

Soapbox Comments ILQP 2009

As of 11/29/09

McHenry County RACES/SHARES operated as K9ESV again this year. We run as a multi-multi, and don't submit an official score. However, we have a lot of fun, and everyone gets a chance to operate! We operate Field Day style from the McHenry County Government Center in Woodstock using the EMA command vehicle. We had dipoles strung for 40 and 80, and loops for 2 and 6 and an FM vertical. A little slow out of the gate on HF- both radios had mike gain set too low- when N2BJ has a hard time hearing you, you know the problem is on your end!!! 80 was a bit quiet- for a while, the only stations heard were a half dozen ILQSO'rs. Spent a bit of time on 40, and got a couple of nice runs going- pulled the plug at 4:30 so the Emcomm vehicle could get back to the barn before dark- had the pleasure of giving my frequency to a mobile/QRP station- forgot the call and county, but he had a reasonably clear frequency to manage!

So, another fine contest to close out the portable year- great weather, lots of operating, fresh squeezed cider, and no mosquitoes.

73, and looking forward to next year!

K9ESV (Emergency Service Volunteers)
Wendell N9REP one of many ops

Got home from my niece's baptism, got ready to go.

Unboxed the shack: logging check, tuner-check, amp-check, ts940-dead.

Not fuse or "timer button" related.. Spent an hour to try and get it going.. no joy.

Walked away from it and declared it is now beer time before I smashed it.. Tomorrow's another day. I surely hope COOK was represented, and the rest of you all had a great time.

73, Zig - KM9M

Score about on par w/ last year 117 Ph QSO/7,492)- I got a bit of a slow start (12:45-ish), and had to break off at about 5:45pm to leave for the week on

the road in WI. Antenna was a fan dipole for 80/15, flat-top, at about 30'. Primary bands were 80, 40, 20 and 2, but probably better than 70% of my Q's were on 80/40. Tried 10 for a bit was feeling a little stressed so I didn't spend much time there. I had planned this year (again) to try PSK in order to up the score but once again was vexed by equip issues. This time it was bad RF getting into my signal (that was affecting EVERYTHING)...turns out it appears my Signalink USB is malfunctioning somehow. At first, it wasn't working right, then it stopped working at all. So, taking it out of the loop made the RF go away, and once again the best-laid plans go south. W/O a beam, hard to hear the mobiles, or a lot of the Southern counties. For some reason, seems my dipole is somewhat deaf south of Sangamon Co.

Looking forward to next year...with everything going on , it was hard to plan a mobile/rover op, and as far as digital...maybe next year...!

Thanks to the WIARC gang for all their hard work.

73, Eric KC9FQV Kane Co.

It could just be my perception, but from where I sat, it didn't seem like there were that many stations in the QSO party this year; both Illinois-wise and from outside the state. I guess the final number of logs submitted this year compared to last year will give you an indication if that was true or not. I know my QSO rate was about half to two-thirds of what I was running last year. I think we should blame it all on the economy! Hi.

Seriously though, thank you and your crew once again for the stellar job performed in organizing this year's event. Lots of hard work again for all of you and it is sure appreciated from this end of the coax.

Take care and best wishes. 73, John - WB8RFB

S9 noise. Could not hear many stations, so went qrp. Managed to work K4M on Midway with 4 watts. K9ZO

Considerably better score than last year and I would like to attribute that to operator skill and station improvements, but I think the truth is KF9D/P and N9FN/M, not to mention N9BIL/M who all(and there were others) provided me with mults that I otherwise would never have seen.

40M was brutal. Some guys were operating right in the middle of what, up here, were huge RTTY signals. That made copy particularly difficult and pushed me frequently to run the K3 with the filters set to 50 Hz. .

As usual, the mobiles made this contest and they have nothing but my highest respect. It cannot be easy.

Equipment: K3 #095, 160M delta loop, 80M dipole, BigIR, N8LP panadaper, N1MM.

VE1RGB

Just caught the last half hour. N2CU

Mine didn't fair too well. As mobile I heard nearly nothing but long range stuff on 40 meters. The few times I called CQ I had no response. The ATAS-120 wouldn't allow for 80 meter ops, not a good choice for the propagation this year. I was on the road from around 1PM to a little after 4PM and made one contact with N9DT on 2 meter FM in Schuyler county while I was driving through that county. Next year if I go out (or am forced to) be on the road I will make sure to have the Hustler mounted with 80 and 160 loads!

