

*** 2015 LQP (LOCUST QSO PARTY) RULES ***

58th Anniversary of License Edition

OBJECTIVE

To work as many stations as possible in the U.S. Mainland States and Canadian Provinces plus Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands and any other North American country entities. If the Sunspot Cycle condx weren't so punk, this might have been a full International "DX" Contest. My sincere apologies to Non-North American "DX" stations that this LQP remains a "North America Contest" only. LQP "Playing Field Levelizer" Rules have been crafted to offer Little Pistol Contest Station operators a more fair & reasonable competitive opportunity. Incorporation of the NCCC NS (Sprint) Rules into this LQP will also benefit the LPCS operators.

Unfortunately, even though technology exists, all necessary components have not yet been integrated to provide adjustments necessary for a "fully leveled playing field" to all participants, so this LQP "is what it is". However, in addition to the Output Power "levelizers" for antenna(s) used, an additional mitigation factor is the non-use of "Mults" in the scoring process. Should short-skip conditions prevail during the LQP, participants will not be penalized for the inability to work distant multipliers. Conversely, long-skip conditions will not penalize participants for the inability to work nearby multipliers.

These 2015 LQP Rules remain a bit more complicated than the original LQP, but such is the nature of the beast necessary to accomplish the intended purposes. It is suggested that they be printed out so that individual reference notes can be made while reading. At least one re-read is recommended.

AWARDS

TEN one-year subscriptions (or renewals) to the NCJ (National Contest Journal) will be given as LQP Awards in each of the following categories.

- Top Scoring U.S. Operator in the (traditional) W1, W2, W3 and W4 call prefix area States Group
- Top Scoring U.S. Operator in the (traditional) W5, W8, W9 & W0 call prefix area States Group
- Top Scoring U.S. Operator in the (traditional) W6 and W7 call prefix area States Group (Non-NCCC Members)
- Top Scoring Operator in the KH6 (HI), KL7 (AK) and KP2 (VI) / KP4 (PR) call area Group
- Top Scoring Operator in the VE1 (NB/NS/PEI/NL-LAB/MAR), VE2 and VE3 Provinces Group
- Top Scoring Operator in the VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7 & VE8 (YT/NWT/NUNAVUT) Provinces Group
- Top Scoring NCCC Member (W6/W7 ONLY call area) Group
- Top Scoring Operator in North America outside of Canada, the USA and USA Territories listed in other awards categories
- Top Scoring Operator ("LQP/NCCC NS NOOB") who did NOT participate in ANY prior LQP, and who has NEVER participated in a weekly NCCC NS or SNS Practice
- Top Scoring Operator ("LQP GREEN POWER") for Solar, Wind, or Battery NOT charged or recharged by a generator or traditional charger

*** **SPECIAL NOTE:** The latter two categories will be judged independently of the first 8 categories, and only one category may be entered for any LQP Award. If there are no eligible entries in any category, no award will be made. **Please indicate the category you choose with your log submission.**

AWARDS CAVEAT: In the unlikely event a "tie" in Total Points results for any of the above category submissions, Sponsor will make a decision on how to resolve the situation.

CONTEST PERIOD

Date: January 21, 2015 - WEDNESDAY Night - North America Time (1/22/11 @ 0200 UTC)

Times: **6:00:00** (PST) through **6:59:59** PM (PST) – Almost a full HOUR this year to make it easier to track band time change requirements. QSOs made before **6:00:00** (PST) or after **6:59:59** PM (PST) will not count (i.e., **NO** “Rubber Clocking”). **WAIVER:** A QSO actually initiated during the final minute may be completed after **6:59:59** PM (PST), but this "waiver" is ONLY for ONE completed QSO which is finally logged after **6:59:59** PM (PST). The use of Atomic Clocks in the LQP is highly recommended. Or, **set your confuzer clock to WWV right before the LQP :^)**

CAVEAT: Note the operating time restrictions **PER BAND** (below).

Bands: 40 Meters & 80 Meters Only. * This will help mitigate some of the skip change problems experienced by using only 40m in the initial LQP.

- **40 Meters** – Operate **ONLY** between **6:00:00** and **6:29:59** PST (the above **WAIVER** conditions apply to a single QSO initiated before 6:29:59 PST and logged at 6:30 (PST))
- **80 Meters** – Operate **ONLY** between **6:30:00** and **6:59:59** PST (the above **WAIVER** conditions apply to a single QSO initiated before **6:59:59** PST and logged at 7:00 (PST))

NOTE: A station may ONLY be worked ONCE PER BAND!!!

