

2009 Texas QSO Party Soapbox Comments

AA6YX - Great mobile effort! Nice feature for the mobile 5 county bonuses! Hats off to NO5W and the rest of the crews! Looking forward to next year!

K0RU - When Chuck NO5W and Bob W0BH first proposed that I run the TX QSO Party as a Rover I thought wow, thats a long way to go to run as a rover.

[NO5W: After reading the 3830 writeup by K0RU on how much fun he had during his mobile contesting adventure in the KS QP in late August, I wrote to Rob and suggested that he could do it again in the TxQP in late September realizing fully that he would probably decline considering the distance he would have to travel from near Kansas City just to reach the closest point in Texas. But wouldn't you know a few days later an email came back saying he was "gonna do it". I was certainly glad to hear that because it appeared that W0BH, our regular visitor from Kansas, was not going to be able to commit to a full time effort this year. Of course after the TQP was over I was even more pleased to hear that Rob had had a good time down in the Panhandle. Read about his TxQP adventure below.]

W0BH had initially made plans to run them with me as just for fun and a learning experience for myself. But he wasn't sure if he was going to be able to make it due to some other commitments this year.

At last I decided to go for the run by myself. You see I have nobody to drive for me, so everything is done by me alone (Drive, Rig, CW, Phone, Maps, GPS and APRS... How exciting)... I decided to drive down to my brother's QTH in Lawton, Oklahoma on Friday night and get an early start at 9:00 am on the Clay/Wichita County line. As usual my plans were fowled, my brother and his wife insisted on taking me out for a wonderful steak dinner at a restaurant called Sante Fe's in Lawton. Wow what an amazing restaurant the people were great and the ummm beer, and another beer and more beer was fantastic. To say the least, you guessed it, I over slept.

I started the run around 10:00, hit Childress figuring to swing off the major road and head to Silverton. I got about 20 miles West of Childress and realized after looking at my USA Street Atlas that the next major city was Silverton and it was like 60 miles. Glanced at the fuel gauge and it says 1/8 of tank... Oh boy, this isn't going to work. Turned around and drove all the way back about 25 miles to the Childress WalMart, got gas and food, and headed out once again for Silverton.

There is a lot of flat land in Texas, however I must say some of it was very beautiful. Finally Saturday night arrived in Amarillo and worked many of the stations on 80 meters till 9:00 PM and then hooked up with Bob W0BH on the band who had some advice for restaurant and motels in the area.

Hooked up with a place called the Red Barn Steak House in Amarillo for some authentic Texas BBQ, how amazing was that... I rolled out the door and back to the motel room, that food was fantastic...

Finally Sunday (yep late start again, few 807's the night before at the Red Barn Steak House, and wonderful food) kept me in bed till late.

Finally on the road and the first stop was the Randall/Armstrong county line, holy crap... I never knew there was that many stations waiting for Armstrong county. I spent a full hour running that county line at 35 wpm on CW with the pileup going just nuts. I was amazed. Thanks for all of the excitement and the wonderful control. The stations who were calling were very courteous and patient to say the least as I fumbled around with ONE-HAND logging on the PC and sending with the other hand. "I DO NOT USE A COMPUTER TO SEND, EVERYTHING IS DONE THE OLD FASHION WAY, FIST & PADDLES" so its interesting to see me flopping back and forth as I

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send then type everyone's calls in the laptop.

Off and running, county after county on the fly, realizing that there was no way I could stop for a county line like that many times or I would end up getting no where in the other counties.

City after city, county after county everyone was patiently waiting and were polite to QRX as I fumbled with my GPS in small towns trying to get my bearing. Never being to those parts before it was like ... Dang, missed that turn, turn around go back, whoops, missed that road...is that a road? Guess so, GPS says it is... down the gravel I go again. I must say, the roads in Texas sure are a lot smoother then in Kansas, hahaha.

The most beautiful part I must say was Hutchison County. As I drove through those parts it really reminded me a lot of the Grand Canyon but on a smaller scale. Very beautiful bluffs and canyons throughout that area.

Many thanks to everyone for such a wonderful trip and a lot of fun. I gotta do this TX QSO PARTY again next year, it was a blast! 73 Rob - K0RU

K1TN - Thanks to the mobiles who stuck it out through what seemed to be atrocious radio conditions. 20 Meters was plagued by its usual mid-day QSB and I think the skip was too long. I found 40 Meters useless, thanks to the CQ WW RTTY Contest. Something needs to be done. Here are the mobiles I worked more than once: K5YAA-10, K5WAF-8, N05W-6, WC5D-4, N5NA-2, N5TM-2. I never heard a bunch of proposed mobiles listed on the TQP web site. A lot of big-gun Texas contest call signs were MIA, too.

K3TN - N05W/m was like a well-run railroad, telling you how many minutes to the next stop in the next county. I just put his frequency in a memory and came back in a few minutes. There seems to be a lot of state QSO party/RTTY contest collisions going on - either need some date cooperation or some frequency cooperation.

K4BAI - Claimed score includes 500 bonus points for QSOs with K0RU/M in five different counties. Thanks Rob! Also thanks for all other QSOs, especially the mobiles. K5MRA/M gave me Briscoe County, an all time new county for me. Sorry time was so limited this year. Heard no Texas signals on bands other than 40 and 20. 20M was too long for all but far West Texas for most of the time I was able to operate. 40M was OK, but CW frequencies were covered by RTTY signals and there wasn't a lot of activity on 40 CW or SSB when I was QRV. Hope for more time and maybe a few other all-time new counties next year. Missed some regular mobile ops, N4CD and W3DYA particularly, and hope all is well with them. 73, John, K4BAI.

K5CX - Thanks to N05W for another great promotion for TQP, and all those who jumped into the excitement. 40-m was good on Saturday and a little less on Sunday. 20-m on the other hand was great both days with DX stations calling. With much help from my XYL N5AOK, we managed to sweep the states, and work 74 Texas counties, and 26 DX mults. Can't wait until next year! Thanks to all who gave us a Q.

