

Colorado QSO Party (COQP)

Sponsor: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

1. **Foreword:** Welcome to the Colorado QSO Party. We hope that you enjoy the contest. All licensed radio amateur operators are encouraged to enter. Those entering are highly encouraged to read and follow all points in the rules.

2. **Object:** For amateurs outside of the state of Colorado to make contact with as many Colorado stations as possible. Colorado stations, activating as many counties as possible, work everyone.

3. **Contest:** Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. The contest period is from 1300 UTC until 0400 UTC (7AM to 10PM MDT). Total time of 15 hours. The full 15 hours may be operated.

4. Categories:

a. **Single Operator (In-State and Out-of-State):** One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of helpers and spotting nets (operator arrangements involving assistance through DX-alerting nets, Packet Cluster, etc) is not permitted. Only one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time.

b. **Multi-Operator (In-State and Out-of-State):** Those obtaining any form of assistance, such as relief operators, loggers, or use of spotting nets. Only one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time. This is Multi-Single operation. There is no multi-transmitter (Multi-Multi) operation.

c. **Mobile (In-State only):** Mobile means operating in or on a movable vehicle, independent of all commercial power sources, and able to travel at any time without having to disconnect any wiring or change any antennas in order to move to another location. Only one radio may transmit at any one time. To qualify as a mobile station you must log QSOs from more than one county. There are two classes of mobile operation.

(1) **Single Operator.** One person performs all operating, logging, and driving functions. NOTE - Operating in this category does not require simultaneous operating, logging and driving. Operators who choose to simultaneously operate, log, and drive are reminded that doing so is extremely dangerous. The use of helpers of any kind including spotting nets is not permitted.

(2) **Multi-Operator.** Any number of operators for competition purposes. Anyone logging, spotting, or driving are considered operators for the purposes of this contest.

d. **Portable (In-State only):** Portable is a station that is temporary (radio, antenna, power source). The station must be able to be moved (setup, torn-down, relocated, re-setup) in a reasonable period of time. Only one radio may transmit at any one time. To qualify as a portable station you must submit logs from more than one county or specifically identify your station as portable in your log submission. Stations not so identified will be considered normal SO or MO category as appropriate. You may not operate portable from your home or home county. There are two classes of portable operation.

(1) **Single Operator.** One person performs all operating and logging. The use of helpers of any kind including spotting nets is not permitted.

(2) **Multi-Operator.** Any number of operators for competition purposes. Those obtaining any form of assistance, such as relief operators, loggers, or use of spotting nets. Only one (1) transmitted signal on the air at any time. Anyone logging or spotting are considered operators for the purposes of this contest.

e. **Schools (In-State and Out-of-State):** (University, College, High School, etc.). Entries must be

from a recognized school amateur radio club. Operation is to take place from a station on campus. Operation from a club member's home station is ONLY allowed if there is no station on campus. Operators can only be Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni from the School. Awards will be issued to top Colorado and top non-Colorado Schools. For award purposes, there is no distinction between Single and Multi operator stations or power levels in this category. To be considered for an award an entry must have at least five logged QSO's.

5. Bands

- a. HF -- 160 - 10m (excluding WARC bands).
- b. All VHF and UHF bands including 6 meters.
- c. Specifically, ALL amateur bands are included except WARC bands. This includes all bands above VHF and UHF.
- d. No repeater or satellite QSO's

6. Modes:

All entrants may operate:

- (1) Digital (RTTY, PSK31, etc) - Multiplier x 2 (DXCC, not US, Canada, KH6 and KL7 x 4)
- (2) Phone only - Multiplier x 1 (DXCC, not US Canada, KH6 and KL7 x 2)
- (3) CW Only - Multiplier x 2 (DXCC, not US and Canada, KH6 and KL7 x 4)
- (4) Mixed (any combination of 2 or more of the above) (multipliers per above)

7. Power. Logs not showing power category will be computed with a multiplier of x1.

- a. Fixed stations (Single, Multi, School) will use the following multipliers
 - (1) QRP - 5W output or less – x3 multiplier
 - (2) Low Power - 150W output or less – x2 multiplier
 - (3) High Power - more than 150W output – x1 multiplier
- b. Mobile, Portable, and Digital stations (Single, Multi) will use the following multipliers
 - (1) QRP - 5W output or less – x3 multiplier
 - (2) Low Power – more than 5W output – x2 multiplier
 - (3) These categories are limited to 150W output or less.

