

# Pennsylvania QSO Party 2015 Official Rules

## 1. Purpose of the party

**1.a.** 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.

**1.b.** 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.

**1.c.** 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.

## 2. Operating Periods

**2.a.** 1600Z October 10 to 0500Z October 11, and 1300Z October 11 to 2200Z October 11, 2015.

## 3. Bands for the QSO Party

**3.a.** 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.

## 4. Suggested Frequencies

**4.a.** SSB: 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480, 50.125, 146.55.

**4.b.** Note that 12, 17, 30, 60 meter and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

**4.c.** CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810KHz

**4.d.** PSK: 3.580, 7.080, 14.07015, 21.080, 50.250 RTTY: 3.580, 7.080, 14.080, 21.080, 28.080

**4.e.** 160 meters Try at 0300Z Sunday Follow 160 meter band plan

## 5. Hi Band Activity periods

**5.a.** Sat and Sun: 10M – 1800Z 15M – 1900Z 20M – 2000Z SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.

## 6. Mobile Window

**6.a.** 5 KHz below listed suggested frequencies. Keep this area clear for weak mobiles.

## 7. Exchange

**7.a.** Sequential serial number plus county or ARRL or Canadian section (see **26. Canadian Sections** for details)

**7.b.** Stations on county line give out 1 serial number per contact plus multiple county multipliers.

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

## 8. Scoring QSO points:

**8.a.** CW 2 points/QSO

**8.b.** PSK 2 points/QSO

**8.c.** RTTY 2 points/QSO

**8.d.** SSB 1 point/QSO

**8.e.** FM 1 point/QSO

**8.f.** Special Event or Bonus Station QSO-200 points bonus per QSO per band and mode

**8.g.** The Bonus Station for the 2015 PAQSO Party is W3C operated by the KQX Group,

## 9. Entry Divisions

- 9.a. Single operator Medium power – 6 to 150 Watts
- 9.b. Single Operator QRO – 151 Watts to Legal band limit
- 9.c. QRP Operator - 5 Watts or less
- 9.d. Single Operator CW only - 150 Watts or less
- 9.e. Multi-Single - Only one signal on air at a time
- 9.f. Multi-Multi -
- 9.g. Portable Single Operator
- 9.h. Portable Multi-Operator
- 9.i. Mobile - Single
- 9.j. Mobile - Multi
- 9.k. Rover - Single
- 9.l. Rover - Multi

## 10. Station Definitions

**10.a.** 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.

**10.b.** 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.

**10.c.** 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 mobile - single station is one single operator, a Mobile Multi-Op Station is an Operator plus a driver, who is either only driving or another Operator.

**10.d.** 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.

**10.e.** 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. There is no restriction on antennas for a QRP operator.

## 11. Multipliers and Scoring for Pennsylvania Stations

**11.a.** ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX. (See **26. Canadian Sections** for details)

**11.b.** Multipliers for Stations operating outside of Pennsylvania are the 67 Pennsylvania Counties.

**11.c.** Final Score = Total points times Total Multipliers.

**11.d.** QRP Operation Bonus Multiplier = Total Points times 2.

## 12. PA Mobile operation Bonus points

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

## 13. PA Rover operation Bonus points

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

#### **14. Additional Mobile and Rover rules**

**14.a.** 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. Note that adjusting taps on a “Bugcatcher” antenna is not considered to be setup or teardown. A mobile station may operate either stationary or while in motion.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **15. County Line Stations**

**15.a.** County line stations may be either Home Stations or Portable stations.

**15.b.** Mobile or Rover stations are not eligible to be a County line station.

**15.a.1.** 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.

**15.c.** A County line station's position is defined as follows:

**15.c.1.** The station must be situated very near the boundaries of at least two or more adjacent counties.

**15.c.2.** Ideally the antenna should cross the boundary, but safety and practicality do not always allow that.

**15.c.3.** 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.

**15.d.** Party officials are available to determine admissibility of any county line station setup.

#### **16. Bonus Stations**

**16.a.** The PAQSO party will at it's discretion have a special bonus station during the party.

**16.b.** The Bonus Station may consist of a single station, multiple stations in different counties, or other novel operations.

