



The 2023 edition of the Georgia QSO party was held on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. As happens every few years, our state's QSO party overlapped with Easter Sunday. Although this likely diminished some of the activity, overall, the party was a success with 424 submitted logs, just about 15% less than last year. The second weekend of April continues to draw state QSO enthusiasts from all over, with 331 logs from outside Georgia submitted. And with devoted rovers and portables crisscrossing the state, there was plenty of activity throughout the 20 hours of permitted operating. A hallmark of the Georgia QSO party is the balance between phone and CW operation. Georgia participants reported 15,137 CW QSOs and 18,625 phone QSOs. Thanks to all participants.

Conditions were very decent, with 20M and 40M open much of the time. Skip on 20M was relatively short, certainly compared to 2022, and 40M was in very great shape, both day and night. Throughout the weekend, 10M and 15M were open to with plenty of theoretical QSOs available, but Georgia stations had trouble generating runs. Storms in the southeast on Saturday led to noisy conditions on the lower bands, and that combined with the excellent 40M conditions, diminished activity on 80M and 160M.

The highlight of the year were the two hyper-active rover crews, AD4EB and N4N. This year, Jim AD4EB was joined by Juan AC6ZM, as they drove Jim's new rover vehicle down from Tennessee and hit 66 counties in Georgia in a CW-only operation. They logged an incredible 2997 QSOs. That's a rate just shy of 150/hour over the course of 20 hours. It is clear that Jim and his operators have pushed mobile contesting to a new level. And the crew of N4N (Mike K5JR joined by Max N5ZZ) again took Mike's two-decade old Yukon on the roads of rural Georgia for a two-transmitter, mixed-mode operation, making 2470 contacts. Their score was 25% higher than their previous best. K4O (N4KGO op) was active as a phone only rover, winning that category, with 136 QSOs. Operation in the portable-category was down somewhat this year. AD4XT (alongside KM4SLW) made a very fine 840 SSB contacts, winning the Georgia Portable, Phone Only category.

Activity from out of state was again high with 331 submitted logs. The out-of-state winners turned in some impressive logs, with many connecting with the two rover teams in almost every county they visited. Winning scores were in general higher than last year. In the high-power categories, W5TM's all CW effort from Oklahoma led to an outstanding win, with 239 QSOs and 52,116 points – Ed worked 101 counties. The mixed-mode effort by Laci OM2VL resulted in 382 QSOs and 97,244 points. He topped all out-of-state entries, including those from North America. NS2N won the W/VE high power, mixed mode category, with 59,867 points. And KC8QDQ topped the SSB, high-power category from Ohio, with 6,270 points. In the low-power categories, mixed-mode was won by NX3A (52,260 points), CW only by NM2A (21,280 points), and phone by VA3IDD (2838 points). In the QRP contests, K3TW from Florida repeated in the mixed mode category, with 125 QSOs and 22,172 points, AC2YD topped the CW category (9476 points) and W4BBT again won the phone-only QRP category on the strength of 73 QSOs and 2628 points.

In addition to the top out-of-state W/VE awards, the GA QSO party offers a number of plaques for operators farther afield. The mixed-mode DX plaque was, as mentioned above, won by OM2VL – Laci also won the plaque for working the most Georgia counties (100 on CW, 51 on phone). The CW DX plaque again goes to DL3DXX with a very impressive 251 QSOs, 93 counties, and 46,686 points, just slightly below his 2022 score. HC5DX returned after a year off to take top honors in the DX phone category, with 119 QSOs. The best score plaque from W6/W7 was again won by KA6BIM in Oregon with 59,451 points, in fact only 416 points short of winning the mixed-mode HP category outright.

There was intense competition between Georgia stations in many of the in-state categories. In the low power, mixed mode category, AA4LR again came out on top this year, with 130,659 points. In the single operator mixed categories, K4EA beat two competitors by less than 1% score difference to win the high-power, mixed-mode plaque with 170,100 points. QRP operator N4TOL (as N4A) operated field day style from Fannin county, with simple wire antennas, and made a very impressive 604 contacts for 83,382 points to again win the mixed category. AA4CF won the in-state CW high power category on the strength of 45,570 points. W4KLY took top honors in the low-power, CW only contest with 22,500 points. Experienced QRP op KR4AE won the 5W in-state CW only category with 495 contacts and 42,570 points. This year, K4NV amassed 1304 QSOs and 75,632 points to win the plaque for high-power, in state SSB-only plaque. Lower-power SSB in-state was won by KN4TCF and 22,491 points, while the QRP in-state winner for SSB was again N4CN with a stunning 383 contacts and 18,001 points, almost a 50% higher score than last year.

Multi-op plaque winners included W4M in the multi- two category with 103,230 points. K4R won the low-power, multi-single completion, and W4A won the high-power, multi-single category.

Top club honors for a large club again went to the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (with 27 entries) and the small club plaque was won by the Columbus Amateur Radio Club. This year the Tennessee Contest Group returned to the top as out-of-state winner.

And we will be back next year. We look forward to another great party next time, April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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