K5END - We're sort of new at the QSO Party mobile thing but we did venture forth into TxQP. Hurricane IKE preempted my plans for TxQP last year, so I was glad to get to work it this year. Among the various trials by ordeal in this adventure, I found myself at the bottom of some gnarly pile ups. That was a new experience and I did the best I could. But dang it, it's not easy to keyboard or key in a bouncing vehicle while dealing with all the other issues of doing a mobile contest. To call

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it a challenge would be an understatement.

QRM/N was not bad for us, but QSB was pretty heavy. My antenna is having 40 m issues, so we were 20-m on both days. It seemed to work OK, as we logged coast to coast CONUS, some Canadian Provinces and I logged my first European contact.

Setting up for mobile operation required more time than I had planned for, so we got a very late start. Once we got on the road a huge amount of time was spent on technical issues. I was on the air for 5 hours at the most during the two days. By the end of the contest we had covered only about 2/3 of the counties planned originally for the first day and none of the counties planned for the second day route. We DID, however, activate the counties for which we were the only operators who had announced intentions to include on the route. It seemed like more than a few OM were waiting for this, because it was in these counties I found myself under the pileups, especially on the second day.

The weather was perfect and it was good to get away from the Houston rat race for a few days. I'm exhausted, but I DO plan to be mobile in TxQP again next year. This was a blast. 73, Larry, K5END

[With his upgrade to extra in late January, 2009 Larry jumped right into mobile contesting in the March OK QP. He's come a long way since then and we're glad to have him as one of the newest and most enthusiastic recruits to TxQP mobile operation, NO5W]

K5EWJ - Saturday was pretty good on 20. The CQ RTTY Contest made 40 pretty busy Saturday night. Sunday was a bit slower and I took an hour off to try for FT5GA on 12 meters (no luck). The Texas QSO Party was a fun contest as usual, 43 States, 31 Counties, 10 countries (plus US & Canada), 2 Provinces.

K5JX - This was great fun! I wish I had been able to work more counties, but the DX Qs were great surprises.

K5LH - Slow start, but much improved on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Virtually no TX stations on 20 meters reachable from here and extremely flaky conditions on 40 meters. Kudos to mobiles WW5X, N5NA, NO5W, K5UN, K0RU, and KG5U. Great traffic discipline and courtesy as usual. Sorry to hear Norm, W3DYA, only from AL and MS. Can well imagine N5DO and NX5M enlarging their trophy storage area. Thanks for a wonderful TXQP and will see you next year. 73, Chris, K5LH/DK5LH

K5WAF - This turned out to be a 1 day event CW Mobile only with K5WAF operating, and W5PF driving. We got 9 hr op time, ran 19 counties and accumulated 651 QSOs.

Actually we didn't know we were even going to go mobile until Thursday before the TxQP. NO5W sent a note saying that the operation planned for the counties north and east of Houston had to be scrubbed and asked if we would go mobile in those counties. I agreed and called Paul, W5PF who also agreed. So we had 1 Day to plan and get ready. Initial thoughts were that we would op SSB as W5PF/m and CW as K5WAF/m but getting into it, we only operated CW. Paul developed the maps and I got the equipment ready in my 2001 PT Cruiser with 185,000 mile on it (a bit chancy!!!) and off we went Saturday morning.

It all came off like clock work with a 577 mile route. Everything worked (including the car), the weather was great, the driving was excellent and traffic wasn't a

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problem. And despite the fact that we could not find the computer to transceiver interface cables, operating everything manually worked ok in spite of the bumps in the road that is if everyone out there could tolerate what sounded like a bad fist!

Results included 651 QSOs from 39 states, 3 provinces, 8 DX entities but only 23 Texas Counties. We operated 100% CW on 20 M (556Qs) and 40 M (95Qs). 40 M was a total mess with the CQ WW RTTY contest which covered the band all the way down to 7.025. Finding an opening that wasn't being blasted by RTTY was problematic.

Observations:

1. Only heard 1 other TX Mobile the whole time!
2. Made contacts with 216 unique call signs. N6MU took the cake with 18 Qs missing only one of our counties. KV8Q and NT2A had 17 Qs each, W0GXQ had 16, N1LN and WA3HAE had 13, DL5AWI had 12, DL3DXX and KM1C had 11 and N3KR, VE3KP, W7GVE and W9MSE had 10 each.
3. QSOs in each county were fairly well balanced, a low of 15 in Sabine county and a high of 61 in Walker.
4. W4-land was the most active for us with 109 Qs, followed by W8-land (83 Qs), W6-land (63Qs). We were a bit surprised at the low participation by our neighbors up north in VE land.
5. The Germans were surprisingly strong and both DL3DXX and DL5AWI did a great job finding us. We also had QSOs with CU, HK, OK, F, HA, SP and SM.

So Saturday ended and TxQP was history for us. For me, I was given a one day reprieve on a Saturday and Sunday commitment to help renovate my son's bathroom, so I made up for lost time on Sunday.

Paul and I had a blast. We probably should think about doing both days next year with a bit more than one day to plan. 73, Bill K5WAF and Paul W5PF

K5XA - This was my first contest from a home QTH in 11 years, and from my new station, which was jury-rigged quickly for TxQP. I had a blast, but plenty of company from Murphy! The thing that bothered me the most though is that my CW has gone to crap! I hit the wall a few times during the contest. I hope this gets better. And I apologize to whoever I struggled with for various reasons - me or Murphy - especially KG5U who was unfortunate enough to call me three of those times! SRI Dale! But Tnx for the Mults!

K5YAA - I'm getting it figured out now. Next QSO Party where I may have to do the driving I believe I will spring for a limo with driver for both days. That plan will allow me to be continuously on the air and I will have someone to gripe at if we stray from the intended path. Might be a costly one but should produce more Qs.

Took me a while to find my way out of Gladewater, TX - at least to get going in the direction of Rusk county. Once I made it to Rusk I realized that I was running behind my estimated schedule of counties so I went east and did not go into Nacogdoches county. Glad I did because my time-wasting road mistakes weren't over quite yet. I went past my left turn to the west to go into Morris county and went all the way to Atlanta, TX in Cass county. Another 30-45 minutes burnt - except by this time I had put the laptop aside and was on the air as I drove with bug and pencil so was putting a few more Qs in the log. Made it to Mt. Pleasant in Titus county with part of the last hour to spare and decided to check

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in for the night. Seems Mt. Pleasant has had a big time June Bug problem this summer. There were hundreds of them around the motel. The desk clerk said they were much worse a month ago! Hmmm - crunch, crunch as I went to the room which amazingly had NO June bugs in it.

