

County Hunter News

April 2022
Volume 18 Issue 4

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

We hope you will enjoy the County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all provided credit is given to the CHNews and to the author of article.

CW County Hunter Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now occasionally on 7188 KHz. The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB . (21.336 and 28.336)

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at ch.W6RK.com

For information on county hunting, check out the following resources:

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here:

<http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can

find information on these awards and the rules at:

<http://marac.org/awards.pdf>

There is a lot more information at www.countyhunter.com . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at www.CHNewsonline.com

De N4CD, Bob Voss, Editor (email: telegraphy@verizon.net)

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Sunspots – We got them. Bands have been good most days and predictions are for even better days in March. Solar flux should be over 100 for much of the month. Sunspots in the dozens. Lots of contacts being made on 10 and 12m FT-8 these days, some on SSB. 15M has often been good and 17m active.

2) Weather – it's still “winter” for most of March. . A couple weeks here in TX with ice and no one going far on the roads for a couple days twice this month. Then 70s for a few days. Later in the month, severe thunderstorms and 'dry line' combined with cold fronts and lots of humidity triggered off tornadoes. Small EF-0 15 miles away from QTH but EF-3 hit Jacksboro (Jack County) about 70 miles to NW from here and over 20 tornadoes reported in TX. Down by Bell County/Travis County way – some EF-3s in Round Rock and surrounding areas. Then the storms moved east hitting New Orleans with an EF-3 which traveled into MS and TN. So keep your ears peeled for weather warnings – especially if you are out and about in stormy weather.

3) Gas prices. Ouch. If you plan to head to CA, plan for \$6/gal type prices. Nation wide, around \$4.50/gal. It dropped a few dimes toward the end of the month but 'summer gas' likely to either keep it higher or 'higher' as the summer approaches. Those big RV's are going to be painful to fill up and travel all over the west this year. A few states have stopped their state 'gas tax' for the year – saving folks 30-65c/gal. In TX,

prices are around \$4/gal for regular, \$5/gal for diesel. Oil is the most traded commodity on the planet – and the prices reflect world wide demand. It hasn't soften much with gas often an 'essential' item that people need for jobs, businesses and personal travel.

If you remember back to the Jimmy Carter days of gas shortages, triggered by an Arab Nation withdrawal of oil from the market – we had 'on/even gas rationing' in many states depending upon your license plate. Some stations limited purchases to 8 gallons. Oh, and the nationwide speed limit was 55 mph! Back then cars got a lot worse mileage, too, with 15 mpg cars all over. My Ford E-150 van got 13 mpg on the road. The International Scout got 16 mpg in 2 wheel drive. Now, at least, many cars get in the 20-25 mpg range and there are dozens of cars that get in the 30s (hybrids) and beyond. My Malibu turns in about 27 mpg on trips.

I'm still headed to The MI Mini and Dayton.

FCC Licensing Fees Take Effect

from ARRL Newsletter:

New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in MD Docket No. 20-270, announced that new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022. The new fees, mandated by Congress, apply to applications for Amateur Radio licenses including those associated with filing Form 605, the Amateur Operator/Primary Station Licensee Application.

Effective April 19, 2022, a \$35 fee will apply to applications for a new Amateur Radio license, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call signs.

Anticipating the implementation of the fee in 2022, the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, approved the "ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program." Under the program, ARRL will cover a one-time \$35 application fee for license candidates younger

than 18 years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC. ARRL is finalizing details for administering the program.

ARRL had filed comments in opposition to imposing a fee on Amateur Radio license applications. The FCC initially proposed a higher, \$50 fee. In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, 2020, the amount was reduced -- the FCC agreeing with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that all fees are per application. "There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Somma also explained that applications that are processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. "The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign."

Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC at www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee. Details for the ARRL Youth

Licensing Grant Program will be similarly posted there, when available.

Michigan Mini

There's the planned Mini in Michigan in April. This will be the LAST Mini headed by K8ZZ who is moving to MN now. Likely it will be the last MI Mini.

Details on the MARAC web page. You can sign up now. Let's hope this all Covid stuff peaks and is way down on the scale by late April. Going down and down every week and 'mask requirements' dropped in most areas.

The 2022 Michigan Mini will be hosted by Ed, K8ZZ and Doris, N8WTQ held at the West Bay Beach Resort 615 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686 Phone: (231) 947-3700 • Fax: (231) 947-0361 Toll Free: (800) 888-8020 It will be held at the West Bay Beach Resort again in 2022 with room rates of: \$97.95 plus tax per night if reserved by March 23th, 2022 .

Date for 2022 MICHIGAN MINI is April 21 – 22 & 23rd..

Don't miss it. You won't have another chance next year. This is it – the last one!

SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

There are 46 counties in SC. The highest score reported on 3830 scores reporting working 31 of them on CW and low 20s on SSB. 20M started out well with fairly short skip – long skip. A fair amount of activity at times, but it slacked off later in day.

N4CW/M put out dozens of counties as he zipped around the state – CW.

From the 3830 reflector:

N4CW MOBILE 1351 CW qso

That was exciting! Jim and I got up to an early start from our homes in NC, enjoying a good breakfast on the way to SC. This QSO party was the first time we've enjoyed a new Tarheel screwdriver antenna...mounted on an aluminum(sheet) ground plane, a 4X5-foot wafer board base, attached to a roof rack. Jim engineered the antenna mount and the rest. We also had a small mount for a "heli-whip" just in case the screwdriver failed! Jim also designed and installed an operating "desk" right behind the front passenger seat...it had a folding surface so I could get in and out of the back seat!

We got to our initial destination just before starting. Due to a few requests for "most-wanted" counties, we slightly modified our route to accommodate; Jim's a whiz at navigating via GPS! Me? I'm just sitting there in the back seat enjoying playing with the radio while he drives! Occasionally, Jim would operate while I'd take a short break to attend to "necessities", and he's pretty good with CW too! Once the QP got started, the adrenalin kicked in...wow, it was like a DX pileup...over and over! I pretty much had to keep the speed at 35 WPM through most of the day. Callers were 99% well-disciplined, plunking their calls in once, pausing to let me catch up, and if they didn't get me they'd stand by and try again AFTER the QSO completed. That's good manners/operating and I really appreciate it.

We drove the planned route uneventfully. It was an overcast day mostly and glare on the laptop display was no problem...bright sunny days are a challenge at times when the car's position lets in the sun! Like Jim, K4QPL, mentioned in his report, the potholes/bumps make keyboarding a real challenge at times, requiring backspacing to erase all those extra letters in the call...sorry 'bout that! Also, I forgot to bring an old-fashioned mouse (the wired one that plugs into the computer). Why is that an issue? Well, a good curve or sudden start or stop will send the wireless mouse scurrying right off the operating surface. Not only is it hard to find, when it lands it creates havoc on the computer screen! That takes a few seconds or more to correct...AFTER you find the mouse! Such is mobile operating! Some folks record the whole contest (somehow!) and transcribe it later...maybe that's the best approach...never tried it!

Counties activated= 25

Repeat "Followers": W1WBB(30), AG6V(26), W5TM(24), DL3GA(23), KA6BIM(23), N2JJ(23), W1SSN(23), KD8DEU(19), K8TE(18), K0PC(18), W4GO(18), NS2N(17), WA9LKF(16), VE3KP(16), N1CGP(15), K1RO(14), K8MFO(14), K9RS(14), KC3X(14), N4RS(14), W8PI(14), WB9HFK(14), K5TIA(13), K9WA(13), K5KDG(12), W4SIG(12), K5KG(11), N0KV(11), NU0q(11), WB2FUV(11), K5CM(10), K9CW(10),

W8BZY(10)WA2JQK(10).

There were many many more with less than 10 contacts, and I want to thank all y'all for your support and patience.

Equipment: K3, WKmini, Tarheel antenna, dual 45 AH AGM batteries (in parallel on a charger), and N8XJK battery booster.

Everything worked just fine, and we had a great time. Thanks, EVERYONE!!! 73, Bert N4CW, Jim W4TMO

AA4TI - county expedition - 1152 CW 525 SSB

Had a blast again this year. No equipment issues at all and weather was great. I drove in a day early to scope out my operating spot and got permission from the land owner to set up. They were very nice and made it a point to stop by during the contest a few times to see if I needed anything!

NN4SS - Spartanburg, SC 394 CW

Stopped early because no one was answering my CQs. Looked like no one else needed SPAR county. Other counties were still busy.

K2SX - SC 358 CW

I had lots of other things taking up time but was happy with the level of activity. Lots of stations in there almost all the time. Was a bit disappointed wit mobile activity but maybe they were all on SSB.

W5TM - fixed OK 91 CW 31 counties

W1WBB - fixed - MA 94 CW 31 mults

20m was open to SC throughout the day from RI, wow! 31 QSOs with N4CW/m, 16 on 20m & 15 on 40m...they were always heard here. Great job guys!! A few more mobiles

would have been nice as I ran out of fixed stations to work on CW. Calling CQ SC mostly yielded non-SC stations (7 of 'em)! Worked 24 unique SC calls in this one. TNX to them for the fun!! Had planned to use SSB too (was on the on-line scoreboard as LP Mixed for a while) but just never got to it with the N4CW/m chase keeping me busy.

73, Bill W1WBB

North Carolina QSO Party

There are 100 counties in North Carolina.

AA4TI - County Expedition 928 CW 252 SSB

This southern boy just about froze setting up antennas and equipment in 42 degrees and rain, but I still had a blast. The rain and drizzle finally let up just before the end of the contest so at least I did not have to break down the equipment in the rain. It seemed like operators in the NCQP were much more courteous than in some of the other QSO Parties. Excellent activity with many stations mixing up run time with search and pounce. Good show!

N4CW multi op mobile 1297 CW qso

How about mobiling on a rainy day? Light rain and cold temperatures greeted us as Jim and I got into the car in Lumberton, NC to drive to our initial starting point, the HOK/ROB county line. The previous day, we had done the SCQP with no problems and around 1350 Q's; would NCQP be a repeat? We hoped so...Murphy was lurking around the bend...

