

Soapbox Comments ILQP 2008

Great event! Band conditions were very good. Lots of opportunities to work stations. Thanks for all you do to make this one of the premier ham radio events of the year. -- WB8RFB

As always I enjoyed it a lot. Thanks to everyone and keep up the good work. -- W1END

It was a fine contest and I hope you enjoyed the MCC swarming of the ILQP this year. We all certainly enjoyed the fine test that you run each year. -- VE1SKY

I enjoyed the contest. Steady activity, with lots of IL stations, and 40 and 80 were in good shape into IL this year. Thanks for hosting it! -- KE0G

Many nice pileups. Friendly Ops. -- AA9VI

4TH ILLINOIS QSO PARTY—N1NN

I have a brand new appreciation of how difficult contest operating is from a vehicle, moving or not (hi). -- AA9KH

Thanks for another great year -- N9CHA

Operated this year with Matt KC9HRH from Will County (Plainfield) IL as Portable. We were behind the Plainfield Village Hall, near a park that gave us good room for antennas. Considering the operating time, I would've liked to see a higher score this year, but we knew going into it that we'd be down a bit. I was the main operator, and Matt was playing with antennas. Our purpose was kind of two fold- since we were using the Comm Trailer from the Fox River Chapter of the ARC in St. Charles, Matt wanted to work on and test some NVIS antennas, for EMCOMM use later. Unfortunately we had some issues, including not having the right balun, which hampered us in the beginning. So, I was operating initially off of a Perth Outbacker (mobile vertical) which was great for states and DX but not county contacts. Once we threw up our backup (plain 'ol dipole), things started to happen in-state. And yes, I know I was the 'one' preaching digi modes this year. With our antenna woes, I was just happy to get on the air, and digi kinda fell by the wayside. But NEXT YEAR... :-)

The overall goals were for me: to contest and have fun. For Matt: to make antennas and have fun. All goals met and exceeded. Lessons: more prep as far as food and hot drinks. Dress in layers. Light thin gloves for working with antennas outside. Big thanks to the WIARC for their hard work! See ya next year! -- KC9FQV, KC9HRH

Down to about thirteen counties to have all counties in IL. -- WB9CIF

Good state contest with a lot of activity. – AK9F

Thank you for all of your great volunteer work on this contest! – AB9OS

Thank you for the great QSO Party. It was a thrill to work 4 Illinois mobile stations in CW. The FT-950 performed very well and was successful fighting heavy QRM from RTTY contest stations down in the CW subband on 40m. Ant is a limited size trap dipole. K1EL keyer, TT1 touch paddle, N1MM logging software. – VE2EZD

I didn't have much time to operate but had a little over 2 hours of fun. Used an IC 746 Pro at 100 watts to a G5RV up 45 feet. – W1WIU

Thanks for a great weekend of fun, -- WA3HAE

Thanks for a great qso party. CU in 2009 for IQP.-- K2HT

First IL QSO Party had a blast! -- KC9MAV

Another fun ILQP. Band conditions were tough, I did not work as many IL mobiles as last time, which caused less overall mults. Almost managed a WAS missing only VT, AK and HI. It was nice to see the active Canadian participation. See you again next year. –W9QL

Had a great time....this is the first ever log from me. – WD9FMB

We had a great time and great weather for the ILQP this year. We had S9 noise on 40 and 80 at times, so I apologize to all of the stations that were calling that we couldn't dig out. – N9FN

I just parked the car in Kane county near the house and banged away. One county for location so not sure if I should call it Mobile or rover or portable. Station was at all times capable of mobile operation even though I only did it parked. You guys really have taken the QP to a new higher level of excellence. – W9DY

It's like playing the lotto, if you don't buy a ticket you can't win ever LOL:) Thanks for the work your doing for all of us! Big time:) –WX9DX

2nd contest ever entered! Had a blast! – W4SJV

I miss my old QTH and all my towers. Only a 450 horizontal loop and 100 watts is humbling. I did miss a few hours my keyboard quit working. KX9DX

Thought contest was fun and great. KC9HPA

I had a very good time working the IL QSO Party. – N9XHU

GOT STARTED A BIT LATE BECAUSE OF THE GIANTS FOOTBALL GAME(THEY WON)! 20M WAS SPOTTY AND 40M WAS THE SAME UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY. I TRIED CQ BUT ONLY 40M PHONE GAVE ANY RESULTS. 80M WAS GOOD TOWARD THE END OF THE CONTEST. TOOK SOME TIME OFF FOR SUNDAY DINNER WHICH MY WIFE COOKED! THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN ALL THE TIME!! ALSO, HAD A SHORT QSO WITH OLD FRIEND DOUG, W3HDH WHO GREW UP IN THE NEXT TOWN FROM ME. HAD AN ENJOYABLE TIME AND WILL SEE YOU FOLKS AGAIN NEXT YEAR. I MADE MY GOAL OF 10K BUT MISSED THE 60 COUNTIES I WANTED TO GET. GREAT TURN OUT AND KEEP THE SHORT FORMAT!-- W2UDT

