

2001 Illinois QSO Party Analysis by N9JF

Despite the dismal conditions, courtesy of a massive CME, and the resulting "Radio Free Illinois" period, the 2001 Illinois QSO Party saw good activity levels. Several records were set by both Illinois and out-of-state stations. K9PG at K9XD set records for phone QSOs and total score. WA3HAE set records for phone QSOs, multipliers and total score from outside IL, becoming the first in history to exceed 90 mults (84 separate counties plus bonuses).

The CME appeared to hit low-power and mobile stations very hard, whereas some of the high-power stations merrily continued at rates of 100/hr or greater. The combination of great operators and good station equipment **can** overcome poor band conditions! Knowing when to change bands, and being able to do so quickly, is one of the strengths of the "pool of trained operators" in the amateur service.

DL/W9DY, VK2CZ, HA0DU and PA3ARM made valiant efforts to find IL stations to work but were thwarted, for the most part, by the band conditions. Don't give up, fellas! DX mults worked by IL stations included:

CO, CX, EA, FS, HA, HC8, HI, HK, IS0, JA, KH6, KL7, KP2, KP4, LU, OZ, PY, SM, TI, UA, VE, VP2E, XE, YS, ZL, 6Y, 8P, 9Y

Illinois stations found all of the 48 contiguous states and most of the 13 VE provinces and territories. K9XD (K9PG) alone worked 46 states and 6 provinces, and other IL stations picked up SD and WY, NS, and NB. Only VY1, VY2, VY0, VE8 and VE9 "escaped".

The coordination provided by the IQP and SMC reflectors helped heighten interest in the event in the days leading up to the IQP. Thanks to several out-of-staters who graciously came to Illinois to help in mobile efforts, we nearly met our goal of putting all 102 counties on the air. It appears that the only "holes in the map" are located just to the east of St. Louis: Bond, Hamilton, Montgomery, Perry and Randolph. Some of these were scheduled to be covered (by N9JF/M); but the route planned was simply too ambitious, for which I apologize. We need one more good mobile to activate these counties, or we just need to fine-tune our coordination so that some counties are not "over-covered" at the expense of these six counties. I'm confident that 2002 will see this goal realized!

Following the mobiles:

There were at least seventeen Illinois mobile stations active, and they made at least 89 of the 102 counties possible to log. In fact, as many as 54 counties were available *ONLY* from mobile stations (sometimes as many as three of them). If you wanted to score high, you had to keep track of the mobiles! You also had to work both modes; though most mobiles worked primarily CW, at least seven counties were available only on SSB.

"Unique" fixed stations included KB9WLF (Clinton), AA9UC (Monroe) and AA9RT (Madison) . We can use a lot more of those! There are almost

certainly active HF licensees in all 102 counties, but someone has to motivate them to participate in this event.

Forty and twenty meters remain the most popular bands, but several stations made good use of others, especially 10 SSB and 80 CW. Some out-of-state stations found new IL county mults by calling CQ on 10 meter SSB. Seventy-five meter SSB was used by a few stations. Some of the top-scoring stations moved others through quite a few band-mode combinations to acquire extra points. In general, bands other than 40 and 20 were "move-to" bands. As sunspots decline, 80 meters may become more prominent. One of the frustrations of IQP from a mobile/portable standpoint is that no matter how "good" 10 meters appears to be, little DX calls in on this band and generating a significant run is difficult. Stations with more robust antennas seem to use 10 to advantage much more readily. The contest organizers have annually encouraged "activity times" on 10 and 15 meters; stick a Post-It note by your radio as a reminder to show up on those bands at the suggested times!

A word of advice repeated from last year: Be sure your logging program credits you with the county you worked! Some of the county abbreviations in the logging programs are not well standardized. Watch out for White/Whiteside, Hancock/Hamilton, Macon/Macoupin, Mason/Massac and a few others. In the list below, stations marked with **[call]** are either likely "busted" calls or were logged in counties where they did not operate.

Who was on from where?

