QSOs than any other portable entry. Several portables activated only one or two counties but found good locations and provided rare counties. Illinois portable operations provided contacts from 3 counties that otherwise would not have been on the air. Operations from the much sought after four county corners were mounted by K9FBI (Kendall, Will, DuPage, Kane), N9GZ (Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Winnebago) and N9Q (Douglas, Edgar, Vermillion, Champaign). Eight stations operated from three county corners including KC0PPR (Fulton, Schuyler, McDonough), AI9E (Greene, Jersey, Macoupin), NG9R and NM9C (Adams, Hancock, Schuyler), K9WA and KF9TL (Whiteside, Bureau, Henry), W9TO (Macon, Piatt, DeWitt) and N9YPN (Lee, Ogle, Whiteside). Additionally there were four operations from two county corners W9WE (Calhoun, Pike), W9EBK and WD9EEK (Christian, Sangamon) and W9YS (JoDaviess, Stephenson). Four stations also braved the elements to operate portable from single counties including K9NT (Cass), AA9DY (JoDaviess), K9CHZ (Tazewell), and K9ESV (McHenry)

From outside IL, a new winner also emerged, and Michigan was “the place to be”. Don, K8BB put together a balanced attack in terms of CW and phone (including the most phone QSOs) and found 88 counties to take first place. His total number of QSOs, 316, outdistanced the field by a considerable margin. Jim, K8IR, went back home to MI this year (after operating with W9FGH as an IL portable in 2005) and found the most IL counties (91) of any entrant and narrowly edged out Mark, WA0MHJ for second place. The highest number of CW QSOs was logged by Jeff, W9MSE. The six highest-scoring non-IL entrants differed very little in the number of CW QSOs; the spread in scores was mostly a function of the number of phone QSOs and multipliers.

It seems a bit strange that no non-IL entrant logged more than 200 QSOs on CW; however, this may have been a function of the low-sunspot year and the fact that many stations emphasized 40 meters and neglected other bands. There were however 14 stations that qualified for the “edible” award with 200+ QSOs and/or 75+ counties. Nine non-Illinois stations and one Illinois station worked 80 or more Illinois counties while 15 non-Illinois stations and 4 Illinois stations worked at least 70 different Illinois counties during the contest. Additionally 4 Stations worked at least 50 States/Provinces while 14 Stations worked at least 5 DXCC Countries and 12 Stations worked at least 100 Multipliers. There were only a dozen or so QSOs logged on 15 meters other than “local” stations. For the first time, the number of QSOs made on 2 meters far exceeded the total on 6, 10 and 15 meters combined.

For the first time in recent years, NO entries were received from DX stations, despite the fact that over 30 DXCC countries were logged by IL stations including PJ2 & DL with 3 different stations showing up in submitted logs while XE, LA, KP4 and F had 2 different stations active. ZD7, YU, V5, V2, UR, SV8, SV, SM, S5, PJ5, PA, OZ ON, LY, JA, I, GM, G, FY, FS, EI, EA6, EA and CN each had one station actively associated with the contest. There were large numbers of IL stations with high QSO numbers (the top four

mobiles and winning portable, for example....) who were unable to find five DXCC multipliers. Bring back the sunspots!

A few years ago, there was quite a bit of pressure for recognition of QRP entries. Since then, the number of these entries has remained stable or decreased slightly. This year, for example, one Illinois portable and six non-Illinois stations submitted logs. Is there still interest in a QRP category? The sole entry from IL this year was W9TO/P, who placed fifth among all IL portables. From outside IL, W8TM again submitted a great score, narrowly missing the overall top ten and again qualifying for an "Illinois Edible". KG5U also did quite well as a QRP entry.

Club Competition:

Once again, Green River Valley ARS pulled out all the stops and topped the cumulative scores for Illinois local clubs, submitting 12 entries to retain the traveling plaque. Local club activity by participation, as indicated by affiliation indicated on submitted logs, was led by Fox River Radio League (16), followed by Green River Valley ARS and Sangamon Valley RC (12), WIARC (11), RAMS, Palisades ARC, FARO, Team Papa Fox, KARS, and CORTEK RA (2) while one entry each was received from Motorola ARC, Metro DX Club, BARS, Bradley University ARC, Macoupin, CWA, RFHMRC, Schaumburg ARC and Moultrie ARK. All IL entrants are encouraged to specify their local club affiliation with their logs. This year there were 26 Illinois logs received that did not indicate a local club affiliation. (SMC is not an IL local club and probably showed up in the Cabrillo files just because a lot of us have that set as our "default").

