

Pennsylvania QSO Party 2017 Official Rules

1. Purpose of the party

1.a. Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities.

1.b. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs receive a multiplier for each Pennsylvania County with a QSO.

1.c. A Pennsylvania Amateur is defined as an Amateur operating in the State of Pennsylvania, without regard to the Amateur's home address. Other Operators are considered Out-of-state.

2. Operating Periods

2.a. 1600Z October 14 to 0500Z October 15, and 1300Z October 15 to 2200Z October 15, 2017.

3. Bands for the QSO Party

3.a. 160 meters, 80 meters, 75 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters, 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters, Above 2 meters, QSOs are permitted, but those frequencies are not much in use for the party at this time. Interested Operators are encouraged to set up skeds if desired.

4. Suggested Frequencies

4.a. SSB: 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480, 50.125, 146.55.

4.b. Note that 12, 17, 30, 60 meter and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

4.c. CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810KHz

4.d. PSK: 3.580, 7.080, 14.07015, 21.080, 50.250 RTTY: 3.580, 7.080, 14.080, 21.080, 28.080

4.e. 160 meters Try at 0300Z Sunday Follow 160 meter band plan

5. Hi Band Activity periods

5.a. Sat and Sun: 10M – 1800Z 15M – 1900Z 20M – 2000Z SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.

6. Mobile Window

6.a. 5 KHz below listed suggested frequencies. Keep this area clear for weak mobiles.

7. Exchange

7.a. Sequential serial number plus county or ARRL or Canadian section (see **26. Canadian Sections** for details)

7.b. Stations on county line give out 1 serial number per contact plus multiple county multipliers.

7.c. Work stations once per band and mode. Work Rovers and mobiles again as they change counties.

8. Scoring QSO points:

8.a. CW 2 points/QSO

8.b. PSK 2 points/QSO

8.c. RTTY 2 points/QSO

8.d. SSB 1 point/QSO

8.e. FM 1 point/QSO

8.f. Special Event or Bonus Station QSO-200 points bonus per QSO per band and mode

8.g. The Bonus Station for the 2017 PAQSO Party is W3FRC, W3F, W3R, and W3C operated by the Frankford Radio Club

9. Entry Divisions

- 9.a. Single operator Medium power – 6 to 150 Watts
- 9.b. Single Operator QRO – 151 Watts to Legal band limit
- 9.c. QRP Operator - 5 Watts or less
- 9.d. Single Operator CW only - 150 Watts or less
- 9.e. Multi-Single - Only one signal on air at a time
- 9.f. Multi-Multi -
- 9.g. Portable Single Operator
- 9.h. Portable Multi-Operator
- 9.i. Mobile - Single
- 9.j. Mobile - Multi
- 9.k. Rover - Single
- 9.l. Rover - Multi

10. Station Definitions

10.a. A Home station is a station that is operated from a fixed position. It does not need to be a domicile. Club stations are considered home stations.

10.b. A Portable station is a station that is set up for the purpose of operating in the party, with the intention of teardown in the post party period. Typical of a portable station would be operations from a camp cabin, Recreational Vehicle, or tent. Antennas are not restricted, but are typically more home station in construction. Portable stations are not restricted in their power source. Battery, generator, or mains power is perfectly acceptable.

10.c. A Mobile station is a station that is capable of operation while moving. Moving is defined as travel in a legal manner on Pennsylvania Highways. The antenna must be of a type generally accepted as a mobile antenna. Mobile stations are not required to be in motion while operating. For the purposes of the party, to be counted as a mobile, you must be operating within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Note that this does not exclude mobile operation outside of Pennsylvania. It means that outside of the commonwealth, there are no mobile bonuses available, so no need for the designation. A mobile - single station is one single operator, a Mobile Multi-Op Station is an Operator plus a driver, who is either only driving or another Operator.

10.d. A Rover station is a station that is capable of moving from one place to another, but is typically using an antenna that is set up on site, then torn down and moved to another site. Rovers do not operate as a mobile en route between stations.

10.e. QRP operations are those operations at a power of 5 watts or less. They may be undertaken on any station setup capable of operation at 5 watts or less. If a QRP multiplier is to be claimed, the entire party must have been run at QRP level. There is no restriction on antennas for a QRP operator.

11. Multipliers and Scoring for Pennsylvania Stations

11.a. ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX. (See **26. Canadian Sections** for details)

11.b. Multipliers for Stations operating outside of Pennsylvania are the 67 Pennsylvania Counties.

11.c. Final Score = Total points times Total Multipliers.

11.d. QRP Operation Bonus Multiplier = Total Points times 2.

12. PA Mobile operation Bonus points

12.a. Add 500 Points to final score for each county you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

13. PA Rover operation Bonus points

13.a. Add 500 Points to final score for each location you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

14. Additional Mobile and Rover rules

14.a. A Mobile station must be truly mobile, using an antenna accepted as a mobile antenna, and capable of moving between counties without any setup/teardown. Note that adjusting taps on a “Bugcatcher” antenna is not considered to be setup or teardown. A mobile station may operate either stationary or while in motion. Stationary operations are encouraged for safety considerations.

