

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

Special NEQP Edition

April 2012

Greetings!

The **New England QSO Party** is coming in just two weeks—the weekend of May 5-6. ...Last year we had 74 different stations from all Western Massachusetts counties on the air, and we'd like to have more activity this year. The NEQP is a great way to test your antennas on 80-10 meters and to be the focus of a lot of activity as stations from around the world look for Western Massachusetts stations.

Here is a summary of the New England QSO Party rules:

Object: To contact as many New England stations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (**New England stations work anyone**)

Date: First full weekend of May. (May 5-6 in 2012)

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday).

Categories: Single-operator high power, low power (150w or less) and QRP (5w or less) categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter. Same four categories for mobiles. Single-operator stations using assistance during the contest (packet or Internet spotting nets, etc.) will compete in the multi-single category.

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). **New England stations send signal report, county and state.**

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes)QSO.

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use [counties](#) as multipliers for a total of 67 (CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). **New England stations use states(50)(Count**

DC as MD), Canadian provinces(14) and DXCC countries as multipliers.

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once).

Suggested frequencies: CW - 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040, SSB - 3850 7280 14280 21380 28380. ** Now that the broadcast stations are mostly out of 7125-7200, try 7180 on 40m SSB.**

Reporting: Logs should indicate times in UTC, bands, modes, calls and required contest exchange. All stations include your club's name in the log header or summary. Entries must be submitted within 30 days and sent to NEQP, P.O.Box J, West Suffield CT 06093 or via e-mail to logs@neqp.org (Cabrillo format preferred).

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top scorers (25 QSO minimum) in each New England county, U.S. state, Canadian province and DXCC country. A number of special plaques will also be awarded to top scorers. Additional details can be found on the NEQP web site at <http://www.neqp.org>

See if you can have a competition within your club for the top scorer. Several Massachusetts clubs are challenging each other for the best club score. We're especially looking for mobile stations to put the rarest counties on the air. In Western Massachusetts, that's Franklin and Hampshire.

If you think you might be on for at least a short time in the NEQP, let us know with a brief message to us at info@neqp.org

Thanks!

-- Tom/K1KI for the NEQP Committee

New England QSO Party —
www.neqp.org - May 5-6, 2012

New England QSO Party (NEQP)— Dust Off the Rig for Some May Fun!

What comes every year in May, besides Mother's Day, spring flowers, yard work, and Memorial Day? The *New England QSO Party*, that's what! All about NEQP; rules, past results and more are available on the web at:

www.neqp.org/

What, you're not entire website consider this a fun!

HCRA has many so maybe it's exactly what a It's not like a You don't have you could),

stay up late. What you have to do is sit down in front of your radio and get on the air! Hams everywhere outside of New England will be looking to contact **YOU** and all your friends in the six New England states. They won't be looking for somebody from Ohio or Texas, only people in Massachusetts and the five other New England states. Yes, it is a contest, but it's fun at the same time. There's competition to work all 67 counties in New England as well



as to get the highest score. The winner (outside of New England) will get a lobster dinner for his or her effort. Those of us living in New England get the opportunity to make contacts, hand out counties/states and most of all to have fun. The exchange is simple (the exchange is the info you give to the person contacting you) and consists of signal report, county and state. On phone you would (if you're in Hampden County) give a signal report, Hampden County, Massachusetts. On CW that would be signal report, HMDMA. The website referenced above has all the three letter county abbreviations. You get one point for each phone contact and two for CW or digital. If you think you'll make a lot of contacts you may want to use a logging program. The free N1MM logger supports NEQP and is downloadable at

www.n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php.

The contest starts at 4:00 PM (EDT) Saturday, May 5th and ends Sunday, May 6th at 8:00 PM. Unlike most contests, you **MUST** take a break, from 1:00 AM until 9:00 AM Sunday morning. Yes sir, you can even get some sleep with this contest! NEQP is an HF only contest (80/40/20/15/10 meters) on



going to read the right now? OK, 'quick start' to

new members worth reviewing QSO party is? regular party. to dress up (but get up early or

voice, CW and digital. Looking for your *Worked All States* award? That North Dakota station will be looking for YOU, not the other way around.

Now here's the icing on the cake. HCRA sponsors a beautiful plaque for *High Score Hampden County* in the single operator category. It is a beautiful award that will improve the look of most any ham shack and it could be yours for simply getting on the air and doing something you already enjoy. Although there isn't a club category in this contest we can still have a little home grown competition. I'm sure someone will start a facebook thread posting their successes and scores, then the rest of us can pile on!



Looking for even more fun?

Why not open up your station for a multi-operator effort? With all the new amateurs coming on board this is a nice way to welcome them into the hobby and let them have a taste of HF operating. Not only will you have fun it's also a good way to get the shack cleaned up too! There's nothing like inviting folks over to make you notice all that 'stuff' you've been *meaning* to put away, right?

If you've never tried HF, contesting or don't have a station QRV (on the air) yet let us know at the next meeting. We'll make an announcement and try to get you 'hooked up' with someone willing to spend a little time getting you on the air and maybe even getting your training wheels off. That's the spirit that makes all HCRA members proud. Think of it as 'eHarmony' for hams ☺

So mark your calendar for the first weekend in May and plan on some ham radio fun! The rest of the country will be looking for YOU!

Jim, KK1W



2011 NEQP Scores for Hampden County

Call	CW QSOs	SSB QSOs	Total QSOs	Mult	Score
N1BMX SOHP	19	206	225	31	7,564
WN1E SOLP	4	128	132	38	5,168
K1DNX SOLP	18	47	65	26	2,158
KB1MU SOLP	0	57	57	24	1,368
K1KI/m SOLP-m		27	27	18	972
N1MUV SOLP	0	13	13	9	117
K1SND SOHP	53	282	335	50	19,400
K1KI/m SOLP-m	23		23	9	414