

2008 ILQP Summary and Analysis

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The 2008 ILQP saw 244 logs containing nearly 36400 QSOs submitted an increase of 29 logs from last year. Illinois Fixed Station operators increased their submissions from 66 logs last year to 96 logs this year. Apparently high gas prices had an effect on the Illinois Portable, Mobile and Rover classes as each of these classes showed a decrease compared to the previous year. Illinois Portable operations decreased from 22 to 20 entries, Illinois Mobile operators decreased from 12 to 8 entries, and the Illinois Rover Class dropped slightly from 3 to 2 logs. Eighty-four entrants' submitted "Golden" logs by having no penalties assessed during the log checking process; and special mention again this year goes to Tim, N9BIL, who logged his 520 mobile CW contacts for 70720 points without an error. Eight of the 117 non-Illinois entrants are undoubtedly eagerly awaiting their tasty Illinois Edible Award as they made at least 200 Illinois QSOs or worked at least 75 Illinois counties.

This years Illinois Fixed Station Class saw slightly more than 1000 points separating K9CT (110871 points - 331 CW/ 211 Phone/ 127 Multipliers) from KI9A (109864 points - 282 CW/ 322 Phone/ 124 Multipliers). W9IL pounded out 352 CW QSOs with 116 multipliers to score 81664 points while WA9AQN's 354 CW QSOs and 109 multipliers netted him 77172 points. K9NR's 216 CW and 235 Phone QSOs and 111 multipliers totaled 74037 points

The 283200 point effort (1080 CW/ 240 Phone/ 118 Multipliers) by KF9D (KF9D & W9HB) from the four county corner of BOON, DEKA, OGLE, WBGO led the way in the Illinois Portable Class. While N9FN (N9FN & K9WX) scored 276800 points (1036 CW/ 696 Phone/ 100 Multipliers) from the CHAM, DOUG, EDGR, VERM location. N9GZ (N9GZ & KN9T) operating from LASA, MSHL, PUTN led all 3 county efforts with 214812 points (855 CW/ 396 Phone/ 102 Multipliers). N9CDX's HENR, KNOX, STAR effort with 747 CW and 135 Phone QSOs and 100 Multipliers scored 162900 points while WX9JC handed out 795 Phone contacts for 78 Multipliers and netted 62010 points. W9WE topped the two-county portable group and K9OT was at the head of the list for single-county portables.

NN9K (with KE9ER at the wheel) once again won the Illinois Mobile top spot with 689 CW QSOs and 85 Multipliers for 117130 points, followed by KJ9C (99636 points – 523 CW/ 37 Phone/ 92 Multipliers), followed by NY4N (with AF4QB) (87200 points - 545 CW QSOs/ 80 Multipliers), W9MSE (78850 points – 415 CW QSOs/ 95 Multipliers) and N9BIL (70720 points – 520 CW QSOs/ 68 Multipliers).

W9TY (W9ILY) captured the Illinois Rover Class honors for the second straight year with 755 CW QSOs, 210 Phone QSOs, 84 Multipliers and 144480 and K9IUA who handed out 54 CW QSOs with 31 Multipliers for 3348 points.

WA3HAE once again claimed top Outside Illinois honors with 41310 points (199 CW QSOs/ 61 Phone QSOs/ 90 Counties) followed by N8II (34880 points – 167 CW/ 102 Phone/ 80 Counties),

K5DB (31840 points – 151 CW/ 96 Phone/ 80 Counties), W8TM (26524 points – 147 CW/ 55 Phone/ 76 Counties), and K4FT (25818 points – 140 CW/ 51 Phone/ 78 Counties) .