Next morning the WX was perfect again and I wanted to go back to using the laptop so that's how I operated the 5 (supposed to have been 6) hours on Sunday. I had 2 PM in my head as the party end time - I think because in the spring we end the OKQP at 2PM which is the same Zulu time but with 6 instead of 5 hours difference... Oh well, I used that last hour well as it put me closer to home than I otherwise would have been.

I did enjoy the run through East Texas. I hadn't been there in nearly 20 years. Stopped once in a while to admire the pine trees under very nice weather conditions.

Thanks to all who called - I was pleasantly surprised with the strength of the DX signals. SP, DL, GD, CU, HK F, EA, ON, HA, UX and UA3 all made it in the log, several more than once. Missed the following states. VT, ND, SD, NE, AK, HI and MS. Worked only 3 Canadian provinces ON, QC and NS. 15 meters was open on Sunday but couldn't gather a crowd. Lot's of CQing but no takers.

Thanks to the sponsors of the Texas QSO Party and a special thanks to Chuck NO5W for his efforts at getting the Lone Star State on the air. 73, Jerry K5YAA [Thanks, Jerry, for coming down from Tulsa to fill in for W3DYA in the northeast counties, NO5W]

K6CSL - This is always a fun event. A nice warm-up to CQP the next weekend.

K6MM - Jumped on in between CQ WW RTTY contest. QSB/QRM on 20M + CQ RTTY contest were challenges. Not very many stations on SSB. Hats off to the TQP organizers and the several Mobile stations worked. 73, John K6MM

K6VVA - Sporadic QRV to hand out a few Q's to our TxQP friends in the Great State of Texas. Always nice to connect with fellow NS'ers N3BB, N5DO & the NO5W/W5ZL duo in any on-air event.

I really felt bad for all the TxQP party folks with the morass of RTTY QRM on 40m (some S9 plus 20db signals all the way down to 7.026 KHz). That makes things tough - especially for below-Extra Class Licensee participants.

No major CQP plans for me next weekend, except I'll be combining a mini-vacation at the ocean in the Monterey area (CQP Mult = MONT) with some hours of mostly CW only via K6VVA/M and/or Fixed Mobile. 73 & Tnx for the TxQP Q's & Mults...

K7IA - I took an hour away from the CQ WW RTTY to work the state where I was born!

It's a challenge to work New Mexico's next door neighbor on 20 meters! Thankfully, Texas is so huge (you can drive a car all day long and still be in Texas!), that East Texas was weakly in the skip zone.

Thanks also to the ops who were on 40 meters in the afternoon. 73, Dan

K8MR - A few hours spread out here and there. Good to work some of the regulars who have followed me around in my various trips. See you all from Pennsylvania in two weeks. 73 - Jim K8MR

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KE5RON - Another fun TXQP. I decided to go portable to Hill County, camping out at Lake Whitney. Band conditions were very poor all day Saturday and I had a total of about 11 contacts from 9:00 a.m. until about 4:30 p.m. I called CQ over and over and tried search and pounce with no luck. Then, about 4:30 the magic began and I was able to run CQ for a long stretch with good results from all over the state and outside Texas. Thanks to all the fixed operators, rovers and out of state operators who help make this event fun.

KK5LO - I called my old friend Deral, K5WNO, in Humble, TX. I asked if he would drive me around for this year's TQP. He cleared his calendar and drove out to my house in Hondo on Friday in his 1974 Classic Mustang. I had an official State of Texas road map and highlighted our route. He familiarized himself with the map and we went for a good night's rest after a supper of Pork chops and homemade macaroni and cheese. Saturday we started off by going to Whataburger for some Taquitos. Then promptly at 0850 local we hopped in my truck, started the engine, computer and radio. I made our first contact with N5KGY in Mississippi at 0902 local. We turned North on HWY 173 and headed to Bandera. Then, we headed for Boerne, Bulverde, then up through Blanco. We turned on HWY 71 and headed to Llano. We had been through seven counties so far. It was near lunch so we stopped at Cooper's BBQ in Llano, TX. Deral bought too much and took out a doggie bag.

We got back on the road and headed NW to Brady. Then, SW to Menard and headed West to historic Ft. McKavett. We made a run over to Schleicher and Sutton counties doubled back and headed South to Junction. From Junction we headed South to Uvalde, where we stopped to gas up. By now, we had traversed a total of 18 TX counties. We stretched our legs and continued South to Crystal City, then East on to Cotulla. We turned North on IH 35, as the sun was setting, and was on our way to Bexar County. We turned North on Anderson Loop 1604 to US HWY 90 and then East to home. The contest break at 2100 hours was none too soon. When we arrived back at 'mi casa' Deral finished up the BBQ left over from Cooper's. We turned in for a well needed rest after covering 23 TX counties on Saturday.

Sunday morning Deral and I went to Whataburger in Hondo for another breakfast. We were on the road again to get into a new county before the 0900 kickoff. We headed SE toward Jourdanton then South to Tilden. From there we turned East to Three Rivers then NE to Kenedy. Then we went SE to Goliad and then onto Victoria. It was then around lunch time when we turned North on HWY 77 and would you beleive it...there up ahead is ... Whataburger on the right. Now we all know Deral and I cannot pass up a Whataburger. So we pulled in to have a double meat with cheese. I got mine and inspected the tomato for placement. To my shock there were only TWO slices of tomato. I went back to the counter and asked the cook for another slice. He, being a conscientious employee, handed me out four slices of tomato. I was ecstatic and saw no reason to inform the manager. I joyously went back and relished my burger. We were back on the road headed towards Yoakum to see the one flashing yellow light. From there we headed to Luling and West on IH 10 to Seguin. Then, we went South to pick up our 36th Texas County of Wilson. We got into Wilson county with just enough time to make five contacts before the contest ended at 1500 local time.

