

The 2018 7QP Report

This was the 13th running of the 7QP. Despite the declining solar conditions participation was up this year, as indicated by the "raw" number of different stations captured by the scoring software. 15 meters was down but the lower bands more than made up for the low sun spot numbers. Thunderstorm noise was low over the May 5th weekend which made for enjoyable LF conditions.

Participation	
7th:	1287
RoW:	4927
Total:	6214
Logs:	681

Band	CW	PH	DIG	total
160	546	55	0	601
80	11087	3236	5	14328
40	22874	15858	176	38908
20	35945	27848	422	64215
15	3220	202	63	3485
10	18	48	6	72
VHF	0	43	4	47
total	73690	47290	676	121656

The QSO data indicates that participation increased by almost seven percent over 2017 even though the number of active counties and logs received was lower. Most of this increase came from a 17% increase in SSB contacts. CW still represents 60% of the total. Digital contacts were down slightly. There were two(!) recorded FT8 contacts. The stations managed to exchange their state and county information

despite the lack of support for the contest in the WSJT program.

County activity was down slightly from last year.

On means the county was reported in a received log. **XU** excludes any uniques which are likely busted exchanges. **CFM** is a log received. With long distances to travel, mobiles have to work very hard to cover widely dispersed rare counties. Nine mobiles turned in logs. Eight of these were single operator-driver. An equal number of mobiles did not send in their logs.

2018 Active Counties				
State	#	on	xu	cfm
AZ	15	14	14	13
ID	44	30	25	16
MT	56	31	28	17
NV	17	15	14	14
OR	36	36	36	33
UT	29	26	26	20
WA	39	39	39	35
WY	23	17	17	12
Totals	259	208	199	160

Loggers	
60%	N1MM+
22%	N3FJP
4%	WA7BNM
4%	WriteLog
2%	GenLog
1%	TR4W
1%	ADIF2CABR
1%	RUMlogNG
4%	Others

The widespread use of logging software and our custom scoring software are what makes this contest possible. The 2018 scores are posted on a separate page on the 7QP website. It would seem with the ARRL's International Grid Chase going on, that more participants would have an electronic log to submit. Many rare grids were activated in the 7QP this year. N1MM Logger remains in first place with 60%. The results are not exact because 4% of the logs were

received via WA7BNM's web form that permits pasting in a log generated from any program. Only four paper logs were received and were processed using TRlog in the post-contest mode.

I can confirm that being a solo mobile CW operator is a lot of work – besides being dangerous and illegal in some states. I recorded the headphone audio for the whole 18 hours. The 500 mile route through eleven Oregon counties took 11 hours of driving time. This then allowed 7 hours of sitting which was allocated equally to each county. A laptop computer with N1MM+ was used to log while sitting. After the contest I had to listen to it all over again. A second computer was used to log the moving contacts that were not in the first log. The two logs were then merged together. This post-contest process took over 16 hours and I would never do it again. I'll hire a driver if I have to....

Speaking of mobile operation, this year we joined the Indiana QP in using a **Mobile Window** from 35 to 40 kHz up on the CW bands. While it is clear that not everyone re-reads the rules every year, it was quite a success. It also tended to spread activity over a wider portion of the bands. It would be good if all four of the weekend's QSO parties had the same specified mobile window.

The 7QP is a unique contest. It covers more land area than any other QSO party and has the largest potential number of county multipliers. While we have never

Top Five QSO parties compared			
	Sq. miles	Pop, Mil	Pop/sqmi
Georgia (159 counties)	59,425	10.4	176
Florida (67 counties)	65,755	21.0	319
New England (67 counties)	71,992	14.4	201
7QP's 5 biggest counties	78,460	0.4	5
California (58 counties)	163,696	39.5	242
7QP all 259 counties	318,099	25.2	58

achieved complete coverage, it will always be a quest. The challenge is to organize, plan and cooperate among the various clubs and state managers to attain 259 activated counties.

2018 Results The full Results in detail are on the www.7qp.org website. There you can also see the list of plaque winners, the All-time Records, county activity statistics, and the Soapbox.

For next year:

- Put May 4-5 on your calendar for the next 7QP.
- If you operate at all, please send in your log.
- If you live near a rare county, let your state captain know you might be available for a trip. If you have a mobile setup, even better!

73, Dick K4XU