

County Hunter News OnLine

January 2024
Volume 20 Issue 1

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). 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 – Wow! Sunspots up near 200 at times – but lots of solar activity with high K index. Loads of opportunities for counties using Parks on the Air stations – dozens of them every weekend and a dozen or more every day.

High sunspot numbers give 'fair' conditions on 20 and good on 15 and 10m. In November, many days that 15 and up rated 'good'. Toward the end of November, sunspot numbers were 196! Conditions weren't great but once things improve, should be lots of fun on 10m. Folks working skip on 10M, too.

In December, lots of activity on 10M. Some days good, some not so good. Most days there is skip to somewhere.

2) Social Security - this year, SS payments will increase by 3.2%. (Last year it was a nice 8.7% increase). This is boost the 'average monthly benefit' by \$59 to \$1907 – a 94 dollar increase, or by \$94 to \$3033 for a couple who are both receiving SS. Yours depends on many factors including years worked, pay received, etc. A large percentage of county hunters are retired.

This is based upon the PI-W. Although the 2024 increase is above normal, it doesn't reflect the continued impact on seniors. Nearly 70% of retirees surveyed said their

household expenses were still 10% higher than they were a year ago.

If still working, the SS tax will now be taken out up to \$168,600 salary each year. If you are retired and work part time, the limit is \$22,320 before benefits are reduced.

3) Winter! Winter has arrived up north with snow and cold temps. 17 below in Fairbanks AK if you're headed that way. The Dalton Highway - "ICE ROAD" up to Prudhoe Bay is just that this time of year. Karl, K4YT ran into snow on his trip to New England in early December. Blizzards have hit the plains. If you're planning a trip, keep your eyes on the weather forecast and leave some spare time in their for surprises.

4) It's 2024 after Jan 1. If you're like me, you'll still be trying to write 2023 on checks and other things for a while. 2024 might be the peak of the current sunspot cycle as noted previously. It's also election year – and maybe it will be a re-run of 2020 with aged, brain impaired Biden vs aged way off the wall Trump. Hello! We need some other people running our government. Biden can't find the exit off the state or make two complete sentences. Trump is a raving egomaniac. Our government deserves better.

MICHIGAN MINI

April 25-27, 2024
Springhill Suites Midland, MI

I'm planning to go. How about you? Nice hotel, great breakfast buffet in the mornings, good restaurants close by. (no dining at the hotel).

POTA activations Winter Style

ALASKA POTA EXPEDITION! 12/2-12/4

Saturday morning we will take the 6 hour drive north and then a snow machine ride out to a never activated park, Minto Flats K-9700. We will set up base camp and be there

until Monday. Operators will be Sean KL5NE, Doug KL7DUG and myself KL7EC. We plan on working SSB and FT8/FT4 when we're not hunting and back at camp. Hope to work as many of you as we can, 73 de KL7EC

de N4CD - this is in the 4th Judicial Area in AL. About 35 miles east of Fairbanks. Who knows? They might hit 2nd on one of their trips. Heard them faintly and there was a massive pileup on them on SSB on Sunday Dec 3.

KL7EC post activation report – 200 QSOs made. -17F outside the tent. Warmer inside the tent.

Nice Video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cvqzXQ7xiY>

- - - - -

Minnesota Park Activation

Morning activation at Rice Lake State Park, MN (K-2516). Kinda chilly - 11F. Stayed warm working from the car, though. I discovered the coax from IC-7100 to the AH-4 tuner went bad. I suspect the center conductor opened up. Not too surprising since I close the back hatch on the cables. Ah well, easy fix. So, I just measured off the SS17 to 1/4-wave for 20M and hooked up the lip mount to the radio. That works quite well, actually. Worked 20 meters for a while and then collapsed the SS17 down to 1/4-wave for 10 meters and worked that band a bit. Got three English stations! Not bad. Got a total of 61 QSOs. THANKS to the hunters and P2P folks and the DX stations. 73 K0WML

Here is our Alcatraz Island setup for this year, everything was contained in a case, a 30ah Bioenno battery, a matt30 tuner, a Yaesu 891 and the face came off using an extension kit to go to the chairs. The portable atas-25 antenna attached to a portable stake inside the case.

In case it rained or stormed the antenna could be mounted outside the case and the lid would close. The coax would go through the same access hole the extension kit comes out of the case on the bottom front of case.

400+ SSB QSOs made

73s.



You need to apply for a permit through the NPS. It takes months to get a response. We applied in July and just our \$50 permit mid-November. Everything needs to be self-contained and carried (no stakes in the ground, hanging wires in trees or bushes, no dollies). They are pretty strict about where you can activate and it is written on the permit. If you have never been to Alcatraz Island, it is a pretty steep uphill walk,

switchbacks, about 1/2 mile. They only allow activity during weekdays and only about 3 months of the year, which is why we go on a Friday in December. There are also costs involved - permit fee, parking, and Ferry. Fun but exhausting. N6LY

Stuart Landing State Conservation Area in Florida

Yesterday I activated K-10565 Stuart's Landing North State Conservation Area FL as its first ever activator. This "park" is only accessible via water (must be private land locked) so as a jet skier I did my research and launched in the Suwannee River near Rock Bluff yesterday here in Florida.

Only about 42 degrees out - so the 16 mile ride up river was cold (w/ a 40 mph headwind on ski) and I had my doubts if I could stay warm enough to operate but the sun came out as I landed. Started on 10 meters FT8 and quickly switched to 20 meters to get 19 contacts total. Thanks to the hunters for the spots and contacts for this first ever activation. Log is processed in POTA.

Equipment: ICOM 705 10 watts with Wolf River Coil Antenna on a screen on sand. I am a You Tuber as a "mature" guy on jet skis so there will be a video on this activation put in the hopper to be released later. You can search my name on you tube if interested. Always fun to challenge yourself with tough outdoor conditions and the art of "getting there"... KU3C



National Convention 2024

Wednesday October 9 to Saturday Oct. 12, 2024

Best Western Plus- Bridgeport Inn
100 Lodgeville Road
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Convention Rate: \$90.00 plus approximately 13% tax (now) for King, Double, or handicap accessible rooms

Reservations: 304-842-5411- Individual call-in and pay basis, ask for Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club rate.

All reservations must be received by Sept 25, 2024.

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-bridgeport/best-western-plus-bridgeport-inn/propertyCode.49035.html

Travel: Pittsburgh International Airport 1 hour 45 minute drive south to hotel (110 miles)
North Central WV Regional Airport 10 minute drive to hotel

The hotel has shuttle service - It must be scheduled with your reservation.

See the MARAC Event page for link to hotel and booking on line.

Note de N4CD – Bridgeport is in Harrison County (north central WV) in the Clarksburg Metro area. Population of Bridgeport is 9000. History here goes back to the 1700s. Civil War skirmishes happened here. There are a few historic bridges and houses to visit if so inclined. You've got good interstates and 4 lane roads in this part of WV. Not so true in other parts of the state – hi hi. It's a good excuse to run lots of WV, PA, MD and other nearby counties. Some county lines can be run. Others are in deep cuts through the hills where almost no signals get out.

