

County Hunter News OnLine

June 2023
Volume 19 Issue 6

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 – We got them. Seriously! Some days great with 17, 15 and above active. Lots of DX from fixed stations, especially FT-8 being worked world wide, on upper bands. In generally good up to 15m and sometimes good on 12 and 10m depending upon the sunspot numbers. It's been lagging a bit through April.

This month we had some SERIOUSLY BAD solar storms with Geomagnetic storms up to K=5 type – SEVERE storm. Bands horrible for a day or two at a time. Happened several times. Many days when conditions disturbed on 20m, not good on 40 or 30, but 'good' on 15 and 10. Well, 15 and 10m don't work out too well for county hunting as the skip is 1500-2500 miles missing most of the country, and if you're in the middle, missing all but AK and HI.

2) Gremlins - if you look at CHNewsonline.com you'll see a gremlin messed things up. The May issue seems to have swallowed the April issue and if you click on April, you get May 2023. Not to worry. Folks like the latest issue anyway!

On the Road with N4CD I – Midland Part 2

I reached Midland on Wednesday around 4pm after a long drive up from Texas via a bunch of parks and counties. Most of the folks would be showing up in a day or two and of those, many would be off during the day running counties here and there. I'd be running some new parks in new counties. Not much goes on during the day at the Mini. Some folks gather and yak in the meeting room.

That evening I hit the Bob Evans Restaurant just a mile or two from the convention hotel. Great turkey dinners with dressing, mashed potatoes and green beans. It will fill you up. Twice the portions that you get at Cracker Barrel. Unfortunately, no Bob Evans in TX. Nearest one is in MO! Later a few folks were in the hospitality suite already.

Thursday April 20, 2023

After a great breakfast at the hotel, I headed out east toward Bay City. There's a state park there I've already run, but close by is another park added to the system since I was that way a few years ago.

Tobico Marsh State Recreation Area K-6796 in Bay County MI



This is a medium size 1652 acre park with a convent parking lot about a mile or so from the Bay City State Park. Was there early but still had a good run. It's only had 12 activations so far with only 20 QSO made on cw.

From the web:

“With its large open lagoon, extensive marshes and geographic position along a major migratory bird flyway, it is a unique and valuable area. Almost within the city limits of Bay City, it offers a glimpse of rare Michigan flora and fauna which can be duplicated only in the larger wild areas of northern Michigan. Deer, beaver, mink, muskrat, a dozen different species of waterfowl, and many song, shore, and marsh birds are present.

The area occupies an elongate, shallow depression lying immediately west of the barrier sandbeach along Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay shoreline. There are three distinct habitats: a wide expanse of open water, an extensive area of marshland, and a mixed hardwood forest located along the western boundary. The area also includes examples of the very rare oak barren and lakeplain wet prairie natural communities.

Thousands of waterfowl use the area every spring and fall. Many species of waterfowl and marsh birds nest in the area, including such rare Michigan nesters as the ruddy duck, redhead duck, and yellow-headed blackbird. In addition, the area of mixed hardwood is often alive with warblers and other migratory songbirds in the spring.

The significance of the area was recognized by the Sauks and Chippewa Indians who used it quite heavily as a hunting and camping ground. Prior to State acquisition, the area was a private hunting club and in 1976, the United States Department of Interior designated Tobico Marsh as a Registered Natural Landmark because of its exceptional value to illustrate the nation's natural heritage.

Its large size, balance between open water and marsh vegetation, variety of aquatic plant species, lack of disturbance, and use by waterfowl all combine to make Tobico Marsh one of the finest freshwater marshes in the Great Lakes region.”

Decent run there. Decided to keep heading east along the shore of the lake.

Quanicassee State Wildlife Area K-6766 in Bay County - 1022 acres in Bay County

from TripAdvisor:

“Beautiful wetlands area just east of Bay City near the cuts around Quanicassee. We used to fish the cuts for perch many years ago but the nature area is a great place to view waterfowl and nature and get away from the rat race of life. “

The state site just pulls up a map.

Fish Point State Wildlife Area k-2887 in Tuscola County 4000 acres

from the state site:

“Fish Point State Wildlife Area is located on the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. Consisting of 2,477 acres of exceptional waterfowl habitat, Fish Point offers many types of waterfowl hunting such as marsh areas, flooded corn fields, and dry agriculture fields. Open water hunting on Saginaw Bay is only a short boat ride away. Often referred to as the "Chesapeake of the Midwest" there is an abundance of waterfowl numbers and species that call it home. Ducks are the majority of the harvested waterfowl but Canada geese are present and harvested annually. All hunting zones are accessible with some zones having bridges for access. Excellent late season pheasant hunting exists after the

close of the waterfowl season. Along with the hunting opportunities that exist at Fish Point, it is also possible to see many migrating birds. One of the unique sightings is the presence of several snowy owls that spend the winter at Fish Point.”

Sleeper State Park K-1539 in Huron County MI

from the state site:

Sleeper State Park is 723 acres of forest, wetlands, forested dunes and half a mile of sandy shoreline stretching along Lake Huron’s Saginaw Bay. Visitors can watch both sunrises and sunsets, roam the forested trails, relax on the beach and enjoy the shade of the modern campground. Tentrr offers a unique overnight experience with safari-style, canvas-walled tents available to rent.

The day-use area is located directly across M-25/Port Austin Road and features a half-mile of sandy beach, a beach house and a picnic area. A pedestrian overpass bridge provides easy access.

There is a fully enclosed kitchen and dining hall available that features a commercial kitchen, a walk-in refrigerator, dining area, outdoor picnic area and parking.

The park was renamed in honor of Albert E. Sleeper, governor of Michigan (1917-1920) and Huron County resident, who signed into law the statute that created the state park system.”