Counties active and stations worked from each:

ADAM	KB9HGI	N9GXW	NA9DM	KR9L	K0RL	K2PEY	N9KUT	N9DT/P
	WB9EWM/P	W9FGH/P						
ALEX	N9JF/M							
BOND								
BOON	W9HB/M	W9TMW/M	W9JAV					
BROW	K9WA/M	W9CUN	N9DT/P	WB9EWM/P				
BURO	W9MSE/M	K9WA/M	K9LU/M	AH9EZ/W9	KN9T	W9NBY	KA9DVX	
CALH	NA9Q/M							
CARR	W9HB/M	K9KUP						
CASS	K9WA/M							
CHAM	NG9R/M	W9YH	W3HDH	K9CW	W9SZ	KX9X	**W3SDS**	K9CS/M
CHRI	NG9R/M							
CLAR	KJ9C/M	W3DYA/M						
CLAY	KJ9C/M	W3DYA/M						
CLIN	KB9WLF							
COLE	KJ9C/M	W3DYA/M	KD9AC	W9LYN				
COOK	K9LY/M	KO9A	KG9PF	AA9KH	N9BOR	K9PPW	W9ZJX	W9LNQ KB9II
	KB9VHA	WD9DJD	N9WW	W9OL	N9KO	N9NUQ	**AA9KN**	WA9FET
	WA9FIH	**KJ9C/M**	K9PL	**W9ZJ**	WB9MII	WA9FIH	KB9KOA	
	KE9LN	KK9KJ	KA9MRU	KC9AIN	K9RVR/M	KB9NXE	K9OWC	
CRAW	KJ9C/M	W3DYA/M						
CUMB	KJ9C/M	W3DYA/M						

DEKA W9HB/M K9LU/M **K9CO** N9CO **N9OO** W9TMW/M K9RVR/M
 AB9AX/M
 DEWI NG9R/M K9CS/M
 DOUG NG9R/M KJ9C/M W3DYA/M
 DUPA K9PG KD0AV KB9DVC KF9JC K9XP KC9UM/P K9NO K9JLS KB9FUR
 KD0V AB9AX/M WA9LRD K9VIC KA9P W9XS K9RVR/M W9LAS
 EDGA KJ9C/M W3DYA/M
 EDWA N9JF/M
 EFFI KJ9C/M W3DYA/M
 FAYE KJ9C/M W3DYA/M W9OP/M
 FORD W9MSE/M K9LU/M K9CS/M
 FRAN N9JF/M
 FULT K9WM/M
 GALL N9JF/M
 GREE NA9Q/M
 GRUN W9MSE/M K9LU/M
 HAMI **W0ICY/M**
 HANC W0ICY/M K9WM/M W9FGH/P
 HARD N9JF/M
 HEND K9WM/M
 HENR K9WM/M W9MSE/M K9WA/M N9MZP
 IROQ W9MSE/M K9LU/M K9CS/M
 JACK N9JF/M
 JASP KJ9C/M W3DYA/M
 JEFF W3DYA/M N9JF/M
 JERS NA9Q/M
 JODA W9HB/M K9IUA
 JOHN N9JF/M
 KANE W9AX W9CZA KB9YSI W0HED AB9CC KD9XP KC9UM/P K9XW W9AXV
 AA9D AB9AX/M K1VY
 KANK W9MSE/M K9LU/M K9LU/M AK9F N9IO WB9STR **AK9AFK*
 KEND K8OIO KC9UM/P KA9YNX K9RVR/M AB9AX/M
 KNOX K9WM/M W9MSE/M K9WA/M
 LAKE K9LY/M N9LZ WD9ISG WA9ZPL W9VA **W9VVA** K9IJ N9JDK
 N9GCK AA9TP
 LASA K9LU/M N9PLM W9MKS KB9UPS K9RVR/M W9LQ AB9AX/M
 LAWR N9JF/M
 LEE W9HB/M W9MSE/M K9LU/M AB9AX/M
 LIVI W9MSE/M K9LU/M K9CS/M
 LOGA K9WA/M
 MACN NG9R/M
 MCPN NA9Q/M
 MADI AA9RT
 MARI KJ9C/M W3DYA/M KB9BPZ KB9VTM
 MARS W9MSE/M K9LU/M AH9EZ/W9
 MASN K9WA/M AB9CB
 MASS N9JF/M
 MCDO K9WM/M K9WA/M WB9GQW
 MCHE K9LY/M N9AVY N9REP W9FY K9DMV KA9CAR KA9PLP N9EG KA9TVP
 WA9JBM
 MCLE NG9R/M K9LU/M K9ZO W9SE **K9SE** KB9WNK K9CS/M KB9LNS
 MENA K9WA/M KX9DX **KX9XD**
 MERC K9WM/M
 MONR AA9UC **K9CS/M**