For the shoppers - Bridgeport is home to Meadowbrook Mall, a super-regional shopping complex. The mall has 109 stores.

Mobile Activity

Mobile runs in December are often fought with problems. From the K3IMC forum:

NF0N Thanks to those who worked me on my 4 day Nebraska trip. Due to time constraints, I was unable to run 5 counties. I will add them to my next Nebraska trip, which will be mostly in Northeastern Nebraska. Due to weather, it many be in Spring 2024. Also, on my 4 day Nebraska trip, I joined the "Deer" club. At least, it wasn't a Moose, but not too happy about joining the Club. Happy Hunting, there are others that are taking some nice trips soon.

- - -

K4YT took a week long trip to New England – then down through NY to NJ and on home. Days of snow, heavy rain. Some snippets from the K3IMC forum:

K4YT: TODAY'S RUN. CT-Fairfield/Litchfield, Middlesex/New Haven, New London/Windham. RI-Wash/Kent/Providence/Newport/Bristol. Rain has stopped. Was horrible driving last night in the dark with the heavy rain.

Tomorrow - MA- Bristol/Plymouth/Barn/Suffolk/Norfolk/Worcester. CT-Tolland, Harford. MA-Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin. Maybe into VT if there is no snow on the roads.

Worcester RON-Nasty heavy rain here tonight. Took a long time to find my motel.....more

K4YT: Looks like my idea of finishing running VT is dead. Lots of wet snow up there. 3-8" they are predicting. I will figure up a trip back home thru western MA and eastern NY. I need to fly to St. Louis, rent a car and run Christian, IL for MD then some how out to WA to run Island and San Juan for WBOW MD. Dukes and Nantucket will be run in the Spring.

Call: K4YT 12/3/2023

Orleans, VT. Wasn't snow when I was almost there but when I finished the run it was snow heavy.

I wanted to run Washington/Lamoille as well as Franklin but trying to get to Washington the roads started get covered and temp was at 31. Some spots were at 25mph. Once I broke out of the back roads I stopped and ran Washington only on 20m. Was already dark and no places to book. I decided to drive to Burlington and if what was predicted, many inches during the night I was going to drive to Albany. So far the Holiday Inn people convinced me that we won't see accumulations here tonight. Tomorrow if not bad I will run Lamoille, Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden and Addison. Then I plan to drive South and will run a few like Columbia and Putnam.

No time to run Northern NY as they are getting snow as well plus I need to fly to St Louis and drive to Christian, IL. Then there will be just Island and San Juan to run to finish up MD. Watch the spots tomorrow early

Call: K4YT 12/4/2023

Light snow now at 0740 here in Saratoga County 12-6-23

Finally Home at 2130. Beat. Tnx for all the contacts. NJ will be on a separate trip

MD WBOW Trip for W0GXQ Hanover, VA Dec 18 depending on the WX Watch the spots

I will fly and rent a car at Indianapolis, IN airport. A lot depends on snow. Right now there is no snow predicted. Mostly I-70/72/74 with some adjacent CL's. I arrive at 1039 AM and I hope to get the rental car by 11am and set up. 20/30/17/15/12 like the New England trip. I have a list of counties but want to go thru them again b4 I post them.

was going to run Benton/white when I came to Lafayette, IN. Sun was almost down and I thought I had better start to book a place. The Fairfield Inn was less than a mile away so I booked it. I was up at 4 am this morning and now rather beat. Not many county hunters showed up today. Maybe props were not great. Hardly a contact on 30 or 12. Will post tomorrow's trip later.

K4YT 12/19/2023

IN: Vigo/Parke, Clay/Putnam, Owen/Morgan, Johnson/Shelby. Maybe more Rush/Fayette, Union/Wayne. I need to get to the airport motel way before it gets dark so I can disassemble and pack up everything. My flight home departs at 0515 on the 22nd.

Soon he'll be off to run WA counties, then overseas for a trip.

Kraig, KA2LHO, posted on FB several parks he ran in FL Here's a sample here. Lots more pictures on his Facebook page



Rainbow Springs State Park – Marion County FL



Ichetucknee Springs State Park in Columbia County, Florida.



Tomoka State in Volusia County, Florida.

DE N4CD: Within the park is the site of the Timucuan village of Nocoroco, located on the Tomoka River. Researchers suggest that the land containing the Tomoka Mound Complex just south of the Nocoroco village site was occupied as early as 5000 B.C. It was also the location of a plantation owned by Richard Oswald, a wealthy Scottish merchant, who owned the plantation throughout the British rule of Florida. It became a state park in 1945. On May 7, 1973, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

<https://www.facebook.com/kdpritts>

Trials and Tribulations of a POTA Activator

ZERO

The spotting page screen shot might disappoint you. Zero not only refers to the number of QSOs when switching off the radio after about one hour.

Temperature was ZERO, with some wind making it to feel even a bit below zero.

ZERO also refers to the available amount of light. This is the most interesting part. I biked into my "home park" in the dark. I set up the radio station in the dark. The only light came from the bike's LED headlight that stays on after parking the bike for about 5 minutes, slowly losing brightness until the lamp turns off. Stray light (aka light pollution) scattered via clouds was the only light source...

Also taking down was done in the dark. Feeling where cables lead to. Disconnect mic, battery and antenna like a blind man. Taking the magnetic loop from the tripod, collapsing the tripod. Loading all onto the bike. Only after doing all this, I switched on the cell phone flash light to check nothing was left behind...

MUF goes down rapidly when it gets dark at my latitude. I could hear some US activators on 15, 17 and 20m. But all just to weak. Even the pile ups of hunters were just above the noise. Propagation possibly was very a-symmetric / non-reciprocal. Or my CQ's were on frequencies of stations I could not hear, masking my transmissions.

The only other POTA activators in EU were EA2CCG/P and EA4DT/P in EA-1843 on 7174 kHz (and DL2COM out of reach for me). They had a huge pile-up. Hunters were up to S7, but Joaquin Montoya Jimenez and Oscar Romo most of the time were 43 up to 52. To weak to get a QSO or to break through the pile-up, given the fact a magnetic loop antenna is less efficient when tuned down to the lowest frequency, and the hunters were mainly from Spain and Italy, so for sure quite strong signals.

40m is OK for NVIS with a magnetic loop antenna. As propagation changes after sunset, 40m needs antennas with a low radiation angle. With a vertical wire, they would have heard me. But using an antenna with 10% efficiency radiating all around in the vertical plane, it's just impossible to compete with S9 regional hunters... (it's too cold to set up large antennas now)

Also contributing to the number of QSOs: It was around supper time. Most people are in the kitchen or dining room

Back at home, even 40m got very quiet on the Maasbree WebSDR. MUF went below 7 MHz!

73 and POTA_on de PE1ISP

from W6RK starting 11/26

11/27 NF0N out running NE counties for a couple of days.