NOTE: NS/NSL Sprint Type QSY Rules Apply (2,1) !!!:

Mode: CW Only * My first contact was on CW and I *****LOVE***** CW !!! The LQP is accordingly dedicated to preserving the “Fine Art of CW” Contesting ☺

Output Power (Maximum): The following "**Playing Field Levelizer**" adjustments are "**THEE Rules**" (ballpark rounded up/down because some brand name TXRX's only allow Output Power adjustments in 5 watt intervals):

- **40 Meters – Maximum Output Power**

100 Watts - For single wire, loop, rotary dipole or single vertical antennas with the highest point of any part of the antenna **LESS** than 40 feet AGL

80 Watts – For single wire, loop, rotary dipole or single vertical antennas with the highest point of any part of the antenna **MORE** than 40 feet AGL

45 Watts - For 2 element 40 meter aluminum or wire yagis or phased vertical or wire antennas of any type including 4 Squares and EDZ's, etc.

30 Watts - For Single 3 or 4 element 40 meter aluminum or wire yagis

15 Watts - For "Stacked" 3 or 4 element 40 meter aluminum or wire yagis

HEAD'S UP: Put a note on your rig to be sure and turn down your Output Power (by antenna type if applicable) BEFORE the LQP starts AND when changing bands/antennas !!!

- **80 Meters – Maximum Output Power**

100 Watts - For single wire, loop, rotary dipole or single vertical antennas with the highest point of any part of the antenna **LESS** than 40 feet AGL

80 Watts – For single wire, loop, rotary dipole or single vertical antennas with the highest point of any part of the antenna **MORE** than 40 feet AGL

45 Watts - For 2 element 80 meter aluminum or wire yagis or phased vertical or wire antennas of any type including 4 Squares and EDZ's, etc.

30 Watts - For Single 3 or 4 element 80 meter aluminum or wire yagis

15 Watts - For "Stacked" 3 or 4 element 80 meter aluminum or wire yagis ☺

MORSE CODE METHOD & SPEED

In remembrance of the now defunct International Morse Code Speed requirement for an Amateur Extra Class License being 20 WPM in 1957, it would be nice if everyone operated at 20 WPM with a J-38 straight key. However, so as not to impede QSO rate(s), participants may send CW at any speed desired via computer software, electronic keyer, traditional bug, straight key, or even the infamous "Butt Key" from the Visalia DX Convention. Although I originally learned the "American Morse Code" before getting my license, only "International Morse Code" is permitted in the LQP.

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES

- **40 Meters** - 7040 Khz +/- **Please S-P-R-E-A-D OUT** - In the event of QRM, most likely go DOWN-DOWN-DOWN (**AVOIDING** the **7045** Emergency Frequency on the UP side **!!!**).
- **80 Meters** – 3540 Khz +/- **Please S-P-R-E-A-D OUT!!!** In the event of QRM, most likely go DOWN-DOWN-DOWN.

OFFICIAL CQ

The Official CQ of the LQP (Locust QSO Party) is "**CQ LQP**". You may also send "{Callsign} LQP".

OPERATOR CATEGORIES

SINGLE OPERATOR - Only one person shall be permitted to operate and perform logging functions. Spotting nets, packet resources, Skimmers or additional operator assistance are strictly prohibited during the event (including food service by XYL's or antenna assistance by neighbors, etc.).

SPONSOR - Only one Sponsor Station is allowed to participate in this Category (that's me -K6VVA- "The Locust" - but I am not eligible for any Awards).

SECRET SWARMER - There will be **TWO** Locust "Secret Swarmer" (mini-Locust Clone) stations active in the LQP (but they are not eligible for any Awards).

NO SO2R/SO2V, PACKET OR SKIMMER

It is prohibited to operate more than one radio, more than one RX VFO, or use Packet/Skimmer technology at any time during the LQP (in remembrance of "The Good Old Days").

NO CONTEST CHEATERS & NO LIDS

Contest Cheaters and/or LIDS are **NOT** invited to participate in the LQP (Locust QSO Party).