Even with the addition this year of two new plaques for the highest raw CW only and Phone only QSO total enough participants chose to submit single mode entries to warrant a discussion of their efforts. This year NN9K's Illinois Mobile effort led all of the 77 CW only submissions followed by NY4N (Illinois Mobile), W9IL (Illinois Fixed), W9MSE (Illinois Mobile), and WA9AQN (Illinois Fixed). The top CW only Non-Illinois entry was KE0G. The 79 Phone only log submissions found WX9JC's Illinois Portable effort leading the way followed by W9QL (Illinois Fixed), N9YPN (Illinois Portable, N9LYE (Illinois Fixed) and NA9Q (Illinois Fixed). The top Phone only Non-Illinois entry was WR1Q.

Ninety-seven amateurs representing twenty-two local clubs participated in the club competition while twenty-nine eligible participants did not indicate an affiliation on their entry. The GRVARS, with twenty-three members submitting logs, once again captured the traveling plaque with 571833 points while twelve members of the WIARC submitted scores totaling 273570 points. Four members of the Peoria Area ARC scored 198384 points while three members of the Kankakee Area ARS scored 135924 points and two members of the P. R. I. M. E. ARA racked up 130150 points.

All but one of the 102 Illinois counties showed activity during the 2008 ILQP, with only Mercer County failing to show up in any submitted log. Following is the QSO/Mode count for all 102 counties:

County	QSOs	CW/Digital	Phone
Adams	1677	902	775
Alexander	39	39	0
Bond	23	23	0
Boone	360	300	60
Brown	9	9	0
Bureau	549	292	247
Calhoun	25	25	0
Carroll	409	251	158
Cass	27	27	0
Champaign	1230	898	332
Christian	232	147	85
Clark	195	76	119
Clay	34	30	4
Clinton	48	48	0
Coles	256	60	196
Cook	1198	644	554
Crawford	38	38	0
Cumberland	55	52	3
DeKalb	451	391	60
DeWitt	47	47	0
Douglas	470	294	176

DuPage	617	246	371
Edgar	439	263	176
Edward	65	56	9
Effingham	39	37	2
Fayette	38	38	0
Ford	217	147	70
Franklin	48	48	0
Fulton	25	25	0
Gallatin	36	36	0
Greene	30	30	0
Grundy	187	162	25
Hamilton	30	30	0
Hancock	17	17	0
Hardin	19	19	0
Henderson	101	101	0
Henry	1047	710	337
Iroquois	73	34	39
Jackson	49	49	0
Jasper	55	54	1
Jefferson	53	53	0
Jersey	9	9	0
JoDaviess	215	101	114
Johnson	54	54	0
Kane	1190	397	793
Kankakee	1150	684	466
Kendall	58	57	1
Knox	386	341	45
Lake	1109	216	893
LaSalle	513	344	169
Lawrence	64	62	2
Lee	51	51	0
Livingston	251	220	31
Logan	323	56	267
Macon	69	69	0
Macoupin	308	34	274
Madison	76	48	28
Marion	401	401	0
Marshall	437	300	137
Mason	281	14	267
Massac	28	28	0
McDonough	370	119	251
McHenry	318	214	104
McLean	411	184	227
Menard	358	358	0
Mercer	0	0	0
Monroe	35	35	0

Montgomery	32	32	0
Morgan	30	30	0
Moultrie	48	48	0
Ogle	367	307	60
Peoria	1030	575	455
Perry	58	58	0
Piatt	14	14	0
Pike	107	107	0
Pope	36	36	0
Pulaski	38	38	0
Putnam	444	307	137
Randolph	32	32	0
Richland	32	31	1
Rock Island	781	342	439
Saline	34	34	0
Sangamon	765	256	509
Schuyler	15	15	0
Scott	22	22	0
Shelby	50	50	0
Stark	308	263	45
St. Clair	875	547	328
Stephenson	152	55	97
Tazewell	884	302	582
Union	298	124	174
Vermillion	595	263	332
Wabash	70	62	8
Warren	76	44	32
Washington	54	54	0
Wayne	63	57	6
White	32	32	0
Whiteside	417	30	387
Will	582	13	569
Williamson	65	65	0
Winnebago	407	297	110
Woodford	146	14	132

While every county, except Mercer, showed at least some CW activity the same can not be said for the phone portion of the bands. The following 43 counties, besides Mercer, had no phone contacts reported by those operators submitting logs: Alexander, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Crawford, DeWitt, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Jackson, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Lee, Macon, Marion, Massac, Menard, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Washington, White and Williamson.