Deral drove 988 miles through 36 TX counties and I made 742 QSO's, worked 54 TX counties, 45 States/Canadian Provinces and four DX countries. My final score with bonus points was 188,852. I worked mostly 40 meters and 20 meters. At the county lines, I had rates of over 100 contacts per hour four times and my highest rate was 135 contacts per hour on Saturday evening.

I can now put this 2009 run in my TQP memory bank of good times operating mobile

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ham radio. Not to mention the great food we had along the way. Walter KK5LO/m

KN4Y - Operated only CW and did not hear as many mobiles as in the past, 10 and 15-meters opened and could not get any Texas stations to QSY, I even spelled it out. Was not able to operate Sunday.

KS5A - We are in a major house remodel, and I was at a critical time to get some items accomplished during the weekend. But, I couldn't resist ... I had to at least make a few Q's in the TQP. Thanks for the contacts.

KU5B - I went mobile with NX5M driving on Saturday night through Washington, Burleson, and Brazos counties on the way to College Station where I ran from Brazos for a while. I've got an issue with RF on 80m as the radio would suddenly change to 2.7MHz or so and I would have to scramble back to 3.550. Hopefully I can get that resolved before LAQP next February.

Sunday I took off to Milam and Robertson counties after getting a frantic e-mail from Chuck on Thursday night asking if I could pick up any more counties close to the NX5M area.

I CQ'ed for at least 15minutes on 15m in each of the counties but only NX5M and VE2AWR called, thanks Serge! This was an all hand keyed event for me since my WinKey is still on the fritz. The palm paddles don't like to send "R" the way I want them to so BURL and RBSN were big pains to send. Most of the time it would come out BUENL or ENBSN...that'll need to be fixed too.

Good fun though. Had a nice time operating mobile as well as fixed at NX5M. I won't be able to play as much as I'd hoped for CQP next weekend but sure I'll enjoy those fine ops out that way anyway. Colin KU5B

KV8Q - Lots of fun with this one. I was able to operate the entire event. Heard lots of EA's on 15 but no TX stations. Then, I heard F5IN working TX on 15 and realized that the band was just too long for me here in Ohio. Twenty was the place to be for this one producing 80% of my Q's. 40 was full of RTTY stations. The propagation was proper to TX most of the time; but, the RTTY stations produced just too much QRM. 80 was full of QRN which made the going very ruff. Thanks for all of the mobiles that kept the counties coming and the bonus points: NO5W-25, N5NA-22, K5WAF-17, K5YAA-16, K0RU-11, N5TM-10, WW5X-10, K5UN-10, KD5JWC-6, KG5U-5, KU5B-5, N3BB-5, N5BE-5, K5END-4, WC5D-4 for a total of 14,000 bonus points.

MDOCCE - Thanks for some new counties. Some very good signals on Saturday but the band was very noisy on Sunday and signals were down quite a bit. Thanks to those who dug me out of the noise. 73, Bob

N1CC - After my 8th place finish in 2008, I thought I would try to do a little better this year. I did do that even though conditions were certainly challenging. Propagation Gods did not come to the party and I missed many close counties because I could not hear them on 40 due to the skip, and they were not on 80 when I was.

N5JB, John, as an example even on 40 we were not able to hook up this year. It's a fairly flat 80 mile path to his Plano location. I could barely hear him on backscatter signals. Saturday night on 20 Meters I had a lot of signals that sounded like Aurora, and we all know that is not likely this time of the cycle.

Running was possible, and I do feel good about my finish this year. If apples

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were apples, this would move me up to 4th place if this was last year. So from the standpoint of competing against oneself, I did OK. See you in 2010!

N1LN - I would like to start off by thanking all the Texas mobile ops for making this contest the fun that it is every year. Of my 635 Qs, a total of 229, or 36% were with mobiles. Also, my score includes 14,000 bonus points from 28 five county groups from the mobiles. Indeed well done.

You will note that there is ONE 15 meter Q in my log. Thanks to John, N5JB in Collin county, for making that possible. We worked on 20 SSB and he suggested we give 15 a try. Why not. I made a quick QSX to 15, without the amp, and we could not hear each other. Then I quickly tuned the amp on 15 and we made the Q. That was to be the only 15 meter Q for the weekend. I tried a few more times with other fixed stations, but the 15 meter trip was not to be made again.

When I shut down on Saturday night I was ahead of last years Q count by 66, but the mults were down by 4 and the mobile bonus counts were only at 7. I spent some time making a tracking form for the mobiles so I could log each new bonus eligible Q separately. That worked. Throughout Sunday I focused on mobile bonus points, running SSB on 20 and working new counties. As I was running SO2R it made that a bit easier, especially as my towers are far enough apart to have both rigs on the same band. Even with the amps I could have one K3 running on one mode and the other K3 doing S/P on the other mode. I was using a Tennadyne T10 at 105' and HyGain 204BAs at either 105' or 68'. This might have been my most successful SO2R outing to date. I typically have big issues coordinating my hands, feet, ears and the stuff between my ears. SO2R is a challenge for me.

In closing, I would like to thank the NARS Club for once again sponsoring the TQP and especially Chuck - NO5W - for the outstanding job he has done promoting TQP, updating the web site, posting the mobile routes, and making presentations around the state to get keep the interest up.

73 from North Carolina (or as I sometimes say - FAR EAST TEXAS), Bruce, N1LN

N3BB - A total swag on the score. Did my little loop starting two miles from home on a hill just inside Travis county and then drove through Hays into Blanco and into Gillespie. Then on a lovely rural road from Stonewall to Blanco passing back into Blanco, then driving a few miles out of the way along the Blanco River into Kendall, then back into Blanco. Then from Blanco to Wimberly hitting Comal, then back into Hays and home.

The single biggest pileup was when I hit the Comal line. Wow. The receiver exploded. It took almost a half hour parked beside the road on a grassy shoulder to work through the crowd.

My mobile TQP ranks as the most simple possible. I drove, I operated, I logged. No computer. Used a paper log and a ballpoint pen. Sent all CW with my little Palm Paddle attached with velcro to the console near the gear shift. The rig is a barefoot FT-857 and a simple ATAS-120A screwdriver on the trunk deck of my sedan. I always pull off when I enter a new county as the pile ups are too thick to drive and log. But when I get to the bottom of the pile up, I go out on the road and drive, and operate, and log on paper while in motion. I know, it's not recommended but I seem to be able to multi-task.

