

The 2024 edition of the Georgia QSO party, held this year on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, was another resounding success with 434 submitted logs, up slightly over last year. The second weekend of April continues to draw State QSO Party enthusiasts from all over, with 344 submitted logs from outside Georgia. And with rovers and portables crisscrossing the state, there was plenty of activity throughout the 20 hours of radiosport. As always with the Georgia QSO Party, there was balance between phone and CW operation. Georgia participants reported 14,719 CW QSOs and 15,975 phone QSOs. Thanks to all participants—we hope to see you next year.

Conditions were good on 20M (better on Saturday than Sunday) and decent on 40M (high absorption limited daytime contacts) – and those two bands represent the great majority of the QSOs. 15M was good for Europe and the West Coast, but too long for the ops in most of the population centers of North America. 10M was open also, but didn't attract much attention from Georgia participants. There were certainly QSOs to be made on 80M Saturday night—perhaps it was not as productive as in years past as operators stayed on 40M. 160M didn't play much of a role.

The highlight of the year was the five rovers N4N, W4AN, K4TCG, N4R, K4O. All together, these five stations accounted for 6,014 contacts. Top honors this year goes to the crew of N4N (Mike K5JR joined by Tim WK4U and Mark KX4MZ) with Mike's 22 year old Yukon with almost 300,000 miles, traversing the roads of south and east Georgia for a two-transmitter, mixed-mode operation. They visited 53 unique counties, making 2,714 contacts, 10% more than last year. The team of John K4BAI and Jeff KU8E returned as W4AN, this year running CW and phone, amassing 2,057 contacts from 42 counties, with a single radio. Juan AC6ZM (as K4TCG) combined a business trip with a one day, CW only rover operation, winning the plaque with 48,216 points. K4O (W4RZ op) was active as a phone only rover, winning that category, with 330 QSOs.

Operation in the portable category was up compared to last year. KN4ADM won the portable phone category, with 17,200 points. K4WK topped the CW portable category with 5,376 points, and AA5JF was active from six counties on CW and phone, making 758 contacts and 102,696 points. N4J, K4SBZ, AE4XO were also active as portable operations during the weekend.

Activity from out of state was again very high with 344 submitted logs. The out-of-state winners turned in some impressive logs, greatly bolstered by their ability to hunt and work the rovers. Scores were generally up compared to last year. In the high-power categories, W5TM repeated as the high-power CW winner, with 52,614 points, 498 points more than last year – Ed worked 111 counties. Laci OM2VL outdid himself this year, and in his mixed-mode effort netted 475 QSOs and 166,116 points, well over 50% more points than last year. He topped all out-of-state entries, including those from North America. GQP newcomer K3WJV won the W/VE high power, mixed mode category, with 86,940 points. And WW5L topped the SSB, high-power category from Louisiana, with 1,885 points. In the low-power categories, mixed-mode was won by AA3R (68,620 points), CW only was this year won by NK4O (23,100 points), and VA3IDD reprised last year's win, in low power phone only, with 3,690 points, about 25% more than last year. In the QRP contests, K3TW from Florida made it three years in a row at the top of the mixed mode category, with 188 QSOs and 16,632 points, and K9UIY in IL won the CW category with a very fine 11,328 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 won by OM2VL – Laci also won the plaque for working the most Georgia counties (120 on CW, and an incredible 98 on phone). The CW DX plaque

again goes to DL3DXX with a very impressive 297 QSOs, 118 counties, and 70,092 points, well above his 2023 score. And HC5DX returned as the winner of the SSB DX plaque, with 88 QSOs from 32 counties. The best score plaque from W6/W7 land ("Best of the West") was also a repeat, with KA6BIM in Oregon making 44,343 points.

There was intense competition between Georgia stations in many of the in-state categories, especially in the mixed mode categories. In the mixed mode, low power competition, AA4LR again came out on top this year, with 142,978 points, about 10% more than last year. In the high power, mixed mode competition, KO4VW (as N4F) took home the plaque with 193,125 points. And QRP operator KJ4YM won the mixed-mode category, staying mostly on CW. NN4K topped the in-state CW high power category on the strength of 35,174 points. First-time GQP participant N9FZ took top honors in the low-power, CW only contest, with 20,498 points. WC4X's QRP, CW-only entry topped that category, with 378 contacts and 31,752 points. Special shout out to KR4AE, who was close behind with 29,930 points (365 Qs), running just 1 watt! This year, NV4C amassed 954 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 K4R (WA1NIP op) and 34,112 points, while the QRP in-state winner for SSB was again N4CN with 185 contacts and 8,325 points.

Multi-op plaque winners included KM4DAY in the multi-single, high power category with 253,857 points, the highest score amongst the fixed stations this year. Multi-two was won by N4LT, with 111,861 points.

Top club honors for a large club again went to the North Fulton Amateur Radio League and the small club award was won by the Columbus Amateur Radio Club. This year the Frankford Radio Club took the out-of-state club award.

And we will be back next year. We look forward to another great party next time, April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Andy AA5JF