8. Contest Exchange:

- a. Colorado stations send call sign, name and county (three letter designator). See county abbreviation list at <http://www.ppraa.org/coqp/>.
- b. W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) send call sign, name and state or province/territory (two letter designator).
- c. All other DXCC stations (including KH2/KP4, etc.) including Maritime and aeronautical mobile send name and DXCC prefix.

9. Scoring:

a. QSO Points:

- (1) Colorado, 50 states and Canada: Each complete non-duplicate Phone contact is worth 1 point per band. Each complete non-duplicate digital and CW contact is worth 2 points per band. No partial contact credit. No duplicate contact credit.
- (2) For all other DXCC Countries, maritime/aeronautical mobile: Each complete non-duplicate Phone contact is worth 2 points per band. Each complete non-duplicate digital and CW contact is worth 4 points per band. No partial contact credit. No duplicate contact credit.

b. **Power Multipliers:** Multiply QSO Points by the power multiplier.

- (1) Fixed Stations. If all QSO's were made using 5W or less, multiply your score by 3; if all QSO's were made using less than 150W, multiply your score by 2; if any or all QSO's were made using more than 150W, multiply your score by 1.
- (2) Mobile/Portable Stations. If all QSO's were made using 5W or less, multiply your score by 3; if any or all QSO's were made using more than 5W, multiply your score by 2.

c. **County/State/Province/Country Multipliers:**

- (1) For Colorado stations,
 - a. The 64 Colorado counties;
 - b. 50 states + 1: (including Colorado) and District of Columbia (DC);
 - c. Canada: AB (VE6), BC (VE7), MB (VE4), NB (VE9), NL (VO1, VO2), NS (VE1), NT (VE8), NU (VY0), ON (VE3), PE (VY2), QC (VE2), SK (VE5), YT (VY1); Note – These are the official two-letter abbreviations for the provinces and territories in Canada.
 - d. DXCC Countries: (except the US, Canada, KH6 and KL7);
 - e. Maritime/aeronautical mobile: ITU Regions, R1, R2, R3.
 - f. A multiplier can be counted once per mode, regardless of the number of bands on which it is worked.
- (2) All others work Colorado counties (a maximum of 64). Colorado mobile and portable stations that change counties are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for point and multiplier credit. Colorado mobile and portable stations on a county line may be claimed as a QSO and a multiplier from each county (2 QSO's and 2 multipliers). Stations should log contacts with such stations a two QSOs, one from each county. Stations should sign call sign, name, and counties.

d. **Final Score:** For scoring follow this sequence.

- (1) Enter W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) and all other DXCC contacts on the summary sheet and DXCC work sheet respectively.
- (2) On both the summary sheet and the DXCC worksheet multiply total QSO's times mode multiplier. See para. 9.a. above for mode multipliers.
- (3) Transfer the DXCC QSO Points to the summary sheet. Add the QSO Points and the DXCC QSO Points to obtain the Total QSO Points.
- (4) Multiply Total QSO Points by the power multiplier for a subtotal.
- (5) Next, total County/State/Province/Country multipliers as described in para 9.c. above and enter on the summary sheet.
- (6) Multiply that total times the subtotal for the Mode Score.
- (7) Determine any bonus points as described in para. 9.f. below and enter on the summary sheet.
- (8) Add Mode Scores and Bonus Points for the Final Score.
- (9) For mixed mode find the total for each of the Digital-CW and Phone modes and add together for Cumulative Final Score.

e. **Portable logs:** Colorado portable operations must submit separate logs for each county activated; a portable entrant's final score will be the cumulative total score of all submitted logs. The final score will be determined by the log checkers.

f. **Mobile logs:**

- (1) Colorado mobile operations submit a single log of all QSOs.
- (2) Multipliers for mobiles are cumulative for all counties and modes. Multipliers are counted only once no matter what band or mode they are worked.
- (3) Final score will be the total of all QSO points times the power multiplier times the C/S/P/C multipliers then add bonus points.

g. **Bonus Points:**

- (1) One thousand (1000) bonus points will be awarded for each Colorado County activated by a mobile or portable station. At least ten contacts must be made from the activated county to receive the bonus points.
- (2) Five hundred (500) bonus points will be awarded for each confirmed QSO made with a PPRAA club station (AF0S or WA0VTU).

10. Suggested frequencies:

All frequencies are +/- QRM/N & local traffic.