One interesting moment occurred when I pulled off entering Blanco. There was a

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picnic table at a small side rest stop. I noticed another vehicle, with an antenna. It turned out to be Jim, KE5LQ, based in Houston, who was out for the entire two days. His wife and perhaps a daughter were the drivers while he was ensconced in the back seat with a nice SSB station. He had a hard time understanding how someone would do what I was doing. Jim, you are correct. I am the whacko. So he operated twenty meters SSB and I operated twenty meters CW for a while from the same little area. Amazing.

Thanks to all the stations who were following us around, and to Chuck, NO5W, whose organizing abilities are surpassed only by his passion for the event and by his skill with software. It's a privilege to know Chuck. Jim N3BB

N3ZZ - Great contest. Every QSO a multiplier! Thanks to all the Texan ops who had to dig my signal out of the hash. See all in the CQP next week at N6RNO, Tehema Cty.

N5AW - Had intentions of operating a lot more but out of town relatives and going to the UT football game took precedence. Conditions seemed very good.

N5DO - A tremendous time again in one of my favorite contests. During peak hours the adrenaline really flows with some big pileups, especially on Saturday afternoon. The only thing better is to operate from some exotic DX locale, but being in the target state does give you a taste of the big time. Although I've never operated mobile in this contest, I'm sure the mobile operators get that feeling each time they change counties.

Thanks again to NARS for sponsoring this great event and to Chuck, NO5W, for his ceaseless work in promoting and organizing all the myriad of details which make it so successful.

N5NA - First off a BIG THANKS to my wife, K5AKS, for driving me all over west Texas this weekend, a total of 855 miles!

Wow, what a blast! This is the first time I've operated both days in the QSO party. I usually just operate Saturday and call it good. This year I mapped out a more ambitious route with a stop over in Alpine. We arrived in Alpine at 7 pm to complete a 10 hour day just in time for dinner. Sunday the route cut the time a bit closer arriving in our last county, Ector, about 16 minutes before the end. If we hadn't have left Alpine 30 minutes before the start we wouldn't have made it.

The other change this year was the addition of a K3 for my mobile rig. In the past I've used my Icom 706MkIIg. The K3's noise reduction really helped with the line noise which seems to be along EVERY road. I know there were some stations calling at times but with the noise I just couldn't pull them out, even with the K3.

My other equipment consists of a High Sierra HS-1500 with manual control, Winkey, a 2000 Chevrolet C2500, a Dell Inspiron 2200 running NO5W's CQ/X. CQ/X is the ONLY way to go if you're operating mobile in a QSO party!

The following counties were activated with the indicated number of QSOs:
Terrell(82), Culberson(73), Crockett(71), Pecos(61), Winkler(60), Upton(56), Reeves(53), Andrews(51), Presidio(49), Brewster(47), Reagan(47), Ward(44), Crane(43), Loving(43), Howard(42), Irion(41), Hudspeth(40), Martin(39),

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Borden(37), JeffDavis(36), Ector(35), Midland(34), Dawson(34), Glasscock(33), and Gaines(23).

Thanks to the following stations for contributing more than half of my QSOs: W0GXQ(25), N6MU(23), N9FC(23), KV8Q(22), DL3DXX(22), W4UCZ(20), WA3HAE(20), W4IX(18), N1LN(18), W9MSE(16), N4CD(16), NT2A(16), K9CW(15), N3RJ(14), N8II(13), A9ZES(13), W9UX(13), W7GVE(13), NX5M(12), K5LH(12), WF5X(12), AA6YX(12), DL5AWI(12), N8NA(11), WA6KHK(10), KT4LF(10), K8JQ(10), SM7ZDI(10), K4LRP(10), K8DD(10), SP5SA(10), K6WSC(9), N3UM(9), AD5WI(9), NM5G(9), W8IQ(9), KB9BIT(9), K2SX(9), K9OSC(9), K8QWY(8), KN4Y(8), KI6OY(8), W0ETT(8), ND3R(8), KM1C(7), and N9NE(7).

Thanks to everyone who called and thanks to NARS and NO5W for a great job sponsoring the Texas QSO Party!

N5TM - Rover - 10 Counties. Many pileups. Great time.

N5XTR - I had a lot of fun. My first Texas QSO Party.

N6MU - Score includes 13,500 mobile bonus points. 20 was up and down with no mobile readable all the time. RTTY QRM on 40 was atrocious. Top mobiles were NO5W-33, N5NA-23, K5YAA-19, K5WAF-19, K0RU-17 and WW5X-16. Always one of the best Parties. 73... John, N6MU

N8II - Score includes 15K bonus points spread out over 17 different mobiles worked in least 5 counties, great mobile showing, many thanks!

The best laid plans... I planned on being ready for the start at 14Z, but my teenage daughter's written driving test hit a snag when she forgot her glasses which cost me an extra 45 minute round trip, + longer time there. Rain was coming soon so add on another 30 minutes to walk the dog. My first QSO was 1550Z. I really wasn't in the mood to operate and would have to say there was a lull in activity when I started, few stations were heard on 20 CW and phone was full of SAC phone activity, not TXQP. I was able to run about 1-2 a minute for 15 minutes or so on 20 phone, then it dried up; I almost quit. Activity improved by around 1645Z, but the SAC traffic/QRM was still a pain. I really wasn't in a very positive mood, so just ran on 20 phone when I could rather than S&P a lot for mobiles on CW. By the closing bell Saturday, I had 400 Q's logged, pretty good considering the late start and taking time off for 2 meals and a couple of short breaks. 20 stayed open at least to west TX until around 0115Z, but running was slow to nil after 22Z. Conditions actually improved around 2330-0100Z. As always, quite a few mobiles called me on phone both days which added to the score a lot. Many thanks! I managed to work NO5W a total of 28 times in 25 counties just missing a county twice as he crossed into a new one. I caught Jerry, K5YAA in most of his counties. I was not happy with my CW S&P; I ended up with 182 counties and should have been close to 200.

Sunday was much easier mentally, but a slow slog with maybe 50 new stations answering 20 M phone CQ's; I tried running on 40 phone especially when 20 dried up Saturday evening, but only ran about 20-25 stations.