Until early afternoon, Q's, rates, and mults were good. Then, when trying to change bands with the new screwdriver antenna, we had a major problem...the screwdriver didn't work! The control display didn't indicate whether the UP or DOWN controls had any effect! We think the driving rain got into the antenna and screwed something up. So 15 miles later we found a gas station with an overhead canopy where we could stop, check, and make any necessary repairs. The screwdriver did work but didn't indicate...

so we put up a heli-whip for 20M on the extra mount and manually tuned the screwdriver to 40M and went on our way. Everything worked and we were back in business. We did get on a good flat stretch in eastern NC and I drove while Jim operated. So we both got to contribute points. Then, just at sundown, after the rain stopped, we changed the antenna setup to a 40M heli-whip and set the screwdriver antenna to 80M. Maybe that wasn't a good idea....we didn't have any chokes on the heli-whip coax and r.f. got into the operating position, screwing up the USB...eventually, "dressing" the cables differently corrected the situation. 40 was very productive, and 80 was constantly plagued by S-9 noise...mostly from the different chargers and regulators we used in the car...something we have to correct before the VAQP, coming up in a few weeks.

And during the last hour of the contest a new problem arose (well, there's the "Check Engine" light that suddenly appeared...but we've had that experience before with another car and it was rfi-induced)...the K3 shut down! I could transmit for most of a QSO then shut down...completely! I would just turn it back on, complete the QSO, and go on for another QSO and shut down again. Then the contest ended...I couldn't reply to all the comments after the end because of that failure...sorry! Something to check out at home...

Summary: Q's=1297 , Mults=71 , Rates= not applicable--thrown off when we operated from county lines, but 1297Q's in 10 hours averages to 129.7 per hour! , Counties Activated= 28.

Thank you all for your support..it was great fun for Jim and me and I hope all y'all had as much fun chasing us. Outstanding job! 73, Bert N4CW and Jim W4TMO

K3TD multi op mobile 610 CW qso

We enjoy getting on the road and having a nice pileup in each county on each band and this year was no exception. However, it was a push to get NCQP into the calendar as K4QPL was SOLP for ARRL DX CW at VP5M and will be with a team at VP5M next week in ARRL DX SSB. Had to cut short the last two hours to start getting ready to travel but the rate held up pretty well for the time we were on. Tad helped keep up the pace with good timing through the counties.

There was one crazy instance in which the computer went berserk for no apparent reason and the K3s shut down at the same time also for no apparent reason. We surmise it was a solar wind event or Putin was involved! Rebooted everything and life was back to normal. Otherwise Murphy stayed away.

There was some rain which killed some of the usual line noise but 20M seemed to have more atmospheric noise than usual. Remember that the mobile antenna which isn't great for transmitting is equally poor on receive if not worse. I'm sure signals were stronger than they appeared at the radio. Also apologies for many of the busted calls which weren't actually busted in my head but typing mobile is a challenge when a bump makes you miss a key or put an extra letter into the call window.

I recognized a lot of calls from last week and look forward to working you in ARRL DX SSB this next weekend from VP5M. See you next year!!

73,
Jim K4QPL
Tad K3TD

N4K - multi op fixed - 568 CW 355 SSB qso

Another fun time as a Bonus station in the annual NC QSO Party is behind us. Once again we split time on one K3S with Laurie running SSB and me running CW. What now seems to be a standard statistic is that Laurie had the best hourly rate coming in at 149.

From a year over year perspective our Qs were down and our mults were a couple up. We had 58 counties, up from 54, but only 52 states/provinces, down from 54. We worked 16 countries, not including US and VE, but our mult came from SP6JOE in Poland. The final score for this year was 878 points above last year. This was due to the ratio of CW to SSB Qs. Laurie had a Zoom call for a few hours that gave me the on-the-air time advantage.

It was great to have activity on 20 meters and even some on 15 meters. Maybe next year even 10 meters will be open.

Thanks to the NC QSO Party team for putting the event together. A special thanks to Marty (W4MY) for asking us to be a Bonus station. And a final thanks to everyone that worked us. Laurie and I hope to hear about LOTS of Bonus station sweeps!

73,
Laurie - N1YXU (aka: N4K)

Bruce - N1LN (aka: N4K)

N8II fixed WV 113 CW 141 SSB qso 78 counties worked

Another Carolina QP weekend is in the books. Only 3 mobiles were active and for quite a while I heard nothing of K3TD or N4CW on 40 early to mid afternoon and was pondering at that point when most stations were up on nearly inaccessible 20M whether to hang it up. I operated about a half hour less than last year, did not rush the dog walk or prepare/eat lunch/dinner. The dog walk gave me a needed break. This QP has just enough activity to keep you searching for that next Q or mult, but the pace is pretty slow. I worked about 44 QSO's less than last year, but 5 more mults. The difference was 75/80M being much more active/productive last year; conditions there were quite good starting 22Z. I searched for a run frequency in vain on 75M around 2345Z; when I found one after a CW stint around 0030Z on 3849 KHz the frequency was clear, but almost no one called during 4 minutes of CQ's. I had a few short run bursts of 5-10 QSO's on 40, the money band from here. The skip was short enough that many NC stations worked each other on 40. I had noise on 20, no direct opening to NC there, but some scatter signals to the west were pretty loud around 19Z.

Thanks to the mobiles for their efforts. Steve AA4TI was good for 10 Q's, as was Bert N4CW, and Jim plus Thad? K3TD 6 Q's. Thanks for all of the calls and Q's from NC. Congrats to Laci, OM2VL for a great HP score; I heard him work about the weakest NC CW signal on 80M here.

73, Jeff

On the Road with N4CD I

For something different, I decided to head southeast a couple hundred miles to get two new parks for me, and some seldom visited counties along the way. I could run a couple repeat parks as well. It would be an overnight trip.

The weather wasn't fully cooperative. Strong storms possible on Sunday – cold front coming and from the south, lots of warm (70s and 80s) humid air headed north at high speeds. Where they collide – BOOM. Didn't want to be around in east TX for that, and

it would likely be Sunday afternoon/evening in my neck of the woods of Dallas TX area. The plan would be to be home by Saturday evening.
So.....

Friday March 4, 2022

Made a egg McMuffin deal in the microwave, had a cup of coffee, then out the door.

I packed up the car for a two day trip. Just took the antennas for the roof mount 4 magnet antenna, and ran mostly 20M CW on the trip. Have to stop to change antennas to 40, or 17, 15, and if bands good, maybe try 12 and 10m. From here, 15m mostly opens to far NW and far NE – just a few county hunters in range at the current sunspot numbers. 20M good with short skip from 300-400 miles away at times, plus a bit of DX and the rest of the USA. Use hamsticks on 20, 40, and 17m, and a Hustler 4 ½ foot mast with 15 or 12 or 10m resonator on top if those bands open or I go there. Mostly ran 20M only this trip. 95% CW.

Headed out at 6:30am trying to beat the rush hour traffic in the Dallas Metroplex. Have to head down US75 – 8 and 10 lanes of traffic – to the I-635 sort of beltway around to US 80 out to I-20 going east. Not too bad, but traffic on I-635 the other way going 10 mph at best. Lucked out – no accidents or backups but a few slow downs here and there. Piles of trucks coming the other way headed into Dallas – and just creeping along – stop and go at 10 mph. By 7am, everything backs up to slow speeds for rush hour daily grind.

Weather was mid-60s headed to high 70s today with total overcast. No sun in eyes headed east. It was over to Tyler TX and around the Toll road there to head southeast from there down into Cherokee County.



A few needed that. Then went on to San Augustine County and the first park after 3:30 hours on the road.

Along the way, found myself on a highway marked 'Original Trail – El Camino Real de los Tejas. Put that out last month, but ran 'Nacodoches County' and logged those contacts quick contacts on the run. I'd be back at a site later that would be good for the trail, too. Wrote about that trail history last month in the County Hunter News.



First stop at a park -

Alazan Bayou WMA – K-6534 KFF-5534 in San Augustine County



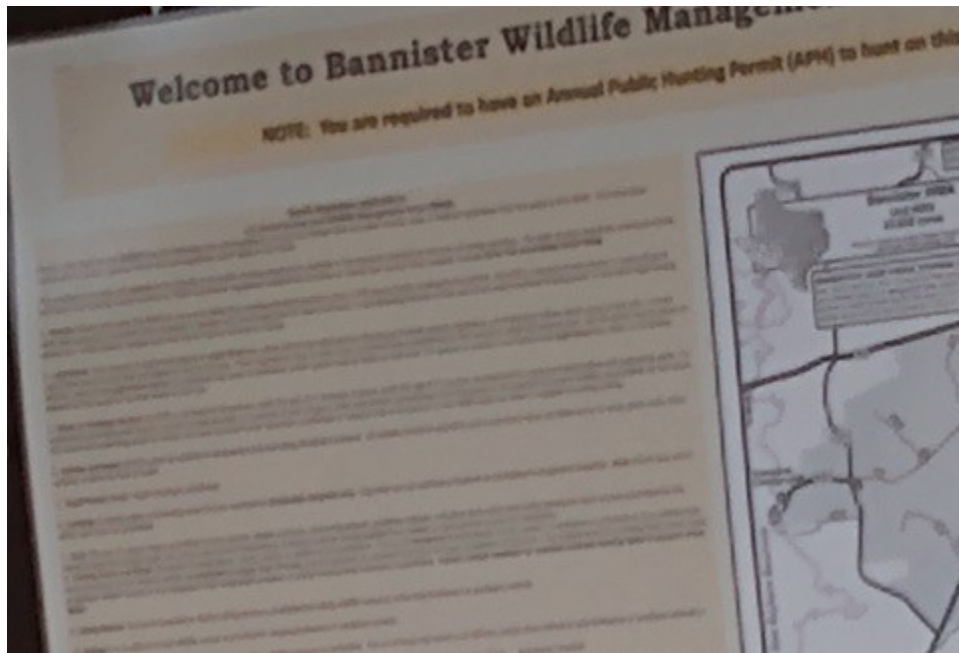
from the TX state site:

The Alazan Bayou WMA has 2,063 acres located in southern Nacogdoches County. The WMA was purchased in 1991 to preserve mature bottomland hardwood forests adjacent to the Angelina River.