Rush Lake State Game Area k-6772 Huron County MI

from wiki

“The area is 2,102 acres in size and is being managed for the following featured species; eastern wild turkey, mallard, and common pheasant. The preserve can be transversed by an unimproved access called "Sand Road". Sand Road is considered an ancient First Nation trail that transverses the area along the dunes of the shore. “

There had only been 8 activations and 194Qs from here. Not run that often compared to some parks with 80 activations. Added in a quick 23 more – mostly county hunters.

Port Crescent State recreation Area (state park) K-1535 Huron County

Port Crescent State Park, located just outside the town of Port Austin at the tip of Michigan's "thumb," is set along 3 miles of sandy Lake Huron shoreline. The park boasts a dark sky preserve, a modern campground featuring waterfront views and 10 overnight lodging options, such as geodesic domes, camper cabins and cottages. The park is also home to the Pinnebog River, trails, breathtaking sunsets and opportunities for fishing, canoeing, birding, cross-country skiing, hunting and more.

When the sun sets and the stars come out, visitors can enjoy exceptional stargazing in the park's dark sky preserve. The best viewing location is located near Parking Lot D, where there is a viewing platform."

This park has 21 activations – you can camp overnight and run on multiple days.

After the run here, I decide rather than run more, I head back the fastest way to Midland – which is basically the same route as getting here. Two hours to the hotel. 190 mile round trip today. Conditions don't seem to be too great today.

Dinner at the Bob Evans again. Turkey special. Yum!

More meet and greet that evening in the large hospitality suite. Most county hunters have arrived.

Friday April 21 2023

Today it's 52F and wet starting out at 7:30 am. I head to the northeast for some parks. Half a dozen other mobiles are going to be out running counties today.

Fraser Township No 2 State Game Lands - K-6676 in Piconning, MI Bay Cnty

Nice parking lot to run this – most of the land is walk in for hunting. Be sure to have your route figured out ahead of time to get here. Many of the state sites just show the borders of the game area and a street or two. Most of the game lands are not in the Garmin GPS, nor will google maps get to most of them. There were 10 previous activations here for 204 total Qs. Added to the total.

Fraser State Game Lands K-6675 Bay County

Small , narrow, short tiny path off the road for 120 feet. I just went in 20 feet. Didn't want to get stuck. Helps if you are driving a 4 wheel drive pickup truck or Jeep. Put

15Q in log and moved on. You're surrounded by dense trees that suck up the RF, too. Just 9 activations for 213Qs before me. Added in a few.

Piconning Township (Cody-Etsy Road) State Game Lands K-6759 Bay Cnty

Had a decent run here. Only need 10 and put 30 in log. There were 10 previous activations for 199Qs. Not many Qs by others.

Nayanquing Point Wildlife Management Area – K -6743 Bay County



This is right along the shore and is a great park. Visitor center and easy access to the WMA on very good gravel road. They all should be this easy! NOT! The game lands are a mixed bag. Had a nice run from here. 13 previous runs for 436Qs.

Enough...head back to the convention. Grab some chow at Bob Evans for lunch. Then chill at the hospitality suite. Dinner at a nearby Mexican restaurant for a change.

Saturday April 22 2023

48F and rain today! Rain on and off most of the day.

Not much goes on at the convention hotel during the day. Half the county hunters are off again running counties out 100-200 miles. After a good breakfast at the hotel, I head out to the northwest to grab a few more.

Bluff Creek Flooding WMA K-6632 in Midland MI

Right off the interstate and easy to get to and run. Parking lot good. I had not run Midland County so a good run here. 16 previous activations and only 400Qs so far.

Then another 25 miles to **Wilson State Park KFF/K-1557** in Clare County MI



This park is 36 acres on Budd Lake in Harrison MI. Looks like a real summer resort type area with loads of tourist businesses getting set for the summer season. Easy to get into the parks – not collecting fees yet at any of the state parks so you can drive on in. Sign says display MI State Conservation pass. Didn't bother to get one this year. Not

sure there is even anyone to sell you one. Front gate is unmanned. Usually I'm in and out in less than an hour. This park has had 23 activations and 700Qs so far. Often that number consists of a park activator there for several days getting several activations in.

Gladwin State Game Area K-6683/KFF - in Gladwin County MI

Nice parking area! Easy to run and away from being right in middle of trees at half the game area where you have a tiny narrow driveway surrounded by trees. It's hard to radiate much when your antenna is surrounded by dozens of nearby trees within 10 feet.

Had a good run including some DX working the WWFF park.

This park has had 84 activations – mostly by K0AXL. Over 6700 QSO. He lives there in Gladwin, MI – but all on SSB and FT-8.

Then headed back to hotel a bit after lunch. Found a Subway just south of there. Not too many Subways in MI that you find along the routes. 25 miles back to Midland

That's it for park runs.

Left on Sunday morning. Frost on the windshield. Once again had to scrape windshield to get moving. On the road by 6:35 headed to Sikeston MO – 650 miles away. I'd 'gain' an hour going from Eastern to Central time.

Departed Midland on Sunday morning after things wound down at the convention – zipped on down to the southwest toward the southwest corner of MI, then across IN, to IL. Missed the toll both for the I-80 toll. Almost impossible to see and take the one lane road to it. Had to log into the IL tollroad missed toll site and pay the \$1.10 toll. (otherwise they send you nasty grams with \$15 penalty plus toll, etc). It's almost impossible to see that toll plaza pay booths even if you are looking for it! Most folks are using the EZ toll tag. We got a TX toll tag that works on all the tollroads here, and in OK and KS. Not in IL.

Good roads all the way home with minimal delays – a few one lane construction on the interstates. Passed by Benton Harbor, MI. If you're a senior ham, you'll recall this was the address of Heathkit. Catalogs came out a few times a year. If you wanted to buy one, you sent them an order with check, money order enclosed. They'd ship out your kit to you to build. Fun times. (not cheap compared to what you can buy today – those rigs like the SB-100 cost about \$2800 in today's money). That was the state of the art

and Heathkit did well with tube based products. Once things went solid state, they had only a few more ham kits – the SB-104 and a variation on it. The competition from the Japanese, plus the fact the kits were up to 1000 parts to build, doomed Heathkit. You could build a Heathkit TV – up to color TVs. Back then, Knight Kit produced decent kits for ham radio as well as a gazillion HI FI things and accessories.

