

AZQP 2018 Soapbox

K000 (@W3RFC)

Enjoyed picking up the counties.
Look forward to the next one.
See you all in the SS.
73 PAT K000

K3TW

Greetings from warm and sunny Florida!

K4BAI

Good activity. Many strong signals. Thanks for all QSOs.
73, John, K4BAI.

K4VBM

Thanks for the great fun! My best score ever in this contest!

K4XU

I found a lot of AZ stations on the air but no mobiles. Thanks for sponsoring the AZQP.
Dick Frey, 7QP Manager

K6WSC

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2018 Arizona QSO Party. I had a great time and hope everyone else did also. Thanks to the ARRL - Arizona Section and the Radio Society of Tucson for their sponsorship of the AZQP. Hope to see everyone again next year. 73, Bill K6WSC, AZQP Chairman

K7A (N1RWY, AC7FF)

Had fun guys being the bonus station! However, many didn't realize there was a bonus station. Poor conditions and T storm kept us low key on Saturday. FUN time. Always love the AZ QSO party. Between limited prep time and weather - ended up running low power with low dipoles for the event. Wasn't going to setup more aluminum in the thunderstorm. Enjoyed giving out points as the bonus station, but many QSOs had no idea that AZ had a bonus station. Many stations reported that they were REAL happy that we dropped the serial numbers for the AZ QSO party. Band conditions were not that hot, with a lot of fading and noise - but even poor conditions on the air are better than a good day at WORK! Thanks all for the participation, it is nice to see more activity for the AZ QSO party, and thanks to the Radio Society of Tucson for taking on the sponsorship of the event.

K7AZT

Participation seemed sparse, maybe because of simultaneous contests. Bursty QRN made rough going at times. Would have liked to have worked the Makrothen RTTY, Oceania DX, and SKCC WES but once a year my low-power, low-antenna station gets an opportunity to run (and get replies!), so I'm sticking with AZQP. Thanks, and best wishes to Radio Society of Tucson for taking over AZQP management. A lot of work was put into the Web site.

K7GA

Saturday night huge thunder/lightning/rain deluge cell right over my QTH really played havoc with score on 40/80. Had to finally stop and let it pass - lost a couple hours there during prime time. So, appreciate all the ops who worked me - thank you!
73/Geoff K7GA

K7IA

With the AZ QP under new management for the past two years, I decided to give it another go, after some years of absence. I had used several county line sites over the years. My favorite, APH/GLE was consumed by the Wallow Fire in 2011, the largest forest fire in Arizona history (it even burned close to my Field Day site in Catron County, New Mexico!). I had worked 7QP from two sites north of the Mogollon Rim, APH/NVO and CNO/NVO, and I planned to set up as fixed portable at one of them, if the weather allowed. Early weather forecasts predicted the path of the remnant of Hurricane Sergio to pass through, and cover, Arizona and New Mexico, so Erin and I kept close eye on NOAA Weather for a week prior to our planned day of departure, Wednesday.

With the risk of snow above the Rim increasing steadily, on Wednesday morning we decided Plan B would be better--the county line site where I had joined Milt, N5IA (SK) and his club, K7EAR, for several years. No trees for home brewed Moxon Rectangles, so I unpacked those related items and packed an old multi-band Butternut vertical, it's home brewed portable ground mount base, and 36 radials for 80m and up.

The excellent sunny and warm weather was predicted for both Wednesday and Thursday, and the prediction was right on target. The prediction for Friday through Sunday, however, was for rain and strong winds--also right on target! That made Erin a prisoner in the pickup truck camper--a long weekend for her! I limited my outdoor activities to refueling the Honda generator, slogging through deep mud to the end of the power cable. Mud in the Arizona desert is an unusual phenomenon, especially in October! However, there was little, if any, rain QRN, and there was no thunderstorm activity.

The last time I worked the AZQP from an AZ QTH, there was only one other QSO Party--the PA QP. This year, Nevada and South Dakota were on the air, and that trio of QPs attracted a lot of activity from both Running Ops and S&P Ops, very helpful to AZ Ops. The exchanges for PA and NV Parties include serial numbers, whereas AZ and SD do not. I think the numerous PA QP Ops would be more likely to search and pounce on AZ

QP ops if the exchanges were the same, because contest logging software, like N1MM Logger, has the capability to log, score, and submit logs to multiple QP sponsors if the exchanges were the same. The AZ QP used to exchange serial numbers, as does the PA QP, and at least with N1MM Logger, making QSOs between those two Parties would be a cinch. Ditto for the NV QP. Something to think about.