In addition to the Angelina River other significant drainages include Loco Bayou and Moral Creek. The bottomland forest typically begins to flood during mid winter as the river and bayous overbank and inundation continues through early spring. “

Easy to find – good directions – and several entrances. Found a good parking spot and had a good run from there. It's both a WWFF and POTA park. Some chase only POTAs. Others, especially Europe, chase the WWFF parks. When it doubt, work the park! After an hour and a bit, I headed out to the next.

Bannister WMA K-6537 and KFF-4871



Didn't see big sign – just this at the WMA entrance.

I was there two years ago in Feb – the same weekend in 2020. Time for a revisit.

This is also a 'two-fer' in POTA for the Angelina National Forest. There are no “two-fer's' in WWFF – you have to run them separately. I'd just run the one park for WWFF.

From the state website:

“Welcome to the Angelina National Forest, one of four National Forests in Texas. Located in the heart of east Texas, the 153,179-acre Angelina National Forest is located in Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Jasper counties. The forest lies in the Neches River Basin and on the north and south shores of Sam Rayburn Reservoir, a 114,500-acre lake on the Angelina River formed by the construction of Sam Rayburn Dam in the early 1960's.

The Angelina National Forest lies in the upper Gulf Coastal general plain province and the terrain is gently rolling. Longleaf pine is the predominant cover type in the southern

portion, while loblolly and shortleaf pine are the dominant types in the rest of the forest.

Summers in the Angelina National Forest are hot and humid and winters generally are short and mild. Average mid-summer temperatures in the forest range from the mid-80's to the mid-90's, with an average mid-winter temperature a mild 52 degrees. Rarely do temperatures in the forest drop to less than 10 degrees or rise above 110 degrees. The average annual rainfall is 46 inches.

HISTORY

Man came to the area now known as the Angelina National Forest around 8,000 years ago. Archeological sites have been located as part of the U.S. Forest Service's cultural resource inventory in addition to those resources located and excavated prior to the construction of Lake Sam Rayburn Reservoir. These sites document the evidence of man's presence over the entire period since then.

One of Angelina County's original settlers, John H. Graham, lies buried in a small cemetery overlooking the creek which bears his name in the southwestern part of the forest. His name and birthdate may still be seen on his grave marker.

Of more recent setting is the old Aldridge Sawmill site near the terminus of a spur of the Sawmill Hiking Trail near the Neches River south of the Boykin Springs Recreation Area. Hand-poured concrete structures remain, rapidly deteriorating under the onslaught of vandalism and the advancing forest cover, and these stand as mute testimony to the aspirations and dreams of turn-of-the-century timber barons.

In 1934, the Texas Legislature approved a resolution to urge federal purchase of land to create National Forests in Texas. In 1935, acquisition began on the Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Angelina and Sabine National Forests.

Early management efforts centered on timber inventory, planting trees and fire protection. Much of the land had begun to seed-in naturally, due mostly to the Texas Forest Service's fire protection efforts which had begun years earlier. The two agencies, the Texas Forest Service and the U.S. Forest Service, began a harmonious working relationship with the inception of the National Forests in Texas.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Angelina National Forest is managed under the ecosystem management concept.

Ecosystem management is a means to achieve sustainable conditions and provide wildlife and fish habitat, outdoor recreation, wilderness, water, wood, minerals, and forage for the public while retaining the esthetic, historic, and spiritual qualities of the land.

In 1960, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act put into law what had been practiced on the National Forests in Texas for almost 30 years. This act emphasized that resources on public lands would be managed so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the people, that the benefits obtained will exist indefinitely and that each natural resource would be managed in balance with other resources to meet public needs.

Forest management plans outline direction under ecosystem management, but even the most carefully planned system of management cannot foresee environmental or natural factors which can cause drastic changes in a forest. Fire, storms, insects and disease, for example, can prompt managers to deviate from land management plans and can alter the way a forest is managed.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife management focuses on keeping animal populations in balance with available food and shelter. Hundreds of wildlife species exist in the Angelina National Forest. Principal game in the forest is deer, squirrel, wild turkey, woodcock, quail, dove and duck, and sportsmen can enjoy hunting and fishing in accordance with state game laws.

The fish and wildlife habitat created by Sam Rayburn Reservoir offers 114, 500 acres of water for fish and waterfowl populations to exist and multiply and feed and resting grounds for migratory birds before they proceed south toward the Gulf Coast. A resident population of wood ducks remains in the forest year-round.

The 20,700-acre Bannister Wildlife Management Area is located north of Lake Sam Rayburn. The objectives for the area are (1) to provide an area of multiple resource management with increased emphasis on wildlife management; (2) to develop and maintain population levels of various game species to provide an improved hunting opportunity; and (3) to demonstrate wildlife/timber management coordination techniques, applicable to the pineywoods of East Texas. In the wildlife management area, improvements include game stocking, water impoundments and forage planting.

Sam Rayburn Reservoir and the surrounding Angelina National Forest provide wintering

habitat for the threatened bald eagle. During the winter months, forest visitors may see the bald eagle soaring over the lake, perched on a flooded snag or in a tall pine along the shoreline.

The red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species, is found throughout the forest. A small black and white woodpecker, it makes its home by pecking cavities in large, living pine trees. Around the entrance to its cavity nest, the red-cockaded woodpecker chips pitch wells resulting in pitch flow giving the cavity tree a candle stick appearance below the nest opening and serves to protect the bird from predatory snakes.

The red-cockaded woodpecker was designated an endangered species in 1973. This unique little bird and its habitat are protected in the Angelina National Forest and all federal lands. Wherever these birds are found, management emphasis is directed toward providing the special habitat they require.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildfire - The U.S. Forest Service and the Texas Forest Service have a cooperative agreement and action plan to coordinate the prevention, law enforcement, aerial detection and suppression of wildfire.

In a recent 10-year period on the Angelina National Forest, there was an average of 19 wildfires per year. These fires burned an average of 318 acres of federally-managed land each year and were 93 percent people-caused. All visitors to the forest are asked to use care with fire. Keep campfires small, never leave one unattended and completely extinguish all fires, matches and cigarettes.

Prescribed Fire - Fire has a proven ecological role in the development and management of the forest and rangelands and is used as a tool for ecosystem management in the Angelina National Forest. Most of the sensitive and endangered plants and wildlife species need the benefits of fire to survive. The red-cockaded woodpecker prefers a park-like forest opened up by controlled, prescribed fires. Sensitive seepage bogs also require frequent burns to keep woody plants from encroaching and shading out the sundews and pitcher plants. Prescribed fire can reduce heavy accumulations of forest fuels to minimize damages in the event of wildfires. After an area is prescribed burned, a new shrub understory sprouts to supply food for wildlife. By removing thick underbrush, prescribed burning also improves accessibility for forest visitors.

Weather, fuel conditions, seasonal timing of burning projects and specific techniques of

fire application are all considered by trained professionals in prescribed burning."

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There are multiple camp sites, multiple day use areas and lots of possibilities for running this National Forest. One is simply going to Bannister WMA which lies WITHIN the forest.

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From the state website:

“The Bannister WMA has 25,695 acres located in San Augustine County part of the Angelina National Forest. The WMA is operated under a Memorandum of Agreement with the US Forest Service. The WMA is located on a peninsula extending into Sam Rayburn Reservoir. It is separated from the lake by private land or national forest service land. As part of the national forest, Bannister WMA offers a wide range of recreational activities. Texas Parks and Wildlife acts as an advisor concerning wildlife management. The Area is a designated Eastern Wild Turkey restoration site and closes certain sections during turkey brooding season.

Reintroduced eastern wild turkey and endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers are just two of the wide variety of native and migrating species of birds that makes Bannister Wildlife Management Area a special bird watching location. A part of the Angelina National Forest, the wildlife management area features hiking and biking along any existing forest service roads. “

You wind up on a Forest Service Road – don't go in far – and it's highly wooded around. Not great for getting a radio signal out but it worked OK. It was noon-time with the usual slump on 20M around that time of day.

Had a decent run there in San Augustine. Finished up and headed to a POTA only park in the town of San Augustine 30 minutes to the northeast. It's a two-fer.

Mission Delores State Historic Site – K-6582 and Camino Real de los Tejas K-4568



“Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais: Spanish Mission on the Camino Real

Mission Dolores was a Spanish mission built in 1721 in what is now San Augustine County, just 20 miles west of the Texas-Louisiana border. The site tells an important history about the Native American experience with Texas’ earliest European settlers. Today, there are no historic above-ground remains of the mission. The mission site has been confirmed by archeological investigations and historical records. Mission Dolores is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated State Antiquities Landmark. El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail also passes through the property. Visitors can explore the site’s history at the museum where interpretive displays tell the story of Mission Dolores. The property also has a campground, picnic area, Fisbee golf course, and group pavilions.

Spanning the centuries and the breadth of Texas from the Rio Grande to the Sabine

River, a “royal road” connects the present to the past. El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail was designated as part of the National Trails System by the U.S. Congress in 2004, but its story started far earlier, as a series of routes laid by Indigenous Texans and later followed by Spanish colonists, French explorers, Anglo-American settlers, and enslaved people seeking freedom

Is any part of the trail hikeable? How many miles? Yes, the longest continuous hikeable section at this point in time is about three miles in length, located in Floresville. The Trail Association is working with multiple local entities to establish additional hiking opportunities in the future. Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Mission Tejas State Park, and the Lobanillo Swales all have hikeable portions of the trail within them.

from TX Beyond History site:

Two and a half centuries ago the Spanish mission known as Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais, or more simply, Mission Dolores, was a rather forlorn way station on the far eastern branch of El Camino Real de los Tejas, the royal Spanish road that ended some 50 miles farther east at Los Adaes, the Spanish capital of 18th-century Texas. Today the site of Mission Dolores lies within the modern town of San Augustine in East Texas about 35 miles east of Nacogdoches, and is on El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.

