# Announcing the 2026 Illinois QSO Party

***Sponsored by the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club***

**Date/Time: 1700 UTC October 18, 2026 to 0100 UTC October 19, 2026**

**Bands: 160 through 2 meters, excluding WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 meters)**

**Exchange: IL stations give RS/T and county; others give RS/T and state, province or country**

**Scoring: Phone QSO: 1 point; CW/digital QSO 2 points. No repeater QSOs. All stations are limited to one transmitted signal at a time. *(But see new "Unlimited" category below).* SO2R operation is permitted. Stations may be worked once per band and mode (phone and CW/digital) and once per band/mode/county for IL Mobile and Rover stations. Each Mobile or Rover vehicle is considered one station and must use only one call. Contacts with/by stations at the border of 2/3/4 counties count as 2/3/4 counties and 2/3/4 QSOs. IL stations multiply points by the sum of IL counties, US states, VE provinces and DXCC countries (maximum 5) worked. Canada, KH6 and KL7 do not count as DX entities. Additional DX contacts count for points but not multipliers. Non-IL stations multiply points by the number of IL counties worked.**

***Note on digital modes: NEW….NOTE!! Due to the complexity of creating a log entry conforming to ILQP log submission rules, FT4 and FT8 contacts will receive no contact credit. Other digital modes are encouraged.***

***NEW FOR 2025/2026 BONUS STATIONS!!***

***The sponsoring club of ILQP is the Western Illinois ARC, which is authorized to use two callsigns: W9AWE (the historical call) and W9OAB (the call of a long-time member and benefactor). Both of these calls will be used during the 2026 event, and any entrant contacting these stations will have a 100 point bonus added to the final score. Total of 200 points possible. W9AWE TBD, W9OAB will be primarily phone.***

**Entry Classes:**

**IL Fixed Station, High Power. Permanent station location, single county, transmitter power exceeding 100 watts PEP. *(Note change…was 200 watts PEP)***

**IL Fixed Station, Low Power. Permanent station location, single county, transmitter power not to exceed 100 watts PEP. *(Note change….was 200 watts PEP)***

**Illinois Portable: Not a permanent station location; antennas erected for the purpose of the contest; may be on a county line or corner. (NOTE: County lines established by waterways *may not be activated* for ILQP).**

**Illinois Mobile: Station capable of motion while operating though may be stationary. *Entrants are encouraged to utilize a separate driver and choose operating procedures with safety uppermost in mind!* Mobile entrants may operate from *only one county at a time.* Simultaneous operation from multiple counties will result in reclassification as a "Rover".**

**Illinois Rover: Station operating from more than one non-permanent location. Single-county, county line and county corner operations are permitted. Any type of mobile or portable antennas may be used. Any power source may be used (auto, generator or commercial mains). Rover stations may operate when moving or stopped.**

**Outside Illinois, High Power: Any fixed, portable or mobile station operating from outside the state of Illinois with transmitter power exceeding 100 watts PEP *(Note change: was 200 watts)***

**Outside Illinois, Low Power: Any fixed, portable or mobile station operating from outside the state of Illinois with a transmitter power not exceeding 100 watts PEP *(Note change: was 200 watts).***

**QRP competition: A QRP entrant shall certify that the operation was with transmitter power at all times not exceeding 5 watts CW/DIGITAL or 10 watts SSB by indicating QRP in the entry class in the Cabrillo file or checking the QRP box on the summary sheet.**

***Unlimited: (New category) Stations wishing to employ multiple transmitted signals simultaneously at a single site may enter as "Unlimited". This class is created as an experiment to encourage groups to train new operators and allow several the opportunity to participate.***

**Spotting: Spotting of stations worked, especially mobile and rover stations, is encouraged. *All categories of entrants are allowed to self-spot. (Change from previous years.)***

**Awards:**

**Plaques will be awarded to the highest-scoring IL Fixed Station High Power, IL Fixed Station Low Power, IL Mobile, IL Rover, IL Portable, 2-County Line Portable, Outside IL High Power and Outside IL Low Power stations and Unlimited. Plaques will also be awarded, regardless of entry class or station location, to the stations making the highest number of raw phone QSOs, raw cw QSOs and raw mixed-mode QSOs.**

**Certificates will be awarded to the 2nd through 5th place IL Fixed Stations High Power, the 2nd through 5th place IL Fixed Stations Low Power, 2nd through 5th place IL Mobiles, 2nd through 5th place IL Rovers, the top IL and Outside IL QRP entrants, the top 3 IL single-county portables, 2nd and 3rd place IL 2-county portables, top 3 IL 3-county portables, top 3 IL 4-county portables, 2nd and 3rd place Unlimited entries and the highest-scoring (reporting at least 25 contacts) stations in each US State, VE province and DXCC country.**

**As certificates are delivered in electronic format via e-mail, all entrants are requested to provide a valid e-mail address in the Cabrillo file or on the summary sheet.**

**Illinois Club Competition: Illinois entrants are encouraged to include the name of their local club on their entries.**

