

Summary Ontario QSO Party 2023

OQP had fewer logs than last year, but several new records were set. Thanks to everyone who got on, made some QSO's and submitted a log. Your participation is greatly appreciated and helps make the event bigger and better each year. It also helps us ensure that the final results are as accurate as possible.

For OQP 2023, we activated a new bonus station – VE3CCO (in addition to VA3CCO), and this created some extra fun! We made a point to have the two bonus stations in different counties to make it clear they were two different stations.

Each year, we receive comments about how the OQP runs on the same weekend as several other contests. In a perfect world, each contest would have its own weekend, and not shared with anyone else. However, that is not practical. There are 52 weekends every year, and if you look at any contest calendar, there are a lot more than 52 contests! We all need to remember that the bands are a shared resource for everyone to use. If there are several contests going on at the same time, it can make for MORE QSOs for everyone, as there is more activity.

We did look at moving to a different weekend a few years ago, but that does not solve the problem. It creates a problem for existing contests if we were to move to "their" weekend. It would also require a great deal of advertising to get the word out. ALL records would have to be reset, as there would be different propagation, and some OQP records were set only after other contests moved to the same weekend as the OQP. Last, but not least, Contest Club Ontario holds our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the end of August. This gives us time to collect the logs from the OQP, do all the background stuff – scoring the logs, generating certificates, and getting plaques made up to be handed out at the end of August. Yes – we understand some folks are not able to attend the AGM, and that is fine. Plaques are sent out after the meeting.

Which is a long way of saying – THANK YOU for participating and sending along your comments. We read them all. The feedback is appreciated, and we acknowledge that folks want the OQP to be even better next year!

COUNTY LINE OPERATIONS

One of the great things about the OQP is that folks will come up with interesting ideas to try, and that is great. This year, we had two stations – VE3YT and VE3IJK activate multiple counties. VE3YT and VE3IJK activated OXF/PER/WAT, and they were able to hand out 3 counties in one QSO to all comers. From a logging perspective, you will log 3 QSOs – one from each county. Many logging programs handle this automatically – just enter the respective counties into the multiplier window, and it will create the necessary entries in your Cabrillo log file.

This creates two interesting questions. Is the station a Rover, and do they qualify for the Rover bonus? The easy answer is no, since they are not "moving" from county to county – they are fixed stations for the duration. So – no Rover bonus.

The other question is – how do we handle county records? As it turns out, this has already been sorted out in past OQP's. When a Rover activated a county, we looked at the score that was generated in that county. If they were able to surpass the previous record, they got the record. The same applies to County Line operations. For these stations, they generated 1/3 of their score from each respective county – we looked at the score generated from each respective county.

One last question did come up – how close does one need to be to a county line to be considered “at the border between counties”? In the U.S., as you drive along various roadways, the county lines are well defined. In Ontario, not so much. We will look to see how different QSO parties handle county line operations, and update the rules for OQP 2024.

CONTEST RECORDS

Another record breaking year indeed! As we went through the records, 13 county, country and state records were updated, which is just wonderful! Congratulations to all the stations who got on, and helped make OQP 2023 a great event indeed,

All-time-High-Score	VE3EJ	1,736,901
Multi-Operator 2 Transmitter	VE3EJ	1,736,901
Single Operator Low Power Mixed	VE3ODX (VE3MGY)	554,563
Central-Ontario	VE3EJ	1,736,901
South-Western-Ontario	VE3ODX (VE3MGY)	554,563
Elgin	VE3ODX (VE3MGY)	554,563
Niagara	VE3EJ	1,736,901
Oxford	VE3IJK	28,598
Quebec	VE2FK	20,608
Colorado	AD1C	2,047
Tennessee	WV4P	28,275
Wisconsin	N7ZZ	5,180
Slovak Republic	OM2VL	54,000

Thank You for your Participation

Contest Club Ontario wishes to thank everyone for taking part in our OQP Party. We do endeavour to get as many Ontario stations on as possible. Just like propagation, some years are better than others. We do appreciate the participation and the feedback, as it helps us try and make next year even better.

We also wish to thank the plaque sponsors for their generous contribution to helping make the OQP what it is, and we wish to express our appreciation. If you receive a plaque, please keep in mind that someone sponsored it for you, and you may wish to pass along a word of thanks.

Contest Club Ontario also wishes to thank everyone for taking part in our OQP Party. Without you, there would not be an Ontario QSO Party! Yes – we know – We keep saying the same thing every year, but its true, and we are happy to keep making a point of it. We DO appreciate each and every entry – large and small.

We also wish to thank the many folks at Contest Club Ontario who work behind the scenes who help promote the Ontario QSO Party, who compile and score the logs, and deliver the final results. It is very much something we all enjoy, and helps us become better testers. We also enjoy being part of the greater contesting community. We hope to see to seeing you again in 2024 when the snow leaves and summer is once again around the corner!