14.b. Mobile stations identify by the addition of /M or /(county) to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Mobile on SSB or FM.

14.c. Mobile stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.

14.d. Instructions for log and summary submission for Rovers are on the PAQSO Party website at: <http://nittany-arc.net/paqsomobiles.html>

14.e. Rover stations identify by the addition of /R or /(county) to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Rover on SSB or FM.

14.f. Rover stations must travel 5 miles or more between stops to be eligible for the 500 point bonus.

14.g. Rover stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.

14.h. Instructions for log and summary submission for Rovers are on the PAQSO Party website at: <http://nittany-arc.net/paqsomobiles.html>

14.i. With the number of entrants running as mobile, and the large number of counties they cover, submissions may become rather large in size. The Party provides a Dropbox account for large submissions. Contact Mike at mcoslo@comcast.net for instructions on submitting logs and summary sheets in this manner.

15. County Line Stations

15.a. County line stations may be either Home Stations or Portable stations.

15.b. Mobile or Rover stations are *not* eligible to be a County line station.

15.b.1. Note: if a station that is essentially a mobile station ie, a transceiver in a vehicle with a mobile antenna wished to run county line, they could do so, but at the expense of being mobile. That would be their position for the entire party, and they would enter as a county line station, and not as a mobile, but as a portable.

15.c. A county line station is scored the same as other stations, collecting either 1 or 2 points per QSO depending on mode. They do not collect multiple QSO points based on the number of counties they are operating in.

15.d. A County line station's position is defined as follows:

15.d.1. The station must be situated very near the boundaries of at least two or more adjacent counties.

15.d.2. Ideally the antenna should cross the boundary, but safety and practicality do not always allow that.

15.d.3. Many boundaries are in the middle of rivers or highways. The key element is that the station must be set up as near as practical to the adjacent borders.

15.e. Party officials are available to determine admissibility of any county line station setup.

16. Bonus Stations

16.a. The PAQSO party will at it's discretion have a special bonus station during the party.

16.b. The Bonus Station may consist of a single station, multiple stations in different counties, or other novel

operations as approved by the party administrators.

16.c. QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points, and any multiplier that has not been claimed yet. The Bonus Station for the 2017 PAQSO Party is W3FRC, W3F, W3R, and W3C operated by the Frankford Radio Club.

16.d. If a group or club wishes to be considered for a particular year's Bonus station, they should contact the Party Chairman to indicate their interest, and then to prepare an Operation Plan for the proposed Bonus Station.

16.f. There are often several groups applying for the bonus station every year. By the very nature of a bonus station, we can select only one. There have been times in the past, when people or groups, not selected, have become so upset that they have boycotted the party because of it. Please do not do that. The decision is almost always very difficult, there is no reason to make it more so. If *not* being chosen as the bonus station will cause you to become so angry with the administrators of the party that you refuse to participate, reconsider the application.

17. Entry Materials

17.a. Entry materials consist of a log and dupe sheets and an official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile.

17.a.1. Dupe sheets are only needed for paper logging, not for computer logs.

17.b. All entry materials can be downloaded from the website. <http://nittany-arc.net/paqsoforms.html>

17.c. Entry materials must be received by November 15th following the party, in one of three ways.

17.c.1. Electronic Logs and summary sheet may be submitted via email to paqsolog@nittany-arc.net

17.c.2. Paper copies of all materials may be sent via US Mail or other delivery service.

17.c.3. Electronic logs on CD may also be sent via US Mail or other delivery service.

17.d. Whatever method of submitting a log, an official Summary sheet or reasonable facsimile must be filled out for the party. An official summary that can be filled out on-line which will calculate the score from your input, and is available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/entryforms.htm>. Other acceptable methods are the summary sheets from various logging programs. Ensure that your program provides all the needed information.

17.e. Logs submitted without a summary sheet will be held, and the sender be notified of the need for a summary sheet.

17.e. Electronic log format is Cabrillo 3.

18. Party Communications

18.a. Do NOT send email communications to the paqsolog address. That address is set up exclusively for logs. non-log email submissions will not get to us.

18.b. Use the regular email addresses for the party chair. mcoslo@comcast.net

19. Donations

19.a. We are a small club running a big QSO party, and now that we no longer sell promotional items, donations are of greater importance than ever. In an effort to keep the PASO Party in existence, donations are always welcome, and keep us healthy and happy. Donations may be sent to our mailing address, or on the website at: <http://nittany-arc.net/PAQSOSTore.html> and using your major credit card.