Then the Japanese took over. Folks could buy assembled Kenwood TS-530s and Yaesu FT-101 transceivers, SBE SB-33/34 for not much more than a Heathkit. Yet, Heathkits remained popular and decent rigs for another 10 years. You still have folks using them. The SB-200 and SB-220 amps are still in demand. Otherwise, most of the Heathkit gear is hamfest \$100-150 max type deals. Often less. They tried computers but the rapid advance did that business in, too. Every time I pass by I think about the era of Heathkit gear. Waved and just passed by on the way to Chicago and down the interstate to MO. Knight kit was in Chicago. It was a hub for electronics manufacturing – just about half the TV sets sold in America were made here by six outfits who made all the TVs for Sears, Montgomery Wards, etc on contract basis. Chicago was also the place for Motorola Two Way (and TV, 8 track decks for cars, car radios).

Remember the TV era? There were a dozen companies making TVs. Dumont. Philco, Magnavox. Motorola. Zenith. Even Hallicrafters made a TV set. After WW2, many GI's took electronic courses on the GI Bill. Fixing TV sets was big business as a tube set would crap out after 18 months with one of the tubes gone bad. (or sometimes a capacitor, rarely a HV problem). Same with tube radios – they kept a lot of repair folks busy.

Got into Sikeston at 5pm local. 11 ½ hours on the road. Whew! Stopped at Super 8 there. Been there many times. Went to the famous Lambert's Cafe. You won't starve there! Large portions and freebies of fried okra, black eyed peas, etc, that they bring around in large bowls. Had a BBQ pork steak with 3 sides. Plus a side salad. All the large fluffy rolls you want.

Monday morning up early and on the road by 6:30. Home by 5pm with a stop for dinner at Asian Buffet, and filling up tank at Costco gas. Whew. Now a week of writing the County Hunter News, uploading 30 parks to POTA, to WWFF where applicable, and to LoTW.

Thanks for riding along. 30 new parks run along the way and one short repeat in AR. Tried to get 20, 17, 30 and 40m in most. Lost the 40m resonator the last day getting there, so 30m was messed up. 20 and 17 worked well. Somewhere along the highway you'll find a W9UCW 40m resonator. Could use 40m hamstick on roof mag mount for

that band and worked well as long as band cooperated . Many days the propagation gods were on strike with poor or fair conditions on all bands. Only needed 20 QSOs in parks but usually put 20 or more in log. Some runs 50+ QSOs. Some park chasers only show up if it's a new one for them.

Many mobiles running so just ran a few counties on way home. Nothing rare. The second day the K index hit 6 most of the day and the bands were really bad. Zipped along and put out counties. Second day I tried to run some counties and gave up – bands horrible. Turned on car radio and cruised along after zero or 1 contact in a county for half dozen tries in different counties. Same route back essentially. Quick trip home.

Next big trip to Dayton in May.

N9JF Second District Adventures

In response to the articles about the Second AK, Jim, N9JF sent in the following:

Hi Bob,

I enjoyed reading the various versions of travels to AK Second District in the latest County Hunter News. I'm not sure I even shared with you our experiences up there?

We drove to AK Second twice, once in 2017 and once in 2019. In both cases, the purpose of the trip was radio-related, specifically to put out all four AK districts; but we also tried to do some serious birding and just enjoy the adventure.

In 2017, we spent Field Day weekend in the Yukon, where I operated the event from a rental cabin. After that, we headed over into Alaska to Fairbanks and then went north on the Dalton Highway to a point about 100 miles into Second District. We spent the night "vanping" (Melba's term....sleeping in the back of the Chrysler van) at Atigun Pass and then went on north for a couple of hours the next day. We didn't go further because we had reservations at a campsite in Denali National Park for July 6-8.

In 2019, we operated Field Day with my cousin, NU7J and Boeing ARC in western WA state and then caravanned north with Tom and his son Kennan for a couple of weeks through BC and the Yukon as far as the Top of the World Highway, then over to Fairbanks. They went with us up to the Arctic Circle, at which point they went south to

Homer to go halibut fishing and we continued north to Deadhorse and Prudhoe Bay. We “vanped” a night each direction on the Dalton Highway and stayed one night at a dorm-style facility in Deadhorse.

Anyone who has operated from up there doesn’t have to be told about the challenges of doing so. On Field Day in the Yukon, I operated on 40, 20 and 15 meters. Many times, I would cruise an entire band and find not a single signal. I worked more Hawaiians than any lower 48 east of the Rockies. One comment from a station on 15 SSB: “You’re the first station I’ve EVER worked in the Yukon on Field Day!” I could understand why. The further north we went, the worse the propagation was. We arrived at Second District after midnight and started calling CQ on 14056.5 as we drove north to Atigun Pass. I worked a few SMs and UA9s and that was it.

Atigun Pass is obviously the high point on the road though it’s a rather gradual rise from the south. Unfortunately, there are higher peaks in just about every direction, especially to the south and east. It didn’t make a bad place to pull off the road for the night except for the fact that trucks coming from the south (which they did all night long) made a LOT of noise as they were pulling the hill! It never really got dark, just dusky with a continuous mist.