Duh! I just realized post-contest that the IIQP does not have POWER categories. Had I realized this pre-contest I would have operated with High Power at W9TAZ!—WO4O

Thanks to all who put on this event. – VE5BF

Lots of activity and a short, fun contest. 100 watts to a single wire antenna at 24 feet. Thanks to the mobiles and roamers for the extra counties.-- AK9F

This was a great event for us IL operators. In spite of the failure of my antenna tuner (which worked fb on Saturday), I was still able to send CQs on 40 meters and get tons of responses. –KC9HGW

40 was long almost the whole time- Thanks for the oh,wv,tn,ga 80 started early and was good but not a lot of people. The computer reset itself twice at the beginning and the first 32 contact's time is off. I have to replace the internal bat. Didn't go portable this year. Maybe next year, I did buy a ft857D used to replace my Alinco that got hit by lightning. Thanks for all your efforts organizing, participating and finally scoring. – W9YS

Set up at Mill Creek Park in Clark County. Didn't make a lot of contacts...but had a great time. – W9OOT

Mine is not a "WOW" score, but I was able to enjoy something on a rainy, windy, miserable Sunday afternoon in good old WWA. – K7INA

Not much time this year.—KD2MX

I have using a TS120V + TA33jr ant. Maybe more contacts in the next year! -- YO4ATW

I sure wish I could have provided more QSO's in this one. Time and schedule did not permit this to happen. Thanks for the prize in 2006. I usually don't enter an event with the purpose of trying to win an award, but after spreading that delicious treat on some bratwurst, I was ready to go for another jar. – WA0MHJ

Got off to a great start with my 1st contact with VE1SKY on 20m. Thanks to the NS/NB guys for their participation! I made a couple of more Q's on 20m & then turned it over to Steve, NT9T, who had come over to help me finish setting up. He made a few more 20m contacts including a "real" DX contact with our club operation on the other side of the park, about a mile across the lake. When he had to leave for home, he switched the antennas to 40m for me, & I slept for a couple of hours. I got up a little after 2000 UTC & made contacts on 40m until my stamina gave out. Time for another nap! I got up a little before 2300 UTC and started on 75m. 1st contact was with K9NR in Kankakee County. But I was not able to make any more Q's on 75m at all. Stations with signals strong enough that I should have been able to work them easily could not dig me out of the noise. Also, the LDG AT-100Pro was behaving weirdly. I don't know if I had a grounding problem causing RF feedback or what, but I definitely did not feel like trying to troubleshoot it. So, I tore down the equipment so that we could fully set up the bed & called it quits, or at least I thought so. I still had my handheld connected to a J-Pole at 21' monitoring 146.550 MHz simplex. Just before the end of the contest, Mel, KJ9C/m, called me & I logged my sole 2m contact. Also, was glad to put Clark County in the log for Mel. – K9DUR

My first IQP, and 20 was open for most of the day. CU next year! – N7EIE

Our group had a great time this year with our incident command trailer running on generator power. Started about an hour late due to several reasons, but still did pretty well. 40 meters was better than last year, but still long. 80 was very good to us. Set up a G5RV in the corn field (with permission) and had a pretty high spot. The wind was pretty strong again, but not as bad as last year. Also was happy to get some rare southern counties on SSB that were not on the ILQP activity map. – WX9JC

All told, we had eleven (11) guys on the air at one time or another from the three Maritime provinces. I'm just as happy as you are with the turn out - good for us to do things like this. – VE1RGB

Once again I had a blast, but missed out on a food award by 10 counties. Never did hear you during the contest for some reason. This is one of my favorite contests each year (along with the 10 meter and IARU contests) and will definitely be looking forward to ILQP 2009! – AA5JG

I have a 2001 Dodge , full size, Van that is set-up for only communication purposes, both contesting and emergencies. The weekend of the ILQP I decided

to use a ICOM 746 PRO, 100 watts. I also have at my disposal a FT 897, Kenwood TS-50, FT-100 and a Alinco Dx-70. For antennas, I use Hamsticks, except on 80, where I use the Hustler Super 80 coil with the shorty MO-4 mount. My set-up on 20 is a set of co-phased hamsticks (two on same coax), about 1/8 wave apart and it has some directivity. Seems to work well. My wife is the Navigator, Becky, AF4QB. Am trying to get a web page so contesters and county hunters alike can keep up with our planned trips. – NY4N

Had a great time in the Contest. 8 hours is just right! – KY4J

I almost missed out this year. Had to take a Pediatric emergency class this weekend. But it all worked out. The class was only 20 min from home and everything went well and I got out of class at 1400 instead of the scheduled 1800!! Flew home and fired up the rig so I was able to get about 5 hours in. Now my question is, "is it October 2009 yet?"