Saturday conditions were pretty good, despite the weather. QRN was low, and occasional QSB was rapid and shallow. Sunday was worse in both departments, especially during the final two hours of the event. No signals heard on 80 or 75 meters.

Notable QSOs include NA5TB, the N5IA Memorial Station--a remote station in GHM County designed and built by Milt and a slug of helpers in the final antenna party, where an 80m 4-square was erected for training followed by a 160m 8-circle array--all in one day. Milt was the consummate planner, organizer, motivator, and mentor for all who worked with him, and it was a treat for me to assist his projects and operate from "his" 7QP county line. "North America Five Top Band" is now operated by a group in Phoenix.

Other notables were DX stations in EU, including DL3DXX (always loud), F5NKX, F6DZU, and three band-mode Qs from OM2VL. XE1HON was one of the louder stations in the late Sunday afternoon QSB dip.

Many thanks to all of you who called, especially the PA QP Ops. I kept a tally of my outgoing PA QP serial numbers with pencil and paper, but alas, I could log you only as "PA." My apologies to those who called in the last half hour of the event and didn't log a QSO with me. The QRN had become quite high, and the QSB put many signals in the "ESP" range of hearing, much less copying. I did a lot of QRP contesting years ago (ARRL DX DW, Sweepstakes CW), and most of the Qs I logged were from stalwart Ops who made those Qs happen. Since then, I assume every weak signal is a QRP Op, and I do my best to show some "payback." Unfortunately, there were some Ops who left the frequency empty-handed. One think would help, though: When you encounter a Running Op who is struggling to pull your call sign or your report out of the noise, send your call/exchange more than once (three times, minimum). It is really frustrating to hear it sent only once at a time.

Equipment: K3 Butternut (36 radials) Expert 1.3_K FA at 400 watts
73, dan, k7ia

K7L (K6LL)

This contest was a LOT of fun. It's so pleasant to work SSB with virtually no QRM. If a net starts up on your run frequency, it's no problem, just move to another open frequency. There are plenty of open frequencies to choose from. The opening to Europe was better than last year, but it was still short and weak. There was virtually no JA participation. OM2VL was sure active and loud. This is the second contest in a row (the first being CQWW RTTY) where operations were disrupted by thunderstorms from the remnants of a Pacific hurricane. It was Hurricane Rosa in CQWWRTTY, and Sergio in this contest. I had to quit early on Saturday evening because Yuma was surrounded by thunderstorms.

K7NSW

If you want to try out a contest to see what it is like, then a QSO Party like the Arizona QSO Party is a great way to do it. It is also a great way to experience a pile-up on you! I wanted to do both, and I live in Tucson. So, I signed up to operate in a small county not the home of many hams. I operated portable out in the Sonora Desert in Santa Cruz County, not very far from where I live. There are a lot of hams hungry for a confirmed QSO from Santa Cruz County - especially County Hunters. So off I went. I had a great time - tons of fun. The pile-ups were small and manageable if you are a beginner. They were not all the time, but often enough to "keep me in the chair". The tension level of the event was low, so it was easy to get other hams to give me a short QSO to learn something about them. All very friendly. I used a simple G5RV up 30 feet. I operated ssb and cw with 85 watts output. I had a small Honda suitcase-type gas generator which is very portable because it does not weigh very much. I parked my 18-foot camp trailer in some shade and I was all set. There are other small Arizona counties in which you can operate portable and get similar or better results than I had. Apache County and Greenlee County are two that come to mind. If you want to give this a try, then contact the AZQP Manager in advance. He will tell you where the "hot spot" counties are located. GO FOR IT!

73, Richard Schmidt, President, Radio Society of Tucson

K7SV

Got on to work old friends (and anyone else in AZ I heard). Shifted between AZQP and PAQP between chores!

K7WP

FT450D/ Force12 6BA @ 45'/ CI33 @ 30'/ Loaded Tower/ N1MM+

Few hours of fun giving out MCP mostly on Sat. Sunday was a busy day at K7WP so not much air time. Thanks for the participation and Qs...

73 from AZ,
John K7WP
AZ Outlaws

K7ZOO

Great contest -- enjoyed every minute on and off the air! Thunderstorms in the area kept me entertained and off the air for much of Saturday. One exciting part of the contest weekend was creating 1/4-inch sparks from the output of the ladder line to a ground point. de K7ZOO

K9GDF

Antenna is rain gutter and downspouts.