73 all and thanks to the WIARC for a great job hosting this event!

Tim Childers, KB9FBI

I was really surprised at how poorly I did this year with my 100 watts and a wire for the ILQP. From what I can tell I only did about 50% of what I did last year.

The good news is that I got to operate in the radio room and have fun. Perhaps I did not move to 80 meters as soon as I should have. I have not completely overanalyzed this yet. **WD9CIR**

Dreadful conditions on 20. IL disappeared for hours at a time.

John, N6MU

First all out attempt at contesting and I had a BLAST! Spent WAY too much time on 20m hunting for DX but still managed to get a couple. I now have a better understanding of what needs to be done to become a little more competitive. **73 all and see ya next year! James/KC9NBE**

**Had fun being out in the nice WX but bad day to be QRP portable.
K0QH/P**

Action quickly moved from 20 to 40 (despite RTTY QRM) and 80 meters. Amazing performance by mobiles, rovers and portables. Worked every

county I heard except UNIO). Special thanks to (QSOs in parentheses): W9MSE (19), N9BIL (14), N9FN (12), KJ9C (12), NN9K (10), K9AA (10), KF9D (8), W9WI (6), KC9HGW (3), K9IUA (2) and W9DY (2), along with numerous multiple contacts with fixed stations. Great fun altogether. See you next year. 73, Chris

Rig: Omni V, wire dipoles, Aetherlog for Mac. K5LH

Great band conditions, Great mobile numbers, Great signals, great mobile CW operators, Great CW fixed stations, Great county line operations, Great QSO Party. and did I say it was Great fun. KN4Y

I was operating with N9FN, and it was a lot of fun... but there were a number of times I thought condx were weird. I don't have the logs, so I don't know if the times are similar to what you experienced, but there were one or two times when all of a sudden we heard almost no signals, but just steady noise. We even rebooted the radio, wondering if the DSP needed to be recalibrated. Then, after a bit things came back to where we could once again hear stations.

I know that there were several times that stations were calling me on CW and I could not make out anything usable... even after several tries. I appreciate the patience of all who tried, and am sorry that I missed some. From our QTH it did not appear that Cook Co. was scarce, but there were LOTS of other counties that I never heard. Now, in the "second guessing" post-contest mode, I wonder how many mults I missed because I did not tune around very much. That is probably why I did not snag more of the mobiles... (my bad).

This just my sixth QP between IL, MI & OH... and I still have a lot to learn, but I really like the ILQP a lot, and plan to be back (if N9FN will have me). - Dave- -K9FN-

Hi, Thanks, everyone, for making this a most enjoyable QP yesterday. Condx were good here on the north end of Illinois. I was surprised to be able to read so many far south stations which usually were esp quality in many previous years. By the way, Cook county was especially scarce and 339 in my 2 or 3 QSOs.

My time was limited to 11:30 to 4:30 including almost 2 hours of travel time, HI. 105 QSOs fairly balanced between Dupage and Kendall counties on 20 and 40 CW. Could not get my Outbacker to resonate on 80 even tho that feature was one of the reasons for my buying it. It does wonders on other bands with its almost 12 foot length. That keeps my wife happy since operation in motion would not work with that height.

One Question. Did anyone else notice a few minutes of both 20 and 40 going almost dead around 1930 to 1944 UTC? NM9C was V E R Y weak on 40 and we must have made over a dozen repeats before a full exchange was made. He was 339 until 1944 when all of a sudden he jumped up to 599 plus. When he gave his ADAM at 1944 he was so much stronger I thought some do-gooder was trying to relay the info to me. But it was just NM9C. If he had a 5KW amp suddenly turned on, maybe that would account for the phenomenon but the whole band came to life at the same time. I don't think it was my radio but maybe so. Anyone able to confirm a jump in TX and RX condx at 1944? BUD W9DY

Bud, I noticed the same kind of thing later in the afternoon, only it was on 75 meters. I thought we had an intermittent problem with the antenna, but the SWR was constant and later the problem went away. It was easily 30 to 50 dB difference but almost instantaneous, from tight in the noise to almost S9. I did not notice it on 40 meters and it was probably 2100 that I was noticing it.

Danny NG9R

Was it just me, or did anyone else notice 1) obvious long 40m condx, that, at times, turned short? 2) The great 80 condx until like 6:30 local, then it was like all my antennas fell down?