MONT
 MORG NG9R/M NA9Q/M K9WA/M
 MOUL NG9R/M KJ9C/M W3DYA/M WC9V KA9Z
 OGLE W9HB/M W9MSE/M W9TMW/M
 PEOR W9MSE/M K9WA/M K9ND N9MSG
 PERR
 PIAT NG9R/M W3DYA/M K9CS/M
 PIKE NA9Q/M N9DT/P WB9EWM/P
 POPE N9JF/M
 PULA N9JF/M
 PUTN W9MSE/M K9LU/M
 RAND
 RICH N9JF/M
 ROCK K9WM/M N9EHP K9AHH **W3DYA/M** **N9XHP**
 SALI N9JF/M WA4KQL
 SANG NG9R/M W9EBY **W9EBQ** N9HHE
 SCHU K9WM/M K9WA/M W9FGH/P
 SCOT NG9R/M NA9Q/M
 SHEL NG9R/M KJ9C/M
 STAR W9MSE/M K9WA/M AH9EZ/W9
 STCL K9BGL KI9A N9STL
 STEP W9HB/M W9YS
 TAZE K9WA/M N9XJX KA9YNF
 UNIO N9JF/M KB9ZMW
 VERM K9CS/M K9KUZ
 WABA N9JF/M
 WARR K9WM/M WQ9T
 WASH N9JF/M
 WAYN N9JF/M
 WHITE N9JF/M N9OHP
 WHSD W9HB/M W9MSE/M K9WA/M N9OH N9XBG
 WILL K9LU/M N2BJ W9YYG KC9UM/P WO9LF **WA9IRV** AB9AX/M
 KB9CRY
 WMSN N9JF/M
 WINN W9HB/M W9MSE/M W9TMW/M WD9EJK
 WOOD K9LU/M KG9N K9CS/M **K9GN**

Who was on what band?

High-scoring stations and the band/modes they used:

station	160P	160C	80P	80C	40P	40C	20P	20C	15P	15C	10P	10C
K9XD	2		15	10	133	111	280	9	37	7	129	6
KO9A	5	2	26	53	147	83	88	97	16	9	20	13
K9ZO			18	38	196	57	168	48	18	4	42	1
N2BJ	1		61		141		279		1		62	
W9YYG			34		61	61	69				28	
W9SE			14	39	54	39	72	41			19	
N9JF/M					29	144	249	7	126		5	
K9LU/M			18		180	2	351		3			
W3DYA/M					250		180		13		5	
KJ9C/M						4	215	8	248			

K9WA/M				28	59	182	2	209	3		
N9DT/P			9		303		147	3		3	
WA3HAE	1	1	3	25	63	78	21	57	1	3	1
NE0P		1	11	16	70	24	95				
K4XU				7	2	29	21	107	8	19	19
NO4S				2	64	14	86				
NY4N			4	19	33	69	7	46			
K4BAI		7	21	13	64	21	38	1		1	

Much of the contest, from a mobile perspective, involved changing bands constantly in a frantic attempt to get something going...somewhere. The periods of "normal" propagation found most mobiles running happily on either 20 or 40 meters. Even the highest-scoring mobiles worked fewer than half of the IL counties. Mobile strategy involves a tradeoff of maximizing the number of stations worked from each county with looking for the *other* mobiles in needed counties. The other complication this year was that short skip on 20 meters was not very good, and many times mobile-to-mobile contacts were difficult on this band. Spending time in a pileup on a needed mobile could be quite counterproductive to a mobile entry's score.

