

Pennsylvania QSO Party 2009 Official Rules

Purpose of the party

Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities.

Non Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible.

Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs receive a multiplier for each Pennsylvania County with a QSO.

A Pennsylvania Amateur is defined as an Amateur operating in the State of Pennsylvania, without regard to the Amateur's home address. Other Operators are considered Out-of-state.

Operating Periods

1600Z October 10 to 0500Z October 11, and 1300Z October 11 to 2200Z October 11.

Bands for the QSO Party:

160 meters

80 meters

75 meters

40 meters

20 meters

15 meters

10 meters

6 meters

2 meters

Above 2 meters, QSOs are permitted, but those frequencies are not much in use for the party at this time. Interested Operators are encouraged to set up skeds if desired.

Suggested Frequencies:

SSB: 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480, 50.125, 146.55. Note that 12, 17, 30, 60 meter and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810KHz

PSK: 3.580, 7.080, 14.07015, 21.080, 50.250

RTTY: 3.580, 7.080, 14.080, 21.080, 28.080

160 meters Try at 0300Z Sunday Follow 160 meter band plan

Hi Band Activity periods

Sat and Sun:

10M – 1800Z

15M – 1900Z

20M – 2000Z

SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour

Mobile Window – 5 KHz below listed suggested frequencies. Keep this area clear for weak mobiles.

Exchange – Sequential serial number plus county or ARRL or Canadian section (see Canadian section explanation for details). Stations on county line give out 1 serial number per contact plus multiple county multipliers.

Work stations once per band and mode. Work Rovers and mobiles again as they change counties.

Scoring

QSO points:

CW – 160M and 80M = 2 points/QSO

CW – all other allowable bands = 1.5 points/QSO

PSK = 2 points/QSO

RTTY = 2 points/QSO

SSB = 1 point/QSO

FM = 1 point/QSO

Special Event Station QSO = 200 points

The Special Event Station for the 2009 PAQSO Party is N3KAE.

Entry Divisions

Single operator Medium power 6 -150 Watts

Single Operator QRO 151W – Legal band limit

QRP Operator 5 Watts or less

Single Operator CW only 150 Watts or less

Multi-Single Only one signal on air at a time

Multi-Multi

Portable Single OP

Portable Multi-Single Only one signal on air at a time

Portable Multi-Multi

Mobile

Rover

Station Definitions

A **Home station** is a station that is operated from a fixed position. It does not need to be a domicile. Club stations are considered home stations.

A **Portable station** is a station that is set up for the purpose of operating in the party, with the intention of teardown in the post party period. Typical of a portable station would be operations from a camp cabin or tent. Antennas are not restricted, but are typically more home station like. Portable stations are not restricted in their power source. Battery, Generator, or mains power is perfectly acceptable.

A **Mobile station** is a station that is capable of operation while moving. Moving is defined as travel in a legal manner on Pennsylvania Highways. The antenna must be of a type generally accepted as a mobile antenna. Mobile stations are not required to be in motion while operating. For the purposes of the party, to be counted as a mobile, you must be operating within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Note that this does not exclude mobile operation outside of Pennsylvania. It means that outside of the commonwealth, there are no mobile bonuses available, so no need for the designation.

A **Rover station** is a station that is capable of moving from one place to another, but is typically using an antenna that is set up on site, then torn down and moved to another site. Rovers do not operate as a mobile en route between stations.

QRP operations are those operations at a power of 5 watts or less. They may be undertaken on any station setup capable of operation at 5 watts or less. If a QRP multiplier is to be claimed, the entire party must have been run at QRP level.

Scoring for Multipliers

Multipliers for Pennsylvania Stations:

ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX. See Canadian Section explanation for details.

Multipliers for Stations operating outside of Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania Counties.

Final Score = Total points times Total Multipliers.

QRP Operation Bonus Multiplier = Total Points times 2.

PA Mobile operation Bonus points:

Add 500 Points to final score for each county you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

PA Rover operation Bonus points:

Add 500 Points to final score for each location you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

Additional Mobile and Rover rules

A Mobile station must be truly mobile, using an antenna accepted as a mobile antenna, and capable of moving between counties without any setup/teardown.

Mobile stations identify by the addition of /M to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Mobile on SSB or FM.

Mobile stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.

Rover stations identify by the addition of /R to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Rover on SSB or FM.

Rover stations must travel 5 miles or more between stops to be eligible for the 500 point bonus.

Rover stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.

County Line Stations

County line stations may be either Home Stations or Portable stations. Mobile or Rover stations are not eligible. Note: if a station that is essentially a mobile station ie, a transceiver in a vehicle with a mobile antenna wished to run county line, they could do so, but at the expense of being mobile. That would be their position for the entire party, and they would enter as a county line station, and not as a mobile.

A County line station is defined as follows. The station must be situated very near the boundaries of at least two or more adjacent counties. Ideally the antenna should cross the boundary, but safety and practicality do not always allow that. Many boundaries are in the middle of rivers or highways. The key element is that the station must be set up as near as practical to the adjacent borders. Party officials are available to determine admissibility of any county line station setup.

County line Scoring

QSOs with county line stations count as one QSO, and one multiplier for each county not yet recorded by the operating stations.