Back to 40. Around the start, I heard lots of decent IL signals. Went long pretty fast, the IL stations I did hear, were weak as heck. Then, literally within an hour, the signals were decent again. Then long. Then short. Dangiest thing I have encountered on 40..

80. Some during the daylight hours. Went to 80 about 5:30 or so, and was met with huge pileups, of LOUD stations, both IL, and out of state. Then it began to die. By 7PM, I was about ready to pull the plug, as even the out of state stations disappeared. I glanced at the propagation reports, but, didn't see anything weird. I have yet to look today.

Also, I'm just a pop-gun, in a city lot. My antennas at a 135' open wire fed dipole at about 45', Cushcraft A3 tribander on the roof at like 25', and GAP Voyager vertical for 40/80/160. The combo of the dipole for short stuff, and vertical for the coasts makes me comfortable. This year, for the heck of it, I tossed up a 40 meter "Superloop" made buy Radioworks. It is hung as an upside down triangle, fed on the bottom. The top was only 25-maybe 30 '. It heard about like the dipole, a bit more quiet. BUT, the big surprise as the unsolicited reports on 40 meters telling me how loud I was. A guy in GA said I was 40 over, a guy in PA said I was +50. What? Cool!

Makes me feel temporarily 10 feet tall!! And, this was kinda off the side of the antenna! I think this is going to find a permanent home here. Really am itching to use it for SS now!! For a guy with a small city lot, anything that seems loud, rules!

RTTY. Ugh. We need to next year, move the suggested freqs way lower. Maybe .025-.030. .050 seemed to pretty much be in the meat of the rtty guys. Never having worked RTTY before, can these guys hear CW? Or, don't they give a d**, and fire up dead on me anyway??? At least other CW have class, and we work around each other most of the time. Yeah, we squeeze each other, but, rarely (unless by mistake), does anyone just drop dead on someone else, and not move. Started out on 20 to try and help the out-of-state folks, but conditions were horrible. 40 and 80 were a little better, but not as good as last year. Very hard to hear in-state ops, due to high overall noise levels. However, I did snag more counties than last time. Thanks, as always, to the mobiles and rovers. They really make this event fun. Missed a WAS by 3: VT, NV and HI.

Already looking forward to the 2010 version! Thanks to the Quincy gang for all of the work putting this on, and THANKS for the mobiles going out to make this way fun!

73- Chuck KI9A

Would love to have spent more time, but previous days 12hr mobile NYQP stint, immediately followed by chasing K4M on 160M (success!) left me exhausted. I needed almost all IL counties for 5th time, but had to get some sleep. Didn't hear any 160M activity.

K3 inv vees @ 60ft uham MK N1MM PAUL WB2ABD

Sure had fun this year. Worked many old friends from ILL. Band condx to Ohio on 40M was super!

On for about 3.5 hours.....

128 SSB Qs 15 CW Qs 61 counties.

Rig is a FT-847. Run 300 watts on 40M SSB. 100 watts on 80/75M.

See you guys in Nov. SS. 73, Scotty KG9Z Wooster, Ohio

My first ILQP from IL. A little play time. Band conditions seemed very long, in-state signals very weak. ND9E

For the ILQP this year everything was falling into place:

1. The family had other plans for most of the day allowing for undisturbed operating 2. I worked a little of the IAQP the day before and found excellent condition on 40 between Iowa and Oklahoma 3. The Cowboys were off yesterday so didn't have to worry about TVI during their game- unfortunately Dallas is the popular team here 4. I already worked the Midway DXpedition on 40 and 80 so didn't have to stay up late Saturday night or get up early Sunday to try and work them, so I would be well rested for the ILQP.

Everything just looked perfect, but alas, I have to join the Cubs fans and say "WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR".

At the start of the contest there was no propagation between IL and OK on 20m. I could hear some stations working IL stations but couldn't hear the IL station. No problem, I will just go to 40m and slug it out there, and hope the band is already long. Tuned to 40m and was greeted with an S8 noise level. That was with the 300hz CW filter in line so you can guess how bad the noise really was. I could hear only the loudest stations on CW. The noise was only 30khz wide but of course it chose 7040 to 7070 for the 30khz, taking out all of the ILQP frequencies. Since things were much quieter higher up I spend much more time than usual on SSB working stations there.

