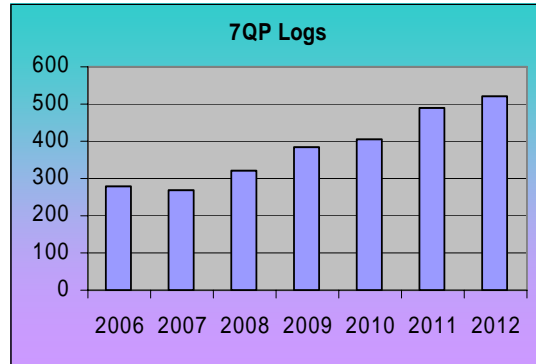
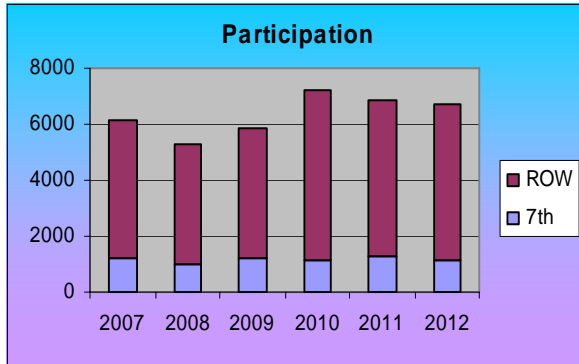


# The 2012 7QP

Another 7QP is in the books. This one had all the necessary ingredients -- good conditions, lots of participants, at least 15 mobiles, and lots of counties. It looks good on paper too –



The county count this year looks like this: 202 of 259 is about the average for the past seven years. Idaho is notably better this year. Washington missed it by one, only OR and AZ were able to light them all.

## Single Operator Results - W7

K6LL, disguised as K7L, takes the **High Mixed** category with a 30% lead over second place K7NJ. Dave (K7L) was 170 behind Riki in CW Qs but more than doubled him on SSB. This category has never been won by the same station two years running, clearly a well contested category.

**High CW** went to Rex K7QQ, with a strong showing from Washington. He was 300 Qs ahead of AA7V operating as W7A in Arizona. It's a big step up from his close second place finish last year.

St	#	on	@@	cfm'd
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AZ	15	15	15	15
ID	44	35	34	27
MT	56	26	22	15
NV	17	15	13	10
OR	36	36	36	33
UT	29	20	15	14
WA	39	38	38	30
WY	23	17	14	11
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	259	202	187	155

(@@: on, excluding uniques)

The **High Digital** station was K7AWB. This is a steadily growing category. All the major mixed players made a significant effort to ride the digital wave. **Low Digital** was won by W7SVD. **ORP Digital** was taken by K7PDW. Sound cards, prepackaged commercial interfaces, and integrated decoding in several logging programs are all helping to make this mode accessible to anyone who wants to add three point contacts to the total.

**High Phone** honors were easily captured by Noel, WS7X. He moves up from a close second place finish last year. K7LY and KT7E finished in second and third.

**Low Mixed** was captured by a big effort by N6NR operating as W7YKM in Yakima. He was 50% ahead of second place N7BAN.

**Low CW** was a real horse race. Rocky, NE7D, nosed out KK7S by just 3%. We had to sharpen our pencil to check the mults and Qs on this one.

AZ Outlaw KK7AC ran away with the **Low Phone** race. Second place was a much closer finish by N7XS over WY7LL.

The **QRP** races were captured by W7YAQ in Mixed, N6MA on CW, WA7PVE on SSB, and K7PDW in Digital.

### **Single Operator Results - non W7**

**High Mixed:** W0BH does it again! That's seven straight wins for Kansan Bob who nearly doubled the score over second place WA6KHK.