N3MRA Seth in GA putting out a few

12/1 - 12-5 - K4Yt in Salem NJ headed to New England – CT, MA, RI, VT, NY,

N3MRA ran a few in NC

12/7 AI5P noted in Pike AR

K8ZZ spotted in WI to IN to MI. Then more MI running lots of counties in MI. Then IL and IA counties then into MN and home.

AB7NK and K7SEN left AZ and headed to TX for holiday trip. Ran dozens of counties in Texas. Headed back to AZ later via many counties in southeast TX for many days there. Barely made it home by Xmas.

AB4WL/NN4JM OM/YL team spotted in Hale AL

12/19 – K4YT running around in IN. Then IL. Later in the month, around the DC area in VA. More to come from him.

Many spots this month by N4RKK spotting POTA parks – and their counties. It is appreciated.

The Deer Club?

MARAC needs to have a special endorsement or award for joining the 'deer club'. NF0N appears to be the last member joining. Maybe a number for becoming a member of the deer club. I know a large bunch of county hunters have had deer encounters including N9JF, N4CD and likely a dozen others. If you live up north, it's a common problem but membership should be restricted to those who 'had encounters' while putting out counties, on the way to conventions, not otherwise. Down south, depending where you are, there are still deer problems – from 100 lbs deer in wide open areas of TX to 200-300 lb ones in forested areas and swampy areas. Back east – big

time problems as Liberal Woke folks don't like anyone killing the deer (Bambi) - (hunting seasons) so there are massive numbers of encounters in CT and other states there. There are 5 times more deer in the US than in 1700s before the era of large farms with nice food for a zillion deer.

De N4CD = (had two encounters - so far - one in MO - \$1500 damage at 30 mph – deer went over the car - first day hunting season there - took out windshield and crunched front fender - and one in MI on way to Mini – 10 mph - \$1000 but haven't fixed it yet – got the front grille - de N4CD). Lucky for me – several county hunters had their cars totaled by hitting/getting hit by a deer.

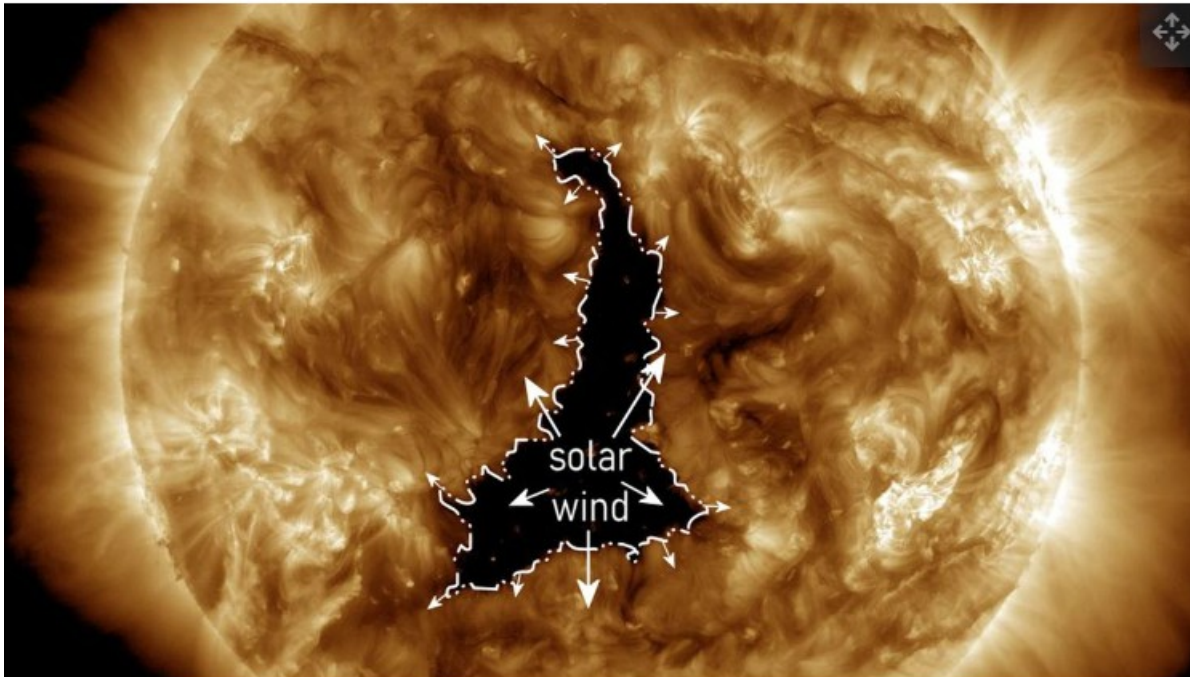
Maybe we could do section in CHNews about deer encounters? I'm sure there are lots of stories out there!

Solar News 1

Gigantic 'hole' in the sun wider than 60 Earths is spewing superfast solar wind right at us

By Harry Baker

A monstrous dark patch, known as a coronal hole, recently appeared near the sun's equator. The temporary gap enables unusually fast solar wind to race toward Earth.



An enormous dark hole has opened up in the sun's surface and is spewing powerful streams of unusually fast radiation, known as solar wind, right at Earth. The size and orientation of the temporary gap, which is wider than 60 Earths, is unprecedented at this stage of the solar cycle, scientists say.

The giant dark patch, known as a coronal hole, took shape near the sun's equator on Dec. 2 and reached its maximum width of around 497,000 miles (800,000 kilometers) within 24 hours, Spaceweather.com reported. Since Dec. 4, the solar void has been pointing directly at Earth.

Coronal holes occur when the magnetic fields that hold the sun in place suddenly open up, causing the contents of the sun's upper surface to stream away in the form of solar wind, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Coronal holes appear as dark patches because they are cooler and less dense than the surrounding plasma. This is similar to why sunspots appear to be black — but unlike sunspots, coronal holes are not visible unless they are viewed in ultraviolet light.

The radiation streams from coronal holes are much faster than normal solar wind and often trigger disturbances in Earth's magnetic shield, known as geomagnetic storms, according to NOAA. The last coronal hole to appear on the sun, which emerged in March, spat out the most powerful geomagnetic storm to hit Earth in more than six years.

Experts initially predicted this most recent hole could spark a moderate (G2) geomagnetic storm, which could trigger radio blackouts and strong auroral displays for the next few days. However, the solar wind has been less intense than expected, so the resulting storm has only been weak (G1) so far, according to Spaceweather.com. But auroras are still possible.

It is unclear how long the hole will remain in the sun, but previous coronal holes have lasted for more than a single solar rotation (27 days) in the past, according to NOAA. However, the hole will soon rotate away from Earth.

Solar activity has been ramping up all year as the sun nears the explosive peak in its roughly 11-year solar cycle, known as the solar maximum. However, in a bizarre twist,

the gigantic new coronal hole is not supposed to be part of this increase in solar activity.