I don't know where this noise was coming from, but it sure was frustrating. It wasn't there on Saturday for the IAQP. It would briefly stop from time to time, so I might start working a mobile station but when their exchange came so did the noise, completely taking them out. I apologize to all of the mobiles whom I frustrated in that way. I was pretty much limited to working loud fixed stations the first half of the contest. I think the only mobiles I could hear at all on CW were K9AA and KJ9C and even then I had limited QSOs with them. Also, I had to take a break every 20 minutes or so just to clear my head from all the noise. At one point it was joined by a loud ticking noise that was showing S9 plus peaks on the meter. The FT857D NB (one of the more worthless ones) did nothing on the ticks.

Finally around 4pm or so the noise either left or moved further up band, so I could start working people on 40CW. By 5:30 or so 80 had lengthened up enough to start working IL up there but I was then competing with the much louder and closer 3, 8, 0s and the in-state QSOs. Still, from 4pm on the county total really picked up.

I finished with around 95 CW QSOs and 35 SSB QSOs in 63 counties for a total score around 14,000. Let's hope next year holds better things.

Thanks to all of the mobile and portable stations for going out and really helping with the county mults. From what I understand it sounds like you had excellent WX yesterday for outside operations.

73s John AA5JG

First, a big thank you to the organizers who put in the effort for this event each year.

This year I operated with the Macoupin County ARC from a pasture where Green, Jersey, and Macoupin Counties meet. It was a 'field day' sort of operation with 3 individual stations in the same field. It was a great location with plenty of antenna space. The weather cooperated and aside from a bit of wind it was a fine day for portable operating.

40 Meters seemed long all day and got longer as the day progressed. I was operating SSB under my own call (N9PUZ) using battery power. We had been interested in seeing what sort of results we would get with an NVIS antenna. With the band going long the answer was "not much". (The antenna was an emergency type setup with a loop suspended very near the ground on electric fence posts.) The only Illinois county worked was Lake but there were several out of state contacts that I didn't expect.

After a couple of hours we switched 40 phone to a vertical and had much better success but still no Illinois contacts by that time.

The 20 Meter SSB operator (K9MCE) using the club call fared better with out of state participants.

Another station on 40 Meter CW fared best of all. Bob (KC9HGW) made more Illinois contacts and out of state contacts than anyone. He was using a conventional inverted-V setup with the apex about 30 feet or so.

Handing out three counties at the same time is interesting. Since most participants aren't expecting it repeats are the norm. Over the course of the day there were a couple of really fun moments. We gave a station in Maine 'Jersey' county which was the last one he needed to have worked all 102 Illinois counties. Another station worked had five Illinois counties left to go and we gave him 2 in a single contact.

If everyone who participated had as much fun as I did the event was a huge success.

Tim, N9PUZ

Sorry, I'm going to really mess things up by submitting two logs!

One is for the Illinois mobile operations in several Southern Illinois counties, w9wi-il.log. The other is for operation from Kentucky on the way home, w9wi-ky.log. Signed "W9WI/M" (or more often, "W9WI/[county abbreviation]") in Illinois and "W9WI/4" in Kentucky.

'Twas fun! Station (and car) behaved fine. I especially appreciate the Illinois mile markers, which include the name of the county. In the 2008 Tennessee QSO Party, we activated 94 of the 95 counties -- one mobile was in the 95th county but didn't know it because the county line sign was missing! That would not be a problem in Illinois...

Wish I'd had time for a fulltime operation and to better-plan what time I did spend.

Doug Smith W9WI

Limited time this year. Thanks for the Q's, especially from the mobiles.
KS5A

Sunday afternoon I was messing around in the shack and casually chasing the K4M expedition when I noticed familiar callsigns being spotting for ILQP. I thought I'd return the favor to them for their QSOs in MiQP and OhQP.

After making 40 or so QSOs with NA in General Logger mode, I stopped and took some time out to create an ILQP rules template and county list. This made operating a little easier and more fun watching the score tick upwards with each QSO, as well as providing confirmation that I was getting the county abbreviations right.

Condx were pretty weird, as one IL station would be S9 and the next S0, even stations which I know have good setups. This was particularly true on 40M in the late afternoon, but also on 80M after dark. Weird...

I really thought I spent more time than just 1:45 in the contest. But OTOH, the whole thing was only 8 hours long.