**High CW** was won by KA3DRR with a nice effort from the W6SL station. N5NA came in second followed by N8BJQ.

**High Phone** was another close one. For the third time WA5ZUP has nosed out W6AFA.

**Low Mixed** was taken by K9OM followed by Canadians VE7JH and VE7CV.

N6MU captured the **Low CW** honors for the fifth time. John is aggressive, and always moves me to next band when I operate mobile. Second place was KV8Q and third was N9AUG. This was the largest entry category with 65 logs submitted.

**Low Phone** was won by W1KDA in Rhode Island. It's not often we get a winner on the east coast, though an RI multiplier is worth at least 10dB. He was followed by K6GHA and VA3GKO.

The **QRP CW** race was won by a strong showing by W4UT. He would have been 5<sup>th</sup> in low power. He was followed by KE0G and W4QO. Top QRP Phone was WA9NBU.

### **Multi-Single**

The W7 MS **High Power** battle was a very tight contest won by WS7N nosing out N7BV. WA7LNW placed third. The Low Power spot was taken by N7MAL and the QRP spot by KU7Y.

Outside W7, the MS **High Power** crown was won by K2SSS followed by K6MMM. Must have something to do with alliteration. MS **Low Power** was another close race with K6MM edging out fellow Californian K7GK.

### **Multi-Multi**

Outside W7, the Indiana guys at K9WX beat out the New England gang at W1ACT.

Inside W7 we had the closest race ever. N7AT beat out NK7U by the slimmest margin of any race, just 0.4%! W7RN was 10% back in third.

### **County Expeditions**

These guys go out in the bush, Field Day style. It's a very necessary part of the 7QP, to light up counties that would otherwise be unavailable. The **Single Op** honors go to NG7M who found a tri-county corner on the Wyoming-Utah border. He was followed by K7IA and AA5TL (running low power). Some of these operations are cushy operations in trailers, others are in tents. All are single operators.

The **Multi-Single** operation of K7AUO to Gilliam County, OR was top dog here. Four guys in a county without a single resident ham. They were followed by first timer AE7IK. We are not sure how to classify Martin's entry. Licensed only two years, he was alone but used skimmer to copy his 110 CW QSOs. Nice job by a newbie!

Winner in the **Multi-Multi** Expedition class is K7EAR. Was there anyone who didn't work these guys? With 3k QSOs on both CW and SSB, they set an all-time record score of 1.1M. This group includes some of the top operators in the country in a well equipped operation lead by Milt, N5IA. Check out their pictures on the 7QP.org web page.

### **Mobile**

The **High Power Mixed** category was represented by a solo effort by Rick, KT7G. **High Power Phone** was led by Darryl, K7UT. **Low Mixed** and **Low CW** had a bunch of entries in each. Matt, K7BG drives out in his back yard a couple miles and activates four rare Montana counties, and wins low mixed. His old bug-catcher really gets out. But he was chased closely by WT7TT in Wyoming and K7TM who did an amazing cross-country trip from Idaho back to Seattle. Your scribe, operating as N7XU finally topped the pile in the **Low CW** bracket. Driver KI6Y, made it an enjoyable 12 hours in the saddle. Second place K7RE made a foray from his home in SD down the eastern edges of MT and WY, some very rare places indeed! The **QRP** mobile entry was made by Randy, K7TQ who activated some very rare counties in Northern Idaho.

### **Thoughts**

I must recognize the efforts of the few guys that made Oregon's 36 county sweep possible. WB7EUX, operating from home, is Mr. Wallowa County. He's up in the NE corner of the state where we keep our moose and wolves. Rick AA5TL, with his wife Jackie KA5ZLQ, made an expedition up to the Ochoco Divide where there's a National Forest campground on the border between Crook and Wheeler County. It was still closed for the winter so Rick parked his trailer in front of the gate. Washington resident Rick, KT7G, made a mobile jaunt up and down the Columbia River, catching the Oregon and Washington counties on each side of the river. In the process he lit up Hood River and Sherman Counties. My mobile route takes me to the two biggest and most sparsely populated counties in Oregon's SE corner, Malheur and Harney. Every year it's touch and go ...plus a little planning and arm twisting. It's like that for all our state captains.