Coronal holes can occur at any point throughout the solar cycle, but they are actually more common during solar minimum, according to NOAA. When they do emerge during solar maximum, they are normally located near the sun's poles and not near the equator. It is, therefore, a mystery how such a massive hole opened up near the equator when we are so close to the solar maximum.

However, over the last few weeks, there have been numerous other signs that the sun is getting more active.

On Nov. 18, a gigantic "sunspot archipelago" made up of at least five different sunspot groups emerged on the sun's near side and has since spat out dozens of solar storms into space. On Nov. 25, an explosive "canyon of fire" eruption near the sun's equator released a coronal mass ejection (CME) — a fast-moving cloud of magnetized plasma — that later slammed into Earth and triggered rare orange auroras. And on Nov. 28, an "almost X-class" solar flare shot out of the sun and birthed a cannibal CME that hit Earth and triggered a geomagnetic storm, which lit up lower latitudes with auroras over the weekend.

The recent surge in solar activity is likely a sign that we are right on the cusp of solar maximum. In October, scientists revised their solar cycle forecasts and now predict that the explosive peak could begin in early 2024.

Source: https://www.livescience.com/space/the-sun/gigantic-hole-in-the-sun-wider-than-60-earths-is-spewing-superfast-solar-wind-right-at-us?utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_content=space.com&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR0AmAhHogtzqeMuVcLEucd5CDP9E7uxdJIyA6Juutmf0xO5eGn-Q9HdZqM

Kalaupapa News Story

This popped up in my Sunday Paper – and thought it was interesting enough to include in the County Hunter News. Kalawao County – which consists of Kalaupapa - is one of the two hardest counties to work and to transmit from. Second District AK is the other really tough county to work and run.

- ----- (edited as story too long otherwise)

KALAUPAPA, Hawaii (AP) — Kalaupapa beckoned to Kyong Son Toyofuku. She had long prayed to visit the hard-to-reach Hawaiian peninsula, trapped by its deep-green, sheer sea cliffs and rugged, black rock shores that glisten under the Pacific’s pristine waters.

As a daily Mass-going Catholic devoted to Saint Damien of Molokai, she wanted to walk where he walked, pray where he prayed, and witness for herself the place — both stunning and haunting — where the late priest spent a pivotal part of his life caring for banished people sick with leprosy.

The pilgrimage to Kalaupapa, defined by its natural isolation in northern Molokai, is logistically challenging to make under normal circumstances, with longstanding rules including prohibiting anyone younger than 16 from visiting. It is even more so today because of lingering COVID-19 pandemic restrictions that canceled all pilgrimages and tours of the national historical park to protect the peninsula’s eight remaining former patients. Park and state health department officials have been easing restrictions and are considering when to resume organized pilgrimages and tours.



Clouds from a passing storm cover the peninsula of Kalaupapa, Hawaii, on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. A pilgrimage to the Kalaupapa settlement is logistically challenging since this beautiful and haunting slice of northern Molokai is defined by its natural isolation.

For Toyofuku, a series of must-have permissions came together at the right moment this summer and her dream came true. At the invitation of Kalaupapa's priest, she retraced Father Damien's footsteps in a place where for more than a century nearly no one wanted to go — and many would never leave.

Just thinking about Damien's devotion to the sick moves her to tears. "Every morning I pray to him," she said, crying.

Her husband, Lance Toyofuku, called all the difficulty God's plan.

"Maybe the people who really want to get there will be able to go there," he said. "You don't want a million people going there every year."

Kalaupapa, now a refuge for those who still call the peninsula home, was once the government's answer to a deadly leprosy outbreak in the 1800s that persisted into the next century. The disease containment policy forced the afflicted to live out their days in the primitive settlement that sprang up as boat after boat dropped off people who had been uprooted from everything they'd ever known.

Missionaries, like Father Damien and Mother Marianne — who also became a Catholic saint following her service on the island — moved to Kalaupapa to care for the new residents' physical and spiritual needs. The patients were immersed in suffering from the disease and the separation, said Alicia Damien Lau, one of two Catholic sisters currently living and serving on the peninsula, but the sick still found happy moments and ways to thrive.

"The patients were all saints in a sense," she said.

More than 8,000 people, mostly Native Hawaiians, perished at Kalaupapa, including Damien, who eventually contracted leprosy, later called Hansen's disease. The Belgian priest, born Joseph De Veuster, is credited with drastically improving living conditions in the settlement. More than a century after his death in 1889, Damien's devotion to the

ailing still inspires people worldwide as does the dedication of Saint Marianne.

The Rev. Patrick Killilea, Kalaupapa's priest and de facto tour guide, welcomed the Toyofukus in his Irish brogue after their plane touched down on a recent day. They climbed into his Toyota minivan with its sliding door sign that reads, "Fr. Pat's Paddy Wagon," and headed to one of the first stops of their day trip: Damien's original grave.

"When you look at the surrounding areas, you could just feel the peace and spirit working in you," said Lance Toyofuku, who lives in Hawaii's capital city. "It's not like being in Honolulu with all the cars and all the people. It's a place where you can get closer to God because you don't have all those distractions."

At the end of a gravel road, Damien's grave site stands next to St. Philomena, the church the priest expanded in 1876. The National Park Service, which cares for Kalaupapa's cultural and historic resources, restored the church ahead of Damien's 2009 canonization. His body, moved to Belgium in 1936, is no longer there. Only a relic remains — the priest's right hand was reburied in 1995 at the site.

Damien's love for Kalaupapa's people was unconditional, said Barbara Jean Wajda of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities. She and Lau live on Kalaupapa, and helped the Toyofukus get a seat on the flight to the peninsula.

"He would eat with them. He would treat their wounds," she said. "And it didn't really matter if they were Catholic or not. But he wanted them to feel that they were loved by God and cared for."

She pointed to a field beyond Damien's ornate grave and explained how many leprosy patients were buried without markers. The priest took it upon himself to build coffins and rebury some of those found in shallow graves, she said.

Marianne arrived at the settlement several months prior to Damien's death, and her dedication to caring for Kalaupapa's people continues to provide comfort in the face of tragedy, like this summer's devastating fire on the nearby island of Maui.

Kalaupapa is the final resting place for so many, including Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva's great-grandfather. Because of the lingering stigma of the misunderstood disease, Silva, like many others, didn't become aware of this piece of family history until he became an adult. When he joined pre-pandemic pilgrimages, he would point out his great-grandfather's gray headstone along with Damien's and Marianne's graves during

the settlement tours.

“The story of Kalaupapa is the story of isolation and fear,” said Silva, whose diocese includes the peninsula. But that’s not the full narrative, he said, “People were resilient and tried to make the best of it. And I think that’s the story of Kalaupapa, too.”

A cure for Hansen’s disease was found in the mid-20th century. When the exile was lifted in 1969, some former patients chose to remain at Kalaupapa.

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, the Molokai member of the Maui County Council, said many Molokai residents are nervous about tourism to Kalaupapa, which is sacred to Native Hawaiians like herself.

