

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

51st 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 2008 LQP Rules may seem a bit more complicated than the 2007 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

I loved working "DX" Contests and the ARRL "SS" Contests as a teenager. This year, TEN one-year subscriptions to the NCJ (National Contest Journal) will be given as LQP Awards. THREE new awards categories have been added to this year's LQP lineup:

- 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 the 2007 LQP, and who has NEVER participated in a weekly NCCC NS 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 Award

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 which may, or may not involve, flipping a coin or a Lottery draw.

CONTEST PERIOD

Date: January 24, 2008 (Thursday Night - North America Time)

Times: 6:00:00 (PST) through 6:50:59PM (PST) * 51 Minutes (almost) event duration for my 51th Anniversary of being licensed. QSOs made before 6:00:00 (PST) or after 6:50:59PM (PST) will not count (i.e., NO “Rubber Clocking”). **WAIVER:** A QSO actually initiated during the final minute may be completed after 6:50:59 (PST), but this "waiver" is ONLY for ONE completed QSO which is finally logged after 6:50:59PM (PST). The use of Atomic Clocks in the LQP is highly recommended.

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 6:24:59 (the above **WAIVER** conditions apply to a single QSO initiated before 6:24:59 PST and logged at 6:25PST)
- **80 Meters** – Operate **ONLY** between 6:25:00 and 6:50:59 (the above **WAIVER** conditions apply to a single QSO initiated before 6:50:59 PST and logged at 6:51PST)

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

NS/Sprint Type QSY Rules Apply!!!:

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 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

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

NOTE: Put a note on your rig to be sure and turn down your Output Power (if applicable) BEFORE the LQP starts and when changing bands !!!

- **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

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 ☺

NOTE: Put a note on your rig to be sure and turn down your Output Power (if applicable) BEFORE the LQP starts and when changing bands !!!

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** - 7051 Khz +/- ("51" Khz benchmark for my 51th Anniversary of being licensed), but **Please S-P-R-E-A-D OUT !!!**
- **80 Meters** – 3551 Khz +/- ("51" Khz benchmark for my 51th Anniversary of being licensed), but **Please S-P-R-E-A-D OUT!!!**

OFFICIAL CQ

The Official CQ of the LQP (Locust QSO Party) is "CQ LQP".

OPERATOR CATEGORIES

SINGLE OPERATOR - Only one person shall be permitted to operate and perform logging functions. Spotting nets, packet resources 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

It is prohibited to operate more than one radio or more than one RX VFO 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:** Only K6VVA and the LQP "Secret Swarmer" operators/stations are allowed to use the name "Locust" in the LQP. Other's will be DQ'd. 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.

*** **NCCC NS EXCHANGE FORMAT & 2Khz/1Khz QSY 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 !!!**

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:**

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.

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 is worth 1,000 points. A Final Score shall be 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 SRPINT will be at a participant's own risk for potential errors. In order for participants to hear me from this RF-Hole QTH, I will be running about 750 watts (this is permissible, because I am the "Sponsor Station" - I made the rules, but am NOT eligible for an award :-)
- **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 worked on two separate bands!!!**

LOG SUBMISSION

Paper logging is permissible. Cabrillo log QSO data AND manual logs will also now be accepted, however non-Cabrillo folks will have to type the QSO data into the message area of an email (after the manually typed Header information set forth below). Each QSO line will need to contain: **(The use of Courier New font is highly desired!!!)**

DATE UTC-TIME BAND/FREQ OTHER-STATION-CALLSIGN OTHER-STATION-NAME OTHER-STATION-QTH

Logs must be submitted ONLY to: lqp51logs@k6vva.com no later than 8:59 PM (PST), January 31, 2008, in the following manner:

***STEP 1 – Please type ONLY the following into the Subject line: 2008 LQP LOG (Callsign) <- ONE space between each component**

***STEP 2 - Please manually type (or copy & paste) the following format (and insert applicable data) into the first part of the Message area of your email:**

Callsign = Operator Callsign Used
Name = Operator Name Used
QTH = U.S. State, Canadian Province, KH6(HI), KL7(AK)- KP2/KP4 (VI/PR), or "DX"
Output Power 40m = Number of Output Power "Watts"
Output Power 80m = Number of Output Power "Watts"
Antenna 40m = Indicate 40m Antenna(s) and Height(s) Used
Antenna 80m = Indicate 80m Antenna(s) and Height(s) Used
Total QSOs = Actual Total Number of QSOs
Total QSO Points = (Total Q's times 1,000 points each)
Bonus Points K6VVA = (Maximum 5,000 Points)
Bonus Points Secret Swarmer #1 = (Maximum 5,000 Points & Include Callsign)
Bonus Points Secret Swarmer #2 = (Maximum 5,000 Points & Include Callsign)
Total LQP Points = (Total QSO Points PLUS All Applicable Bonus Points)
NCCC Member (W6/W7) Entrant = (Yes or No)
LQP/NCCC NS NOOB Entry = (Yes or No)
LQP GREEN POWER Entry = (Yes or No) - If yes, include type of Green Power utilized
Checklog Only = (Yes or No) <- Yes means NOT eligible for Awards !!! (And Reason)
Soapbox = (Insert whatever you want here)

STEP 3 - Please type manual log QSO data from paper logging (as set forth above), OR, copy and paste ONLY the QSO line(s) in your Cabrillo log directly below the text You entered in the previous step. Sorry, there are no "Robots" here to automatically do stuff. **The use of Courier New font is highly desired!!!*

CERTIFICATION

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