Translated, mission’s full name “Our Lady of Sorrows, for the Ais,” evokes its sorrowful story, that of a small frontier mission built in the 1720s for the Ais Indians, the native group who lived along nearby Ayish Bayou. Like most of the Spanish missions in the eastern area of the province of Tejas, Mission Dolores failed to attract many Indian residents and was finally abandoned in 1773. Yet, while Mission Dolores did not accomplish its intended mission of converting Native Americans to settled Christian citizens, it was a focal point for a successful wilderness settlement for half a century. Here the resident Spanish priests, soldiers and settlers interacted peacefully with many local Indians, as well as the European and native peoples who traveled along El Camino Real including French traders. There were few places in the American colonies where different European and indigenous peoples managed to get along with one another. This example of accommodation and acceptance of differences has relevance for our society today.

During the half century of the Mission’s existence its frontier location on the far eastern edge of New Spain meant that the closest sources of supplies and interaction often came from the “enemy” – the French in Louisiana and the French trading network among the Indians of East Texas. Such trade with the French was forbidden by the Spanish Crown,

yet the small group of padres and soldiers who lived at Mission Dolores had no real choice. Although they were not able to convince the Ais to stay for long at the mission, the local Indians did interact quite willingly with the newcomers.

Mission life was punctuated from time to time by Spanish traffic along El Camino Real: the coming and going of all-too-infrequent supply convoys, the more common passing of Spanish soldiers, and the periodic visits by Spanish officials heading to or from Los Adaes, the 18th-century capital of the province of Tejas. Most of the time life was tranquil but trying, as the Spanish eked out an existence on the remote frontier. Finally, time ran out and Mission Dolores was abandoned along with the presidio and mission at Los Adaes and other East Texas outposts as the Spanish pulled back to the concentration of forts and churches at San Antonio.

The succeeding centuries have not been kind to Mission Dolores. It quickly fell to ruin after the Spanish left and was gradually swallowed by the piney woods. In the late 1700s and early 1800s the Anglo settlers who moved into the region from the Deep South had scant connection to the Spanish past. Yet memories of the old Spanish mission lingered among the residents of the area, some of whom were Spanish and Indian descendants, and were passed on to each generation as physical traces of the place disappeared. By the mid 20th century the precise location of Mission Dolores was uncertain, at least in the minds of researchers.

The location of Mission Dolores was never in question for the people of San Augustine, as “Mission Hill” was place known to all who lived in the area. In 1845, James Perkins put the following warning in the local newspaper, “Caution!—This is to forewarn all persons from digging my land in and about the Old Mission, as I will enforce the law against any person so offending.” George L. Crockett’s 1932 history of San Augustine County mentions a “quadrangular level spot evidently artificial” north of modern state highway 147 and also mentions graves in the area with beads and pottery that were dug in the early 1920s. The 1936 Texas centennial marker for Mission Dolores was placed on Mission Hill and the Camino Real marker—originally installed in 1918 next to the railroad tracks was moved roughly 100 meters to be near the centennial marker. After the centennial marker was installed, the people of San Augustine would spend the next forty years trying to verify that Mission Hill was indeed the location of Mission Dolores.

As it turned out, the name Mission Hill wasn’t quite right. The Spanish mission had been located quite nearby, but not where legend had it. In the 1970s archaeologists finally found what remained of the “missing” mission. Sadly, in the early 20th century State Highway 147 had been built right through the mission site, obliterating most of the direct evidence of its existence. Yet, despite the highway, the establishment of the later

town of San Augustine, and other modern developments, important and informative physical traces of the mission still exist and are being studied by researchers from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Visitors today can learn more at the Mission Dolores Museum and Visitors Center in San Augustine, Texas

The site of Mission Dolores is located in the Piney Woods of East Texas just 20 miles west of the Sabine River, which forms the Texas-Louisiana border. Locally, the site lies 200 meters east of the Ayish Bayou on the west slope of a prominent landform overlooking the first flood terrace of the bayou. Three small springs that still flow all year are nearby. These springs probably played a role in the choice of this particular spot for the mission, providing drinking water and perhaps a source of water for irrigating crops.

from Wiki"

“The mission was founded in 1717 by Father Antonio Margil as part of the Ramon Expedition. The Spanish sought to solidify their claims on Spanish Texas by establishing missions and presidios throughout the border area with French Louisiana. Mission Dolores was one of 6 missions founded in East Texas. Located on Ayish Bayou, the small contingent of priests and soldiers worked to convert the native Ais Indians to Roman Catholicism. In 1719, the East Texas missions were abandoned following conflicts between the French and Spanish at Los Adaes. Margil and other missionaries retreated to San Antonio de Bexar.”

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Nice parking lot and you can be right along the trail. Good visitor museum – all of \$1.50 senior entrance fee. They have exhibits of some of the artifacts that have been dug up – including a fair amount of French pottery that was part of the trade between Spanish TX and French LA.

From here – you can hit a bit of Sabine National Forest headed northeast – and then on to the motel in Center, TX/

Sabine National Forest – K-4416 and KFF-4416

Located in the pineywoods of east Texas, the 160,656-acre Sabine National Forest is the easternmost of the four national forests in Texas and forms part of the boundary between Texas and Louisiana. The forest is situated on the western slopes of the Sabine River

watershed within Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Jasper, and Newton counties.

HISTORY

This ecologically diverse and rich forest environment has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years. The earliest inhabitants were nomadic hunters, traveling in family-sized units and seasonally exploiting the diverse fauna and flora found in this and adjacent regions. By the beginning of the first millennium, influences from the Mississippi Valley and southeastern woodland cultures were becoming more dominant. When the first Europeans ventured into this area in the late 16th century, they encountered an agriculturally dependent people (whom the Spanish called "Tejas") inhabiting large villages, with complex religious and social orders governing their way of life. Spanish efforts to establish missions among the Tejas (known today as the Caddo) and settle east Texas in the 17th and 18th centuries were largely unsuccessful, as there were few conversions and frequent conflicts between the native inhabitants and the European immigrants. By the beginning of the 19th century, the more than two dozen tribes that had comprised the Caddoan Confederacy had been reduced to a single tribe, which was relocated to neighboring Oklahoma shortly after Texas gained statehood. Lasting evidence of these settlement efforts may be found in place names like Nacogdoches and San Augustine and going eastward along the "El Camino Real" to Natchitoches and Los Adaes in western Louisiana.

Many historical markers line present day State Highway 21, designating this route as the "El Camino Real de los Tejas," the main travel route between the easternmost Spanish settlement at Los Adaes and the missions in present-day San Antonio. This route has been recommended for designation as a National Historic Trail because of the important role it played in opening up the settlement of eastern Texas.

In the late 19th century, commercial timber operations moved into the pineywoods seeking to replenish their profits by tapping the unharvested stands of virgin pine found here. Little concern for forestland conservation was shown during these early days, as only prime logs at least 24 inches in diameter at the butt with 75 percent heartwood were utilized. By the second decade of the 20th century, highly efficient railroad logging was at full-scale operation in the forests of east Texas. Soon, the lack of conservation practices and the increasing effectiveness of railroad-based logging led to virtually complete exhaustion of the timber resource in east Texas, and the industrial timber operations moved to new areas. Today, the numerous relics of old railroad tramways are found in the Sabine National Forest, lasting evidence of this boom period of the early logging industry in Texas.

In 1934, the Texas Legislature approved a resolution to urge the purchase of depleted timberlands to create national forests in Texas. In 1935, land acquisition began in areas of what are now part of the Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Angelina, and Sabine National Forests. Within a few years, a majority of the land comprising the Sabine National Forest had been purchased. First management efforts centered on fire protection, timber inventory, erosion control, and planting trees. Much of the land had already begun to seed-in naturally, due mostly to the Texas Forest Service's fire protection efforts that had begun years earlier. The two agencies, the Texas Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service, began a harmonious working relationship at the inception of the national forests in Texas.

Today, the forests you see are second-growth or third-growth forests and are a result of Federal forest management under the multiple-use and ecosystem management concepts. Since 1905, the policy for management in the National Forest System has been "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." In 1960, Congress passed the Multiple-Use-Sustained-Yield Act that provided additional authority to the Forest Service, directing it to continue what it had been doing since 1905 -- to give consideration to range, timber, wildlife and fish, soil and water, and outdoor recreation.

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After the run in Sabine Forest I head to the Super 8 in Center, TX. \$57 for the night. Nice motel. Across the street is a Steak and More Buffet place. Friday night is seafood buffet – it's \$23 but you won't be leaving empty. Shrimp ten ways from peel and eat, beer battered shrimp, shrimp on a stick, shrimp salad, pasta shrimp, etc. Fish half a dozen ways from catfish to white fish to talipia. BBQ Ribs slathered with BBQ sauce. Sirloin steak. A nice salad bar. All you can eat! And ten desserts to pick from. Whew. I was STUFFED and pigged out. Made it back to motel across the street. Slept well.

Saturday – March 5, 2022

Up at 6:30 and over to breakfast at the motel. Eggs, sausage links and patties, cereal – 4 kinds and oatmeal to make, bananas and apples, waffles, coffee (no decaf), and OJ. Good. Didn't starve for sure.

Then headed out going through Rusk County up to Gregg and over to Smith for the next park. Had some light sprinkles of rain on the windshield. Nothing serious – just enough to force you to turn on the wipers on intermittent.

Tyler State Park KFF-3059 and K-3059

Been here a few times, so no need for full description. Built by the CCC in the 1930s. Got here at 9:30 or so and got in without reservation. Had a good run from here – an hour long. Enough in the log.

My phone decided to go to 'dark mode' and I couldn't figure out why. Otherwise, I'd hit another park but without ability to spot, no way.

There was a big SSB DX contest raging on SSB but a few brave folks were putting out parks on 20M SSB and having success. Likely had bigger antennas than a mobile hamstick! Caught two on 20M SSB from this park and a handful on 20M CW. The propagation was horrible. A index 25, K=5, bands 'poor'. Hmmm. Not good for the DX contest but OK for US propagation. Didn't hear any DX stations across the band.

