

2007 Texas QSO Party

The last few days have been hotter than a Texas chili cook-off over here in Houston. But I recall a couple of days a month or so ago when we had a little cool front come through. It was only a teaser of things to come but it reminded me that in only a few months fall will be here and, along with fall, a radio operating event that many operators across Texas and the country look forward to each year. Of course I'm referring to the Texas QSO Party which is always the last full weekend in September. This year that means September 29-30. It's a two-day event starting at 0900 CDT on Saturday and breaking for the evening at 2100 CDT. Then it picks up again at 0900 CDT on Sunday and runs until 1500 CDT.

In case you're a new ham or have not operated the TQP in the past, the name of the event says it all.

- **Texas** – for that weekend operators and antennas across the globe are focused on Texas with the objective of contacting and exchanging information with as many Texas stations in as many different counties as possible. In 2006 there were a total of approximately 175 logs turned in containing a total of about 40,000 QSOs with 233 of the 254 Texas counties represented.
- **QSO** – valid contacts must at least include the two-way exchange of a signal report and a QTH but if you run into an old friend you're also encouraged to exchange a Texas howdy or a "how you been" before moving on to the next contact.
- **Party** - like all good parties the TQP is intended to be a fun event. Some folks think of it as a contest and go all out to try to win a new piece of lumber or wallpaper for the shack wall or to do better than their buddy across town, or to make some large number of contacts from a large number of counties. Others combine it with a camping or fishing trip taking their gear on the road to see what its like to operate from another county. Others just see the TQP as a good excuse to take a nice road trip through Texas covering some rare Texas counties while testing out their mobile gear and their ability to handle pileups as they change county lines.

Whatever your orientation, and regardless of the time you can commit to operating the TQP, you'll find it to be a fun event. For those that are looking for more lumber for the shack wall we've got plaque sponsors for all of the first place finishers in each of the categories. We also have sponsors for a significant number of the second and third place plaques.

Some of the most fun that can be experienced in the TQP is to operate as a mobile. Last year we had a total of thirty operators involved in mobile operations. If you're planning to operate mobile it's time to check out your gear, get yourself a driver, get out the map, plan your route and then let everyone know of your plans by posting them on the website

www.txqp.org. It is also a good idea to post your plan on the county hunter's website www.countyhunter.com.

Most of the activity in the TQP is on HF but that shouldn't deter you from getting involved even if you don't currently have HF capability at your QTH. Check around to see if other members in the club might need another operator to help out in their multi-op or see if a mobile operator might be looking for a driver/co-operator.

So mark your calendars and make your plans now to participate in the 2007 Texas QSO Party. Consult the website www.txqp.org for additional details about the TQP and if you have questions please contact any of the TQP Committee members listed on the site.

Do the TQP in 2007 and show the world that ham radio is alive and well in Texas.

Chuck – NO5W
2007 TQP Coordinator