“For a lot of Molokai residents ... we’re happy that Father Damien and Mother Marianne ... are getting the recognition for the work and the sacrifices that they made,” she said, but added that people also need to be “respectful of that place of deep, deep sorrow and tragedy.”

She worries what will become of the place when there are no more former patients living there.

“Sister Alicia and I are committed to staying until the last patient leaves or dies,” Wajda said. “We don’t own anything, no land or property.”

They’ve slowly been giving away the home’s belongings.

When there are no longer any patients, the state health department will also leave.

“And we both feel connected to the patients, to the land, to the saints who were here, declared and undeclared,” Wajda said. “And I think that the national park will be able to tell this story, but from a different perspective.”

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/hawaii-saints-father-damien-mother-marianne-kalaupapa-leprosy-3ff14d257d6f59ae167e51c0bea608a5>

- - - -

de N4CD: Today there are just under 100 'residents' of Kalawao County, with less than

a dozen original folks who suffered from Hansen's Disease. There have been ham radio licenses there, but none ever active on HF, and only interested in emergency type communications on 2M, if anyone still there with interest. In the past, there were hundreds at a time living there. Most of the facilities are empty now. It's hard to imagine that 8,000 people passed away there.

The famous Kalawao Mule ride ceased during the pandemic and not likely to re-open, but you never know. Not much to do on Molokai tourist wise beside that attraction. There are no large white sand beaches there. One 'motel' and a bunch of B&Bs, a half dozen condos. Not sure if the golf course still there and operational.

15 years ago, the Molokai Ranch was operational – even a weekly TV program on it – an eco-village there. Owner had big dispute with natives there and just one day shut it all down, including the water system for half the island of Molokai.

From the web:

“In 1897, a group of prominent businessmen formed what is now Molokai Ranch, Ltd. They purchased 70,000 acres of land, mostly on the western half of Molokai, leased another 30,000 acres of government land and began raising cattle and other livestock. Today Molokai Ranch encompasses about 53,000 acres which is roughly one third of the island.

From the beginning, the rich paniolo (Hawaiian cowboy) heritage has been an integral part of the ranch. This is a working cattle ranch with real life cowboys doing real life cowboy chores on a daily basis.

For over 100 years, the ranch has played a major role in the evolution of the island's agriculture-based economy and in the development of the necessary water resources.

In the early days the focus was on raising beef cattle for market, plus horses and mules for use here and for sales elsewhere. Over time, other ventures were tried with varying degrees of success. Some of these included raising sheep for market, honey production, a small dairy, and various grains and row crops.

Between 1923 and 1985 several thousand acres were leased to Libby and to Del Monte for pineapple cultivation. During those years, pineapple was an economic mainstay for Molokai.

More recently, activities were introduced that allowed Molokai visitors the opportunity

to experience authentic ranch life first-hand and to stay at the Lodge or the Beach village at Kaupoa Beach. However, in May 2008, the Ranch ceased all its operations on the island.

The Ranch's parent company, Molokai Properties Limited, wanted to develop a section of the Ranch's land at La'au Point on the southwest corner of Molokai. Their stated plan would have created a small sub-division of about 200 multi-million dollar homes.

Opposition from the community arose to the plan. After many heated and sometimes bitter public planning and environmental impact meetings, Molokai Properties decided to abandon the plan. Within a few days, they announced that the Ranch would be ceasing all its operations on Molokai including the Lodge, movie theater, and Kaluakoi Golf Course. They then laid off almost their entire Molokai work force of about 120 employees.”

- -

80% of Molokai residents are on welfare. Drug use is pervasive. There was one ham resident there on Molokai - Merv K9FD but he left in 2022 and is now SK. He would have left years ago, but couldn't sell his property. There is no industry, few jobs, one traffic light, and with the pandemic and aftermath, no tourists.

In the past, the tours of 'down below', with the mule ride down or those coming by air (special flights) had about 2 to 2.5 hours actually 'down below' before the tour ended and they were on their way back out.

Fortunately, the boundary of the county extends up the cliffs and you can run the county mobile in the parking lot for the overlook.. We've had maps and documentation in previous issues of the County Hunter News.

The trip to Kalawao will set you back a couple hundred bucks most likely. Flights are not cheap and car rentals are high. There is limited air service due to remaining restrictions from the covid era lingering. We've had a few articles – most recent this year – about trips there.

Check out the August issue for some notes on Kalawao

<https://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20August%202023.pdf>

N4CD's detailed last trip to Hawaii for WBOW Second Time transmit here:

<https://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20October%202014.pdf>

N8KIE might run it this winter. (He's planning on running Hawaii County, too).

Alaska Judicial Districts

K8OOK noted that you can find Alaskan towns/townships at the following link showing what Judicial District they are in:

courts.alaska.gov/shc/probate/docs/shs-pr-communities.pdf

K3IMC Message: There is built in function in Logger which will convert city/town to judicial district automatic. Right click on the contact county text box. A number of menu options will appear. One says 'Identify Alaskan County from Town Name'. If you click on this option, a dropdown list of alphabetically sorted list of towns and cities in Alaska is presented. Clicking on the desired name will automatically load the correct county into the text box.

In the same menu are options for help on the independent cities in VA and NV, and the District of Columbia.

de K3IMC 11/30/2023

Dayton Hamvention 2024

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention.

Dayton Hamvention Info

Hamvention 2024 – May 17, 18, 19

When is the show?

Friday May 17th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday May 18th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday May 19th 9:00 AM – 1:00 P

Where is the show?

Greene County Fair and Expo Center
210 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385
Coordinates are 39.702 N – 83.9420 W

National VOA Museum

If you're headed to Dayton, or just wandering through the state near Dayton, an interested side trip is visiting the Voice of America museum not far south of Dayton. During the Hamvention, they have expanded hours, a ham radio station ready to operate at, too. Ten years ago, they still had the antenna farm of rhombics and Sterba curtains but those are now gone. Still, lots to see there.

During the last Hamvention, they had hours on the Thursday before so you could drop by on the way and not miss a day of Hamvention time.

THE NATIONAL VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM OF BROADCASTING

Our regular hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 until 4:00 PM. We are located at 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069. Phone at 513-777-0027.

On the Road with N4CD I

The local Vintage Radio Club holds a December Holiday Party down in Irving Texas. It's the group for the enjoyment of 'ancient technology' and radios from the 1910s to the 1980s or so. The organization puts on a good annual convention (report last month) as well as monthly meetings, special outings, etc.