Headed home. More sprinkles on the windshield but traffic moved well for the trip home.

Ouch. Gas had gone from \$3.39 a gallon to \$3.59 a gallon in two days. Got home with ¼ tank. Drove by the Costco gas station – and 20 or 30 car backup. No thanks. I can wait or try the Walmart. Local stations all at \$3.59/gal. Trips are going to cost a bunch more. Probably need 13-14 gallons – that's going to be almost \$50! Also put some gas in the trip during it- so could make it home on one tank. That was \$25. \$75 in gas for 2 day trip. Ouch!

Those county hunting trips are going to get more expensive – hi hi.

Don't you just hate it when.....

KB6UF: 3-4-22 - “Well folks my entire ant system is laying some where on highway 20 in Idaho. Run is done.”

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N4CD: Not the first county hunter to lose a whole antenna or parts off theirs. Somewhere in KS, along the road, the top half of my mobile antenna decided to break off at a joint in the mast section taking the two resonators with it (20/40M) – that was 25 years ago. Had two 3 foot sections joined with a brass connector that gave way.

Almost lost another one when the brass connector from mast to mount was just about to break and I noticed mast was not straight but leaning when stopped at a gas stop. Another couple miles could have been disaster. Since those days 20+ years ago, I run a 6 foot mast (no joints) and use the steel connectors. I've still lost a resonator here and there – there's a 30M Hustler somewhere in AR – and a stinger off my 17m one in AK. Helps to carry a few spares if you can on long trips. I've had a 17m Hamstick on a mag mount fly off the car dangling by the coax. Could stop quickly. Tip bruised but OK. Scratch on side of car where mag mount hit it and dangled by the coax. . Seems that driving south at 70 mph with 40mph headwind was more than the 3 magnet (5 inch ones, too) mount would tolerate.

Lots of other county hunters have lost an antenna here and there – or some got gobbled up by a low hanging tree. Have had to take extra precaution for some low bridges – there's one in AR with 8 ½ foot clearance after 45 miles on a road – you get to the end trying to reach the main road – and you've got to go through the tunnel! If not paying attention – goodbye mast. Lost mast (got bent over) 45 degrees in SC – low hanging tree. Too busy looking for spot to pull over, watching things in the park, and find a spot to run park! Managed to sort of straighten it and it worked for rest of trip. Had to replace mast at home.

Those with screwdriver antennas have wound up rebuilding them along the way on trips, too, when they jam up and no longer work. It's nice to complete a trip with no rig problems, no antenna problems and no car problems. Sometimes it happens – sometimes it doesn't.

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Part II SNOW!

W0GXQ: “Jerry’s in a snow bank. Three hours behind.
May not run all counties posted”

Mobile Activity in March

At the beginning of the month:

Kerry, W4SIG, was running around in CO putting them out. Ventured over to UT then more in CO. Then back into UT.

Ron, KB6UF, showed up in ID. Then into UT, putting them out there. Back into ID.....And then.....suddenly QRT.

Alan, W8OP, was mobile in WV. A few days later in OH.

N4CD took trips to east TX and to OK during the month.

Steve, WB8III spotted out in WV.

Norm, N9MM, spotted in few parks in AL

WB6ACP/P spotted in counties in TX and LA

Ed, K8ZZ, started in KS, ran up through counties in IA, Then into MN to run a bunch of counties there. Dozens plus. Then into IA again to NE

Jerry, W0GXQ, started in MN and ran a bunch there – dozens plus.

WY0A, Butch, showed up in NM ran a bunch there, then into south TX. Into NM and up into OK for a bunch there

Tony, WA9DLB was in MS running them there. Then up through MO to home in IL by running up the west side of IL. .

WW5X spotted in the OK QSO Party mobile. Several ID stations spotted in that QSO Party including K7TQ mobile. Lots of WI stations spotted for their QSO Party, and some for the VA QSO Party. Many others not spotted by anyone! 77 OK counties run by mobiles but only a handful spotted. Same in VA QP.

Karl, K4YT, spotted out running counties in GA and NC. Then into VA to home.

The weekend was busy with VA QSO stations and a very active N4CW/mobile.

K4YT took a trip over to MD and eastern shore of VA

Alan, W8OP spotted out in PA

WB8III noted in PA – over a dozen or two

Kraig, KA2LHO, ran parks/counties in the panhandle of FL.

end date 3 25 22

On the Road with N4CD II

The OKLAHOMA QSO PARTY was coming up. This is always a good one with at least half a dozen mobiles running all over the state and putting out the 77 counties. For mobiles, there are plaques to be won in several categories from 'non-assisted' (no driver) to 'assisted' to multi-op. Room for all. CW and SSB and Mixed categories, too. For hunters, lots of awards, too. The contest regulars would be out. I'd be one of six or eight mobiles. I'm not a fanatic at putting out counties for the entire contest period and don't go the entire contest time from 9am to 9pm Saturday, and with Daylight Saving Time this year, from 10-4pm on Sunday.

Well, dang. Looked at the weather – snow, ice, cold – with a nasty cold front coming through on Friday early in northern OK, and descending down and reaching Dallas during the day on Friday. Couple inches of snow up in the top of OK and potential for slippery weather over much of OK. Looks like my longer planned trip, which would be to leave on Friday, was not going to happen. So I'd just do a few counties in the very south on Saturday. No one indicated they were going to Marshall or Bryan from the planned routes page, so I'd do those and a few others (stopping in parks). The way to 'win' a state QSO Party is do 3 and 4 way county lines (where permitted – not all QSO parties allow county line contacts). Then you get 3 or 4 QSOs per contact by doing that. Make 50 contacts and that's 150 or 200 contacts for score.

However, parks seldom have county lines in them other than 'state forests' and a few others – or at least ones you can get too. So, I'd run individual counties and not sweat the score.

Turns out that in Dallas we had zero rain, ice, snow. Probably true for southern OK. Connie, K5CM, in Muscogee OK, had a few inches early Friday but gone by Saturday and no issue.

Most of the other mobiles seemed to plan routes to the south half of OK, too, but all counties were scheduled to be on the air.

Saturday March 10

I headed out a bit after 7am headed up US-75 to OK. 34F at home. No sweat getting there. Not a flake of snow or ice or anything on the roads. First up is **Lake Texoma State Park – K/KFF-2791 in Marshall County**. It's still a park although for a while, most of it disappeared, with only the 'campground' left and operated by an organization – then the company that bought it went bankrupt and the state took the rest of the park back. OK has lost 10 parks in the last 20 years due to budget problems. No problems. Easy spots to run it. The Chickasaw tribe supposedly has bought some of the previous park land. There is lots of construction now on the area where the lodge and golf course used to be. Back in the 1990s. There were 'minis' at the Lodge. Not much to do other than Choctaw Bingo back then, but now there are big GIANT casinos to take your money 15 miles away! Used to be outdoor flea market/hamfest here but it's now moved to an indoor facility 30 miles away in Ardmore, OK.

Put 50+ in the log on 20M CW. Not much DX. Conditions were rated 'good' with SFI over 100 and sunspots in the 80s. Did put CU3, F, OH, DL, HI8 in the log. There have been 39 prior activations with over 1,900 QSOs made from this park. Not especially 'rare' – hi hi. You can go and camp there for a few days and make a couple hundred contacts while there.

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Just over the bridge headed east – there's a nice spot to pull over and run BYRAN county. There's no park in this county so I'd run it -"park-less". Zipped out 40 Qs and headed up to Fort Washita in Johnson County – K 8142 only in POTA. I've written recently about this old fort from the Indian Wars days and Civil War. It was recently added so not so many Qs made from here – just 10 activations and 724 prior QSOs. Ran on 15m cw, then 40m cw.

The ID QSO Party started up – so I'd hunt a bunch of them in between parks. I don't usually run 'on the go' in state QSO Parties as there is too much to log while driving

along – call and their state. I stop to run. From here I travel some back roads and main highways to get to the next.

I was using hamsticks on a 4 magnet mount on top of the car. Had 40, 20, 17m and up available. Took 30 seconds to change bands when stopped. QSO parties don't use WARC bands.

Tishomingo NWR - K/KFF-0941. This has been run many times as it was in the NPOTA parks in 2016 and was carried over. It's large and there are several spots to run it. I'd be at an easy to get one near the park HQ – which happens to be in Marshall County again. Hmm...what to do – didn't want dupes with folks working me again so I went to 15M. It was hopping. Put a bunch in the log on that band. Time was going by and more parks/counties to run. I don't do 'after dark' these days.

There have been 19 previous activations and 1087 Qs.

After, grabbed a slice of pizza at a Hunt pizza place at a service station.

Not far away is **Texoma Washita Arm WMA – k-6378/KFF-4834.** It's in Johnston County. Use a GPS program on my Android phone to double check county. (What's My County?). It uses your current location and gives you GPS reading and the county.



Ran on 15m CW and 40m cw. One access point is right off the main road – on a dirt road – if you know where to find it. There's a shooting range there and halfway through my run someone started some noisy high power rifle practice a half mile from where I was Noisy. Range is open to the public.

I've been there a couple times. There have been 8 activations and 330 QSOs. Hmm....not that many. Probably could use a lot more contacts! I added in a bunch. Guess not too many know how easy it is to get to it! Most of it is not easy to get to when you look at the map!

Running out of time. I'm not a speed demon and plod along at about 23 wpm according to the RBN (reverse beacon network) connected to the POTA spot site. That's fast enough for the slower folks, but not fast enough for the testers.

From this park it's 35 minutes to get to the next. **Lake Murray State Park in Carter,**

OK, KFF/K-2790. It's a big and popular spot with half dozen campgrounds, cabins, marinas, and activities.



39 prior activations and 1,900 Qs with N4CD having been here 8 times before. It's right along I-35 so it's tempting to stop by for a dozen Qs when traveling. (well, I've made 380 Qs from here in those 8 visits). Rain 20m and had to skedaddle to get to the next and home before 'dark'.

Down I-35 to Love Valley, except the interstate wasn't cooperative. There's a one lane section with a five or more mile backup that moves at 8 mph. Better part of an hour at 8 mph or less. After a while, I just decided to put out Love County as I was cruising along at up to 8mph – stop and go, stop and go. Put 35 in the log...on 20m.