Bonus Stations

The PAQSO party will at it's discretion have a special bonus station during the party. The station may consist of a single station, multiple stations in different counties, or other novel operations. QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points, and any multiplier that has not been claimed yet. The Bonus Station for 2009 is N3KAE.

Entry Materials:

Entry materials consist of a log and dupe sheets and an official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile. 100 points will be deducted for each duplicate QSO found. All entry materials can be downloaded from the website.

Entry materials must be received by November 15th following the party in one of three ways:

1. Paper copies of all materials may be sent via US Mail or other delivery service.
2. Electronic logs on CD may also be sent vial US Mail or other delivery service.
3. Electronic Logs may be submitted via email to paqsolog@nittany-arc.net

Note: do NOT send email communications to the paqsolog address. That address is set up exclusively for logs. Non-log email submissions will not get to us. Use the regular email addresses for the party chairs. mcoslo@comcast.net or w3jxp@comcast.net.

Donations

A donation of 3 dollars or more along with your entry will help us to defray mailing and printing costs associated with the party, and will be greatly appreciated.

Whatever method of submitting a log, an official Summary sheet or reasonable facsimile must be filled out and mailed to the Nittany ARC for the party. An official summary that can be filled out on-line and that will calculate the score from your input is available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/entryforms.htm> Just fill it out, print it, and mail it.

Mailing address

PAQSO Party 2009 c/o NARC
P.O. Box 614

State College PA 16804-0614

Logs submitted without a mailed summary sheet will be treated as a check log

Plaques and Awards

Plaques go to top scorers in all entry divisions plus:

Single Op Out of State

Eastern Time Zone

Central Time Zone

Western Time Zone

Out of State Medium Power

Out of State QRP

Top Canadian Entry

DX

Single Op Medium Power EPA

Single OP High Power EPA

Single Op Medium Power WPA

Single OP High Power WPA

Rover Single or Multi single

Rover Multi-Multi

SSB only

20 meter "Good Neighbor" - to be considered for this award, submit total 20 meter QSO's.

Plaque for top first time entrant

Intended to encourage new contesters, a plaque can be awarded to the top single operator from Pennsylvania who enters the party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station, you are still eligible. This is not an award for "Big Guns from other contests. The decision as to eligibility for this award is the Contest chairs.

All 67 County Plaque

If you work all 67 counties during the party, a special plaque can be awarded in recognition of that feat. To order submit a 67 county summary sheet to aid the log checkers in addition to the regular summary listing the pertinent details. Then enclose a check for 30 dollars made payable to NARC.

Club Competition Award

A Trophy is awarded to top club competition Station, and Certificates to 2nd through 5th place.

The winner is determined by summation of the scores of club members. The current status of club members is determined by a list that is provided by a club officer, preferably the club president. The PAQSO chair will ask for the list after the party and the top club scores become apparent.

County and Section Certificates

Certificates will be mailed to county and section winners. To qualify for a certificate, the Operator must compile more points than other operators from that section or county. In some cases, a mobile operator may be the leading scorer from several counties. In that event, the mobile Op will receive the corresponding certificates. The PAQSO party administration will mail the certificates to the respective winners.

Special Certificates

The PAQSO Party may at times offer special certificates for various achievements in the party. These certificates will usually be awarded after the achievement has been made, and after receiving a Self addressed stamped envelope.

Participation Coffee Mugs

Anyone who makes 100 QSOs or more during the Party is eligible for a PAQSO Party mug personalized with the Operator's call sign. To order submit your log showing 100 or more QSOs and a check for 18 Dollars made payable to NARC.

Participation T Shirts

Anyone participating in the Party in any way is eligible for a PAQSO Party participant T Shirt. To order, mark on the summary sheet the Shirt (s) and size (s) desired, and a check for 15 dollars for each shirt made payable to NARC.

Canadian Section Explanation

The Canadian sections in use by the PAQSO party are somewhat different than those in use by the RAC at this time. They are:

NB
NF
NS
PEI
VE2
VE3
VE4
VE5
VE6
VE7
VE8
V02
YUK

There has been some confusion regarding the Canadian sections over the years. The rationale for the extra sections has been that the lumping of several sections in to one section would be the equivalent of making only one section out of all the New England states. This may change some time in the future, but consideration is being made for the Party records and software writers.

PAQSO Party Logging Software

N1MM free contest logging
<http://www.n1mm.com>

WB3W-logging program
<http://www.wb3w.net/maqpdwn.htm>

N3FJP-Amateur Contact Log Program
<http://www.n3fjp.com>

Writelog
<http://www.writelog.com>

W3KM-Genlog Software
http://www.qsl.net/w3km/gen_log.htm

There are others that may be applicable. The main requirement of software is that it be capable of generating a Cabrillo file, and that it can handle the somewhat eccentric scoring attributes of the PAQSO party.

The PAQSO Website is located at:

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

The PAQSO Party reflector – To subscribe, send a two word message “subscribe paqso” to majordomo@QTH.net

PAQSO Party Chair
Michael J Coslo N3LI

PAQSO Party Co-Chair
John Passaneau, W3JXP

Pre-Party Net

To check on party activity regarding mobiles, portables, rovers and general information, there will be a net on Friday, October 9, at 0000Z 3.910 LSB +/-.