Thanks for the nice turnout! Lots of casual ops stopped by on 20 and my QSO total was the best ever in 3 serious tries at TXQP. 20M conditions were pretty good from here. There was plenty of mobile activity, but it was hard to work them on 40 during the day (too weak/QRM) and night. TXQP has the best balance of home station and mobile activity of any of the state QP's, plenty of both. I

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mentioned to Chuck, NO5W post contest that activity from Fort Bend Co. was high with about a dozen Q's as well as Houston and metro Dallas. He gave presentations in all 3 areas about TXQP. Many thanks for all of your efforts and all of the mobile Q's!

Mobiles worked by the numbers with primary mode:

	Counties	QSO's	Mode
NO5W	25	28	CW
KK5LO	16	17	SSB
K5YAA	13	14	CW
N5UV	13	14	SSB
N5NA	13	13	CW
WW5X	12	14	CW
KE5LQ	11	11	SSB
K0RU	10	13	CW
K5NOT	10	11	SSB
KK5W	8	8	SSB
K5WAF	7	7	CW
KA5GIL	7	7	SSB
KG5U	6	6	CW
N5TM	6	6	CW
KD6HWD	5	5	SSB
WD5BDX	5	5	SSB
KJ5UY	5	5	SSB

Thanks again to you all as well as molbies N3BB, WB9NUL, KU5B, KD5JWC, KB6OJE, KE5ZQV, WB0TEV!

The conflicts with SAC on 20 phone and especially CQWW RTTY on 40 CW hurt the activity. There were very few brave souls CQ'ing on 40 CW. The QRM extended down to 7025 or lower.

Thanks to NARS for sponsoring this event and getting TX hams on the air!

73, Jeff N8II

N9FC - Thanks texas for a fun party. 73, John

NF4A - Was very busy this weekend...got a chance to get into the TQP for just a little over an hour. Activity seemed to be very good. Thanks to the mobiles!

NM5G - Murphy visited early and often. My station took a direct lightning strike last month which destroyed all antennas on the tower. So we started with one tri-bander on a 30 foot trailer/tower and another tri-bander on a 15 foot pole, plus a 40-80 dipole at 34 feet.

The antennas interacted to such an extent that only one radio was used until 4:00PM. During the down time a vertical dipole was assembled and erected for 40 meters and placed in service. We added the second radio and began to make significant progress on both 20 and 40 meter bands.

We had a lot of fun in spite of the problems. I believe our Q count would have been much higher if the antennas had behaved better. Also, we could have taken more time looking for mults.

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We used CQ/X and WinKey for logging. It is a very good program. Thanks to Chuck NO5W for two training sessions leading up to the contest. Keith NM5G

NO5W - We enjoyed the well-run railroad comment by K3TN -- and John didn't even see the red headlamps that K5OT and W5ZL donned after dark. However the well-run railroad got seriously off the track at the beginning of Saturday and if it hadn't been for the perseverance of K5OT and W5ZL the train would have never left the station.

We had only punched a dozen or so QSO tickets in our first county when the main 40M antenna, a Hi-Q 4/80, developed high SWR. After several tests with an analyzer whose batteries seemed to be going fast we determined that it was indeed the actual antenna rather than the feed line. Disappointing because that antenna usually puts out a good signal, but not to worry we thought, we would just maintain our multi-two plans by putting K5OT's spare Little Tarheel on the vehicle. Murphy says nope, it's not to be, that Little Tarheel's got problems too. We found out Murphy was right after several attempts and lost time trying to get it going.

So our multi-two had suddenly become a multi-single but we pressed on, feeling like NO5W/Murphy rather than NO5W/Mobile, about two hours behind schedule after having conversation with an interesting Mason county codger and on-looker of our attempts at fixing the two antennas -- "what you boys up to with those antennas and all that gear, you radio hams?" Yes sir, we're in a Texas road rally for hams and right now we're in deep stuff.

Fortunately that was the last major visit by Murphy although there were other small problems along the way. We were able to make up some good time on some of those wide-open spaces of the Texas plains -- beautiful scenery to go along with some great pileups, and some dirt roads to nowhere except the next county line. Saturday night we rolled into Post, TX founded by cereal mogul CW Post of raisin bran fame, right at the closing bell having missed only three of our proposed Saturday counties but seriously behind where we planned to be QSO-wise with only about 600 Qs.

Sunday was a beautiful cool crisp windy day in Post and we got away right on time to make the run across Garza county and all the way to the Kent-Fisher county line for the start of the session. To give you an idea of the remoteness of Kent county we only saw three other vehicles during that fifty mile trek across Kent. So there was definitely not much traffic to contend with and by midday we were ahead of schedule by about 30 minutes. The railroad was rolling and we had a great time cutting corners of counties, stopping for a stop and run, stopping for a "whizzle stop" and a few photo-ops among the windmills, using the software to keep everyone advised of where/when the railroad would be stopping next, and to keep us on schedule.

The worst part of the weekend was our lost time in getting the train out of the station with all the antenna problems but the ending easily made up for all those troubles. We had put Williamson on the route as a "time-permitting" stretch at the end and as we came down through the town of Lampasas with a number of stop lights and emerged from Lampasas county into Burnet with only 20 minutes to the closing bell not one of us thought there was a chance for making Williamson 20 miles on the other side of Burnet. But the railroad kept rolling and ZL at the wheel kept us on track and out of trouble with the trooper that had passed us and seemed to be maintaining a pace about half a mile ahead. OT kept filling the log with Qs, and with 1 min 14 seconds to go the software and county marker clicked over to Williamson and the pileup began. Seventy-four

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seconds later OT had nine WMSN QSOs in the log. Now that's mobile contesting!

Of course none of that excitement would have been possible without some dedicated well-behaved followers who created the pileups, stayed in the chair, and kept coming back for more Qs in the next county. Here's the stations whose tickets were punched 10 or more times by the conductors: N6MU(40), NT2A(32), N8II(30), N1LN(29), WA3HAE(28), KV8Q(25), W4IX(21), NO3M(20), AA6YX(20), ND3R(19), W0GXQ(19), DL3DXX(19), VE3OM(17), NN9K(16), K8DD(16), N8NA(16), K8QWY(16), WA6KHK(15), N3RJ(15), KM1C(15), W7GVE(15), K9CW(14), N3UM(14), W4UCZ(13), VE3KP(13), K2SX(12), HK3Q(12), K3TN(12), WK5X(10), AB7RW(10), N4CD(10), K4LRP(10), KB9BIT(10), and DL5AWI(10).

