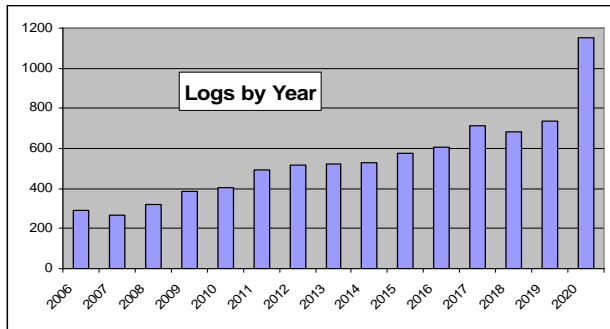# 2020 7QP Report

This was the 7QP's fifteenth year and, by any measure, it was a huge success. With 1150 logs received, it is the high water mark for participation. There are two explanations. Though one must be the Covid-19 virus with its stay at home orders, the other is the ongoing State QSO Party Challenge which has the whole year to run. Regardless, we hope that the inertia can be carried forward.

Even in a year that is at the very bottom of the sunspot cycle, the conditions were generally good though 10 and 15m were notably absent. The bands were relatively quiet which produced a bumper crop of low band QSOs. Overall participation was up by almost 50%.

One of the draws of 7QP is the large numbers of available multipliers: a possible 259 counties in the eight states. Some of them have very few intelligent life forms, let alone active hams. Usually our state captains can work around this by using mobiles. This was pretty much off the table due to Covid distancing and stay at home orders. Even so there were 192 counties available. Wyoming had its highest ever county score with 22 of 23 thanks to the efforts of captain N7WY who found a rare tri-county corner to light up. Nevada also did well thanks to the effort of their new captain, W6US.

Available Counties

State	#	2020	%
AZ	15	14	93
ID	44	28	64
MT	56	18	32
NV	17	16	94
OR	36	36	100
UT	29	23	79
WA	39	35	90
WY	23	22	96
total	259	192	74

With three other QSO parties going on at the same time, the bands sounded as if there was a major contest going on. If you add up all the stations on the air, the combination of all four is approaching ARRL Sweepstakes-like dimensions.

QSO Band and Mode Distribution

Band	160	80	40	20	15	10	Total	%
CW	1427	18334	41983	61917	111	4	123776	67.3
SSB	74	4700	19286	34703	26	10	58799	32.0
Dig	0	39	338	928	0	0	1456	0.8
%	0.8	12.5	33.5	53.0	0.1	"0"	184031	

This is basically a two mode event though we try to give the digital ops some incentive by offering four points per QSO. FT8 and FT4 cannot be used because they do not support the 5-character exchanges, so only RTTY and PSK were used. CW is a two to one favorite over SSB and 20m carried half the freight.

%	Loggers	
62	717	N1MM
21	239	N3FJP
5	57	WA7BNM
3	36	WriteLog
1	13	GenLog
1	13	TR4W
7	75	(29)others

The prime factor that enables fast and accurate event scoring is widespread use of computer logging. There were only six paper logs this year. We require logs to be submitted in the standard Cabrillo format. The table shows the distribution of logger types. N1MM dominates the field partly because it allows all four QSO parties to be handled from one log. Most of the logs that were moved to the check log pile had incomplete or missing exchanges. This is often the result of a logger not accepting an ORDES exchange, only allowing OR.

Entry Categories

	Non-7	7th
SOLP	91	79
SOLC	118	40
SOLX	71	39
SAHC	75	15
SAHX	67	11
SOHC	48	26
SALC	65	9
SOHX	37	25
SALX	47	9
SOHP	25	29
SALP	31	12
SAHP	16	8
SOQC	13	6
C1s		17
MSH	10	7
Cklog	10	5
SOLD	4	8
MM	4	7
CLs		11
MS	5	5

C= county exped
X= mixed
SOLP= single op low pwr phone
SALC= single assisted low CW

The 7QP has more entry categories than any other QSO party and probably too many. This is only 20 of the 35 categories entered this year. The others had seven or less entrants. The three most popular are unassisted low power phone, CW and mixed. Even with Covid-19 restrictions, there were several county expeditions, C1, some on county lines, CL. These are Field Day-like operations and are very useful for lighting up those rare counties. Going forward, look to see other QSO parties adopt this option.

Summary

Notable among the winners are new appearances. KL7SB in SOHX, K6SRZ in SOHC and KH6KO in SALC for the non-7 entrants. Among the "locals", W7VO in SOHP, W7YAQ in SOLX, K7HBN in SOLC, and a huge remote effort by the crew at N7A in winning the MM category. The full result for all categories is on the 7QP.org web site.

I cannot close without mentioning the people that make the 7QP happen. Bill K2DI does all the log work – collecting, correcting, scoring and organizing the data that is eventually presented here and on the web. Bob WS7N runs our web site and is responsible for making and mailing the plaques. The eight individual state coordinators and sponsoring clubs scour the logs and QRZ.com to find the elusive ops that light up rare counties, publicize the event and excite the multitudes that crowd the bands. And of course a big thanks to all of you participants for being part of the 2020 7QP.

Dick, K4XU