

Summary Ontario QSO Party 2018

Another great year for the Ontario QSO Party with almost 150 logs being submitted. Thanks to everyone for getting on and making this another great run for the Ontario QSO Party!

Over the past few years, there have been a number of requests for changes. “Lets pick a different weekend”, “Lets make it one day instead of two”, “Lets find a weekend that does not land on Easter every few years”, and a few more related to changing weekends. Every comment is certainly appreciated, and considered, even if you don’t get immediate feedback.

This year, we decided to pull out all these suggestions, and consider “What If...”. In a nutshell, there are 52 weekends in a year, and more than 52 contests in the annual contest calendar. So – any weekend we pick would mean there will be other contests going on at the same time. This is a good thing – more QSO’s for everyone! At the same time, trying to pick a different weekend would cause all manner of difficulties – everything from upsetting long-standing records, to trying to get folks to remember OQP would be on a different weekend. After all, the third weekend of April IS the Ontario QSO Party! For some of us, this is a sure sign that summer is just around the corner (at least in this part of the world).

This weekend also ties nicely into Contest Club Ontario’s Annual General Meeting at the end of August. We have time to collect all the submitted logs, process the logs and get the results posted. We also need time to have the plaques engraved, ready for the CCO AGM. Picking a different weekend would create problems with this long-standing schedule as well.

The bottom line being – no major changes are planned. We do appreciate that the Manchester Minerva has picked the same weekend as the Ontario QSO Party, as it helps generate QSOs for the OQP. It has been a few years now since they moved, and we are happy with our place in the annual contest calendar. Please keep the suggestions coming. They are appreciated, and considered, all in an effort to make the OQP even better.

Contest Records

2018 was an exciting year indeed! Soapbox comments indicated that conditions were hardly spectacular, but that did not hamper a number of stations from setting new Ontario county records. Congratulations to VE3MGY in Elgin, VE3VY in Lanark and VA3DF in Norfolk. Not only that, but we also have even more new records, as follows: KD5ILA in Arkansas, K9CW in Illinois, KOHNC in Kansas, KM4FO in Kentucky, KOJPL in Missouri, W1AJT in North Carolina, K3MA in Pennsylvania, WN4AFP in South Carolina and N7MZW in Wyoming. Special thanks to US1I for getting on from the Ukraine, and setting a new record.

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Youth Plus

Congratulations to VE3TW and “Team Smile” for another great outing in the Youth Plus category. We had funding for two plaques, and this will see the second plaque awarded this year. Congratulations also to Erin - VA3PDE, who had her sister Aspen on the air supporting her operation. Even though there was only two entries this year, we still consider this category a huge success, with dividends to come in future years. Next year, there will not be a plaque, but we would like to encourage entries in this category if you have a one or more “junior” ops who you are willing to help catch the contesting bug. Many great testers got their start with the help of a contesting mentor.

Thanks for your Participation

Contest Club Ontario wishes to thank everyone for taking part in our OSO Party. Without you, there would not BE an Ontario QSO Party. We appreciate everyone getting on, saying hello and making a QSO. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2019 as the snow leaves, and summer is once again just around the corner.