In a state with as many counties as Texas it's not an easy task to activate all counties on a single weekend. Prior to the event it looked very promising for doing that this year but the logs will tell the tale of whether that was actually accomplished -- darn-it sometimes work and other commitments get in the way of plans at the last minute. So we'll have to wait and see how we did. But what can be said, from what I've read on 3830, is that Texas mobiles and fixed stations really came forward to put on a lot of QSOs in a lot of counties -- I saw that N8II had 182 counties in his log and I'm sure there are others with big county numbers. Many thanks to all those Texas stations that participated, fixed and mobile. Hope you'll be back again next year.

In addition we had a lot of help from our neighbor and almost neighbor to the north -- namely OK and KS. Thanks to the following operators for helping out.

K5YAA/OK keeping the bug alive and filling in some northeast Texas for W3DYA who had a 20 year county hunter reunion to attend in Tennessee
WW5X/OK reeling off the Qs in the panhandle
AF5Q/OK putting some panhandle counties on filling in for another regular,
N4CD, who also attended the county hunter reunion
K0RU/KS who drove all the way from Kansas City area to fill in for W0BH who had a 100 year college celebration to attend.

Fortunately 100 year college celebrations and 20 year reunions come even less frequently than sunspots so we're looking forward to Bob, Norm, and Bob being back next year and hope Rob will continue coming down from KS to sample the BBQ and 807s at Amarillo's Red Barn. And of course the guys from OK are always welcome to help us out. If we get everybody back, including K5NA who was at a 50 year high school reunion, and we do a little more recruiting in Texas, heck we might have 40 mobiles traveling Miles and Miles of Texas next year. Now that would be awesome.

Thanks to all for the Qs and your support of the Texas QSO Party.

73

Chuck - NO5W
Gary - W5ZL
Larry - K5OT

NR5M - Casual one+ two part time op effort here. Kinda a fun contest though. Will try to go more seriously next year. Scott Straw, KB4KBS, wrote a nice article in QST about the station this month and operated most of the contest (when I didn't make him stand down as we were doing tuning of the brand new M2 75/80 M Beam at

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180'.) Boy did that go up slick with the 215 foot boom crane! Thanks, Scott, for your article and for showing me a new contest. 73, George NR5M

[Scott also wrote a nice after action report for the [October TDXS Bull Sheet](#) describing his experience operating the TxQP from NR5M. NO5W]

NX5M - We had planned on not operating the whole time but ended up doing so anyway although not to full potential. What I mean is many times we got up and walked away from an operating position for an extended period of time. We even quit operating on 20ssb for almost an hour as I wanted to give a couple of the guys here a chance to work the FT5 dxpedition.

We never ran more than about 800w on any band and in some cases only 100w. 40m seemed to be difficult where working mobiles was concerned. Most were really weak or just not heard. Seem they had to be 300 miles out for us to even hear them. NO5W was workable with weak copy in one county.....when he crossed into the next I could not even hear him.

KU5B went mobile in 5 counties at the request of NO5W after someone had to cancel their mobile plans. Saturday was my xyl's birthday so I had to go out for a birthday dinner Saturday evening. I drove the KU5B mobile so that Colin could operate as we went from Burleson to Brazos where I met with the rest of my family and enjoyed a nice dinner at the Texas Roadhouse. When it was time to head back home I hooked up with KU5B again to drive for him while he operated. For the first time ever, I worked a mobile in 5 counties on 2m simplex as K5NZ was traveling from Grimes county to San Antonio. We ran out of rope just after he entered Gonzales county some 100+ miles from here.

W5JDG was here to get his first taste of TQP. He operated mostly 15SSB with a little 10SSB mixed in. On Sunday, 15m was open well to New England but there were very few stations on the air. My good friend and previous operating partner N1UR called me on 20cw just after a 15m qso and told me that we were 30-over up there. W5JDG stayed in the chair, only taking an occasional break as needed, and from his time here he came to understand what contest-style operating is all about. Still a great deal to learn but everyone has to start somewhere and TQP is a good opportunity to do just that.

The rest of the crew consisted of regulars N5XJ, KJ5T and N5DUW. We let KJ5T do 90% of the 20m SSB operating while N5XJ and N5DUW bounced around between the rest of the bands on SSB and CW.

Thanks once again to Chuck, NO5W for the promotion of this event and to the rest of the planet for giving out the qsos to all us Texans. 73, Bob, NX5M

VA3EC - I always hear Texas real loud so I thought I would run 5 watts for a change. Only missed a couple I tried for but running was a real test of patience! Harry, VA3EC

VA3RKM - K2, 5 watts, vertical. Condx were not bad for QRP. Thanks for the contacts, especially the mobiles!

W0BH - This weekend was the Hesston College Centennial Celebration, so instead of running as a Texas mobile, I enjoyed the TQP from the "other side" as time permitted. Up until a few days before the TQP, I was planning to leave out Saturday morning and arrive in Texas about 6 hours into the event, perhaps meeting up with

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Rob, K0RU. We ended up getting weekend company, so here I stayed!

40m propagation was great all weekend, and the collection of fixed stations and mobiles was impressive. Because of the RTTY contest, many of the CW mobiles spent little time on 40m but I know they had good runs on 20 because I could hear the pileups. On SSB, I was able to run stations the entire time and picked up lots of counties from the SSB mobiles who found me.

Overall, I worked 149 counties. The eastern part of the state map was pretty much filled in and the panhandle was well covered, so most of my missing counties came from the west and southwest and from taking time off for college activities.