In the Illinois Fixed class W9IL worked 68 counties followed by KI9A with 67 counties, K9CT with 66 counties, K9CW with 64 counties and K9WA, KC9FSU, WA9AQN, and WB8RFB with 63 counties each. The Illinois Mobile Class ended up with W9MSE working 48 counties followed by W9DY with 44 counties, NN9K with 41 counties, NY4N with 36 counties and N9JF with 31 counties worked. The Illinois Portable Class found KF9D working 76 counties followed by AA9DY with 56 counties, N9CDX with 54 counties, N9FN with 50 counties and N9GZ with 47 counties worked. In the Illinois Rover Class KJ9C led the way with 48 counties worked followed by W9TY with 33 counties and K9IUA with 3 counties worked. WA3HAE worked 90 counties in the Non-Illinois class while K5DB and N8II each worked 80 counties closely followed by K4FT with 78 counties and K8MR and KE0G with 75 counties each. Of the DX participants HA7UG worked 41 counties while LY2ZZ worked 27 counties followed by YO4ATW with 10 counties and SM6Z with 4 counties worked.

All available bands showed at least some activity, with the breakdown as follows:

Band	QSOs	CW/Digital	Phone
2	203 (.6 %)	3	200
6	21 (<.06 %)	3	18
10	16 (<.05 %)	4	12
15	49 (.1%)	4	45
20	4284 (11.8 %)	2801	1483
40	18156 (49.9 %)	10406	7750
80	13663 (37.5 %)	7936	5727
160	6 (<.02 %)	2	4

All fifty states, nine Canadian Provinces and over fifty separate DXCC countries participated in the 2008 ILQP. This year's ILQP saw an increase in activity, both in logs submitted and QSOs, and the ILQP Committee hopes that all participants enjoyed themselves enough to return next year and invite a friend, or two, to join in the fun.

Extraneous comments de N9JF:

It's hard to know where to start in thanking those who made the 2008 ILQP possible, from the planning to the execution, to the log checking. Months of conversation on the reflector and in private e-mails culminated in a great turnout on October 19. Most of the plans came together, allowing 101 of the 102 counties to be activated. We were close. Stuff happens. The entire ILQP committee (NA9Q, NB9Q, AB9DU, NG9R, NM9C) spent many hours transposing paper logs to Excel, checking the accuracy of the submitted logs, processing the final results and analyzing the data. Someone asked "How much time does this take?" You don't want to know. We gradually find ways to make the process easier, a bit faster, and with luck, more accurate.

There were some real "shoot-outs" this year, as NM9C has detailed. Only a thousand points separated the top scorers in IL Fixed. K9CT had fewer contacts than KI9A but made

more on CW. The two four-county corner entries differed in strategy a bit, and that may have made the difference; the N9FN crew had more total QSO's, but the KF9D duo spent more time on CW and found more multipliers.

Wouldn't we like to see some sunspots? Maybe those will bring back more of the guys from the West Coast. We seem to have lost some of them when we moved the party up an hour...or maybe that was just a coincidence?

There were only seven QRP entries this year. Were there a lot more out there who made a few contacts but didn't send in a log?

The submitted logs contained about 20,500 CW contacts and just under 15,000 phone. This is almost precisely the ratio of the last two years' events. I thought there might be an increase in phone contacts with the new code-free HF licenses. Maybe it's going to take awhile?

The ILQP committee would welcome suggestions for increasing participation. One thing we need more than any other is to "light a fire" under more Illinois fixed stations, and more phone activity, from the "rare" counties.