K9NW

Tnx QSOs!
73, Mike K9NW

KC7V (@K8IA)

Good time and fun to see many AZ hams on the air. Saturday conditions were decent but Sunday much worse. Lots of qso parties to choose from so thanks to all who took the time to call me. We hope the AZQP will continue to grow.

Mike

KD7H

My time was limited and my ground-mounted vertical heard local noise better than signals from Arizona, but I enjoyed working the 'AZQP' stations I could copy. Thanks for a fun contest!

KE7IZH

For my first Arizona QSO Party, it was very enjoyable. I made 41 contacts and gave them all the chance to visit instead of rushing to the next contact to make a maximum number of points. Hope to be back next year.

KF3G

Thank you for the Arizona QSO Party.

KG4IGC

My first contest in a while, was hoping to catch plenty of AZ stations on the air. Band conditions just were not there for AZ here in SC, seemed like I kept hearing the same stations over and over. Nothing heard on 80 or 40 meters at all, and no mobiles that I know of. Did get to work the section manager W7RAP though on Sunday afternoon, so that was a plus. Enjoyed the time on the air, plus got to practice my copying and sending with CW. Many TNX to the ops who worked me.

Frank KG4IGC

KI6OY

100 watts and wire.

KI7AAY

Thanks for running the contest.

73 Sam

KI7TIG

This is my first contest with the Arizona Outlaws. This is only my 2nd contest in all.

KN4Y

Worked stations as heard.

N1NN

4th Arizona Qso Party

N1SOH

TNX ES 73.

N4ARO

Was difficult to find and work K7A, but finally found him on 20 CW just near the end of the counties. Score included the 100-point bonus. Band conditions between AZ and TN were terrible. Only two bands were possible, no opening above 20M. Heard no mobiles.

N7MZW

Potable operation from 20 miles East of home QTH, in same Grid Square and County as home station. ICOM IC-706MKIIG with 90 watts output, MFJ-939 auto tuner, and Heil Pro Micro Headset. 2 element MA5B Mini Beam for 20 and wires for 40 meters. This event had the LEAST number of active counties represented of the four state QSO Parties that I operated in this weekend. Nothing like the Texas or California QSO Parties, but I handed out the Wyoming multiplier to the few AZ stations that I heard. November Seven Many Zebras Walking.

N7NKD

First contest in AZ.

N7TY

Had one goal for this contest, to have fun. I achieved my goal. Thanks for the Q's!

NG7Z

Most of my time was on Saturday as I had church duty on Sunday. Some long periods with no contacts. Threw in the towel by 8:30 Saturday evening as I seemed to be cq'ing into nothingness. 40 had dried up and I'm guessing my 80M signal is just too weak for many to hear. Worked several PA guys during their QP. Thanks for all the contacts especially my old friends up in WWA who took the time to work me. W7GKF K7WA W7OM W7POE W9PL N7BK KD7H WC7Q

OM2VL

Thank you very much for the nice QSOs! Especially KC7V on 80m and NA7TB on 15m (the only QSOs on this bands). Unfortunately, I did not hear the K7A bonus station.

73, Laci OM2VL

VA7KBM

Thanks!

W0BH

Thanks for the Qs!

73, Bob, w0bh

W1END

Rig was ftdx5000 and butternut vertical. Heard and worked a lot more than last year. Nice activity. Had a good time. Thanks & 73

W4UT

Rig Elecraft KX3 @ 5W

Ant 3 element Yagi with 40 meter add on

W7GKF

Could use a few more AZ stations. Shortening to one day would probably be a good idea. N1MM not set up to calculate bonus points for K7A QSO's. Very competitive weekend for QSO parties, perhaps reschedule?

W7KAM

Good to work so many from my former home state. 100 watts into a Junior G5RV up 25 foot.

W7TUE - NEW CONTESTER

Thanks for sponsoring a fun weekend!

WA1SAY

Thanks for qso party, had much fun.

WA5SWN

Woo-Hoo! Big Gun Contesting! Seriously, propagation conditions were so bad I am surprised I was able to work anyone at all. Also, was surprised that the usually dominating counties – Maricopa & Cochise – were never heard. It was pleasant to hear 2 “rare” counties – Mohave & Santa Cruz. Maybe next year will be better (i.e., more sunspots!).

WB8WKQ

Saturday was much better than Sunday. Openings on 15M during Saturday were fun, nil on Sunday. Thanks for all the Q's.

WC7Q

Not many AZ stations on the air although the few were very loud in WA. Could not find enough to work all the counties.

WI0WA

Short time operation.

Thanks for your QSO, Bill