STATION

Only ONE station (transmitter, receiver, antennas) may be used during the LQP, whether fixed, mobile or remote-controlled. The use of multiple stations during the LQP is prohibited. Any "Mobile" operations should be "fixed location" for safety reasons! All antennas & TXRX equipment used in the LQP shall be located within a 500 meter radius. Remote site station control is permitted via the Internet or point-to-point systems. **Please see Output Power restrictions based upon antenna types (per band) !!!**

CONTEST EXCHANGE

The official LQP Contest Exchange (in addition to callsigns sent) shall be comprised of:

1. Operator **NAME** (Legal name, nickname or other); and,
2. **QTH** (U.S. Mainland State, Canadian Province, KH6 (HI), KL7 (AK) or KP2 (VI) / KP4 (PR) or "DX" for non W/K/VE North American Countries).

*** **SPECIAL NOTE:** Since no LQP modules yet exist, **participants are encouraged to use the NAQP (North American QSO Party) modules available in their favorite contest logging program.** There are NO Sprint-Type Serial Numbers used in the LQP. Only K6VVA (Sponsor) and the LQP "Secret Swarmer" operators/stations are allowed to use the name "LOCUST" in the LQP. Other's will be DQ'd.

*** **NCCC NS/NSL EXCHANGE FORMAT & 2Khz/1Khz QSY Type Rule EXAMPLES:**

If another station responds to your CQ LQP, once the QSO has been completed you **MUST QSY at least 2Khz** before calling CQ, and **QSY at least 1Khz** before calling another station after a QSO (unless you "inherit" the frequency). Please **S-P-R-E-A-D O-U-T !!! Do NOT be afraid to go DOWN-DOWN-DOWN.**

Here are the TWO correct forms of an exchange:

EXCHANGE FORMAT:

(Example: K4BAI is sending CQ and N3BB is QRX to call after finding John via Search & Pouncing).

Here is what John/K4BAI will send to Jim/N3BB:

N3BB K4BAI JOHN GA

(Jim will then respond with):

K4BAI JIM TX N3BB

(John will then acknowledge completion of the QSO with "R", "TU", "EE", etc. *** No one should call Jim/N3BB until John's acknowledgement has been completed. Jim also now "**inherits**" the frequency, and John must QSY. If no one calls Jim, he can send "CQ LQP N3BB" or QSY if he wishes. The person destined to "inherit" the frequency sends his call at the END of his exchange. This is a tip-off as to who will "inherit" the frequency and can be called *AFTER* the QSO has been acknowledged. Let's reverse things to where N3BB is the CQ station and K4BAI is the S&P station:

Here is what Jim/N3BB will send to caller John/K4BAI:

K4BAI N3BB JIM TX

(John will then respond with):

N3BB JOHN GA K4BAI

(Jim will acknowledge the QSO and QSY, while John/K4BAI then "inherits" the frequency to work any callers or resort to "CQ LQP K4BAI".

*** **The simplest way to make this all work is to program two separate message F-Keys in your Contest Logging Software (unless your Logger handles the 2 different exchanges automatically).**

1. One F-Key for the correct exchange format if you are the CQ station
2. One F-Key for the correct exchange format if you are the S&P station

If you are a "Newbie" to the NCCC NS (Sprint) format and feel a bit intimidated, so was I initially until N6RO, K6XX & W0YK walked me through it. Once you understand the simplicity of the two separate exchange formats depending on whether you are the CQ or the S&P station, it becomes a piece of cake. Really. Have Faith, because you'll end up having a blast !!!

DUPLICATE QSOS

There are **NO** "Dupes" allowed during the LQP event, **except that each station can be worked once per authorized band.**

PARTIAL QSOS

There are **NO** "Partial QSOS" allowed for LQP QSO point credit.

NO MULTIPLIERS

Traditional "Mults" are not counted in the LQP, which also benefits the LPCS operators with less than SuperStation antennas to work far away Mults.

SCORING

Each bona fide two-way, non-duplicate QSO (including a QSO with the Sponsor or Secret Swarmer station) is worth 1,000 points. Final Score is calculated as follows: Total QSO points PLUS any Bonus Points.