**16.c.** QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points, and any multiplier that has not been claimed yet. The Bonus Station for the 2015 PAQSO Party is W3C, operated by the KQX group.

**16.d.** If a group or club wishes to be considered for a particular year's Bonus station, they should contact the Party Chairman to indicate their interest, and then to prepare an Operation Plan for the proposed Bonus Station.

**16.f.** There are often several groups applying for the bonus station every year. By the very nature of a bonus station, we can select only one. There have been times in the past, when people or groups, not selected have become so upset that they have boycotted the party because of it. Please do not do that. The decision is almost always very difficult, there is no reason to make it more so. If *not* being chosen as the bonus station will cause you to become so angry with the administrators of the party that you refuse to participate, reconsider the application.

## **17. Entry Materials**

**17.a.** Entry materials consist of a log and dupe sheets and an official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile.

**17.a.1.** Dupe sheets are only needed for paper logging, not computer logging.

**17.b.** All entry materials can be downloaded from the website. <http://nittany-arc.net/paqsoforms.html>

**17.c.** Entry materials must be received by November 15th following the party, in one of three ways.

**17.c.1.** Electronic Logs and summary sheet may be submitted via email to [paqsolog@nittany-arc.net](mailto:paqsolog@nittany-arc.net)

**17.c.2.** Paper copies of all materials may be sent via US Mail or other delivery service.

**17.c.3.** Electronic logs on CD may also be sent vial US Mail or other delivery service.

**17.d.** Whatever method of submitting a log, an official Summary sheet or reasonable facsimile must be filled out for the party. An official summary that can be filled out on-line which will calculate the score from your input, and is available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/entryforms.htm>. Other acceptable methods are the summary sheets form various logging programs. Ensure that your program provides all the needed information.

**17.e.** Logs submitted without a summary sheet will be held, and the sender be notified of the need for a summary sheet.

**17.e.** Electronic log format is Cabrillo 3.

## **18. Party Communications**

**18.a.** 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.

**18.b.** Use the regular email addresses for the party chair. [mcoslo@comcast.net](mailto:mcoslo@comcast.net)

## **19. Donations**

**19.a.** We are a small club running a big QSO party, and now that we no longer sell promotional items, donations are of greater importance than ever. In an effort to keep the PASO Party in existence, donations are always welcome, and keep us health and happy. Donations may be sent to our mailing address, or on the website at:

<http://nittany-arc.net/PAQSOSTore.html> and using your major credit card.

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2015 c/o NARC  
P.O. Box 614  
State College PA 16804-0614

## 20. Plaques and Awards

20.a. Plaques go to top scorers in all entry divisions plus:

20.a.1. Eastern Time Zone	Sponsor: Murgas Amateur Radio Club
20.a.2. Central Time Zone	Sponsor: Blair Bates, K3YD
20.a.3. Western Time Zone	Sponsor: Carmine Prestia K3CWP, and Elaine Prestia K3ERP
20.a.4. OOS Single Op Medium Power	Sponsor: Penn-Ohio DX Society
20.a.5. Top Canadian Entry	Sponsor: Columbia-Montour ARC
20.a.6. DX	Sponsor: Alfred J. Zelna N3KAE
20.a.7. Single Op Medium Power EPA	Sponsor: Duane Traver WV2B
20.a.8. Single Op High Power EPA	Sponsor: Brian Cox KB3ORR
20.a.9. Single Op Medium Power WPA	Sponsor: Radio Association of Erie
20.a.10. Single Op High Power WPA	Sponsor: Wireless Association of South Hills
20.a.11. Rover Single	Sponsor: Mercer County ARC
20.a.12. Multi-Single Rover	Sponsor: Mark Schreiner NK8Q
20.a.13. Single Op Portable	Sponsor: Eric Brooks N3EB
20.a.14. Multi-Op Portable	Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club
20.a.15. Multi-Single	Sponsor: Tuscarora Amateur Radio Association
20.a.16. Multi-Multi	Sponsor: Reading Radio Club
20.a.17. 20 meter "Good Neighbor"	Sponsor: Tad Danley K3TD
20.a.18. SSB only	Sponsor: Pete Varounis NL7XM
20.a.19. PSK31	Sponsor: Ed Breneiser WA3WSJ
20.a.20. CW	Sponsor: Bud Trench AA3B
20.a.21. QRP In-State	Sponsor: Penn Wireless Association
20.a.22. QRP Out-of-State	Sponsor: Jim Gooch NA3V
20.a.23. NARC Single Operator	Sponsor: John Passaneau W3JXP
20.a.24. First Timer	Sponsor:
20.a.25. Mobile-Single	Sponsor: Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club
20.a.26. Mobile-Multi	Sponsor: Skyview Radio Society