I need to start honing my CW skills (pretty poor right now) and get 2 points per Q instead of 1. Glad to work my friends from Quincy, NA9Q and NG9R (K9L). Though the best Q was KJ4GPG in Alabama. She is 9 years old and just got her General class and wants to get her Extra. Had a nice couple of minutes chatting with her. That's what makes these QSO parties so much fun. Yeah you want to make the Q's and rack up the points and mults, but you can take a min and chat and make a bit of conversation. A low stress fun time!! – AK9I

40 up here was good but long for most Illinois counties. Only worked VE1SKY on 20, nothing else. 80 was great. Hope it's like this for the SS. Running a 718 to a half wave 80 meter inverted V at about 30 feet. Hope to have a tri bander up next year. Was on the air for about 6 1/2 hours total. Thanks to everybody for a great event. – KA9MOM

Nice contest as it usually is. – N9XBG

Great Contest! A lot of activity! See you next year! – KG9Z

Thanks for the fun guys. – VY2SS

This was more like the NS/NB/PEI QSO party at times! What blast to have these guys gang up on us!! These guys made an effort, as a club, to get on and do the ILQP. It was really, really awesome to work so many NS/NB stations! Still have real TOUGH time working/hearing instate mobiles. Managed to work my Dad, about 30 miles away in St. Louis, on 2-80 meters, could not pull him out on 15, or 160 though. Go figure. – KI9A

Fortunately I was able to get on for ILQP this past weekend. I just used 100 watts and a G5RV antenna up about 30 or so feet. All CW was sent (or miss-

sent depending on how you look at it) using Bencher paddles and by hand. No memory keyer involved at my puny station. – WD9CIR

Great fun! Only had 1 1/2 hours, will try for more time next year. – VE1ZAC

I thoroughly enjoyed this event, except for the failure of my antenna tuner, which restricted me to 40-meter operation. Thank you for organizing and administering this event. – KC9HGW

Actually, Murphy stayed away this time, except when I went to top off the tank near my start point, I had no wallet or cash.... still at home in Indy. Fortunately, I had a debit card in the glove box that I use for scraping the windshield, and it worked the very first time I ever used it for its intended purpose.... so I could at least buy gas (for 30 cents more than at home).... fortunately I brought some snacks with me.

No idea how many mults yet as I need to process the log thru Excel..... 494 CW QSOs (345 on 40 alone) and 34 SSB... plus one 2 meter FM with K9DUR... no doubt a lot of dupes as well.... Was surprised that 40 closed up so early, as did 20, forcing me onto 80 sooner than I expected... it was rough going at first, but the last hour (in Clark County) on 80 CW was a turkey shoot.... the rate meter hit 150 and higher a number of times. I credit the modified 75 meter hamstick, instead of the small screwdriver I normally use.... added capacitance with a dog food can mounted above the loading section.... seemed to work, SWR was under 1.5 for about 25 KHz. Tried to work NY4N a number of times (he was strong most places) and there are at least TWO loud SSB stations up north who missed a lot of mults because I could not get thru. Did work many of the other mobiles eventually. – KJ9C

Great CW activity, fixed and mobile, a fun party. – KN4Y

Great contest, guys. Pity about the conditions up here. I missed the first hour when, no doubt, 20M was at its peak. It never did open very well. Forty meters, on the other hand, required my new panadapter to quickly find the CW signals buried within RTTY and SSB, way up the band, and I had great difficulty finding anyone who could hear me. 80M was better. Nil on 160M although I did listen. The best mobile for me was N9JF/M. I followed him on the map all the way from the start, south then east-bound through to Mason when he nearly lost me by making an unexpected 180 turn and started going south again! Final mult from Jim was CASS for a total of eight times, every one a new multiplier for me. I never did quite figure out how to properly log the mobiles who were reporting multiple counties simultaneously -- one right after the other, I guess. Thanks a lot, IL QP, for putting up with the Maritime Contest Club. I think we were there in sufficient numbers -- at least 9 guys over the period -- to have been noticed. It all started with a personal comment from Jim, N9JF, -- a dare, really -- attached to the routine email that announces the IL QP. He had read something I had