New records:

Due primarily to a paucity of sunspots, few new overall scoring records were set in 2006. The exception was W9TO/P with the highest IL QRP score. Both the IL Top Ten list and the IL County/State records lists have been updated and will be posted to the web shortly. Several county records were set as were a few state records. Mobile scores are not included in the county records. One relatively-easy way to "get your name in lights" is to find a county with NO established record and "go for it". Almost a third of the IL counties are untouched and available!

Golden Logs:

Though there are many ways to goof up a log entry, a number of entrants avoided all of them and are listed as "Golden Logs", having no score reductions due to busted calls or exchanges or unmarked duplicate contacts. Of these, 12 were IL Fixed stations, 4 IL Mobiles, one IL Portable, and 31 non-IL. Remarkable for both score and accuracy were AA9KH, AK9F, KB9LIE, K9LY/M, K8IR, KA3QLF, K4AMC and WB8JUI.

Hardest IL counties to work:

During ILQP, some counties are harder to work than others, and for various reasons. Despite a great deal of planning and coordination, a county may simply not be activated. Counties activated only by mobile stations are typically difficult to work on phone. Those activated by one or two fixed stations may be available only on one mode.

Outside of ALEX (which was MIA), the most difficult county to work in terms of number of QSOs reported was KNOX !! Others that were hard to catch included EDWA, HARD, LOGN, MSHL, MSSC, POPE and WABA. If you worked these, you were paying attention. Entrants who eschewed one mode sacrificed the availability of some multipliers. There were no CW contacts made from MCPN, and no phone from DOUG, EDGR, EDWA, GALL, HAML, HARD, KNOX, MORG, MOUL, MSHL, MSSC, POPE, VERM, WASH, WAYN, WHIT, and WOOD.

What this means is that you can be fabulously popular by putting on a portable operation from any one of several county corners or lines that would otherwise be difficult to work during ILQP. The importance of coordinating this through the ILQP reflector cannot be overemphasized!!

Here is a listing of the IL counties with fewer than 20 contacts reported for one or both modes.

ALEX: no QSOs !!
BOND: 71 (52 CW, 19 PH)
BROW: 31 (21 CW, 10 PH)
CASS: 70 (56 CW, 14 PH)
CHRS: 87 (3 CW, 84 PH)
CLAY: 26 (25 CW, 1 PH)
CLRK: 24 (21 CW, 3 PH)
CRAW: 82 (74 CW, 8 PH)
CUMB: 72 (69 CW, 3 PH)
DOUG: 170 (170 CW, 0 PH)
EDGR: 170 (170 CW, 0 PH)
EDWA: 13 (13 CW, 0 PH)
EFFG: 33 (32 CW, 1 PH)
FAYE: 72 (65 CW, 7 PH)
FRNK: 53 (39 CW, 14 PH)
FULT: 30 (25 CW, 5 PH)
GALL: 31 (31 CW, 0 PH)
HAML: 31 (31 CW, 0 PH)
HARD: 16 (16 CW, 0 PH)
HNDR: 91 (90 CW, 1 PH)
JASP: 32 (28 CW, 4 PH)
JEFF: 37 (36 CW, 1 PH)
JERS: 83 (16 CW, 67 PH)