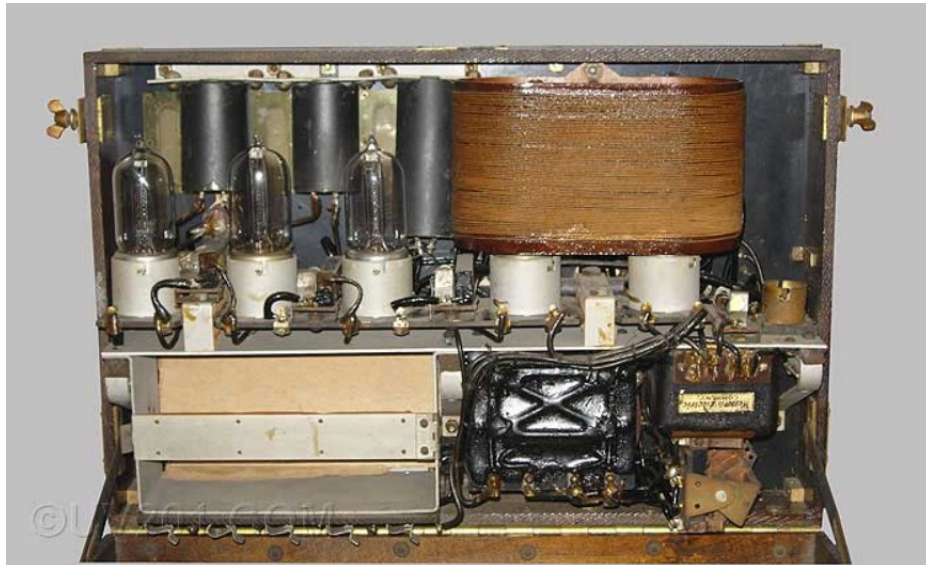
Headed to the holiday party – which includes a silent auction for misc stuff – usually \$5 and \$10 items, nice door prizes, and of course, a nice dinner table where folks bring a dish or two and the VRPS furnishes meat and cold cuts, soft drinks, and snacks.

There's also a show and tell. Only one item caught my attention – so here it is – a 105 year old SCR-68 Aircraft Communications system designed for planes of the era – open cockpit bi-planes! The receiver used three VT-1 tubes and the transmitter 2 VT-2 tubes with an output of 0.2 watts! This is 'second generation' stuff. The first generation used crystal receivers and spark gap transmitters. This is now 'vacuum tube' era with the first production tubes ever made – the VT-1 and VT-2. The VT-1 was a receiver tube and the VT-2 was a 'power tube' of 10-15 watts input, max.

These are the first 'tubes' ever made – VT-1 and VT-2 !



There is a safety cover over the 3 rotary switches which have 275v on transmit. Once tuned, the cover is kept shut. The switches set the operating frequency (wavelength).



On the left are the 3 VT-1 tubes in the receiver. One tube used as a detector, two as audio amps. The transmitter tubes are inside the large coil – they are VT-2. One an oscillator – the other a modulator tube.

From Wiki – with edits

The SCR-68 (SCR was a military term meaning Set, Complete, Radio), was a military radiotelephone used by the US Army Signal Corps as an aircraft radio in the waning months of World War I. 1918 or so. Due to its many problems, primarily its inability to communicate with other radios, like its ground component the SCR-67 or the larger truck mounted SCR-108, over large distances, the SCR-68 quickly became obsolete. Nonetheless, the SCR-68 was one of the first steps towards developing more effective messaging between pilots and commanders, even beyond military usage. The system included an intercom between pilot and navigator – who also had the duties as radio operator.

The SCR-68 had a few distinct characteristics that separated the SCR-68 from other types of radio. The SCR-68 operated at 750 kHz (400 meter wavelength), using a long wire antenna reeled out behind the aircraft. It could receive and transmit messages over a maximum range of eighteen miles. The artillery observer (navigator) managed the SCR-68, receiving and relaying messages for the pilot. During World War I, most planes

were two-person open-cockpit aircraft. Instead of communicating between themselves in the air, the pilot and the observer sent messages through the SCR-68 where the headphones would eliminate most outside noises. Like a private telephone line, the pilot and observer could communicate with each other; however, this action prevented the SCR-68 from receiving any transmissions.

The US Army pushed for better technology to gain an advantage in World War I. The US Army asked private American companies to build a device that would establish better communication between military aircraft and themselves. Western Electric developed the SCR-68 that met qualifications: the radio was condensed to a size that could fit inside the airplane, simple for an Observer to use in flight, and the antenna would not drastically affect the movements of the aircraft. Another problem in the past included a communication device that eliminated the most disturbances from engine noise;[the SCR-68 provided that by including a microphone and a sound-proof helmet. By the summer of 1918, approximately 3,000 units were manufactured and distributed to the US Army.

Radio Set

Inside the suitcase-shaped box BC-11A was the circuit apparatus used for receiving and transmitting messages. The dials were used to control the frequency of the radio. The flip paddle switched the radio from receive to transmit and vice versa. The dimensions of the box were 17 inches by 10 inches by 7 inches and weighed 21 pounds.

Intercom

Antenna

The A-21 retractable antenna was located in the rear of the aircraft and was expanded by the air observer while in flight. It could reel out to 300 feet in length, was made out of two copper wires and weighed 19.5 pounds. Depending on the amount of antenna allowed behind the airplane, the antenna functioned at a wavelength of 750 kHz

Generator

The GN-1 wind-powered generator was located on the braces of the landing gear, to gather adequate wind power and not hinder any other parts of the aircraft. The generator, as well as three 22.5 volt batteries located in the BC-11, provided a plate voltage at 300 volts and a filament voltage at 30 volts. The wind-powered generator was not very efficient, requiring the airplane to travel at fast speeds in order for the generator to work properly. The receiver ran on 2 batteries. The 3rd 22.5v battery was the negative bias in

the modulator tube circuit.

More info here in a 4 page article about the setup

http://uv201.com/Radio_Pages/Pre-1921/Images/Development%20of%20Airplane%20Radiotelephone%20Set.pdf

On the Road with N4CD II

A couple weekends and most Wednesdays I'd make it over to POTA Park 4423- about 25 miles from the house. I'd catch the weekly Wednesday CWT at 1900-2000z when I could make it. Between that and other park contacts- made search and pounce using the spotting app, would make 60-90 QSOs then.

The ARRL 10M contest was held Dec 9 and 10. I figured I'd head over there a few hours and see if 10M was going to be good this year. The 10-10 CW Party was a big flop in October. CA QSO party week before was wall to wall 10M stations. You never know. This weekend, sunspot numbers over 100.

Wowie! Band wide open. Hundreds of stations on – often on top of each other. Enjoyed search and pounce, working some DX and lots of US contacts mostly in New England, FL, and the west coast. Working EU was tough as many calling and 100W and a mobile antenna in TX won't beat tri-band beams or the east coast stations. Still, got dozens in log. Between Sat and Sun, put 100 10m Qs in the log. Fun! Hope you were on. For those hunting band-counties, there were hundreds of counties to snag on 10M. Working on 10M WAS or 5 band WAS? Great opportunity.

- - -

Headed back a few times to same park – chasing POTA's and working what I could. Weekly CWT's keeps the CW skills up a bit. Do the daily MORSLE.

New National Park Units

The U.S. Adds Three National Scenic Trails to the National Parks System

This week, the NPS designated three new National Scenic Trails, making them the 426th, 427th, and 428th units of the National Parks system. The Ice Age, New England, and North Country National Scenic Trails join only three other trails in the country with that designation. All 428 units of the system are referred to as parks, across different naming conventions like national battlefield, national seashore, national historic site, and national monument.