The main antenna I used on the 2017 trip was an inverted V strung from a 24’ mast supported by a drive-on block and pipe. I’ve used it a lot in the lower 48, and it works pretty well on 40 meters and not bad on 20 and 15. In Alaska, however, I think it was too much of a cloud-warmer. In 2019, I opted instead for Hustler resonators on an extra-long (about 8’) mast on the van which I think in general worked better but had to be taken off when we were moving (requires 18’ of clearance....). In motion, I just used the Hustlers on the standard mast. We did make a few contacts from Second on 20, 40, 17 and 30 meters on the two trips. It was tough sledding to the eastern Lower 48. NU7J from Seattle was a beacon up there. Tom listened for me constantly on 14056.5 and was usually workable when I called. We had no cell coverage (big surprise) except when we were in Deadhorse so couldn’t spot ourselves.

In 2017, we logged about 60 contacts from Second, almost all on 20 meter CW. Results in 2019 were similar except that I worked harder on the other bands. Forty meters was really tough. The sun never set up there, and forty just never went long enough to produce much.

The scenery is spectacular. There is no “bad way” to do Alaska, but I’m certainly glad we had the opportunity to drive it (11,000 miles round trip). The birding was good. Birders will recognize the Bluethroat that we saw in Second (just about the time I

worked K0DEQ on 30 meters). Mosquitoes were....well...it was Alaska. They rule the North Slope. We saw Musk Oxen twice and Arctic Foxes.

The Dalton Highway wasn't "awful" on either trip. It was wetter in 2017 than in 2019 but not what one would call "muddy". It's mostly gravel with stretches of pavement, and the pavement is trickier with frost heaves. One has to be careful. The speed limit is 50 mph but 30 is better. Pull over and slow down when you meet a truck. Let people pass if they want to go faster (and almost everyone does). We did pick up something in a tire in a parking lot, and another tire developed a break in it. We wound up replacing all four tires in Fairbanks on the way back south. They had 60,000 miles on them so they didn't owe us much. Carry a full-sized spare (or two). And a jack... Never pass a gas station without filling up.

I share the history of our two trips to lead up to this: we are planning another trip to Second District in July 2023. This time, we're starting out by heading to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories and then back south and west to Fairbanks and north to Second AK. I doubt that we go all the way to Deadhorse this time, but to Atigun Pass, yes. This time I'll have FT8 available which should yield some results, and I'll operate CW as much as possible. The exact dates are to be determined but will probably be in mid-July. We're going later this time in order to see salmon and bears in Hyder in First District. We've been too early on both of the other trips.

The Chrysler has 260,000 miles on it and is not going to be asked to do this again. We have a Honda Passport with better clearance and all-wheel drive. We should be able to find room to sleep in it, though at age 74 this isn't getting any easier....

I'm planning to be better prepared for the mosquito onslaught this time. We will see....

73 Jim N9JF

AI5P Trip Report

Tehachapi

On my way to the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA, I had some time to spend around Tehachapi, California - site of two very

interesting historical places.

The first was the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument in Keene, CA. This is Parks on the Air site K-0915 in Kern County. I first tried to activate this site in 2019 and found no cell service and had a highly unsuccessful activation with zero contacts! The actual site is surrounded on three sides by high hills and is very small in size - but it has a nice parking lot.

From their brochure: For much of our nation's history, the people who labor to put food on our table were out of sight and mind, powerless to confront the industry and laws that worked against them. Out of the dusty California fields, Cesar Chavez and others built a movement that brought migrant workers to the attention of the world. The National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) was established in 1962 and was renamed the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1966. A landmark strike led to a consumer boycott in 1965 which also led to the nation's first union contracts between farm workers and growers, securing better pay, health benefits, protections against pesticides, and safer working conditions.

Energized by their success, the UFW used strikes, boycotts, marches, hunger fasts, education, and other nonviolent tactics to change laws and lives. Among their foremost achievements was California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, the first state law to recognize collective bargaining rights for farm workers. Established in 2012, the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument commemorates the life and work of this great American and the ongoing struggle for human rights. The visitor center has photos and exhibits, including Chavez's preserved UFW office. The memorial gardens surround the burial site of Cesar and Helen Chavez.

I was pleasantly surprised to find cell service now and managed to get 17 in the log on 17 and 20 meters - 5 on CW and 12 on SSB.



Chavez Monument

A couple of miles up the road is the famous Tehachapi Loop - one of the train watcher's most prized spots!

From Wikipedia: The Tehachapi Loop is a 3,779-foot--long spiral, or helix, on the Union Pacific Railroad through Tehachapi Pass. Rising at a steady two-percent grade, the track gains 77 feet in elevation and makes a 1,210-foot-diameter circle. Any train that is at least 3,500 feet, or approximately 56 box cars, long passes over itself going around the loop. At the bottom of the loop, the track passes through a tunnel.

This famous railroad site was completed in 1876 and in 1998 was named a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.



A viewing platform was constructed at the scenic overlook in 2021. The cement platform was built so that railroad enthusiasts could view trains on the loop while keeping a safe distance from the winding, two-lane roadway.

If you like trains, this is a great place to go!

Rick AI5P

Morse Code Revival

The Morse Code revival: how dots and dashes are being embraced by a new generation
To mark Morse Code Day (27 April), we explore its modern-day applications, along with its surprising comeback spurred on by the younger generation.

Esteban Touma
By Esteban Touma
26th Apr 2023, 4:24pm

Devised by Samuel Morse over 180 years ago, Morse, short for Morse code, consists of dots and dashes that represent individual letters in the alphabet. Over time, its uses have

ranged from incredible rescue stories to romantic tales between separated couples. Now, its purposes are making headlines for new reasons.

While Morse code hasn't been used in commercial telecommunications since the 1990s, it has been kept alive by radio enthusiasts for decades. Elsewhere, Morse code has retained its position in society, providing a valuable service for those working in the military and healthcare sectors.

Through its behind-the-scenes presence, Morse has very much remained quietly part of our cultural consciousness. Yet all this may be about to change as tech companies, musicians and social networks appear to be fuelling its widespread resurgence. Earlier this year, evidence of Morse's return was supported by the Radio Society of Great Britain, which revealed that the number of amateur radio licences had increased by 60%.