JOHN: 53 (40 CW, 13 PH)
KNOX: 9 (9 CW, 0 PH)
LOGN: 18 (16 CW, 3 PH)
MADN: 197 (18 CW, 179 PH)
MASN: 32 (26 CW, 6 PH)
MCDN: 118 (19 CW, 99 PH)
MCPN: 395 (0 CW, 395 PH)
MNRD: 296 (292 CW, 4 PH)
MNRO: 53 (35 CW, 18 PH)
MNTG: 76 (62 CW, 14 PH)
MORG: 29 (29 CW, 0 PH)
MOUL: 29 (29 CW, 0 PH)
MSHL: 12 (12 CW, 0 PH)
MSSC: 11 (11 CW, 0 PH)
PERR: 42 (31 CW, 11 PH)
POPE: 18 (18 CW, 0 PH)
PULA: 96 (4 CW, 92 PH)
PUTN: 33 (32 CW, 1 PH)
RICH: 50 (39 CW, 11 PH)
SCOT: 20 (18 CW, 2 PH)
SHEL: 45 (34 CW, 11 PH)
UNIO: 28 (16 CW, 12 PH)
VERM: 205 (205 CW, 0 PH)
WABA: 17 (15 CW, 2 PH)
WARR: 29 (27 CW, 2 PH)
WASH: 21 (21 CW, 0 PH)
WAYN: 23 (23 CW, 0 PH)
WHIT: 28 (28 CW, 0 PH)
WOOD: 38 (38 CW, 0 PH)

Conversely the counties showing the most activity include Cook (53), Kane (31), Lake (26), Sangamon (24), DuPage (20), Rock Island (18), Will (13), St Clair (11), Mc Henry and DeKalb (10), and Adams (9).

Log Checking:

Of the 210 logs received, all but 46 were in electronic format of some sort. Most of these were fairly simple to process. Many were in Cabrillo format; these varied from “great” (dumped directly into Excel) to “uh...” (required various amounts of manipulation). Several asked for the exact layout of columns and submitted logs in Excel (thank you!!). For the first time, all of the paper log submissions were typed into Excel. A large THANK YOU to NA9Q and NB9Q for doing this! Once all logs were received, a master log was created from all entries. This log was searched for “busted” calls and exchanges. “Unique” callsigns were also marked, and an attempt was made to determine if these were legitimate or “busted”. Note that “uniques” were disallowed for QSO and multiplier credit ONLY if there was considerable evidence that the information was

“busted”. In the case of “busted” calls or exchanges, no additional penalties were assessed. The average difference between claimed score and final score on submitted logs was (- 537.7 points.) There were 121 logs submitted that showed a decrease in their final score (avg. -1324 points) while 33 logs showed an increase in their final score (avg. 1469.9 points). Fifty-six logs did not reflect any change between submitted and final score. An average score of 19,949.9 was obtained by the 47 stations operating CW only while the 69 operating phone only scored an average of 5,838.7 points. The average score obtained by the 94 stations that operated both modes was 33,567. NG9R, AB9DU and NM9C assisted in the log-checking process and in summarizing the data.

About half of the entrants included a summary sheet. These were not required for electronic entries; however, where a claimed score was included with the entry, considerable effort was made to assess the differences (if any) between the claimed score and the calculated score.

A word is appropriate here regarding county abbreviations. A bit of leeway was still applied this year to logs confusing “WHIT” (White County) and “WTSD” (Whiteside County). Those who named these counties (along with Macoupin-MCPN, Macon-MACN, Mason-MASN, Massac-MSSC, Madison-MADN, McDonough-MCDN, and some others....) had no reason to suspect that someday the similarity in the names would cause problems....but they do. As we try to further automate the log checking procedure, it is essential that entrants standardize the abbreviations being used. Check your logging program and be sure it is producing what you think you are entering! If you are entering a log into Excel, be sure that when you type “CO”, the program doesn’t enter “COOK” or “COLE”....

Looking ahead:

WIARC appreciates all the support given by the ham community during the planning and execution stages of our first sponsored ILQP. The background information provided by RAMS helped make the transition a smooth one. Thanks especially to the mobile and portable stations who took the time and effort to activate counties, and in particular, those who came from out of state to help.

The 2007 event will again be on the SUNDAY OF THE THIRD FULL WEEKEND IN OCTOBER: Sunday October 21. Rules changes and category changes are always under consideration. If you have suggestions, please post them to the ILQP reflector or send them directly to n9jf@arrl.net. One point on which we would like feedback is the time change that occurred two years ago, shifting the contest period from 1800Z-0200Z to 1700Z-0100Z.