- (1) CW - 1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050 MHz.
- (2) Phone - 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, and 28.450 MHz.
- (3) RTTY - 3.570-3.580, 7.080-7.100, 14.080-14.099.5, 21.080-21.100, 28.050-28.080
- (4) PSK - 1.8073, 3.583, 7.073, 14.073, 21.073, 28.123
- (5) VHF/UHF per band plan

11. Miscellaneous:

- a. Call signs and exchange information must be received by each station for a complete QSO.
- b. No cross-mode contacts are permitted.
- c. Stations may be worked once per mode, per band (and mobiles in each new county), i.e., each station may be worked on 20 CW, 20 SSB, and digital for credit. See para. 7.a.(1) above for digital mode definition.
- d. Multiple logs received from one call sign will be combined and one score including bonus points, if applicable, will be computed for that call sign. If all logs have the same mode then that mode will apply. If more than one mode is recorded among the logs the mixed category will be assigned.
- e. Logs submitted as mixed category having only one mode recorded will be scored as the appropriate mode category designation.
- f. Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country (also, portables in Hawaii and Alaska must sign /KH6 or /KL7).
- g. Club competition, as per ARRL Club definitions. Please indicate your club affiliation on your summary sheet and/or log. The operator's call must be listed on the Cabrillo log for each county. Separate county logs must be submitted as per contest rules. The county abbreviation, as per the rules, must be included with the club call sign in the name of the submitted Cabrillo log file. Logs will be combined per the contest rules. This use of a club call sign is permitted in the ARRL's General Rules for contesting.
- h. All Colorado stations include their county abbreviation at the end of their Cabrillo log file name. Only use a dash (-) between the call sign and not a slash (/) as Windows will not accept a slash in file names. Assure manual log summary sheets list the county activated.
- i. For logging software developers the COQP prefers Cabrillo 3.0 QSO template for NAQP and NA Sprint format found at <http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/qso-template.html>. Assure data elements are space delimited and are in the column numbers as per the template.

12. Reporting:

- a. Contesters are highly encouraged to use either a contest logging program supporting the COQP or the manual logging forms found on the COQP website at <http://ppraa.org/coqp>. Use of other formats greatly increases the opportunity for errors on the part of the contestant and log checkers. All submissions must be legible and neat. Unreadable logs, as determined by the judges, will be disqualified.
- b. Entries must be received (or postmarked for mailed in logs) no later than 2359MDT the fifth Saturday after the contest. All entrants are highly encouraged to submit their logs electronically (e-mail, 3.5-inch floppy disk, etc.). The file format for electronic logs is **Cabrillo**. Paper logs including a summary sheet and all other DXCC work sheets may be submitted. When submitting paper logs only use the forms provided on the COQP website at <http://ppraa.org/coqp>.
- c. E-Mail. You may submit your contest logs via e-mail to coqplogs@ppraa.org. Logs submitted by email must be attachments only and not in the email body. The e-mail subject will indicate the call sign used in the contest.
- d. Via Regular Mail. Contest logs (paper or diskette) may be submitted via postal mail to:

Colorado QSO Party
PO Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521
- e. The floppy diskette must be a MS-DOS/FAT formatted, 3.5 inch.
- f. Logs must indicate band, mode, date, time in UTC, call signs, sent and received exchange. Entry forms (rules, log sheet, all other DXCC work sheet, summary sheet, and county abbreviations) are available for downloading at <http://ppraa.org/coqp>.
- g. Received logs will be listed on the Colorado QSO Party Web site no more than 72 hours after receipt.
- h. Final results will be announced no later than the November PPRAA General Membership meeting and posted on the ppraa.org/coqp Colorado QSO Party Web site.

13. Awards:

- a. Plaques, or trophies or certificates will be awarded to first place winners in various categories. Certificates will be awarded if plaques are not sponsored. Second and third place winners will receive certificates. Individuals in winning Multi-Op teams will receive certificates. See the current list of available plaques and sponsors at <http://www.ppra.org/coqp/sponsors>. Winners receiving certificates may purchase plaques by contacting the judging group at coqpawards@ppraa.org no later than 14 days after contest results are posted on the website. Sponsorship of plaques and trophies may be changed at the discretion of the judging group based on contest category entries.
- b. Special awards may be made at the discretion of the Colorado QSO Party Contest Committee.

14. **Condition of Entry:** Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions, as well as the intent, of this announcement, the regulations of his or her licensing authority and the decisions of the Colorado QSO Party Contest Committee. Participants will not hold the COQP or its sponsors liable for any consequences resulting from any activity associated with this contest.