“Their combined 5,500-plus miles travel through parts of 10 states and hundreds of communities, from large cities to rural towns, providing countless close-to-home opportunities for people to easily access green space and enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation,” said Park Service Director Chuck Sams in a press release.

As you gear up for your 2024 outdoor adventures in the National Parks system, learn a little more about each trail below:

Ice Age National Scenic Trail: stretches nearly 1,200 across the state of Wisconsin, traversing an area covered in ice just 15,000 years ago.

New England National Scenic Trail: 235 miles of trail in Connecticut and Massachusetts, stretching from the Long Island Sound to the border of New Hampshire. It includes coastal vistas, historic town centers, and stunning mountaintops.

North Country National Scenic Trail: the longest National Scenic Trail in the country, it stretches for 4,800 from Middlebury, VT all the way to North Dakota. Along the way it passes through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. This trail is still under construction, with more than 2,000 miles already open.

- - - -

Note de N4CD – these are already POTA Parks. I've hit the Ice Age Trail a while back – and the North Country Scenic Trail – and have yet to run the New England National Scenic Trail. These were also included in NPOTA – at least two of them. For NPOTA, these “scenic trails” had to be run 'portable'. No vehicle use allowed. N4CD used the QRP portable set up and Alex Loop to make 10+ QSOs. One activation was in MI during the mini with 40F outside temps. Brrr.

Now you can run these mobile – within 50 feet of the trail for POTA.

There are over 10,000 US POTA parks and 25,000 world wide now – expanding every month.

ARRL 10M Contest

10M was sizzling this year. Propagation was good for nearly all the contest period of daylight. Nighttime was poor or non existent skip. There were short windows to EU and Asia from TX for a couple hours each. EU in the mornings, Asia around sunset. East coast did a lot better to EU and west coast did a lot better to Asia. Sunspot numbers were over 100.

A few snippets from the 3830 contest reflector:

K1LZ – multi-op Maine Super Station:

Operator(s): K1LZ K3JO KC1TEN KC1TNO

Band QSOs Mults

CW: 2628 171

SSB: 1017 151

Total: 3645 322

Exceptional good condition. Great team! We all operate remote and we manage to overcome the old K1LZ m/S record from 2011.

Thank you for the QSO'S !

73's Krassy K1LZ

Call: PX2W - Brazil

Operator(s): PY2NDX PY2YU

Station: PX2W

Band QSOs Mults

CW: 1593 175
SSB: 1244 165
Total: 2837 340

Rig: TS-590S
Amp: Alpha 91b
Ant: 5 el. Yagi up 13m

Hi guys, thanks everyone for QSOs.

Conditions to Europe were bad and probably with small activity too. Good runs with USA both days. Stations from Alaska were incredible loud both afternoon! Sunday night were really good to Japan with some stations putting S9+20 on my s-meter!

We wish you all a good christmas and happy 2024.

73/DX

PY2YU - Tom
PY2NDX - Rafael

NX5M -- Multi OP TX Super Station

Operator(s): K5GN KJ5T KU5B N5XJ NW7DX NX5M

Band QSOs Mults
CW: 1435 159
SSB: 957 137
Total: 2392 296 T

We did not get anything deep into Europe and what we did get did not even last that long. The Asian runs were nice but short. Seemed like as soon as the clock hit 0z things were pretty much done. We had to work hard to get all states on both modes. There was practically nothing to work once the sun set here. For example, picture me sitting in the chair with my feet propped up on another chair with the keyboard in my lap occasionally pressing the F1 key for 4 hours. By 0430z I decided I had my fill of throwing a signal into the atmosphere with no return. W9, W8 and W4 were missing in action the whole weekend and those regions typically account for a great many qsos in the log. Not this year though.

Only managed to work 6 states in Mexico and every one of those was a struggle.

Mike, N5XJ shows up about a half hour before the start on Friday in a brand new truck and toting a fully cooked 14 pound brisket. Ben, NW7DX met KU5B and I in a nearby town to have a pre-contest meal before heading out to the station. Once we arrived he breaks out a cooler with several pounds of pulled pork.

One may wonder who there are so many operators. It's simple.....there are two in the building at all times. The rest can sit, visit, snack, rest, watch television or even go fishing and not have to dedicate a whole weekend to sitting in front of a radio and monitor.

We fell short of what was expected but it's still about the fellowship just like it has been for many years. We did not get anything deep into Europe and what we did get did not even last that long. The Asian runs were nice but short. Seemed like as soon as the clock hit 0z things were pretty much done. We had to work hard to get all states on both modes. There was practically nothing to work once the sun set here. For example, picture me sitting in the chair with my feet propped up on another chair with the keyboard in my lap occasionally pressing the F1 key for 4 hours. By 0430z I decided I had my fill of throwing a signal into the atmosphere with no return. W9, W8 and W4 were missing in action the whole weekend and those regions typically account for a great many qsos in the log. Not this year though.

Only managed to work 6 states in Mexico and every one of those was a struggle. We are at a huge disadvantage when it come to the XE mults.

KM4FO - fixed KY

100 CW QSO

no comments

- - - -

Hundreds of stations reported on the contest reflector. You also had a class of 'limited antennas' – which are single wire, or single vertical element. Helps those with dipoles and verticals compete with others in that category. Others with 'unlimited' antennas range from tri-banders to 8 over 8 stacks - or even 8 over 8 over 8 over 8. Plus another tower and set of antennas pointed other way. High power, low power, QRP categories

as well as CW only, SSB only, Mixed SSB/CW. No data this year.

What are they doing NOW?

From his Facebook page

I got this in the mail from Lisa KC1YL. Thank you. Now to wear it on an activation.
KN4XP Mike



Note de N4CD - KN4XP worked all counties #879 in 1995. Earned Second Time #356

in 2005. Now does POTA activations and chasing. Cumberland County NC.

CQ Magazine Suspends Publication

Reportedly, CQ Magazine has temporarily suspended publication.

The latest issue sent out was the digital version of the October issue

(Volume 79 Number 10). In a message circulated over the Internet, Richard

Moseson (W2VU, Editor of CQ Magazine) says that "everything is unfortunately

on hold" until "the necessary funding to continue operations" is secured.

The Nov and Dec issues are ready but waiting funding.

Gigantic Solar Flare

Sun Burp to Hit Earth After Radio Blackout From 'Strongest' Flare in Years

huge plume of solar plasma is due to slam into the Earth's atmosphere on Sunday, in the wake of the strongest solar flare of the sun's 11-year solar cycle so far.

The huge flare erupted from the sun's sunspot 3514 on December 14, and clocked in as an X2.8-class flare, making it the most powerful solar storm the sun has seen since September 2017. The flare caused a deep shortwave radio blackout across North and South America.