**ILQP Outstanding Achievement Award: Non-IL stations working at least 200 contacts or 75 IL counties will receive a special certificate.**

**Logs: All entrants who use computerized logging are required to submit logs in electronic format. *Do NOT submit a computer-printed log from a logging program without also providing the electronic file (Cabrillo file), as the scoring and verification process starts by transferring all log data into a master Excel file.* Hand-written paper logs accompanied by an official ILQP summary sheet will be accepted for transcription by the ILQP committee. Those who submit paper logs absolve the committee of all responsibility for miscopied log information. (See below)**

**Electronic logs: Cabrillo format is preferred. Those entrants using a program that does not provide Cabrillo files for submission should contact the committee concerning acceptable formatting. Use of the fill-in Excel file available on the ILQP site https://w9awe.org/ilqp/ under Sample_Excel_Log is encouraged for non-Cabrillo logs.**

**Electronic logs should be sent *as attachments* to n9jf@arrl.net.**

**Please do NOT send .adi nor .adif files!**

**When you attach your log file, check to see that it is the right file. Every year we get a few logs for CQWW, NYQP, and other contests.**

**Logs that do not comply with submission requirements will be classified as Check Logs and will not be eligible for awards.**

**Paper Logs; A paper log shall be hand-written and indicate, for each contact, the entrant's QTH, band, mode, UTC, and the call and location of the station worked. Paper log submissions must be accompanied by a completed ILQP Summary Sheet (can be downloaded from https://w9awe.org/ilqp/ ILQP Summary Sheet, printed from the website or requested (with SASE) from the sponsor. Paper logs should be mailed to WIARC, POBox 3132, Quincy IL 62305-3132. The committee is not responsible for transcription errors.**

**Submission Deadline: *NEW LOG DEADLINE!!!* Logs sent by e-mail must be received by the sponsor, and paper logs postmarked by midnight Central Time November 4, 2026. A list of all logs received will be posted to the ILQP webpage. Electronic logs submitted will be acknowledged by return e-mail within 48 hours. Entrants assume responsibility for contacting the sponsor if they do not receive confirmation or if their call is not included in the "logs received" listing on the website.**

**Disqualification: Participants are expected to follow good amateur practices, conform to the DX Code of Ethics and operate within their license privileges and in accordance with ILQP rules. Compelling evidence to the contrary may serve as grounds for disqualification. Decisions of the ILQP Committee shall be final.**

**Rules, summary sheet, and other information are available at https://w9awe.org/ilqp/.**

**You are invited to join the ILQP reflector at http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ilqso.**

**Miscellaneous:**

**County Name Abbreviations: Participants are reminded that a proper log record of a contact with an Illinois station in this event requires the name of the Illinois County where that station is located be entered as part of each QSO record. It is quite acceptable**

**to enter either the complete and correctly spelled county name or the unique abbreviated form of the county name.**

**To facilitate the use of abbreviations, a list of recommended Illinois County name abbreviations is included every year as part of the ILQP Summary sheet (and in the list on the website). Each Illinois county has an established 4 letter abbreviation (Lee County excepted) shown in this list which has been in use in this event for many years. PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS LIST OF OFFICIAL ABBREVIATIONS AHEAD OF TIME AND HAVE IT AT YOUR OPERATING POSITION!**

**Unfortunately, logs are submitted every year with all manner of variation and corruption of these abbreviations. In the past the ILQP Committee has been very lenient in not busting QSO's due to the use of a non-standard abbreviation as long as there is some unambiguous clue in the abbreviation used as to the actual county name. In some cases, we even find that the wrong county name has been used. This often involves White (WHIT) and Whiteside (WTSD) counties as well as Mason (MASN) and Macon (MACN) counties. The ILQP Committee asks that each entrant review the list of county name abbreviations on the summary sheet and use only these abbreviations in their log entries and to make sure the correct abbreviation for a given county is used. This event is now generating a master log each year of nearly 50,000 QSO's; manual intervention by committee members in the scoring process is becoming tedious and time consuming. And so, a word to the wise, in the future, this leniency will not be continued as a part of the scoring process.**

**QSO Record Minimum Data: Each entrant is asked to review their log file prior to submission to ensure that every QSO record (i.e. each line) includes the following minimum data: operating frequency or band; operating mode; UTC date; UTC time; the call sign of your station; the RS(T) sent; the location of your station; the call sign of the station contacted; the RS(T) received; and the location of the station contacted. In addition, in a Cabrillo log file, each record should include the following data: 'QSO:' in the first field of each line. Please examine the sample excel spreadsheet generated Cabrillo file that is available for download on the WIARC ILQP web page. Also please review the sample log file at the end of the document for help in determining compliance with the preferred format. Cabrillo File Header Information: Prior to submitting a log file, entrants should review the information contained in the header field of their Cabrillo file to make sure it is complete and accurate. In particular, make sure entry class, personal information, call sign, station location, and club affiliation are correctly shown. The header information is automatically pulled and used by the processing software. Please examine the sample excel spreadsheet generated Cabrillo file that is available for download son the WIARC ILQP web page.**