

# MiQP—The Out Of State Perspective

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Ever since MRRC started administering the Michigan QSO Party, along with the Ohio QSO Party, I have been one of the guys that joined the latest trend of going out mobile and activating a bunch of counties. Those of us that have done the "mobile thing" the last few years in the MiQP/OhQP have discovered it was a real rush to have a mini pileup every time we drove into a new county . It sure beats the low rates of your typical state QSO party. We all seem to come back for more every year when it's MiQP/OhQP time despite dealing with a long driving trip, up to 700 miles during a 12 hour period, and dealing with car sickness at times. (Ask K8AQM about that)

For the 2001 MQP it was my intention to go mobile again. My 2000 MiQP mobile partner, K9TM , was unavailable this year so I tried to get either N8VW or K8ND, who have done the OhQP in the past with me to join up. Both of those guys had commitments and then WX3M stepped forward to do the counties I was going to do so I decided to just operate from home this time. Keith, WA3HAE had won the past two MiQP contests with John, N6MU not far behind. The thought of giving these guys a run for the out of state plaque seemed interesting. Plus I would have a decided advantage being right next store in Ohio, so my signal would be booming into Michigan on both 40 and 80 meters.

In the week or so leading up to MiQP I thought about what strategy I was going to use and if I was going to put some additional antennas in the air. I even thought about maybe doing a two radio setup. In the end I figured running a kilowatt into my present center fed Zepp dipole at 35 foot would work just fine. Even though Michigan is off the end of the antenna I always seem to be pretty loud up there in SS and other stateside contests. In SS the saying is always "There is no meters like 40 meters." , You could probably say the same for MiQP, so my strategy was to have one VFO on my radio on 40 SSB and the other on 40 CW. If the rate slowed down I would check 20 meters. I also planned to do as much passing as possible, whether it be a rover station or one of the guys running a KW, who I knew I could work on scatter on one of the higher bands.

The Saturday of MQP finally arrived . I ran into fellow MRRC members John, K8JM and Dennis, KT8X, operating as N8BU, on 40 SSB right before the start. We had a short QSO , wished each other good luck , and at 16:00 Z I was off and running. N8KSO , in *Houghton* county was first in the log . I did a quick scan of 40 SSB , worked a few guys and then headed down to CW to look for the rovers. K8CC/M in *Marquette* county was the first of the MRRC rovers in the log at 16:02 Z followed by W8UE/M , K8XXX/M (with their distinctive chirpy signal), K8MR/M, W1NN/M, and AF8A/M during the next 15 minutes or so. I didn't work W8RU/M until 16:47 Z. Maybe they got a late start. It sounded like all the rovers guys had successfully got going . I ended the first hour with a 35 hour .

For the rest of the contest I got into a rhythm of switching between 40 CW and SSB, mostly working the rovers that were on. We got moving some of the rover stations like AF8A , W8RU, K8MR , and W8UE down to a science by just automatically QSYing to a specific clear frequency I found around 7155 or 7160 each time we worked on CW. I think many of our CW QSO's ended with QSY ? , Although I didn't bother if they had a pileup and I would find them about 5 minutes later after the pileup died down and QSY'ed then. K8CC and W1NN were also very good about QSY requests but for some reason the K8XXX guys would just ignore my requests, which were always during a time when they had no pileup on them. I'm sure I missed many multipliers in some of the counties they hit where no one else was on.

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Too bad.... ( See Chart #2)

Hour	QSOs
16	35
17	38
18	28
19	37
20	31
21	27
22	25
23	20
00	25
01	21
02	26
03	29
Total Avg Rate	28.5

Call	QSO's
K8MR/M	33
AF8A/M	31
W8UE/M	26
K8CC/M	25
K8XXX/M	23
W8RU/M	23
W1NN/M	20
N8FGK/M	5
NW8W/M	3
WF5X/M	2
KC8LTL/M	1
TOTAL	192

Chart #1 - KU8E QSO Rate - MQP 2001

Chart #2 - Mobile QSO's made by KU8E

Occasionally , I would do a "CQ Michigan" on 40 SSB, which ended up working pretty good a times with a decent amount of stations responding. I didn't spend lots of time doing this because I didn't want to miss any of the rovers. But it did work well in short spurts, especially after the first few hours after all the serious fixed stations were in the log. I also successfully passed some of the stations I knew who were running a KW to some of the other bands. I passed K8JM to all the bands (only station I worked on all bands/modes) and I got N8BU on several of the higher bands. I even talked K8GL into a 40 meter SSB QSO !!! (Thanks Greg! I think he mentioned I was his only SSB QSO in an email) When 0400Z rolled around there were 342 QSO's in the log. I had worked 76 counties on CW and 59 on SSB out of the possible 83 on each mode. (See Chart #1 for what I missed.) I was also amazed that I averaged almost 30 QSO's per (28.5) for the 12 hour contest period, which I thought was impressive ,being out of state. With a score of 72,090 points I also smashed WA3HAE's old out of state record. To say I was pleased would be an understatement !

Thanks go out to K8CC for organizing all the activity and all the rover stations Over 56 % of my QSO's in MQP were with rover stations. This activity is what makes the MQP the successful event it has become. Hope to see everyone again next year....

Chart #3

MICHIGAN QSO PARTY MULTIPLIERS - KU8E

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ALCO: cp   CALH: c.   GENE: cp   ISAB: c.   MACO: cp   MUSK: cp   SAGI: cp
ALGE: cp   CASS: c.   GLAD: cp   JACK: cp   MACK: c.   NEWA: c.   SANI: cp
ALLE: c.   CHAR: cp   GOGE: ..   KALK: cp   MANI: ..   OAKL: cp   SCHO: cp
ALPE: cp   CHEB: cp   GRAT: cp   KENT: cp   MARQ: cp   OCEA: ..   SHIA: cp
ANTR: cp   CHIP: c.   GRTR: cp   KEWE: cp   MASO: ..   OGEM: cp   STCL: cp
AREN: c.   CLAR: c.   HILL: cp   KZOO: cp   MCLM: ..   ONTO: cp   STJO: cp
BARA: ..   CLIN: c.   HOUG: cp   LAKE: c.   MECO: c.   OSCE: cp   TUSC: cp
BARR: cp   CRAW: cp   HURO: cp   LAPE: cp   MENO: cp   OSCO: cp   VANB: c.
  BAY: c.   DELT: cp   IONI: cp   LEEL: cp   MIDL: cp   OTSE: cp   WASH: cp
BENZ: cp   DICK: cp   IOSC: cp   LENA: cp   MISS: cp   OTTA: cp   WAYN: cp
BERR: cp   EATO: cp   INGH: cp   LIVI: cp   MONR: cp   PRES: cp   WEXF: ..
BRAN: cp   EMME: cp   IRON: c.   LUCE: c.   MTMO: cp   ROSC: c.
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c = CW, p = Phone