Where could you find the mobiles?

Do mobile operators tend to use the same bands in the same manner, year after year (conditions permitting)? Here are the band-modes used (in order) by various mobiles:

W0ICY	40P
NG9R	40P 20P 40P 15P 40P 10P 20P 40P 20P 40P
K9LY	10C 10P 14C 40P 40C 10C 40P 40C 20C 40C
NA9Q	40P 20P 40P 20P 40P 20P 40P 80P
W9HB	15C 10C 20C 40C 15C 20C 15C 10C 20C 40C 15C 20C 15C 10C 20C 40C 15C 20C 15C 10C 20C 40C 15C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 15C 20C 40C 20C 40C 80C 40C 80C 40C 80C
K9WM	40P 40C 20C 40P 40C 40P 40C 20C 20P 40P 20C 40C 20P 40P 20P 40P 20C 80C 40C 40P 20P 40C 40P 20P 80P 40C
W9MSE	20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 15C 40C 20C 40C 20C 80C
K9WA	40P 20C 40C 15C 20C 20P 40P 20P 40P 20C 40P 40C 20C 40P 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 40P 80C 20C 40C 20C 80C 20C 40P 40C 80C 40C 80C 40C 80C
KJ9C	20C 40C 20C 20P 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40P 40C

W3DYA

20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 15C 10C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C
15C 40C 20C 15C 10C 15C 20C 40C 20C 15C 20C 40C 20C 15C 10C 20C
40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 15C 20C 40C

K9LU

40C 20C 15C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 20P 20C
40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 20C 40C 80C 40C 80C

N9JF

40C 20C 40P 15C 40P 40C 20C 40C 40P 40C 40P 20C 20P 40C 20C 15C
20C 40C 40P 40C 40P 40C 40P 20C 40P 40C 20C 40C 40P 40C 40P 40C
20C 40C 40P 20P 40P 40C 20C 40C 40P 20P 20C 40P 40C 40P 20P 20C
40C 80C 40P 40C 80C 40C 80C 40C 80C 40C

Note that in 2001, the top three mobiles made only 47 eighty meter contacts, 21 fifteen meter contacts and 5 ten meter contacts, all on CW.

Rate:

Highest rates by high-scoring stations:

K9XD : 18:00-19:00 60 minutes: 136 QSO; rate: 136/hr
K09A : 19:00-20:00 60 minutes: 108 QSO; rate: 108/hr
K9ZO : 18:01-19:01 60 minutes: 121 QSO; rate: 121/hr
N9JF/M: 19:48-20:48 60 minutes: 85 QSO; rate: 85/hr
K9LU/M: 22:31-23:11 40 minutes: 47 QSO; rate: 72/hr

The mobile rates were far below those achieved in 2000 by W9MSE, W3DYA and W1NN. Let's hope 2002 sees better conditions and activity levels at least as good as 2001.

The 2002 challenge:

Do some arm-twisting (friendly, of course). Find a way to convince W1NN, K8MR, W0GXQ, and W9OP to help in IL mobile efforts, along with those who helped this year.

Thank those who made special efforts in 2001. If you run into some of the 2001 mobiles on the air or in person, let them know you appreciated their help.

Encourage more county-line portable participation. Just two or three more of those would have filled out the map in 2001. Better yet, *BE* a county-line portable! It is a LOT of fun! All it takes is simple antennas and a power source to be "DX" in the IQP. There are dozens of three-county corners in IL, and many of them are easy to activate. (Most of them are easier to reach than the one N9DT and WB9EWM are doing, believe me!)

If you happen to talk to an HF-active ham *anywhere* in Illinois during the coming months, encourage him/her to subscribe to the IQP reflector and participate in the 2002 event. Thanks to the RAMS group, the IQP is one of the top QSO parties in the nation, and it will only get better with your interest and support.