Dave/K8CC

My mobile QSO party philosophy has always been "Carry a backup" so when my logging and CW sending laptop crashed big time due to low battery voltage, and I therefore needed to reformat the drive and reload Windows, I was not perturbed... I still had another old laptop on Win 98 that has served well in past QPs. I hooked it up late Saturday and verified that all worked as it should. No RF problems, no low voltage problems.

Everything looked great to go. Got a good night's sleep and left Indy around ten am.

Arrived at the Crawford county position with ten minutes to spare... turned on the laptop, brought up TR..... made sure the laptop logged, tuned around for a frequency to call CQ.... just before 1700Z I hit the enter key to send a test CQ, and the laptop froze up, display went black, and no amount of cussing could bring it back. With the other laptop at home there was no choice... found a pencil and some 3x5 cards and, for the next 8 hours, over some of the worst roads ever and later in the dark, I logged by hand. The K3 has programmable memories so I set it up to call CQ while I was paying attention to driving... and paper logging.... but I had installed the rig out of reach, since the laptop was to do all the radio control. So most CW was sent with paddle.... (also not planned). (You guys who send by hand and log by hand and do all the driving have my respect... it's tough!)

Needless to say, things got busy and I never got the K3 moved within easy reach, which is why there were some long pauses when I was hit by pileups.... and there were pileups! So busy on 40 meters that I did not have time to get to 20 before I ran out of time on the schedule (had to cover 16 counties so time was tight, no delays were permitted)... later in the day, as 40 went long and noisy, 80 CW was so hot that I often could not pull out calls without setting the K3 bandpass at about 100 Hz... meaning a lot of guys who habitually call waaaay off frequency did not get worked until I tuned around for them.

Down state Illinois roads must be worse than anything in Indiana or Ohio.... you folks have my sympathy... when the roads got real bad and CW was impossible I tried to work SSB lots of good action, made about 60 phone QSOs, even had a run going on 40 phone in mid-afternoon.

Putting it all into Excel now...about 525 total contacts but surely there are dupes... my guess about 65 multipliers...

Thanks to all the organizers, and especially N9JF for organizing the mobiles.

Mel KJ9C

Operated from home for the first time in many years. Being in a condo, antennas are not welcome around here so I had to use stealth! Used an Icom AH-4 automatic antenna tuner to match a 25-foot length of wire tossed out to some nearby bushes. The antenna height was only about 12 ft. Connected a random length of wire to the tuner's ground terminal for a counterpoise. I'm sure efficiency was low, especially on 80m,

but still managed to make more than 50 "actual" QSOs - even with the IC-706 turned down to half power.

20m was a bust. Heard no out-of-state ILQP activity at all during the time I was there. Spent my time alternating between 40 and 80, even during the daylight hours. Heard lots of strong downstate signals (like K19A and W9WI/m) on 40 CW during the afternoon. The band didn't sound particularly "long" to me; maybe because my antenna was essentially a cloud-warmer.

80 CW brought a good number of contacts even with the meager antenna. I even tried a little SSB (rare for me) but it was tough going. The gold medal for patience goes to K2PEY who worked *really* hard to pull me out of the noise on 80 SSB, but ultimately had to give up. Thanks for the good effort! Later on 80 CW, I was pleased to work VE1RGB in Nova Scotia, quite a long haul for my little wire -- and a new mult.

Had a lot of fun! Thanks to WIARC for another well-organized ILQP.

73, Joe K9LY

QRP 5 watts to hamsticks. What a beautiful day to be out driving around northern and northwestern Illinois! It made it all worth it, even if my score wasn't super. I did better than last year, so that added to the fun. It was nice to hear DX stations once again, which I didn't get last year. I activated 5 counties (WBGO, STEP, OGLE, CARR, JODA) with 6 stops, repeating in Stephenson a second time due to my route. K9IUA/R

This was a really fast 8 hour contest! :-)

When KX9X heard that Paul, K9PG, and I would be driving back from Hannibal to Chicago on Sunday, he convinced us to try a mobile effort. To make this happen, he went home and brought back a 4-magnet mount and > some resonators that I could carry on the plane with me to Chicago.

We were in Hannibal to celebrate Lew, K4VX's 80th birthday (if anyone would like to send Lew a birthday email -- k4vx@arrl.net -- his birthday isn't actually till the 21st) :-), so Sunday morning at the hotel, we figured out how to wire-up Paul's IC706 and tune the resonators for 20 and 40, and then figure out where to start driving.