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2017 c/o NARC
P.O. Box 614
State College PA 16804-0614

20. Plaques and Awards

20.a. Plaques go to top scorers in all entry divisions plus:

- 20.a.1.** Eastern Time Zone
- 20.a.2.** Central Time Zone
- 20.a.3.** Western Time Zone
- 20.a.4.** OOS Single Op Medium Power
- 20.a.5.** Top Canadian Entry
- 20.a.6.** DX
- 20.a.7.** Single Op Medium Power EPA
- 20.a.8.** Single Op High Power EPA
- 20.a.9.** Single Op Medium Power WPA
- 20.a.10.** Single Op High Power WPA
- 20.a.11.** Rover Single
- 20.a.12.** Multi-Single Rover
- 20.a.13.** Single Op Portable
- 20.a.14.** Multi-Op Portable
- 20.a.15.** Multi-Single
- 20.a.16.** Multi-Multi
- 20.a.17.** 20 meter "Good Neighbor"
- 20.a.18.** SSB only
- 20.a.19.** PSK31
- 20.a.20.** CW In-State
- 20.a.21.** CW Out-of State
- 20.a.22.** QRP In-State
- 20.a.23.** QRP Out-of-State
- 20.a.24.** Passaneau Memorial/NARC Single Op
- 20.a.25.** First Timer
- 20.a.26.** Mobile-Single
- 20.a.27.** Mobile-Multi
- 20.a.28.** Carpetbagger OOS mobile

20.b. For special awards or plaques, see Rule 25.

21. Plaque for top first time entrant - "First Timer"

21.a. Intended to encourage new contesters, a plaque can be awarded to the top single operator from Pennsylvania who enters the party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station, you are still eligible.

21.b. This is not an award for "Big Guns" from other contests.

21.c. The decision as to eligibility for this award is the Contest Chair's.

22. All 67 County Plaque

22.a. If you work all 67 Counties during the party, a special plaque can be awarded in recognition of that feat.

22.b. To order a 67 County plaque, submit a 67 county summary sheet to aid the log checkers in addition to the regular summary listing the pertinent details.

22.c. Purchase the plaque either on the Web store at:

<http://nittany-arc.net/PAQSOSTore.html>

or Enclose a check for 30 dollars made payable to NARC.

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2017 c/o NARC

P.O. Box 614

State College PA 16804-0614

23. Club Competition Award

23.a. A Trophy is awarded to top club competition Station

23.b. Certificates awarded for 2nd through 5th place in the Club competition

23.c. The winner is determined by summation of the scores of club members. The current status of club members is determined by a list that is provided by a club officer, preferably the club president. The PAQSO chair will ask for the list after the party and the top club scores become apparent.

24. County and Section Certificates

24.a. Certificates will be mailed to county and section winners.

24.b. To qualify for a certificate, the Operator must compile more points than other operators from that section or county.

24.c. In some cases, a mobile operator may be the leading scorer from several counties. In that event, the mobile Op will receive the corresponding certificates.

24.d. The PAQSO party administration will mail the certificates to the respective winners.

25. Special Certificates or plaques

25.a. The PAQSO Party may at times offer special certificates or plaques for various achievements in the party.

26. Canadian Sections

26.a. The RAC has added new sections splitting ON or VE3 into 4 sections. Unfortunately there is no standard Canadian section list in use across contests or QSO parties. I have used a combination of a list provided by ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations> and the only listing we could get from RAC – which interestingly does not contain the new Ontario listings: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01862.html> to come up with as complete a listing as possible. We now have 13 Canadian sections.

26.b. The Canadian sections in use by the PAQSO party are:

- 26.b.1.** Nova Scotia NS (VE1)
- 26.b.2.** Quebec QC (VE2)
- 26.b.3.** Ontario East ONE
- 26.b.4.** Ontario North ONN (VE3)
- 26.b.5.** Ontario South ONS (VE3)
- 26.b.6.** Greater Toronto Area GTA (VE3)
- 26.b.4.** Manitoba MB (VE4)
- 26.b.5.** Saskatchewan SK (VE5)
- 26.b.6.** Alberta AB (VE6)
- 26.b.7.** British Columbia BC (VE7)
- 26.b.8.** Northwest Territories NT (VE8)
- 26.b.9.** New Brunswick NB (VE9)
- 26.b.10.** Newfoundland NL (VO1)
- 26.b.11.** Labrador (VO2)
- 26.b.11.** Nunavut NU (VY0)
- 26.b.12.** Yukon Territories YT (VY1)
- 26.b.13.** Prince-Edward Island PE (VY2)

27. Pre-Party Net

27.a. To check on party activity regarding mobiles, portables, rovers and general information, there will be a net on Friday, October 7, at 0000Z 3.910 LSB +/-.

Miscellaneous

The PAQP uses Cabrillo 3 format logging.

Logging programs

N1MM free contest logging

<http://www.n1mm.com>

WB3W-logging program

<http://www.wb3w.net/maqdown.htm>

N3FJP-Amateur Contact Log Program

<http://www.n3fjp.com>

Writelog

<http://www.writelog.com>

W3KM-Genlog Software

<http://www.qsl.net/w3km/>

The PAQSO Website is located at:

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

The PAQSO Party reflector – To subscribe, send a two word message “subscribe paqso” to majordomo@QTH.net Note that the PAQSO Party reflector is *not* administered by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club or the Pennsylvania QSO Party chair.

Electronic logs and summary sheets to:

paqsolog@nittany-arc.net

PAQSO Party Chair Michael J Coslo N3LI

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2017 c/o NARC

P.O. Box 614

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Rules updated Thursday, 24 September, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.