Eventually reached Love Valley WMA – K-6358/KFF-4815. Didn't have all that many in log there as many had already worked me in LOVE. . John, N6MU wanted 15m at the end. Late in day but added 4 on 15M including JO7WXN from Japan. He's usually hunting counties on 17M. Didn't stick around long. It was already 5pm. Sunset is 6:30 and that's about the time I'd be getting home.....or a bit after. Headed home with no slowdowns.

Back in Plano, TX – Collin County - at 6:35pm. Right around sunset. Stopped by my favorite Italian restaurant for a Lasagna dinner then home. Tired out. I'd lose an hour sleep tonight too. Thought about heading to OK on Sunday for a few more counties and parks.

Glad I didn't as Sunday the bands were rated 'poor' as a CME hit the Earth, sent the K index to high values and killed propagation. Signals were weak! Mother nature

slammed OK QP this year with threats of bad weather (most of which didn't happen) and then rotten propagation on Sunday morning. However, even with 'weak' signals, contacts were made. 15 and 10m open to somewhere. A half dozen mobiles were out and running! All counties on the air.

Oklahoma QSO Party

from the 3830 contest reflector:

K5CM mobile assisted 1919 CW qso

I have never had my F-150 4X4 fail to start in 10 years, but Mr Murphy changed that Saturday morning. Completely dead, not even a click. Not sure what it was but after charging the battery it started right up. Just to be sure I did not turn the engine off all day Saturday.

I thought conditions were good most of Saturday, with some really nice runs. Even 15 meters was open, but many stations did not check it out. Sunday was a different story however, after the CME hit earth some time early Sunday. The K index was very high for several hours causing signals to be non-existent or very weak.

Special thanks to the mobile stations, WW5X, W0BH, N4CD, KK6MC, K5CM, N5KW, N5OT, and KG5CMS. With out the mobiles a State QSO party is not much fun. All 77 counties were on the air, giving John N6MU a 77 county sweep.

All Q's are important, but here are a few station I work the most...

55 W5CW

41 W5TM

36 N6MU

31 NS2N

30 N8II

28 K9CW

23 KD8DEU

22 K9RS W1AJT

20 VE7CV

19 N1CGP
17 K5ZE KB4CG W3US W8PI
16 K0AP K8TE N8RW W7GF WA8ZBT
15 DL3DXX K4VIG N9NM W4NWX
14 AA4TI K5XS K7ZYV N6GP W0XG
13 K4BAI K4FT KR4AE N4IJ NE8P VE3AQ W2DXE WB9HFK
12 K0PC W7OM
11 AC7GG NU0Q W3LL W9QL WA5SOG WN4AFP
10 K2AL KY7M NW0M VE3PQ VE9VIC W1END W4NZ
9 HA8IB
8 LY5W

Special Thanks to Pam N5KW for doing all the driving while I operated. She did operate with her call for a short time Sunday afternoon.

73 From Connie and Pam

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PS de K5CM – Funspots spotting site is permanently dead. Was used in OK and KS QP's as the main spotting site but change at host meant original program would not run and author too busy to fix it. Mark it 'dead' and useless.

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N5KW mobile - 36 CW qso *Drives for K5CM

N5OT mobile assisted 607 CW qso

This was my very first time ever being a rover in a state QSO party. I had so much fun I'll do it again, too. Thanks everyone for all the contacts!

Assisted = my wife Kathy did all the driving while I did all the radio stuff.

73 - Mark N5OT

W0BH mobile assisted 1485 CW 575 SSB qso

2022 Oklahoma QSO Party by Bob Harder, W0BH

It was pre-COVID when we last completed an entire two-day QSO party. This year, the

first two days of the OKQP coincided with the first two days of my Spring Break from Hesston College. We decided to run both days and then spend a few more days hiking in the beautiful Wichita Mountains in south-central Oklahoma. Weather was forecast to be nice after a bit of snow the day before. That really didn't materialize, so it turned out to be a non-issue even though we saw a few patches on the way down.

I planned a route to include the usual northern counties west of I-35, ending up in Lawton overnight. Sunday's route went east and south to Love county, the southernmost county in Oklahoma, before returning back to the Lawton area and an AirBnB near the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

Last year, I replaced some Hustler antennas, this year it was batteries. For two days, I need four deep-cycle batteries (110 amp-hour), one for the electronics and three for the radio. Each radio battery, when used with a power booster, will run about 6 hours of continuous operation without running it down too far. The accessories battery (CW keyer, voice keyer, band decoder and logging computer) runs the entire two days. The GPS/route computer runs from the Astro van battery. Last time out, one radio battery died early and two more had the same manufacture date (3/2016). I bought one new one last year, and this year swapped out the next two, so three good ones for sure. My big AGM battery (which I use indoors during power outages) continues to run the electronics even though it's aging out.

Saturday

Saturday morning was a brisk 17 degrees, but no snow on the ground and bright sunshine. I put the antennas on and guyed them before we left. With Lorna ready to go, we were off from the farm in Kansas at 7:30am with a 90 minute drive to the border and a 9:00am start time. I usually drive the first leg south on the interstate, then we stop to switch at the border in Kay county. This year there was road construction and we decided to go on to the Oklahoma rest area. My log shows first contact with AD1C at 1532Z (9:32 CST) and immediately afterward with NU0Q on 40CW. We were off! There was lots of leeway built into the route and the first hour is usually slow, so all things considered, not too bad a start.

I planned lots of county-line stops and things really picked up a half hour later when we got to the first line. 20 was wide open and a new band for everyone, so a terrific run ensued. I stayed well past my scheduled departure time to work down the CW and SSB pileups, then broke free and continued on 15m as we drove away from the line. Lots more counties to go, but what a start. 15 was even louder than 20!

The only real disappointment was not being able to use the FunSpots web site this year. Both Connie and I noticed that it was up but not posting. Emails went unanswered so I hope all is well with the FunSpots hosts. We really appreciate that spotting site and you all have gotten used to using it. This year, pileups were so fierce that I didn't really need to spot, but it would have been handy on quick checks of 15, 40SSB and 80CW at times. If anyone has any additional information on why it's not working, let me know!

Since we were also "camping," I didn't bring along my usual backup equipment this year in order to leave more room in the van. I did, however, bring along a new power adapter cable in case my intermittent power problem came back. Things ran great until mid-afternoon. We were on a bumpy sand road when a particularly big bump caused the radio to go dark. The usual problem. Wiggling the power adapter cable usually brings it back, but not this time. Of course it was during a pretty good pileup. With my fingers crossed, I swapped out the adapter and we were back. It ran great for the next few hours so I cautiously thought "problem solved." Nope, Murphy was still there and suddenly all went dark again without even hitting a bump. I was really out of ideas at this point, so we stopped, disconnected and reconnected all the power cables and even the remote head cable. I polished those pins on my jeans, hooked everything back up, and no more problems the rest of the day or Sunday. Is the problem finally solved? No idea!

The rest of the day was really a blur for me and I can't remember much. Because of the pileups and to get us back on schedule, we dropped Woodward county since it had already been covered. There was another detour which cost us about 15 minutes. Near the end, the GPS computer quit because the power connector was loose. Luckily we were on the interstate and knew where we were going. We also had fun putting Lorna's call out there. It reduces my OKQP score a bit, but helps out the county hunters who have special YL call and BINGO awards and gets everyone else more contacts in the log. We ended the day with 1793 combined Qs in the log.

Sunday

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday. Lorna got some good birding in at the stops, and we both enjoyed working the Love/Carter line in the Lake Murray State Park. There were a few 15m contacts in my Sunday log and the band seemed open, but ops didn't find me there. I was able to work some Idaho and Wisconsin QSO party stations along the way as we kept to the planned route (mostly on schedule). It was really fun to hear N6MU call in and report a county Sweep. Congrats, John! We ended Sunday with another 1,131 combined Qs in the log, bringing our combined total to 2,934 contacts.

At the closing bell, we switched drivers and headed towards the Wichita Mountains. To

my amazement, the wind was pushing the van all over the road. I suddenly realized how hard Lorna had to work this weekend since it was windy the entire weekend. She needed both hands on the wheel most of the time and a lot more concentration than usual to drive. I was pretty much oblivious. Lorna kept the van in the lane and didn't miss a single turn the entire weekend. Amazing job! Two days of beautiful weather and hiking in the Wichita Mountains was a great way to end our adventure ..

Stats

Operated 15.1 hours, 2165 Qs, 462 unique calls, 62 dupes, 565 OKQP miles (1105 total miles).

States not worked : AK HI RI

Canadian mults worked : AB BC MB NB ON QC SK

OK worked : 7 counties : CAN CAR CHE MCI MUS OKL OKM

DX worked : XE DL HA LY OK PA SP

County Breakdown (in visited order)

Saturday

01 KAY 110

02 NOB 103

03 GAR 78

04 GNT 69

05 ALF 121

06 WOO 94

07 MAJ 94

08 BLA 94

09 DEW 71

10 CUS 71

11 KIN 95

12 CAN 75

13 OKL 91

14 LOG 61

15 CLE 22

16 MCL 22

17 GRA 54

18 CAD 14

19 COM 12

Sunday
19 COM 44
20 STE 62
21 CAR 201
22 GRV 72
23 MUR 79
24 LOV 110
25 JEF 68
26 COT 65
27 TIL 51
2104 **

OK Mobiles Worked: K5CM

Afterwards

Thanks to Connie/K5CM (and Pam/N5KW) for organizing us all once again! It obviously paid off with a county Sweep by at least one op. This was, in terms of total contacts, the best OKQP I've participated in so far. Let's keep that trend going for next year!

The 2022 Kansas QSO Party is scheduled for August 27-28, the last weekend in August. With 105 counties, we need all the help we can get, so mobiles, head this way! Everyone else, thanks for the Qs in Oklahoma, and see you down the log in 2022 ..

