

The Georgia QSO Party



2021 Georgia QSO Party Summary by Andy Goss, AA5JF

The **Georgia QSO Party** was held on April 10th and 11th of 2021. Now in its 72nd year, we saw great activity with 523 submitted logs. This was down about 20% from the record breaking year of 2020. 414 logs were submitted from outside Georgia and 109 logs from within Georgia. With 20 hours of operating time possible (ten hours on each day), activity remained high throughout the weekend.

After a curtailed 2020 lockdown edition, 2021 again included rovers and in-person multi-ops. This year featured a new Portable category, allowing Georgia amateurs to operate from multiple counties without placing themselves in the rover category (as long as they did not transmit while mobile and had a truly portable antenna). But given the COVID-19 conditions in April, distributed multi-ops were still permitted. With Georgia's 159 counties (second only to Texas), there were plenty of multipliers to chase, even more so as each county counts on both phone and CW. And we know that at least 145 counties were active at some point during the weekend.

Conditions were good both days, and there was non-stop activity on 40M and 20M. We even got a 15M opening on Sunday around mid-day, although only a few took advantage of it. And in a welcome surprise, 20M had short skip much of the time, making 20M productive for almost all participants (sorry north Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina). And at least for the Georgia operators, 40M was open to somewhere pretty much all of the time. Even the top band provided some QSOs, with K4EA in Chattooga County making 23 CW contacts, and OM2VL at the OM8A station completing three Georgia CW contacts. Six meter contacts are allowed, but few were reported.

Activity from out of state was again high with 414 submitted logs, only a little down from 2020. The *State QSO Party Challenge* is clearly having an effect, increasing both casual and serious operation. Out-of-state winners turned in some remarkable logs. In the high-power categories, K9CT's CW only effort netted 328 QSOs and 76,752 points. W4GO's mixed-mode effort resulted in 356 QSOs and 104,286 points. HC5DX made 99 QSOs on SSB to win the HP phone competition, with David beating all his state-side competitors. In the low power categories, NX3A made an impressive 276 contacts from Virginia to win the mixed mode competition. W9RE completed 250 contacts (and 116 counties) with 58,000 points to win the CW low power category. On SSB, KD3H won the out-of-state lower power category, with 73 contacts and 2485 points. In the QRP category, K3TW in Florida won the mixed category with 148 contacts and 23,474 points. K2YG's 62 contacts and 4464 points was enough to win the CW QRP category for out of state operators.

In addition to the various category winners, the Georgia QSO Party offers a number of plaques for operators farther afield, including the best score from W6/W7 which was won by WA6KHK in California

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with 31,779 points. The mixed-mode DX plaque was won by OM2VL, with 72,192 points (Laci took second overall in that category). The CW DX plaque goes to DL3DXX with 61,244 points (Dietmar also took second place overall in this category). The presence of regular DX operators really makes operating this contest from Georgia special.

For out-of-state operators, active rovers significantly enhanced the contest, as many out-of-state competitors chased them all around Georgia. And this year we again had crews and individuals who had outfitted their vehicles for a weekend-long rover operation. Three experienced multi-person rover teams (and two single-op efforts) crisscrossed the state over the course of two days. The N4N team (W5JR with KX4MZ, N5ZZ and WK4U) operated two radios from their 19-year old Yukon to activate 59 counties and make an incredible 2189 contacts, most of them on CW. They kept one of the radios on 40M the entire 20 hours. Kudos to K9CT who made 77 contacts with N4N, all on CW. KU8E and K4BAI teamed up to operate W4AN in 48 counties, racking up 2407 CW contacts and 240,204 points. N4I's mixed, two-radio entry netted 564 contacts. N4FD made an impressive 519 CW contacts for 46,710 points to win the single-op rover category. K4ZGB's rover operation resulted in 241 contacts. As the comments on 3830 make clear, the presence of all these rovers really makes Georgia QSO Party special for the out-of-state ops.

The new portable category drew a lot of interest, with eight stations operating from at least two counties (with the requirements that they were not to operate while mobile). With more awareness about this category – and the usually gorgeous weather in Georgia the second weekend of April – we are sure these portable operations will grow in popularity. W4MY won the mixed-mode category (435 QSOs, 50,520 points) operating from Habersham and Fannin counties in north Georgia. The AD4XT team (AD4XT and KM4SLW) won the SSB category with a very notable 580 contacts and 27,840 points. The multi-op team of K4M (K4VBM, KK4E and KN4APC) won the portable CW only category.

There was tough competition for a number of the top spots in the in-state competitions. In the single operator mixed categories, W4XO ran high power to take home the plaque with 728 contacts and 116,100 points. One of the most popular Georgia categories was low-power mixed, and N4TOL (as N4A) used only wires to beat the competition with 860 QSOs and 128,719 points, edging out AA4LR. QRP operator W4QO (operating as N4F) made 187 contacts and 23,490. K4PI used his impressive skills and excellent station in Douglas County to net 920 CW QSOs, easily winning the in-state CW high power category. W4KLY in Gwinnett made 575 QSOs to score 58,650 and win the lower-power CW Georgia category. QRP Georgia mixed mode honors went to WC4X with 392 contacts and 33,712 points. Single-op SSB High Power in Georgia was won by W4KZ (K4NV) winning the plaque with a stunning 1512 QSOs, and 87,696 points. Low power SSB in-state was won by KM4OZ with 501 QSOs and 27,555 points, while the QRP in-state winner for SSB was N4CN with a tidy 277 contacts. Multi-Op plaque winners included

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N4R (KB4KBS & WF4W) who teamed-up as a distributed multi-op to win the two transmitter plaque with 263,010 points (total of 1563 QSOs). KM4DAY (with LZ4AX) was not far behind with only one transmitter, scored 240,204 points, enough for the one-transmitter plaque. The low-power plaque went to W4TMD (W4TMD and KN4ABC) with 583 SSB contacts and 31,482 points. Congratulations to all the Georgia winners.

Club honors and plaque again went to the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (with 28 entries) and the **new** small club plaque was won by the Columbus Amateur Radio Club. The Society of Midwest Contesters and their 27 entries won the out-of-state club plaque.

We will be back next year. We look forward to another great party next time, April 9 & 10, 2022.

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