

## WRAP UP FOR THE 2018 NEBRASKA QSO PARTY

### ROVERS

The NE QP is a small event, and we were very fortunate this year to have two skilled rover combinations: Paul Christy (WB9QAF) and Denise Christy (KE0MVM), and Bob Harder (W0BH) and Lorna Harder (K0WHY). This was the first NE QP that Paul and Denise have participated in, and the second for Bob and Lorna.

Paul and Denise operated both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday they started from Omaha and activated counties from Douglas to Pawnee, then across the state west to Red Williwow (McCook) and Hitchcock and Chase, and finally to Lincoln (North Platte). On Sunday they headed southeast and then east to Filmore, and north to Madison (Norfolk). A great run. Bob and Lorna came up from Wichita and operated in the central counties north of Grand Island.

Thanks folks so much for making a huge difference in the 2018 QP.

### FT8

This was the year of FT8 and the ARRL Grid Chase. Due to a question that Darren, K0SZ, asked last September (whether we would allow FT8 or not), the rules this year were tailored to include the explosion of activity on FT8. A separate exchange, grid square and signal/noise, were allowed to be substituted for QTH (s/p/c or NE County) and RS/T, but just for FT8 contacts. For scoring, grid square was given the same weight in determining the geographic multiplier as state/province/country. To simplify log submission for FT8, those with FT8 contacts were encouraged to use the adif file generated by WSJT-x software.

There were six NE stations that operated FT8. The leader was Darren, K0SZ, with 130 grids worked on FT8. Others using FT8 included Joe/W0DB, Kyle/AD0ZC, Eli/K0ELI, Bellevue ARC/W0WYV, and Fred/KB0LF.

Fred (using KB0LF) was on the air from Chardron, NE, on Saturday evening. He had 16 FT8 QSOs from grid DN82, which at that time had no confirmed QSOs in the ARRL Grid Chase. Thus we helped the Grid Chase testers.

### OUT-OF-STATE

Last year's out-of-state winner was John, N6MU, and John successfully defended his title and was the 2018 winner of the overall out-of-state prize. John has now won the NE QP out-of-state overall prize the last 3 years. Congrats John. The prize this year is a gift certificate to Omaha Steaks as it was last year. Second out-of-state overall was Bob, K2DSW, and third place was Don, K0PV. The leader out-of-state QRP was Dan, KE0TT.

Award Certificates will be emailed to all participants.

### IN-STATE

The in-state winner again this year was Joe, W0DB, from Gretna NE with a nice score of about 235k. Joe will receive a plaque for his first place finish. Also with good scores in-state were Bob, KC0JRW, from Kearney, in second place, and Darren, K0SZ, from Hastings in third place.

New in-state participants this year included Matt/KA0BOJ, Art/K0AIZ, Brad/K0LLL, Stephen/KE0JYJ, Erik & Mark/N0RX, and Eli/K0ELI

The club winner was the Aksarben ARC, K0USA, from Omaha. The Aksarben folks used a setup in the USS Hazard (a WW-II minesweeper) at the Greater Omaha Marina in Freedom Park. Second place went to the Bellevue ARC. The Bellevue club set up a special event station just for the NE QP, as they did the last three years, and we really appreciate their efforts in support of the NE QP.

We wish to note that (except for QCWA club members) in the last six years, only Shawn, W0SST, from Valpariso, NE, has operated and made an entry to the QSO Party for all six years! Thanks Shawn, glad that you could support the QP again this year.

Hope to see everyone next year.

73 Fred KB0LF