

SOAPBOX OQP 2013

KN4Y: Got on the air after the City bowling tournament and worked all stations I heard on CW.

KC0RNI: Thanks for hosting this event

M0CFW: No luck to work CCO club station.... 73 Kazu M0CFW, M5Z, JK3GAD

VA2ES: VE2AXO

VA2NB: Flex-1500 @5w, Antenna double-sized G5RV @ 50 ft

KE0G: K3/10 at 10 watts to an all-band dipole up 50' w/ Matchbox tuner. Had a good time.

Thanks for your copy and for all the QSO's.

SM5CSS: When I tried to work a second QSO, the station I called said: only VE, then I stopped searching for Ontario stations, afterwards I found that shouldn't be true! Sorry because I heard several OQP stations!

VA3KAI: Not the greatest of conditions and found many less stations than in the past - 40M SSB & CW the best. Also, heard only a few Rovers in very few counties. Mults benefited from US & some DX stations.

Eqpt: Knwd TS2000 @ 100W; 160M & 80M OCF inv-dipoles at 40'; Masterkeyer MK-1

and OQP logging software. There is always next year

VA3RAC: We knew going into this as VA3RAC that we wouldn't be the loudest station out there but if the objective was to have fun, that was certainly achieved. Thanks to all who helped us along. Stan, VE3TW, Mike VE3GFN

VA3TIC: I am new at this so I am trying my best it may take me a little longer.

VE3DC: VE3BK VE3DCU VE3EEZ VE3MWH VE3QEE VE3QU VE3RIA

What a great Canadian Contest for Ontario. It was typical Canadian weather for April with 30 degrees Celsius during the week and then temperatures dropping on the Saturday with snowstorms in Northern Ontario. We only had a light dusting in Southern Ontario but it was cold and then on Sunday warmed up and was sunny. Great contesting. Someone said the bands were not that good but we were

able to work DX as well as Canadians and our good neighbours to the South gave us

many contacts. Thanks to all that worked us, let's do it again next year.

See you all in the next one. 73 Rick VE3BK

Visitors: Joe Skrypka SWL, Steve VE3OZO, Tom VE3MQ & Tracy VA3CDU

VE3DQN: My first QSO party ever! After 50+ years of hamming. Won't miss it again.

VE3FZ: Lots of activity on 40 this year- good conditions too

VE3JM: First day operated from PRU, second from OTT

VE3MQ/R: Had a good weekend. Thanks to all that worked us.

VE3WBT: I haven't entered a Contest in sometime. My wife banished me to the shack

and & told me to have fun! I had a blast, forgot how much fun contesting can be. Conditions were not that good, and I did pack it in early, but I did have fun. Thanks to all that worked me, looking forward to doing it again!!

VE3ZF: Another expedition to Manitoulin Island is now behind me. I arrived to Manitoulin a week in advance to prepare for the Ontario QSO Party and used the time to set up all of our antennas.

However, the unexpected happened 3 hours before OnQP - our main antenna, a 3 elements Spider beam, was subjected to severely strong winds and was damaged. This Spider has been with me in many DX-peditions, over the course of many years and has never shown any problems in the past. Not even during the last CQ WW, where the Spider successfully survived the outer outskirts of hurricane Sandy, which were around 100 kilometers per hour; I guess Manitoulin's winds are something special.

During the next 2 hours the Spider was lowered back down to the ground. Working in a heavy snow storm, we disassembled the antenna, fixed it and assembled back. Finally, after replacing 30 meters of coax cable, the antenna was erected back to a height of 10 meters. It was a terribly laboriously task, but our team - VE3ZHQ, VE3NDI, VE3LJM worked as fast as possible. With only an hour to spare before the OnQP, we had the Spider Beam raised and ready for the contest.

When the Contest started, the condition was very good. I really enjoyed having pile-ups on 40, 20 and 15 meters. The most impressive QSO was with FR4NT on 40 meters - he broke through the European pile-up, thanks to my phased verticals, which worked perfectly as always!

Unfortunately, the challenges with the antennas weren't done yet - at 10 pm on Saturday when I QSY to 80 meters I encountered one final surprise - Inverted V on 80 and 160 meters, which was at the top of the tree was not tuned anymore - the strong wind destroyed Inverted V as well. Luckily, I had a spare AP8A on 80 meters and installed it on the beach of Lake Huron in the next 30 minutes in the full dark. Sadly the 160 meters antenna was lost.

At the end of OnQP we had more than 1000 QSOs. The difficulties we encountered with the wind and snow storms greatly mitigated our results this time around, as we all expected to perform better.

Thank you very much to all who called us during OnQP 2013 and see you in OnQP 2014.

73! Igor VE3ZF

VY2LI: A limited operation to pass out the PEI mult. Activity seemed sparse.73,Bill

W1END: Nice to hear a few ON neighbors with so much else going on.

Rig was FTdx5000 (150w) and Butternut HF6V all-band vertical.