20.b. For special awards or plaques, see Rule 25.

## 21. Plaque for top first time entrant - "First Timer"

21.a. 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.

21.b. This is not an award for "Big Guns" from other contests.

21.c. The decision as to eligibility for this award is the Contest Chair's.

## 22. All 67 County Plaque

22.a. If you work all 67 Counties during the party, a special plaque can be awarded in recognition of that feat.

22.b. To order a 67 County plaque, submit a 67 county summary sheet to aid the log checkers in addition to the regular summary listing the pertinent details.

22.c. Purchase the plaque either on the Web store at:

<http://nittany-arc.net/PAQSOSTore.html>

or Enclose a check for 30 dollars made payable to NARC.

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2015 c/o NARC  
P.O. Box 614  
State College PA 16804-0614

**23. Club Competition Award**

**23.a.** A Trophy is awarded to top club competition Station

**23.b.** Certificates awarded for 2nd through 5th place in the Club competition

**23.c.** 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.

**24. County and Section Certificates**

**24.a.** Certificates will be mailed to county and section winners.

**24.b.** To qualify for a certificate, the Operator must compile more points than other operators from that section or county.

**24.c.** 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.

**24.d.** The PAQSO party administration will mail the certificates to the respective winners.

**25. Special Certificates or plaques**

**25.a.** The PAQSO Party may at times offer special certificates or plaques for various achievements in the party.

**26. Promotional items**

**26.a.** Due to sales volume falling below minimum order requirements from Vendors, the PAQSO Party is no longer selling promotional items.

## **26. Canadian Sections**

**26.a.** The RAC has announced changes to their sections. Unfortunately even now, there is no standard Canadian section in use across contests and QSO parties. Investigations have shown anywhere from 8 to 16 sections. Since there is no uniformity, and nothing to bring the PAQSO party in line with, no changes in the Canadian sections will be made.

**26.b.** The Canadian sections in use by the PAQSO party are:

- 26.b.1.** Nova Scotia NS (VE1)
- 26.b.2.** Quebec QC (VE2)
- 26.b.3.** Ontario ON (VE3)
- 26.b.4.** Manitoba MB (VE4)
- 26.b.5.** Saskatchewan SK (VE5)
- 26.b.6.** Alberta AB (VE6)
- 26.b.7.** British Columbia BC (VE7)
- 26.b.8.** Northwest Territories NT (VE8)
- 26.b.9.** New Brunswick NB (VE1, VE9)
- 26.b.10.** Newfoundland-Labrador NL (VO1, VO2)
- 26.b.11.** Nunavut NU (VY0)
- 26.b.12.** Yukon Territories YT (VY1)
- 26.b.13.** Prince-Edward Island PE (VY2)

## **27. Pre-Party Net**

**27.a.** 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 +/-.

## **Miscellaneous**

The PAQP uses Cabrillo 3 format logging.

### **Logging programs**

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/>

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 Note that the PAQSO Party reflector is *not* administered by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club or the Pennsylvania QSO Party chair.

Electronic logs and summary sheets to:

[paqsolog@nittany-arc.net](mailto:paqsolog@nittany-arc.net)

PAQSO Party Chair Michael J Coslo N3LI

Mailing address:           PAQSO Party 2015 c/o NARC  
                                  P.O. Box 614  
                                  State College PA 16804-0614

*Rules updated Thursday, 24 September, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.*