posted earlier about the TN QP where I had been complaining about the fact that the State had too many counties for us out-of-towners to get a decent chance at the sweep, and could they do something about that by next year? Jim said that if I thought TN was bad, I should try IL because you had 102 counties and probably I should consider myself quite lucky if I were good enough to have worked only 75 of them. Well, that's what it sounded like he was saying to me. A challenge, if not exactly a threat. (Turns out he was right.) The idea that the Maritime Contest Club might try to swarm the IL QP grew from that, and all of us who had a part of making it happen would like to thank IL for the genesis of the idea and for providing some good radiosport for us. Next year, of course, is the ARRL Year of the State QSO Party so you may expect us back again then, but probably with the full team next time. We'll need it: IL has some very good ops. – VE1RGB

Adams and Ford were the only presidential counties worked. Surprisingly, Illinois does not have a Lincoln. – W8KNO

Here are some of the vital statistics of our Club's operation at the Christian/Sangamon County line. WX= perfect for the first time in about 5 years. Hot Dogs consumed= approximately 35 (and about as many homemade cookies). N9UFO, W9EBK, WD9EEK, KC9HGW, and W9DUA (op- KD4DLL) were on the air. It looks like I (W9EBK) made about 5800 points (mostly phone), and KC9HGW made about 10,000 points. I don't have the scores of the others. KC9HGW worked CW, and I stayed on phone due to interference from KC9HGW. 15 & 20 Meters were dead, 40 was long, and 80 was GREAT. I made one random contact on 10 meters with a station about 10 miles away. As usual we had a good number of members come out for the wiener roast and not to operate. – W9EBK

I did not work that many Illinois stations during the contest but thought I should submit my log. I am a member of the Maritime Contest Club. – VE1DHD

As a sign of interest from outside the club in ILQP 2008, the club website had its' busiest day ever with more than 1000 requests for downloads, most for the ILQP pages. – NA9Q

A great party and met some Il hams that I have worked over the years in qso parties. – K3GY

Consider this a check log. I just spent the past six weeks in the hospital and in-patient physical therapy at a "rest home," recovering from a broken right ankle. I usually spend this time of year practicing for the upcoming November Sweepstakes by participating in various state QP's. So, throughout my hospital and rest home stays, I have been in a constant state of "station sickness." I cursed my luck that my broken ankle turned out to be far more serious than I ever expected one to be, not to mention the timing of the injury. In the courtyard

of the rest home, I briefly monitored the Texas and California QP's on my TH-F6A with an antenna mounted to my wheelchair, but being unable to fully participate, to answer the CW calls of TQP and CQP, only depressed me. I didn't even bother to monitor the PAQP last weekend. So, of course, I was pronounced to be sufficiently healed to go home this past Saturday, the weekend after the PAQP.

So, yesterday, while I had a few minutes to spare, I was listening on 40 and what did I hear? ILQP! I didn't even know there was a QP this weekend! So, I gave a few answers just to get the feeling back into my rusty keying fingers. So, thanks for the timing of your QP. I so desperately needed it. I hope to work the same IL stations in CW SS. --N8CPA

Great activity and good propagation into TN on the lower bands. Mobiles did a great job. -- W4NZ

Thanks to all that were on (whether I worked you or not) and thanks to N9JF for allowing me to invade his shack! -- NG9R/K9L

A new rig allowed me to operate SSB and 80 meters conveniently. So I had a personal high score despite the lack of sunspots. -- W8TM

Actually this is the first serious contest I've entered since my QRP days long, long [almost 20 years] ago! That was in the manual logging time. Does that qualify me as a Novice who will be forgiven if there is an error? -- WE7G

Congrats to Chuck, KI9A on a great score! Also, many thanks to the stations that setup portable, roved and went mobile. -- K9CT

Lots of fun. Thanks! -- KB5DRJ

Fun Fun, Fun -- NV9X

By 6:00 p.m., 40 CW was worthless. RTTY had taken over the entire 7030 to 7055 band. I couldn't raise anyone below 7030. Since Mike and I both were left with only 80m, and since I had been on 80 CW for a while, I called it an evening, and left him to finish up on 80 SSB. Mike and Arlyce were perfect hosts in their newly remodeled downstairs family room. And a big thanks to Arlyce for the sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, fruit plate, salad plate, and cookies. It's the best way to do the ILQP! -- K0CA/W9AWE

25 minimum contacts for award is really hard to get to someone limited to 20,15,&10 meters. -- W7KAM

Didn't hear much on 20 this year. -- WB9LPW

Thanks for the contest. cu yall next year – WC2Z

I COULDN'T FINISH THE WHOLE CONTEST BUT IT WAS FUN. – NU4M