Learning Morse as a hobby may, on the surface, appear an unusual choice of skill to learn. Although, if we consider the relentless pace of life, the decision starts to become clearer. Interestingly, the rise in uptake itself may explain a lot about our attitudes towards the digital age.

Of course, nobody is saying that being able to communicate at the touch of a button is a bad thing. Instead, the observation is that manual and offline forms of communication have become a more attractive proposition. Like listening to vinyl records, communicating in Morse reignites a sense of romanticism.

Just the fact that each message needs decoding makes the content more meaningful. At the same time, by slowing communication down, modern-day-Morse, as it were, may in fact be providing a welcome break from the fast-paced and overwhelming world we live in.

On a different note, Morse code has also become more relevant thanks to the music industry. Pop culture has always had a great deal of say in what society does and doesn't find interesting. An appealing aspect of Morse lies in the fact only a minority can identify and translate it, giving it a unique and overt secrecy.

So, this year, when a K-pop band leaked details about their new songs through Morse code, fans as young as five started learning the system. This started a chain reaction. People began questioning how many other secret Morse messages might exist? This idea of using Morse to convey hidden meaning and exclusivity is another reason why younger people are eager to obtain fluency. Especially in a culture where everything is shared online.

Last, but not least, technology companies are also supporting Morse's revival. Being able to communicate through speech isn't universal.

Equally, for those in need of non-verbal communication options, Morse provides a valuable workaround. Acknowledging this, big technology companies have integrated Morse into their solutions.

One example is Google's Gboard, a keyboard app for mobile devices which features a Morse input method, allowing users to type messages in Morse code by tapping their screen. Never one to miss a trick, Apple's geniuses replicated this for their breakthrough Apple Watch. There's no doubt that by leveraging the haptic capabilities of devices, technology companies will continue to play an important role in the growth of Morse code.

Overall, it's great to see that people are using the technology at their disposal to learn new skills. Whether it's mastering secret codes, fictional texts, or foreign languages, it's vital that we encourage young and old to keep expanding their knowledge.

Source: <https://www.nationalworld.com/lifestyle/tech/morse-code-revival-dots-dashes-embraced-new-generation-4120452?fbclid=IwAR3wVz3bdmsrRcHODD5Cmw9FLhpdzWBudfZpYD2yv2aPgi4RGROIa4Fx0Wk>

Florida QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. At least one station got a 'clean sweep' working all the counties in FL in a weekend.

K4OJ mobile

Hi FQP Fans-The 9th running of the K4OJ Multi-Multi-Mobile was both a Terrific and Terrifying time. Terrific - Great modified routes, no big traffic delays, and a really top notch performance by each of our operators with very solid station performance made for a great time. We stuffed 3 stations on 4 bands into my 2017 Toyota Sequoia - personal hygiene is mandatory! Four Hustlers 48 inches apart on a square aluminum plate with ground straps soldered to the roof. We were looking to beat our old record

from 2015 and didn't quite get there. But we got close and believe there is much upside as we continue to optimize everything. I am convinced we can eventually break this record and surpass 5000+ QSO's after log checking as well. Better conditions and wx are the key. We also have more tweaking on our routes and a revisit of solutions to our old nemesis Radio Frequency Interface (RFI).

Terrifying - Mega Rain, Lightning, Tornado Watches and Warnings for about half the contest period. More on this later...

Tnx to everyone for the QSO's! Our TOP100 Most Worked "Road Buddies" who worked us 13 or more times is at the bottom. We hope you'll join our Road Buddies list next year for our 10th anniversary of this madness...

First, the numbers:K4OJ/m - 2023 FQP

FINAL SCORE TOTAL:	Band	QSOs	Pts	Mul	Pt/Q
	7	709	2828	9	4.0
	14	2632	10528	41	4.0
	21	1299	5196	20	4.0
	28	85	340	1	4.0
	Total	4725	18892	71	4.0

Score: 1,341,332

4725Q's in 20 hours was a thrill - the K4OJ/m 'Fun and Run' continues!

Please keep in mind that we have interstation interference anywhere from S2 to S9 depending on the situation - each station suffers from it. Every station that is added to the vehicle has an RFI multiplier effect. Ex: 40m gets into 15m at S3-4; 20m gets into 15m at S2. But when *both* 40m and 20m are transmitting, the 15m RFI jumps to S6! Perhaps one time I will record such interference to let you hear it. You may have already experienced something similar at Field Days past.

The real remedy is Good Ops-Kevin, Red and AJ are VFB operators and real team players to endure such RFI and *still* make so many contacts. Multi-Multi-mobile is not for the faint of heart! Congratulations guys! We'll keep working on making it quieter so we have less repeats to request and hear those weaker layers of signals...In the meanwhile, BIG thanks to our out-of-state friends who put up with our frequent requests to repeat calls/exchanges.

SINGING IN THE RAIN:After last year's literal 'rain' event inside the cabin, additional layers of waterproof taping (3 total) were installed on the rear window. This window is opened just a smidge to allow the coax to enter the cabin. But I was still worried water leaks might return, putting all our equipment at risk. The smugly satisfied station engineer had applied enough tape that the Hoover Dam couldn't break through the seal. AJ NK4O came up from his home in Homestead Saturday afternoon so we could meet Red and Kevin 10m Saturday in Orlando. AJ looked skeptically at my taping contraption and said, "I'm from Missouri (Missoura?) - so Show Me.