*** BONUS POINTS ***

- **SPONSOR** Station – At least one bona fide two-way, non-duplicate QSO with the LQP Sponsor Station (that would be me, K6VVA – The Locust), is worth an **EXTRA 5,000 points (Maximum)**. The LQP Exchange name I will be using is "LOCUST", so any use of prefill exchange name data from other operating events like the NAQP or SPRINT will be at a participant's own risk for potential errors. In order for participants to hear me from my home RF-Hole QTH, I will be using an amplifier (this is permissible, because I am the "Sponsor Station" - I made the rules, but am NOT eligible for an award ☺). If there is enough "Green Power" (solar/battery juice) left during any bad WX period, notwithstanding any Murphy Strikes, I will be likely be operating my Locust Peak LP station via remote control.
- **SECRET SWARMER** Stations – At least one bona fide two-way, non-duplicate QSO with these mini-Locust Clone stations are also worth an **EXTRA 5,000 points EACH (Maximum per station) !!!** You will know when you work one or both of the "Secret Swarmer" stations because they will also be using the name "**LOCUST**", and are also authorized to use amplifiers to insure the maximum opportunity to hand out Bonus Points.

***** NOTE: Bonus Points may only be claimed ONCE per station, even if they are worked on two separate bands!!!**

LOG SUBMISSION

Paper logs will no longer be permitted. All log entries must now be in Cabrillo log format.

***** Logs must be submitted by January 31, 2015, no later than 8:59 PM (PST).**

NOTE: If the new log submission webform is not working 100% by the deadline, then detailed instructions will be posted on how to submit logs in the past LQP email special format.

GO TO: <http://www.k6vva.com/lqp> and click "LOG SUBMIT" from the Text Menu.

CERTIFICATION

Anyone submitting an LQP log automatically Certifies they have fully adhered to the LQP Rules and that all information is accurate. Checklogs only are allowed, but not eligible for Awards purposes.

***** Callsigns of Logs Received will be posted at: <http://www.k6vva.com/lqp58> every day or two after the LQP. Please follow-up to make sure your log was received by the deadline !!!**

HONOR SYSTEM (Partially)

NOTE: Be sure to turn down your Output Power (if applicable) BEFORE the LQP !!! Last year several "Honest Contesters" forgot and were not eligible for Awards. God Bless them for their Honesty !!! When Category entrant log scores are very close, these logs will be scrutinized in detail. If the intended computer log checking code is not functional in time, logs will continue to be mostly "spot checked" as in the past.

LQP RESULTS

The Final Results of the **2015** LQP will be communicated to the CQ-Contest, NCCC Reflectors and posted on the main Official LQP (Locust QSO Party) website at <http://www.k6vva.com/lqp> on, or before, **February 28, 2015**. The LQP "Secret Swarmers" will also be Identified (if not earlier).

MURPHY CAVEAT

Should no one but myself show up for the party, an unexpected Solar Flare render both 40 Meters and 80 Meters completely unusable during the event period, or no participant entries be received from any or all of the listed Award Categories, then any intended but un-awarded NCJ Subscriptions will not be awarded.

OFFICIAL RULES

The official **2015** LQP Rules may be found at: <http://www.k6vva.com/lqp> (Text Menu: **RULES**).

DISCLAIMER

The LQP Sponsor shall not be responsible for any "Murphy Strikes", and shall be held completely harmless for anything whatsoever including "Acts Of God", et.al.

OTHER

Most importantly, if you show up...please have some fun in the LQP. I hope to work all participants. Most NS "Regulars" will probably post their LQP score to the 3830 Reflector via a manual email. A suggested Subject line format would be: **2015** LQP (Callsign) . No further changes to these **2015** LQP Rules are anticipated, but it is highly recommended to check the <http://www.k6vva.com/lqp> website *before* the event just to be sure (note the version date at the bottom of the page). Also, check the LOGS RCVD webpage to insure your log has been received. This will be a manual update, so it may take a day or two for your call to appear.

73 & "Good Luck in the LQP, OM's" ...

Rick, K6VVA * The Locust * <http://www.k6vva.com>

- * Celebrating **58** Years as a Licensed Amateur Radio Operator (as of ~1/17/2015)
- * Co-Founding Member, NCCC (Northern California Contest Club)
- * FOC Member #1845 (Ex #845) * A-1 Operator Club
- * C6AVA, KL8C (Trustee), KP2CW (Trustee), VP2V/K6VVA & VP2VVA (ARRL CW DX 2009)
- * DXCC, WAZ, WAS, etc., etc.

P.S. "Someday" I hope to Automate the LQP log processing. In the interim, TNX for your patience. If you think the LQP Rules are a bit complicated, you should have tried writing & revising them ☺

LQP **2015 (LQP 58)** Rules - As of 01/19/16 @ 12:10 AM (PST) - Check back for any updates.