We drove about an hour south and started in Pike County. Then we went into Calhoun, Greene (just a tiny bit of Greene County sneaks down between Calhoun and Jersey, so we pulled over and ran the guys for about 15 minutes), Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Shelby, Moultrie, Macon, Piatt, Dewitt, and Ford. I can't believe we made Qs from 13

counties! I can see the challenge in activating lots of counties versus maximizing QSOs.

Of course we had to stop at a Hardees and try their new tacos and burritos! We don't have great food like this in Connecticut :-) We definitely don't have pizza like Friday night's Lou Malnatti's.

The little set-up worked great! Some great little runs, mostly on CW. It was obvious, quickly, who was in the contest and would be following us from county to county: K5LH, K8MFO, AD5WI, WA3HAE, W7GVE, K0SX, KN4Y, AA5JG, KW3F, W0BH, and KO1U were some of them. We started to worry when we approached a county line without working one of those guys :-)

Neither of us had really tried this sort of operation before. It was a blast. I think Paul will do it again! Thanks to him for driving. He let me operate most of the time. He grabbed the paddle for a couple runs when stopped. I was able to put the Bencher on the top of the passenger door frame with a sticky pad and run pretty well. The signal was good enough. We had DL3DXX call us 5 times on 40 meters as early as 3 PM!

Thanks to the WIARC for organizing. Thanks to KX9X for the antennas! Thanks to TSA for not blowing up my bags.

73, Dave, NN1N and Paul K9PG of K9AA/m

I had fun KB3IPZ

Good conditions into IL from KS this year. I worked 174 unique calls. The mobiles were out in full force and did an excellent job :

15 KJ9C

10 K9AA - consistently loudest mobile into Kansas award!

7 N9BIL N9JF W9MSE

5 N9DT N9YPN

4 NN9K W9WI

3 W9OES

I started hearing mobiles immediately, but for some reason, never picked up W9WI until later in the event and missed a number of the southern counties because of that. Counties missed:

Bond, Clinton, Coles, De Witt, Effingham, Fayette, Gallatin, Hardin, Henderson, Johnson, Lee, McDonough, Marion, Perry, Pope, Saline and Washington. Combining the last three years, Bond and Johnson are the only ones I still need for the sweep.

I worked W9MSE and NN8K on Saturday in the IAQP as well .. good warmup! Other dedicated stations included the 4-county portables. Those Qs really help fill up the log. Top fixed/portable stations included:

16 N9FN
8 KF9D
4 KX9DX WA9LT

Thanks to the Western Illinois ARC for sponsoring the event, and thanks to all who participated for the Qs.

73, Bob, w0bh

It was a great day in the pasture at GREE/JERS/MCPN -- KC9HGW

Great condx on 40M to Ohio. Sure had fun working some old friends – KG9Z

Must have been a huge opening to Japan on 40 meters all day, as the band was filled with stations in the JARTS RTTY Contest. – K8MR

Well, due to family commitments, this was a VERY part time effort from home in Indiana. Made 55 Q's with 29 mults. Hope to be able to get back on the road next year & operate from one of the Illinois state parks. Maybe Cave-In-Rock SP in Hardin County again, or possible Giant City SP in Jackson County. K9DUR

Started contest with EU incorrectly spotting me as Wake Island (AH6/9) -- AH6EZ/W9

My first QSO party, had a good time. N9LQF

Twenty was open well most of the day, got the same as last year. CU next year! – N7EIE

If I skipped lunch and dinner I could have broken 10K points. N9BT

Poor conditions in my area but had fun working the contest. N9XHU

Great contest. Hope to work them all next year! ND3R

Nice party. I was really surprised at how productive 80M was when I returned from dinner and decided to give it a try not thinking it would yield

**much. Good activity by the Illinois operators. I particularly enjoyed working the two stations on the four corner county boundaries.
NO5W**

**Contest was ok conditions not the best. I enjoyed the test.
Some stations very tough to make contact. See u next year. VE5BCS**

Thanks for a great event! - Sean Kutzko KX9X (@W1HQ)

Always Fun!!! - See You Next Year!!! W1KDA

**I HAD A BALL; THANKS FOR SPONSORING THE ILLINOIS QSO PARTY!
W5ESE**

**Conditions were really bad at the start of the contest but improved.
W8KNO**

Started out on 20 to try and help the out-of-state folks, but conditions were horrible. 40 and 80 were a little better, but not as good as last year. Very hard to hear in-state ops, due to high overall noise levels. However, I did snag more counties than last time. Thanks, as always, to the mobiles and rovers. They really make this event fun. Missed a WAS by 3: VT, NV and HI. Conditions caused my score to be 90 Q's less than last year. Used low power with my trusty G5RV at 30 ft. Hope to see you all during Sweepstakes. W9QL