He had the brilliant idea to use a garden hose pointed up as a sprinkler to test the seal. We did so and found a small amount of water in the cabin- and that was enough! We didn't know what the weather would bring - the FQP Almanac said it would be FB all across the state - could it perhaps be wrong? Hihi

How could that leak be happening with three - three! - layers of waterproof tape inside and out? Time to call in the NK4O detective agency again to investigate, so... AJ further examined the outside chassis and observed that there was a small but visible gap between the rear spoiler and the hatchback; the joint wasn't sealed and water was seeping past the joint and through to the weather sealing tape, which would just collect the seepage until it overflowed (i.e. - raining in the cabin). AHA!Now we knew we had to stop the leak in that spoiler/hatchback gap or no amount of taping would work. We stripped off all the old mega-taping (see photo "Ball O' Murphy") and applied some new tape to the gap. After that, further simulated rain testing showed the extra gap taping worked; we now had a bonafide setup with no water leakage....or did we?

WANNA PLAY TWISTER?:Saturday morning we had a beautiful sunrise and left at 6:45am to meet with Red and Kevin. Nice wx on the way - such a peaceful drive! We arrived right on time and Kevin and Red showed up a couple of minutes later. After exchanging greetings and stowing their gear and overnight bags, we got busy getting them settled in and familiarized with their stations. Some quick bio-breaks and we left for FQP - our starting point was a bit over an hour away and we left at 10:55 to get there by noon. On the way, a light rain began...but no big deal, right?

We didn't quite get to our CIT starting point so we started in SUM at the bell. CQ FQP de K4OJ/sum!! Everyone was sending and receiving furiously and the wonderful masses of friends outside the state were ready. The light rain became a medium steady drumbeat.We knew we were one of only two-three mobiles to visit GIL, DIX and LAF so we agreed to skip at least one more populated county and give extra time for the Sweep-Seekers. And that is what we did - we put these counties on the air simultaneously on 40m, 20m, and 15m. I feel a twinge of guilt reading on 3830 that one

Op who missed GIL for the sweep (sorry).

Conditions for us were not really that good - 40m was weak, no RBN's on 20m and 15m for the first two hour+ and hard to make QSO's - really a bummer. And both 20m and 15m had deep, deep QSB swings that would come again to a lesser degree the next day. Keep in mind that in our RFI environment we shine when signals are strong and suffer when signals are weak; it is what it is. But we were making good progress on our route...and the rain just kept getting harder. Kinda like the frog in the pot taking a 'bath' while the water warms :-))Red was working stations so fast that at one point he shouted out, "Is it possible to have carpal tunnel syndrome at six hours?" Chuckles from all...

When we stopped in CLA we took turns operating (BTW pit stops are my chance to operate all three stations- yay!) and hitting the head. While inside the proprietor had a funny look on his face and said that a Tornado Watch had just been issued - TIME TO GO!Running back to the car as the winds and rain and lightning started to increase - we got outta there and hit the gas. No Tornado Watch was gonna catch the OJ-mobile! Until it did. Wind and rain whipped all around us. We finally reached I-95 and after viewing on our cellphones the truly immense, intense storm that covered all of north and central FL and heading East we agreed that we should skip well-represented SEM/ORR/OSC and keep pushing quickly south on I-95 until we got past the danger area.EXERCISE for Out-of-State friends: Go to Google Maps - find Jacksonville, then find Melbourne. And just stare at that huge swatch that had horrible weather. During our drive between those points, 175+ miles, 3.5+ hours (and 2/3 of our way home to Palm Beach) we had incredibly ferocious rain, lightning and wind.

Just like last year. WAH!During that entire time on I-95 each Emergency Info Board flashed "Tornado Watch in this area". Continuously. For 4 hours. Meanwhile our operators still made FB runs through all that wx and noise. Finally after Melbourne the weather started to ease but not much. We learned the next morning there was a tornado that hit a home in Palm Beach Gardens, about half an hour north of my home.

We turned off the Turnpike at Lake Worth (home!) and that's when Red deadpanned, "Is there something wrong with your car ? I'm not bouncing around enough!"The tired team finally pulled in to find - no leaks in the cabin! We cleaned up the gear for the night and had a well-deserved spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad and key lime pie for dessert. It was great to shoot the breeze too. Now off to bed...

Our team woke up between 5 and 6am; we again had to leave an hour early to get to our starting point in MRT. AJ reported there were tornado watches still in effect across much of the state, especially south. Of course you can guess which direction our route

would take us Sunday...After coffee and breakfast, we piled into the SUV to give it another go against Murphy and mother nature, heading for our starting point in MRT/OKE. The skies looked even darker than yesterday, very foreboding...and as we drove up Martin highway toward HWY 70 it kept getting worse. Rain was just pouring our vehicle - would our leak proofing work against this onslaught? THEN - all of a sudden all four of our cell phones screamed a loud emergency alert along with a text of "TORNADO WARNING" meaning a tornado had touched down nearby - yikes!

All I'm thinking is, "are we the Andrea Gail, Edmund Fitzgerald or the SS Minnow"? Which one will we be...I told the crew that any one of us can call it off and we'll turn around to go home but it was unanimous that we keep going. We started joking how 40m sucked and that Kevin wanted to get our antennas higher and that we may just have an option to do so! Fortunately, all three Ops grew up in big tornado areas (IL, IA, MO) so we were scanning the sky for telltale signs and looking for green sky and hail (sure signs of a twister close by). Then the heavens just opened up and we were driving through the most vicious rain, wind and lighting of the weekend for the next 20 minutes. Finally it subsided just a bit and it kept going that way - we were through it!

Our ride down GLA, HEN, PAL, BRO and DAD saw the wx getting better and better. The rain quit on the way to MON and we stopped there and worked massive pile ups. The water at the Tri-County line was up to a foot deep so the driver had to park carefully to protect the gennie and car engines and not get stuck in mud.

By the time we got to Naples the sky looked much better and not long after that a beautiful blue sky broke out saying 'you guys made it!'. We just rode the pile ups in each county and had a huge day with much better conditions. AJ on the 15m station was passing folks up to 10m and slowly Kevin started working them as the band opened. We were delighted to see 10m alive, even just a bit. Red of course was hopping on 20m - tnx to all who called us on all bands.