73, Bob/w0bh and Lorna/k0why

K0WHY - rides along with/drives with W0BH 103 CW 651 SSB

It was fun finally running two days of OKQP once again! See the W0BH post for the details. Thanks for the Qs ..

73, Lorna/k0why and Bob/w0bh

N6MU - fixed - CA 200 QSO- 77 counties worked

Managed a CW only Sweep this year. Needed 13 counties at the break. Found them all Sunday with a little help from my friends K5CM, KK6MC and W0BH. Thanks guys! Last five were ADA/CHE/JEF/GRE/HAR.

Nice to have 15 open both days for a change. Thanks to all the OK players. 73...

John, N6MU

Note: John had 57 contacts on 15M.

KF5VO - portable OK - 332 SSB qso - Carter County

Setup at Lake Murray State Park. Lots of fun.

Idaho QSO Party

K7TQ Mobile 470 CW qso

WA0WWW and I put 8 northern Idaho counties on the air. K9RS caught us in all eight and K2DFC had the most Qs with 10, but missed us in one county. We spent most of our time on 20 m then late in the afternoon on 40 m. We missed ID, UT, WY, NV, SD, and LA. Thanks to all who worked us and those who tried as well.

WN4AFP – fixed – SC 17 CW 10 counties worked

Activity was up this year from the ID stations. This QP gets better every year! Happy QPing.

Dave WN4AFP
stateqsoparty.com

Wisconsin QSO Party

This was held on the Sunday (March 13) when the A index spiked to 12 and the K index to 6. Sure didn't help the mobile folks out.

Several of the planned mobiles had to cancel runs prior to the event. Mobiles were out – KB9S was spotted on W6RK in a half dozen counties. WO9B spotted in a couple. No spots for KL1US, One spot for N9SD.

From 3830 reflector

N9SD - mobile 736 CW qso

Murphy strikes! On Saturday, I had to troubleshoot a "minor" problem in which transmitting on 40m and 80m disabled the power steering in my CR-V. Well, that's not good!

Then on Sunday morning, out of the blue, our radio will not transmit over 60W without shutting down entirely. We never figured that out, so ended up operating the entire contest with about 60 watts!

Despite these Murphy attacks, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Shout out to a number of stations who worked us several times:

DL3DXX - 6 times

K8MFO - 14 times

K5LXP - 9 times (ham buddy since high school)

KE0TT - 9 times

VE3CX - 9 times

Things got off to a good start. Then between 1830 and 2030, the number of signals and signal strengths dropped way down, along with our rate. No idea what that was about. Our antennas were just fine.

At one point, WO9B must have been within a few hundred feet of us in MAN as we all

headed west across the middle of the state - I could hear his CW signal clicking on my receiver all up and down the band. So we worked each other to pick up the mult. Then later heard WO9B in WAL, so grabbed that new mult as well.

This year we experimented with having one radio on 2m. It yielded only 5 Qs, but we did pick up Calumet on 2m (thanks to N9UPU).

Another great year for the WQP!

KB9S - mobile - 830 CW qso

Thank you to the West Allis Radio Amateur Club for sponsoring the Wisconsin Qso Party. This was our third year of going mobile. No major problems this year except for some noisy powerlines and rough roads.

My wife Kitty K9KTT did the driving hitting 16 counties on our planned route. We missed the last county on our route by 25 miles before we ran out of time. QSO rates were good the entire day with some pretty big pileups.

Thank you to all the stations that followed us along our route all day. Here are some of the top station Qso counts:

- 15 - KC3X
- 13 - K8MFO, KI0F
- 12 - K4RUM, WT2P
- 11 - NS2N
- 10 - K9RS, K9WA, KE0TT, WB9HFK
- 9 - K2CUB, K9CW, K9PW, KV0I, N0BUI, W8PI
- 8 - K4BAI, K9PG, KY4ID, VE3CX, W0VTT, W1QK, W4TJM, WE9V

73, Mark KB9S

WI9WI mobile 379 CW qso

This was my 27th year of doing the WIQP solo mobile. The first was in 1994, and I missed 2013 when we were out of the country and 2016 while recovering from some serious leg surgery. Since finishing my goal of operating solo mobile in every WI county a couple of years ago I have operated the past 2 years from some of the rarer northern tier counties. This year I went up to our cabin in Sawyer county Saturday morning. After

getting there and warming the place up from 18 deg to a livable temperature I spent some time getting the car ready.

Sunday I got up early and finished up getting the station together and headed south to Rusk County. The drive down took longer than anticipated due to overnight snow and somewhat icy roads. I got there a bit later than planned. Then I had my only real problem of the day when my computer and microHam keyer refused to communicate. After about 20 minutes of rebooting everything, changing a cable, changing ports, yada yada, it suddenly worked for reasons I couldn't fathom. so I was on the air finally.

Rusk is a rare seldom activated county, and is quite popular when I am there. Forty six minutes of operation yielded 75 QSOs. Then a short 2 mile drive to Sawyer for 76 minutes yielding 97 QSOs. Next was Price, a short drive for 87 QSOs in 47 minutes. Then it was a long drive to Ashland, so I was off the air for well over an hour. I don't operate while driving for safety reasons. I only do CW. When I got to my favorite spot at the Torch River Trailhead there was a guy taking down an antenna in a tree. It was KB9??? who was doing a POTA activation.

We had a brief eyeball then I was on from Ashland for 52 minutes and 90 QSOs. It's a short hop to Bayfield from there. I made only 32 QSOs in 25 minutes. Twenty and forty had dried up by this time, and I was getting cold. I was having some sort of minor problem with the BugCatcher on 80. The tuner wouldn't hold a tune. Rather than try to troubleshoot in the dark and cold I decided to quit about 30 minutes early and drive to my friends place near Glidden (the Black Bear Capital of the World)for a beer, dinner and a sleep. End of story. Thanks to all for the QSOs and mults.

Gear: K3, microHam keyer, Big LiPo battery, netbook computer, 20 meter hamstick, BugCatcher for 40 (and 80 when it works)

73

Jim WI9WI

W9W - 424 SSB qso (WQ9F opr)

First time operating in WIQP, operated as a portable station in Racine County at a POTA park K-4265. Started right at the starting time, and put in about 3.5 hours of operating time, I was setup outside so was starting to get a little chilly out, prevented me from

putting in more time.

KY4ID - fixed - SC 75 CW 19 SSB 39 counties

This QSO party was a ton of fun. Was tough pulling out CW stations on 40m, but I guess that's to be expected. Had fun working some SSB. CW pileups were absolutely brutal. Thanks for all the QSOs!

73,
Burton
KY4ID

WT2P - fixed - IL 109 CW 75 SSB 55 counties

Nice to support our fellow WI contesters.

Thanks to the mobiles, chasing them through the counties kept things interesting!

This is my personal best in the WiQP since I've been participating in the recent years.

WT2P

K4BAI - fixed - GA 83 CW 34 SSB qso 40 counties

Another good WI QSO Party. Activity seemed to be down, maybe due to the weather. Thanks for all QSOs, particularly the intrepid mobiles.

WE9V - fixed WI 470 CW 396 SSB qso

Bands didn't seem bad at all. First time in a really long time that the bands didn't go too long too quick. 40 was usable the entire contest, and 20 actually got better in the middle of the contest. As a result, 40 numbers are way up and 80 is way down.

Not sure what it was, but the rate just didn't seem that great.
I guess it was all in my head, as it was my best QSO total ever,
but 5 short on CW, and my best score ever in WQP.

Thanks everyone for the QSOs!!!

Chad WE9V

NE9U - fixed - WI - 332 CW 142 SSB

I usually go mobile in this contest. Only 2nd or 3rd time fixed in past 30 years or so...
Was on vacation past couple weeks and just got home yesterday...not enough time to put
a mobile station together.

Different strategy than mobile...not sure I did it right. :-)

Virginia QSO Party

Lots of activity – especially on 40m and 80m – with mobiles out running. Some 15m
activity but not much even though band open. Four or five mobiles out. Some folks
worked 94 of the VA counties and independent cities. Independent cities were also
mults for this contest.

N4CW mobile assisted 1672 CW qso

I was definitely "assisted" by Jim, W4TMO, in all the aspects of this operation but for
operating; that I did alone! Jim planned and drove the route through Virginia. It was an
ambitious undertaking and Jim's goal was to provide some of the historically under-
represented counties more exposure to county hunters and testers as best we could.
Some thoughts to share: for the participants, please be aware that going mobile is a
tough job -- the car has to be reliable, relatively r.f. "quiet" to the mobile operator (quite a
task normally, and not an easy one at that--complicated if you're using a "hybrid"), with
as-efficient-as-you-can-get antenna(s).

Then there's the route planned (you MUST know county lines)-- just think of all those power lines that often go alongside the road...sometimes they're noisy, VERY noisy (like 20 dB over S9), and the noise can go on for miles!!! And the route may not always be on major highways...like driving through the Jefferson National Forest this time with mountain roads (talk about curves!!!!) and operating with all the turns and stops! Fortunately Jim's a great driver and has nerves of steel!!! Then there are potholes, bumps, and sudden stops...ever wonder why there's a pause after you send your call and don't get an immediate reply? Maybe it's because the mobile operator's keyboard jumped up just while he was typing and what came out in the call area of the log was nothing resembling the call!!! It takes time to delete those extra characters and put in the correct ones...in worse cases, I've had the computer or mouse go flying who-knows-where!!!! Many thanks for all the patient ops who waited while we made occasional pit stops for "relief" and gas/petrol. Note: if you're serious about your score, you don't stop for lunch or dinner -- a really good trail mix is a godsend (Jim got some at Aldi). Also, you need a cup holder nearby for drinks...and it has to be stable!!!

Statistics follow:

Total Time On per N1MM -- 23:11

We "put on" 17 Independent cities and 44 counties

We worked 30 VA mults, 15 Countries, 46 States, and 5 Provinces

Best DX was RZ1OA (Arkhangel on the White Sea) 15 meters

Most frequent "fan" -- KA6BIM (51 Q's) followed by OM2VL, DL3DXX, and LY5W (50 Q's)

Transceiver: Elecraft K3 with upgrades

Antennas: Tarheel screwdriver and 20M heliwhip mounted on its own rooftop groundplane (sheet aluminum affixed to 1/2" fiberboard on roof rack).

