



## **ARKANSAS QSO PARTY DEDICATED STATION INFO & REQUEST**

From AQP Manager Don Banta, K5DB:

Since 2000, ARKAN (The Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest) has been working on endeavoring to generate interest from our Arkansas radio amateurs to join-in on the fun and participate in the annual Arkansas QSO Party.

The Arkansas QSO Party is the single-most event each year that spotlights our state and allows other hams from other states, Canadian provinces, and foreign countries to work Arkansas hams in different Arkansas counties. Many other states conduct their own QSO parties as well, and with very good turnouts. However, for *any* state qso party to succeed, IN-STATE participation is very critical.

We have many hams in Arkansas that participate in Field Day operations either as solo operators, small informal groups, or full-fledged radio clubs.

If you have participated in Field Day, would you please consider becoming a Dedicated Station for the Arkansas QSO Party?

The Arkansas QSO Party is “technically” a contest, *but* at the same time it is a very informal event as well, meaning that you can have just as much fun participating in it as you would during Field Day. Yes, scores are tabulated and rankings are posted, but by and large it is still an informal operation. It is designed to help operators improve their operating skills, meet new folks on the air, and above all operate at their own leisure and comfort level and have fun. It *is not* necessarily a high-level competition such as ARRL Sweepstakes or some of the other international contests. The main goal is to give outside-Arkansas stations the chance to work and meet our fine hams in the 75 Arkansas counties.

Each year, we are fervently striving to encourage all of our Arkansas hams to join us in getting more in-state participation and would happily and heartily welcome your volunteering to help us in this endeavor. A very important factor is that the Arkansas QSO Party only occurs once a year and lasts for just 12 hours. This *does not* mean that you would have to be on the air for the entire 12 hours, non-stop. Again, you can operate however many hours of the 12 that you would like, although if you wish to become a Dedicated Station for us, we would appreciate you operating at least half of the operating period, 6 hours.

Since our state is in the ham radio spotlight for just 12 hours a year, wouldn't it be worth your while to share that spotlight with us as a Dedicated Station?

For each year's event, we compile a state map divided into 4 quadrants of the state – NW, SW, NE, and SE – of Arkansas QSO Party Dedicated Stations. This map is under the ARKANSAS QSO PARTY link on the ARKAN website ([www.arkanhams.org](http://www.arkanhams.org)). When the Arkansas QSO Party information is announced in all the ham periodicals as it is each year, hundreds of hams inside and outside Arkansas will go to the website to view all the information pertaining to the AQP, which will include the Dedicated Station Map. Many will print-off the map for their own personal reference and be searching the band for the Dedicated Stations. So as you can see, as a Dedicated Station, you are very important.

If you are interested in being a Dedicated Station during the next Arkansas QSO Party, the format is very simple:

- Go to the ARKAN website at: [www.arkanhams.org](http://www.arkanhams.org)
- On the ARKAN opening page, click the ARKANSAS QSO PARTY *DEDICATED STATION INFORMATION* link. (If you are already viewing this page you're reading from that link, click your back button (←) which will take you back one page to the link for the AQP Dedicated Station form. If you have not as yet gone to the ARKAN website, follow the first part of this step.)
- You will see 2 links: 1 for this info sheet you're presently reading, and 1 for the AQP Dedicated station form.
- Fill-out the AQP Dedicated Station form and e-mail it to me as an attachment. Send to: [k5db@arrl.net](mailto:k5db@arrl.net).
- I will then send you a confirmation e-mail that I have received the form. I will also send you back an attached Information Packet, illustrating to you how to operate (in the case that you are not that familiar with QSO Party operation). It is very simple and easy to follow.
- Your callsign and information you have entered on the form will then be entered on the Dedicated Station map, so that stations (and especially outside-Arkansas stations) will be looking for you to contact you during the QSO Party. Again, the map will be posted on the ARKAN website, under the ARKANSAS QSO PARTY tab.
- After you receive the Information Packet from me, if you have *any* other questions, I will be happy to answer them for you.

Please give this invitation some serious consideration...we need your badly and you won't regret volunteering. You will have a very fun time, be assured of that.

Hoping to hear from you soon and thanks so much for your time,  
Don – K5DB, Arkansas QSO Party Manager