We're near the end of our tale. But before we go we want to congratulate all of our fellow Mobiles and Expedition teams - you guys are truly inspirational to activate all those counties and work the pile ups so well under tough wx and conditions. Multiple mobile teams adjusted their routes to ensure rare counties were made available. Well done by all!

That about wraps it up on this end - hope you enjoyed the joys and trials of our exciting journey. We offer you a final photo of our adventure starting at dawn on Saturday - who knew how it would go? And now you know...the rest of the story.

Tnx as always to our FQP leaders who guide and support me (and sometimes reel me back in a bit!):a) FCG past president and VP FQP Dan K1TO, our literally World-class rules maker and judge/referee/log checker. And he's such a great guy!b) FCG president Chris W4WF, master FQP Write up creator - the write ups are top-notch. We all really appreciate your leadership Chris. And I want to give sincere thanks to our FQP/FCG webmaster Jeff KU8E; you do wonders for our sites Jeff.

Hearty thanks also to Bob K0RC and Chuck NO5W for their super-duper county tracking tools - these are indispensable for working the sweeps, planning routes and more. Bob/Chuck - you guys are the best! Big thumbs up also to Chip N3IW for developing the FQP spotting website. Thank you all for your major support.

Huge kudos to our terrific Fixed and 1x1 Spelling Bee partners - you all are the foundation of our way-cool QSO Party - thank you for standing strong on all the bands representing our Sunshine State.A big salute as well to our talented road warriors, many of whom changed their routes to ensure VFB county coverage - great teamwork folks! They do an amazing job of getting the cobwebs off antennas, rigs, pc's, power plants and performing station(s), vehicle and routing set up just to make the first contact. I sincerely am in awe of your enthusiasm for hitting the road and am proud to call you fellow FQP mobiler/expeditioner. Please come back next year and let's bring some new Roadie recruits along for the fun!

Finally - Our biggest, loudest applause is for all of you out-of-state operators who are the real heroes. Whether you make a half dozen or several hundred QSO's, your enthusiastic participation and support help make the FQP fun for all. We can throw the party, but it is you that keeps coming back every year -Thank you, thank you, thank you! See you in FQP 2024!

AD4ES mobile 2913 CW QSO

We had a great time this year and somehow avoided the storms. 20 meters was our money band and Scott was our money band operator! He averaged 100 QSO's per hour for the entire 20 hours. Simply put, Scott is a QSO machine. The geriatric multiband station with Chuck and Dan at the key mustered some 900+ QSO's. Chuck and Mike shared driving duties with the bulk of the driving performed by Mike. We used a 2009 version of Streets and Trips for navigation. No surprise, some roads and highways have been rerouted and changed. We need a better solution for next year. We think that 10m was open but very few were listening. 15m was active but at times much slower than we would have liked. 40m Saturday night was good but was a little anemic on Sunday

morning. Which brings me to a question. Why do we start at 8:00am on Sunday? Starting at 9:00am or 10:00am makes much more sense. It is too early for western states and often only 1 band is open for an appreciable time on Sunday morning. Furthermore, mobiles stop at 10:00pm Saturday night, check in to a hotel, get settled and need to get up early to be on the road by 8:00am. Furthermore, it is not uncommon that you might not want to start operating in the county you are in, so you need to travel before 8:00am and get to the desired starting point. As a mobile I would much rather see a Sunday from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

This year we had 20m and 10m HAM STICK antennas for the station that was primarily planned for 20 meters. The station intended for multi-band use had HAM STICKS for 40m & 15m and a Hustler with a short mast for 10m. Most of our QSO's on the multi-band station were on 15m. We used a Hustler VP-1 triangular mount and a Hustler SSM-3 Spring combination and mounted our antennas to the VP-1 which is a bent triangular mount that can hold up to 3 antennas each having a 3/8" stud and nut. The FQP van has long since had 3/8" extra heavy-duty mounts on the roof that have performed well throughout the years. The antennas performed extremely well, and we plan on continuing with this configuration in the future. For interstation interference we had tuned stubs that required manually rotating a coax "Antenna" switch along with Dunestar automatic bandpass filters for all bands. Some band combinations still forced use to run reduced power to minimize interference...something we will work on for next year. But even running 50 watts the QSO's still kept coming.

Because the VP-1 mounts have the antennas at an angle the overall height of the antennas is lower than last year's totally vertical antennas that had to be swapped out when we changed bands. The thumping of the antennas on low hanging telephone lines and tree branches was almost non-existent this year.

We overdosed on snacks and somehow our multi-generational group of four managed to have pit stops that were fairly in sync with our biological needs.

Many many thanks to Chuck, NO5W, for his software "CQ/x" that works so great for mobile route planning and operation. This software provides automatic county name changes as we travel from county to county. When we are in Brevard County our call was set automatically to "AD4ES/BRE". When we enter Volusia county our call is automatically changed to "AD4ES/VOL" and so on throughout our trip. This feature makes operation as well as logging soooooo easy. After day 1 I emailed Chuck a question about the function key assignments. I received an answer and after some stumbling, I was able to have the "F" keys function as desired on Sunday. This year we took the extra CQ/x steps so that each operator knew when the next county crossing would occur in

terms of how many miles and how many minutes to the next county crossing. Cool stuff!!

Our laptops are out of warranty as they are circa 2009 so the plan is to replace them next year. Other than that, and working on interstation interference we look forward to topping 3000 QSO's next year and running pileups on 10m, 15m, and 20m. Thanks everyone for the QSO's.

73

Chuck, Mike, Dan, Scott

N4CW mobile (N4CW W4TMO ops) 3081 CW 92 SSB

It was a pleasure operating in this FQP again. Thanks to the FQP organization. This year Jim, W4TMO, and I (Bert, N4CW) decided to try something different: we'd operate SSB along with CW. Jim planned the route and later changed it to include some of the less-frequented "panhandle" counties. Since Jim did all the driving, for him to operate meant having to stop somewhere and operate while NOT driving! Jim suggested operating on county lines – great idea! That way he would optimize the number of contacts given out on SSB! I tried to operate mostly on CW with rare (and painful) excursions onto phone.