The coronal mass ejection (CME) of solar material due to glance past the Earth on

Sunday was released at the same time as the flare, but has taken much longer to reach us. The event may lead to power issues, satellite problems, further radio blackouts, and even auroras being visible as far south as Illinois and Oregon.

Solar flares and CMEs are released from areas of the sun that have strong magnetic activity, such as sunspots: where a solar flare is a muzzle flash of bright electromagnetic radiation, a CME is a cannonball of solar material and magnetic field.

The CME forecast to hit the Earth on Sunday is thought to be travelling at around 4.7 million mph. It is predicted to cause geomagnetic storms in the atmosphere when it arrives, possibly as strong as category G2 (Moderate) or G3 (Strong) ones. Geomagnetic storms occur because of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field caused by the CME.

G2 and G3 storms can lead to problems with the power grids, scramble radio waves and even cause increased drag on satellites orbiting close to the Earth's atmosphere, requiring adjustments of orbits and voltage corrections.

Additionally, more powerful geomagnetic storms cause the northern lights to be seen much further south than usual.

"Aurora, northern or southern lights, are caused by the variable solar wind buffeting the Earth's magnetic field and dumping large amounts of energy and particles into the Earth's atmosphere," Gareth Dorrian, a research fellow in space science at the University of Birmingham, England, told Newsweek. "As these particles collide with molecules of air, they generate fluorescence; just like when an electric current is passed through gas in a fluorescent light. This colorful emission of light is what we see as aurora."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says that G2 storms can result in the aurora being seen from New York and Idaho; and G3 storms can cause the lights to reach as far as Illinois and Oregon.

Solar flares are also classed by how powerful they are, on a scale of A, B, C, M and X, with X-class flares being the strongest. Each class is 10 times stronger than the previous, with an X1 flare being 10 times more powerful than an M1, and 100 times more powerful than a C1. X-class flares are the least common form of solar flare, and occur only around 10 times each year.

"Solar flares are where areas of solar activity (normally seen as sun spots) suddenly realign or shift, throwing off a flare," Alan Woodward, a professor of computer science and space weather expert at the University of Surrey, England, told Newsweek.

"The amount of energy in an X class flare can sound scary, but the true impact for us on Earth depends very much on a number of factors," Woodward said. "Some give comparisons of the 'Carrington Event' in 1859, which is thought to have released more power than millions of the largest nuclear bomb ever exploded on Earth. However, the chances of a flare affecting the Earth are lessened because the flares pop out in all directions, decreasing the chance of them hitting Earth."

The December 14 flare is therefore impressively powerful as an X2.8-class, and led to radio blackouts across much of the Americas. These flares can cause radio blackouts when they hit the Earth due to their effects on our atmosphere, as they ionize the ionosphere. We use the ionosphere to bounce radio waves off in communications, so when it becomes ionized by the flare, radio waves are instead degraded or even totally absorbed.



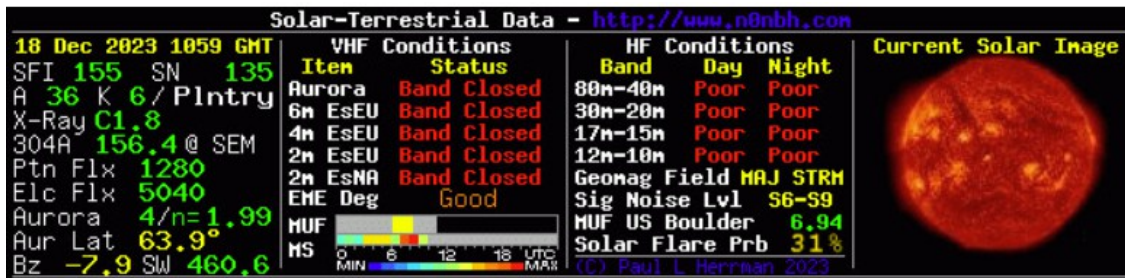
This flare marks the strongest flare this solar cycle so far. The sun follows 11-year cycles, moving between periods of high activity at its maximum and lower activity at its minimum. The next maximum is due to occur sometime between January and October 2024.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/sun-burp-to-hit-earth-after->

radio-blackout-from-strongest-flare-in-years/ar-AA1lyicl?ocid=weather-app-ext&cvid=a446d3a1425d43b892cde79944ea58ef&ei=21&fbclid=IwAR18P7PDWC9yxvaVLJID8AI-Ia6HyC9RmSALhbEZTqjq6K2Yz37CXCckFvg

Note de N4CD: Radio propagation blacked out for an hour or two the following day. Recovered in 2 hours.

Then another flare erupted – on Sunday conditions went to pretty bad with A=45 and K+5. On Monday, conditions in morning were a=36 and K=6!



Awards Issued

Roadrunner Award: (last counties given out)

NF0N has attained 450 Last Counties. He received #50

K4YT attained 550 Last counties and received #36

K4YT attained 575 last counties and received #35

K4YT attained 600 last counties and received #33

K4YT attained 625 last counties and received #36

K4YT attained 650 last counties and received #31
K4YT attained 675 last counties and received #28
K4YT attained 700 last counties and received #28

K8ZZ attained 1850 last counties. He received #3

AB7WL attained 25 last counties. He received #531

Single Band Award:

K8MW attained level 3000 on 40 meters. He received #3
K8MW attained level 1000 on 10 meters. He received #4>BR?

County Challenge Award:

K8ZZ attained level 25000

W0GXQ attained level 21000

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

CWT- MST – weekly 'tests'. Good for maybe 100 counties if you've never worked the stations before. Now 15 and 20m active, 80m and 40m for the early/late session.

No QSO Parties this month. A few contests and other operating events. If you're a cw op, there are weekly 'tests' for an hour at a time.

The MST(Mondays) – Medium Speed Test (20 wpm) - and higher speeds for Wednesday – 3 sessions. (25+ wpm, some 40 wpm).

See the weekly WA7BNM contest site for details. You can snag a hundred plus counties in a week. Mostly the same stations show up each week, but you can try 40,20, 15 and maybe even 10m for band counties as well. For the late session, maybe 80M. If

you're in the eastern part of country, a fair number of EU stations participate.

K1USN Slow Speed Test on Fridays – 12 to 20 wpm.

Lots of Park on the Air stations – but they slowing down a bit with the cold weather. Some run mobile. Some set up tents. A couple dozen have RV's. Others are waiting for warmer weather as they usually set up on picnic tables to operate. That's no fun at 20F!

From the ARRL contest corral:

13 1800 14 0559 1.8-28 **North American QSO Party, CW** CW Name, SPC
www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

20 1800 21 0559 1.8-28 **North American QSO Party, SSB** Ph Name, SPC
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

20 1900 22 0359 50 and up **ARRL January VHF Contest CW Ph Dig** 4-char grid square
www.arrl.org/january-vhf

26 2200 28 2200 1.8 **CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW** CW RST, SP or CQ zone
www.cq160.com

27 1900 28 1900 No WARC **Winter Field Day CW Ph Dig** Category, ARRL Section, MX or DX
www.winterfieldday.com