Power supplied by RX450's battery system. Noise suppression by W4TMO!!!

Thanks for your patience and perseverance y'all...N4CW

W2RU mobile 313 CW qso

Operated Mobile in Henry County (HRY) and Martinsville City (MVX) both days.

TS-590 at 70 watts into a Hustler mast and individual resonators on the roof of my SUV.

OM2VL, LY5W, and DL3DXX have GREAT ears! They all called and worked me on

40 meters!

W4GO mobile - 1073 CW qso

This was a multi-op mobile operation. The driver was W4GO. The radio operator was also W4GO. This year we also welcomed a third operator, W4GO, who is assigned the support jobs like pumping gas, running in the store for food, and talking to curious passers-by. He has to ride in the trunk for now. You can't do this without teamwork.

Seriously, though. Thanks for riding along on my fifth consecutive mobile run in the VAQP. I missed the familiar voices from the last four years of SSB but enjoyed working many new chasers on CW this time.

CW isn't my native habitat, and it shows. Managing a big and very "eager" CW pile-up is ... interesting! Still, I was pleased with how things went. I was not using any decoder but the one between the ears. While CW is perhaps more taxing for the mind than SSB, it is easier on the ears over long periods. Pretty easy on the voice, too.

Another change this year was to put considerably more time into the bands open to Western NA and EU. This meant trading off VA county/city mults for states, provinces and DX entities. As anticipated, my total multiplier count is quite a bit lower than previous years, although that not only reflects the difference in band selection but also fewer VA counties/cities active on CW than on SSB by fixed stations.

An additional wrinkle was the use of a different vehicle this year in which I installed an HF station the week before the contest. Thanks to KA4RRU for lending a heavy-duty magnet mount on short notice. This vehicle posed some new RFI challenges. The hat-less antenna, smaller vehicle body, and use of a mag-mount (though bonded to the body with radial wires) resulted in a less efficient antenna system than my usual rover. I was running a bit less TX power. Even so, the equipment performed well.

In any case, I was happy with the volume of QSOs from Western NA and EU. Time spent in previous mobile VAQP runs looking for those regions on SSB had generally been disappointing, but this year on CW it was very productive.

The EU participants in this contest are not numerous but they are enthusiastic. OM2VL was my most frequent flyer from any region with 32 QSOs, followed closely by DL3DXX (30) and LY5W (25). KA6BIM and W5TM (both 20 QSOs) rounded out the top five chasers.

In total, 318 stations were worked, of which 27 were worked ten or more times. Much as on SSB mobile runs, as the weekend progressed and the recurring call signs made their way into the log and my head, I benefited from picking up on their individual operating styles and from being able to guess, usually correctly, who was calling by catching only a couple of characters out of a pile-up.

To give an example, at one point I realized that if I heard a "2" or "Q" low in audio frequency near the cutoff of my 300 Hz filter, while on a band open to NY, it was always WA2JQK. He took the express lane around the pile-ups by offsetting from zero-beat, and the fact that he was consistent worked further to our advantage.

28 counties/cities were activated in the following order: RIC, LAN, NUM, MID, MAT, GLO, KQN, KWM, NEW, JAM, WMX, NNX, PQX, YOR, HAX, NFX, VBX, POX, CPX, SUS, IOW, SHA, SUR, SUS, PRG, PBX, HOX, CCY.

KW4VA 'mobile'



KW4VA mobile multi op 795 CW 500 SSB qso (K1RA W8ZN ops)

Thanks to SPARC for another great event! Terry W8ZN and I entered the new M/M Mobile category after re-outfitting our K8GP V/UHF contest rover for HF. We ran a K3 with a collapsible pneumatic mast for 80-10m CW & SSB and an IC-9100 with a CB whip + various V/UHF antennas to cover 40m to 23cm. We ran completely off batteries, a home grown 400A/hr. Lithium Ion Phosphate pack. Saturday we started at STX & WAX then spent all day on Skyline Drive driving north and then hit FRE, CLA & LDN by 11PM. Sunday we planned another 14 counties. We started at PRW & FAU on Bull

Run Mtn. and after a delay hit 5 more counties along Rt 66 until we hit FCX. We skipped ARL & ALX to head south to STA to get back on schedule, but after running into bad traffic on I-95S we ended up stopping and ended the contest early in PRW, making a few more DX contacts on our way back home to FAU by 4PM. It seemed like V/UHF activity was down, but 40m rocked giving us half our QSOs. It was great to be followed by several DX stations (DL3DXX[19], OM2VL[18], LY5W[13]) who snagged us numerous times on 80-15m CW.

73 & Thanks for all the QSOs and those who followed us on

Andy - K1RA (KW4VA/M in VaQP 2022)

N4HB - fixed - VA 653 CW 467 SSB

This year's QSO party for us mostly centered around 40 meters. 80 meters was down from last year, but the static crashes on Saturday evening and into Sunday morning made 80 challenging. We went into this weekend thinking 20, 15 and 10 meters would produce good solid openings, but that wasn't to be. The high band propagation faltered just a day after it had been open worldwide and we ended up spending most of our time on the lower bands. You just never know!

Thanks to all of the mobile and portable operations that hit the road for the weekend. They make it interesting and fun as they track around the State. But, I'm at a loss to understand the lack of participation from State's the larger cities. Those local clubs should encourage more VAQP operations. It would only make it more fun than it already is! Congratulations again to the Sterling Park ARC, who provided another great QSO party. One of the best in the Country!

DL3DXX - fixed - DL 270 CW qso

Thanks to all VA stations for QSOs, especially to portable and mobiles wkd:
KW4VA, N4CW, W2RU, N4CW

K8MFO - fixed - OH 211 CW qso

N4CW, KW4VA, and W4GO mobiles surely did a great job.

KK4BZ County Expedition - 481 SSB (note had 25 qso on UHF, 69 on 2m)

Icom IC-746 all mode 160m-6m radio paired with 134ft OCFD wire antenna used for SSB; antenna hung in trees. TYT TH-9800 10m/6m/2m/70cm FM radio paired to Diamond X50A dual band 2m/70cm vertical antenna used for FM; antenna mounted on 4 sections of portable mast clamped to the side of the car. Tried using a Diamond F23A antenna (14ft for 2m only) but high winds arrived just after getting it in the air -- made it too scary -- lucky to have gotten it down safely without damaging anything. Had lots of fun otherwise.

Awards Issued

USACA #1269

K1RO, Mark

Feb 4, 2022

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USA-CA Award: K0PFV completed his 4th time on 19 February 2022. He was assigned #175

Bingo Award: WQ7A completed Bingo V on 9 March 2022. He was assigned #8

Cliff Corner Jr/Polaris Award: KM6HB reached Level 250 on 17 April 2018. He was assigned #486

Jack Scroggins/Gemini Award: KM6HB reached Level 250 on 2 November 2017. He was assigned #181

Roadrunner Award: W8OP attained 175 last counties on 4 March 2022. He was assigned #149

Roadrunner Award: WB8III attained 25 last counties on 5 March 2022. He was assigned #549

Roadrunner Award: K8ZZ attained 1200 last counties on 21 December 2021 He was assigned #8

Events for County Hunters

Lots of activity this month with many state QSO Parties – and many will have most or all of the counties on the air. Lots of CW activity, some SSB, some digital if permitted.

Many mobiles will be headed to Traverse City MI – with lots of activity along the way!

Two Canadian Province Parties – Ontario and Quebec if you wish. Two State Parks on the Air Events.

- - - -

Texas State Parks on the Air April 9 & 10, 2022

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fiF7rNwUzPhywfNpJ167t4ObCs-XKHPZ/view>

TX state parks – but use 3 digit park desingator not same as POTA or WWFF. Takes a bit of digging to figure out park and county. Most activity SSB and 40 and 80m. You get zero points total score as a TX activator if you don't work at least one other TX park!

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Apr 2

2 1400 3 0200 1.8-144 **Louisiana QSO Party** CW Ph Dig RS(T), LA Parish or SPC
laqp.louisianacontestclub.org

2 1400 3 0200 1.8-144 **Mississippi QSO Party** CW Ph Dig RS(T), MS county or SPC
arrl.org/sections/view/mississippi

2 1400 3 2000 1.8-UHF **Missouri QSO Party** CW Ph Dig RS(T), MO county or SPC
www.w0ma.org/index.php

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2 1400 3 2200 3.5-28 **Florida State Parks on the Air** CW Ph Dig Park ID or SPC
flspota.org/rules

Florida SP on the Air will use the letter abbreviations, but the map will show both KFF designators (for WWFF program). The POTA designator is the same with only a K ahead.

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April 9

9 1300 10 2200 1.8-UHF **Nebraska QSO Party** CW Ph NE county or SPC (FT8: grid)
nebraskagsoparty.com

9 1400 10 0200 1.8-144 **New Mexico QSO Party** CW Ph Dig Name, NM county or SPC
www.newmexicoqsoparty.org

9 1400 10 2000 **All Texas State Parks on the Air** CW Ph Dig RS(T), park ID or SPC
www.tspota.org

9 1800 10 1800 1.8-144 **North Dakota QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T), ND county or SPC
www.ndarrlsection.com

9 1800 10 2359 1.8-50 **Georgia QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T), GA county or SPC
gaqsoparty.com

April 16

16 1600 17 0400 3.5-28 **Michigan QSO Party** CW Ph Serial, MI county or SPC
www.miqp.org/Rules.htm

16 1800 17 1800 1.8-144 **Ontario QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T), ON county or SPC
va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm

17 1200 17 2000 1.8-144 **Quebec QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T), QC zone or SPC
wp1.quebecqsoparty.org

April 30

30 1600 1 2159 7-28 **Florida QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T), FL county or SPC
floridagsoparty.org/rules

Dayton Hamvention 2022 in May! Many CH will be there. Hundreds of park chasers/activators will be there!

That's all folks! See you next month....maybe a bit late – MINI Time!