Lots of fun, even though I took breaks for home chores and was only able to operate 40M. K9DXA

My first time participating in ILQP...lots of fun hearing IL stations on the air!! W9KVR

Yes it was fun! The idea came from when one of our newer members asked at a club meeting, "What is a contest?" And about 4 other people chimed in with the same question. I'm an old dyed-in-the-wool CW guy and contester, so I was struck by how much we assume people know about what we do. We figure that they come to Field Day and 'get it'. However, getting on the repeater doesn't expose you to much of this incredible hobby. (I thought it was the most amazing thing in the '70's. That ship has sailed!)

I forget that calling 'CQ Contest' and then being able to hear the call of the guy who comes back is a skill you have to develop. And until you've done it a couple hundred times, it doesn't come easily.

This was illustrated by the two rows of chairs I had set up at the rig: The front row was the guy on the mike and the gal on the logging program. Behind them were 5 people with pads of paper, copying the call sign of the station that came back to the CQ. The back row kept saying things like, "That call was W9RCB. Clear as day. Easy to copy. Why didn't the guy on the mic get it?" Then it was their turn! After 30 minutes and 5 QSOs later, they would beg for a break, and discuss how 'it ain't that easy'.

That was fun stuff! We all learned a lot, had fun, and hung out with each other. And thanks to the Illinois QSO Party organizers, it was a wonderful, low pressure contest that they could operate comfortably. (It was a different story this past weekend during the CQ WW SSB contest!! "Blown Away" is the description that comes to mind.)

Thanks to all of you who organize and sponsor the QSO party! We do appreciate it.

Pete AG3R for NS9RC

I MISSED MY GOAL OF 200 QSO'S, FOR THE EDIBLE AWARD AND DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL AFTER THE CONTEST THAT 75 COUNTIES WOULD DO IT TOO. I HAD TO QRT EARLY ON THIS ONE, BUT WOULD HAVE HUNG AROUND FOR JUST TWO MORE COUNTIES. (%\$#@!& - READ THE RULES !!!) SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! WA0MHJ

Conditions were rough this year. Thought I had something wrong with my antenna because at the start of the contest, there were so few stations I could hear. Missed almost 3 hours of the event due to some outside obligations. Hope we have better conditions next year. WB8RFB

Things got off to a slow start but it was still a fun ILQP. My biggest surprise came when F1JKJ called me on 40 meter CW in the middle of the afternoon. Again 40 meters was long and the Illinois counties were hard to get. Thanks to all who throw this party! WD9CIR

5TH ILLINOIS QSO PARTY – N1NN

This is my 1st QSO party had lots of Fun and a few pileups on me! This was more fun then Field Day with nowhere near as much QRM! See you next year! WD9HSY

Due to limited time, I only operated "search and pounce", trying to give out a new multiplier to those who wanted it. WQ9T

Very limited on antennas due to last years ice storm...hope to have them repaired by Sweepstakes K9NR

40 WAS THE MONEY BAND EVEN WITH THE RTTY! ANOTHER GREAT CONTEST. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PUTTING IL ON THE MAP AGAIN THIS YEAR. WA3HAE

1ST QSO Party, Lots of Fun! WD9HSY

GOOD ACTIVITY ! LOTS OF NEW ILLINOIS COUNTIES WORKED. BACK 2010 ! DL3DXX

Let the troops know some of us think they are doing a nice job and the IL ops are really great. K5BZH

6 hours and 10x better score than last year. Man, we have lost 40M to RTTY, yet there were 30 KHz of blank space above 7065 ! Great contest. VE1ZAC

Conditions poor for in Illinois contacts but lots of out of state contacts. Thanks for hosting the party. K9FO

I wish I had more time to participate....maybe next year. It was good to see the activity the IL gang put into this. One of the most active QSO parties this year.... kudos to all the IL ops! 73 - Bob KW3F

Another short party, propagation on 20m failed after only one hour. DL3GA

Sorry that I could not make in 2008. As always, a good time. KJ8O

Great contest...first time operating fixed from my home QTH, went pretty well. KC9FQV