I'm now convinced every op in Texas has a mobile because I counted an astonishing 36 mobiles or rovers in my log. Many of them weren't seriously working the TQP, but a number of them gave me multiple counties as they travelled along. Just for fun and as my way of saying thanks, here's the complete mobile list from my log. Special thanks also to the fixed stations listed:

15: K5MRA/m (also consistently loudest signal into Kansas award!)
9 : K5NOT/m N5UV/m
8 : K5YAA/m
7 : K0RU/m K5UN/m
6 : NO5W/m
5 : KB6OJE/m KD6HWD/m KE5ZQV/m KU5B/m KY5S/m
4 : K5LOL/m KE5LQ/m KK5LO/m N5ENU/m WB0TEV/m WW5X/m
4 : N5DO N5HW N5JB N5KA NM5G (fixed stations)
3 : K5ASU/m KD5GEN/m KE5PRZ/m KG5U/m NOXMZ/m W5ETJ/m WC5D/m
2 : AD5EW/m KA5GIL/m N0JSN/m N3BB/m W5UOT/m WB5LJO/m
1 : KJ5UY/m KK5W/m N5BE/m W5MCT/m WB9NUL/m

Chuck and the Texas QSO Party Committee did their usual great organizational job and deserve a big round of applause! One thing I can say for sure is that there will NOT be a Centennial celebration next year, so we'll point the van south once again. 73, Bob, W0BH

W4IX - Score includes bonus points. Thanks to Texas for the nice contest. 20 meters was up and down the whole weekend, sometimes even the Fixed stations were hard to work with my dipole, missed a lot of counties the first day due to this. 40 was crappy during daylight, and at night the RTTY test killed most signals. 80 was ok after dark but not a lot of activity. Spent 7 hours of the contest working the SAC contest on SSB. Thanks to the mobiles for the Q's including: NO5W-20, N3BB-5, K5WAF-6, K5UN-11, K5YAA-8, WC5D-5, N5NA-18, N5TM-5, KD5JWC-5, WW5X-18, N5BE-2, K0RU-9, KU5B-4, KG5U-7, K5END-2 AND Thanks to the fixed stations also. Rig is TS-940 @ 100w and a 40 meter dipole at 35 feet. 73's John

W4UCZ - 20 was good into west Texas most of the daytime but 40 was the chaos of the damned with the RTTY test QRM in the evening. My hat is off to the very few TX ops who even gave 40 a shot. Sorry the bands were not more congenial from Georgia into East Texas.

Worked 38 fixed stations and 10 mobiles with the West Texas mobiles providing many all-time firsts ... like Loving County (America's smallest population at 2000-Census nose count of 62). Thanks Alan (N5NA).

Thanks to the mobile ops who correctly copied my clunky call; N5NA (20), NO5W (13) and WW5X (10). Also kudos to Rob, K0RU who gave an excellent visiting-fireman

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showing by descending from Kansas for the party. I had a great time and my thanks to the organizers and for all the Q's. See you in April for the GQP and in next year's Lone Star Republic soire. 73, Mark, W4UCZ

W5ESE - Sure had a lot of fun in this years' TxQP! Like last year, I backpacked to my station site at Pine Top camp site in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, in Culberson county.

I used the same rig as I did last year; an AT Sprint 3 kit rig that was designed by KD1JV. I tried a different antenna this year; a 44' inverted L fed against 10-16.5' radials. Saturday evening, I attached an extension to lengthen the wire to 66' to improve the radiation efficiency on 80 meters. (Last year, I used a 66' CF Zepp, lengthened at night to 135').

The performance seemed comparable, and it was easier to erect, despite all the radials.

Experienced better NVIS propagation on 40 meters than last year, although that was offset by much worse atmospheric noise on 80 meters. Must have been an electrical storm somewhere in the region!

Thanks to everyone for the contacts, and hope to hear you again next year. 73, Scott W5ESE

[Take a look at some of [Scott's photos](#) from his TxQP adventure - without a doubt he had the best views of any Texas station. NO5W]

W5JAW - Got on in short increments between other activities. 20 and 40 were VERY long when I was on. Spent a few minutes on 80m Saturday night where conditions were good, but low activity there.

W5JNP - This was my best showing in the TXQP. I live in an antenna restricted neighborhood and don't have an antenna above 20 feet. Next year I plan on working half the time digital to increase my overall score. 73, Jeff, W5JNP

W5MF - My favorite contest. Wish I could do mobile again some year, but had a great time running from the house. I was pleasantly surprised at all of the people calling me. Thanks for the many Q's from all over the world.

Had terrible QRN for nearly the first half of the contest on Saturday that greatly depreciated my Q rate, sorry if I didn't hear ya, but it was 20 over S9 without the noise blanker. Hope to move the antenna before next year to the other side my house and hopefully eliminate the problem.

Good to work all of the US except for Alaska and kept my eye out for all the mobiles on 40 meters. Marty, W5MF

WB5BKL - I operated as much as I could, considering current family commitments. The experience of holding a frequency and making a long run @ 5W on 20M was truly memorable for me. Occasionally there was even a mini-pileup! I did not work as many Texas counties as I had hoped - perhaps I should have moved to 80M earlier. Oh well. Had fun.

WB8JUI - Due to an early morning Sunday flight to the west coast, I was limited to just a few hours of Saturday TQP fun this year. Great job by all the mobiles and

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rovers. Thanks to all for the QSOs. 73 - Rick WB8JUI

WB8LBZ - Propagation stunk, my worst score in 3 years. Thank god for the KK5LO/M operation.

WW5X - Had a great time - but I knew from the start I was not trying for a "win" here. I was on the way home from a two week vacation. I was in an RV, not in my usual TxQP contesting vehicle. There were lots of grounding problems and the RV was rented so I was not going to go through the entire vehicle and fix them. I know the signal suffered vs. other years but I suppose I was still getting out.

Also, access to better operating spots on county corners in the Panhandle was limited by the RV and I didn't have a driver to operate between stops. Only real 4-county line that was reachable by an RV was the last stop on the way back to Oklahoma - and I milked it for all I could get.

Limitations aside it was still fun, and if I didn't participate this way I could not have done it. Never heard a signal on 15 meters, the RTTY guys drove me into band edges that probably made finding me more difficult, and I didn't have internet access at most stops for some reason (Sprint usually does a better job) so spots were non-existent and I am sure I missed plenty of mobile-to-mobile opportunities too. Lets hope for more sun input next year! Bill, WW5X