

The 2023 Ohio QSO Party

The 2023 running of the Ohio QSO Party for a change offered a year of good propagation as well as good weather. No spaceweather storms, and no earth weather storms here in Ohio. With solar activity on the upswing, the high bands provided more activity. Fifteen meter QSO numbers went from 21 in 2021 and 113 in 2022 to 723 in 2023. And 40 meters remained short during the day, giving lots of opportunity for QSOs and multipliers for the ops in Ohio and nearby states.

There were a number of familiar calls among the top scores. Bob Hayes, KW8N, again took the Ohio SOHP honors. Frequent SOLP champ Jim Galm, W8WTS, repeated in a very close race with N8PE from Clermont county. Newcomer Kevin King, W8NI, from Defiance county handily took the QRP honors. Kevin is not just a newcomer to the OhQP winners - he's a newcomer to ham radio as well, finding the time to discover ham radio during the 2020 Covid outbreak. Welcome, Kevin! Vic Kean, K1LT, and Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ, repeated as the Ohio single mode champions, as well as the K8MR/K3LA mobile team; the K8T multiop effort; and rover K8RYU. The K8YR team from Preble county returned as the winning Emergency Operations Center effort.

The out of state high power winner, John Getz, AD8J, from North Carolina is no stranger to Ohio or the OhQP. John, a Miami U. graduate, lived in Columbus from 1973 to 1979, and in the pre-covid years often came north to be part of the K8T multiop team from Jefferson county. Jeff Hartley, N8II, repeated his 2022 win as the out of state SOLP winner, and Tom Warren, K3TW, took the out of state QRP honors from Florida. And it is no surprise to anybody who operates any state QSO party to hear that Laci Vegh, OM2VL was the top DX score.

KW8N's awesome SOHP score was enough to earn the Ohio club award for the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society. With Florida being the most worked state outside Ohio, it was no surprise that the Florida Contest Group was the top out of state club.

A few counties were absent this year. There were no logged QSOs from Adams, Auglaize, or Hardin counties. Only single digit numbers of QSOs from Brown, Henry, Logan, and Shelby counties. Any volunteers to get to those counties in 2023? Maybe as a joint OhQP and POTA activation? On the other hand, Delaware and Lorain were the most worked, each with over 1000 QSOs in the OhQP logs.

The OhQP is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, a long time group of contest junkies and friends. Thanks go to web guru and log processor Tim Mitchell, K9TM, activity whip Dan Kovatch, W8CAR, and OhQP Chairman Jim Stahl, K8MR. Plan to stop by to say hello at the MRRC setup in the Dayton Hamvention flea market. And we'll be looking forward to hearing all of you, and a lot of others, in the 2024 Ohio QSO Party, on Saturday August 24. See you then!