Statistics: 3173 Valid Q's, of which 92 were SSB, the rest CW. We logged 565 different callsigns, 257 of which we worked only once. I believe we operated from six county lines the first day and six more the second...that's just county LINES. We did operate from 34 different counties! Many, many stations followed us both days, and the "Top Five" were K1GQ (Bill) who followed us in 33 counties and provided 78 Q's, K9CT (unbelievable performance with 100W!) 55 Q's, 30 counties, OM2VL (Laci) 54 Q's, 31 counties, K7SV (Lar) 50 Q's, 31 counties, and W3MA, 47 Q's, 29 counties. In the interest of brevity I chose to describe only the "Top Five" in our long list of Q's, but our sincere gratitude to all who made the effort to work us and succeeded.

Conclusion: It was an exhausting weekend. We drove from Raleigh, NC, to Montgomery, AL on Friday so we could start in the "panhandle" of Florida, yet that was 2-1/2 hours from Montgomery! Our first night ended in Palatka where we stayed. Sunday morning we drove to the water's edge in Flagler county and were within 50 feet of crashing waves, a beautiful sight and a great way to start the day. We finished the day somewhere north of Melbourne and drove to

Kingsland,GA to spend the night. From there it only took us 5-1/2 to 6 hours to get back home. Like I said, “exhausting”!

Many thanks to all our “supporters”. 73 – Bert & Jim

AD4EB mobile - single op/driver 3406 CW

This was our 3rd time operating mobile in the FLQP, and we beat our previous high score from 2021. Our claimed QSO count was down slightly (25 QSOs) but was more than made up by 6 more multipliers. We were concerned that the recent solar storms were going to be a problem, but we lucked out with the timing. Band conditions were excellent during most of the trip.

We had heavy rain and thunderstorms on Saturday which made driving a challenge, but Melody did a fantastic job driving and navigating through them. We were able to stay mostly on schedule, and operated from all planned 49 counties. The route included parking on 6 county lines which had a big part in boosting our score this year.

The pileups were pretty crazy as expected, it sure would have helped if folks would have spread out a bit more. Those that did spread out were worked first, but often I had to repeat the exchange because my signal was getting covered up. I certainly do enjoy the challenge and excitement of the really big pileups, but as I manage to work thru them, I'm often watching my rates drop at the same time. But if it was not for the pileups, mobile contesting would not be much fun.

Below is the list of stations that worked us more than 30 times. Wow Laci OM2VL was really on top of his game, congratulations! Mark WB9HFK did really good tracking us, he was right there as we entered many counties. And Charles, Lar, and Craig all had huge signals.

OM2VL (68) - 20 were on 15m

WB9HFK (51)

K3WW (48)

K7SV (47)

K9CT (46)

N7IR (45)

NM2A (44)

K9CW (42)

K4RO (40)

K3WJV (38)
VE3YT (38)
N8II (37)
KM5G (34)
W5TM (34)
K4QS (33)
W1TO (33)
KA6BIM (32)
W8WVU (32)
WA6KHK (32)

My supportive wife Melody deserves most of the credit for our 1M point score. Thanks Melody for driving our new Kia Carnival 984 miles around Florida while I got to play radio in the back. You are the amazing.

We appreciate everyone that worked us in the contest. And thanks to the FCG (especially Chris NX4N, Dan K1TO, and Chris W4WF) for having us in your beautiful state contesting for the third time. This was our highest score so far score in a QSO party, Florida sure does know how to pull off a QSO party!

73 - Jim AD4EB and Melody KI4HVY

N9EEE County Expedition 14 SSB

Well this was fun for this Wisconsin boy traveling for some fun in the sun with his ham radio. Operated QRP from Lake Griffin State Park. High noise level (Power lines, traffic) for a state park, so I missed many weaker stations. Had a blast, though. Thanks to all who worked me.

--73--

OM2VL - fixed - DX 506 CW 109 SSB

Usually 20m is FB from the beginning till not closed, but not in this year. I heard pileup who called mobiles, but here no whisper and when I heard the weak mobile (W4AN, N4CW, K4OJ) even no any other callers they're no copy me. Fortunately nice activity was on 15m and I can made here so many QSOs. My big thanks to mobiles, who was also on 15m. Last QSO on 15m was at 19:46Z.

Later also 20m opened but I must spend so many time when I can break the USA wall. On 15m it was every time just 1 call ...

40m opened later as usually, but 20m was open till 02Z. (last QSO at 01:21Z W4AN/M)

At 01:17Z I worked with N4KGL from HAM - my #65th county. Missed only WAG and WAK. So pity, that at the beginning of the QP these 2 counties was QRV only on 20m (WAG: N4CW, N4FP, W4AN - WAK: K4TCG, N4FP, W4AN) and I don't heard any of them. It would be so quick SWEEP from the EU.

On Sunday 20m was much better and I was so busy on 20/15m with mobiles - not many time to try SSB RUN.

10m never opened as in previous QP's and I can work here only 5 FL stations.

My #66th county was at 19:05Z WAK - W4AN/M and SWEEP (WAG) gave me Jim AD4EB at 19:55Z - thank you so much!!!

1x1 stations was also so active - 67 QSO totally

Thanks for the excellent activity of mobile stations!!!

AD4EB/M 68/47
K4OJ/M 61/42
N4CW/M 42/32
K8MR/M 41/19
AD4ES/M 38/28
W4AN/M 34/22
N4AO/M 21/16
AA4TI/M 18/10
K4TCG/M 12/9
N2BA/M 10/9

W4AN mobile 2249 CW 170 SSB

Jeff, KU8E, did a good job in setting up his TS590SG, laptop computer with N1MM+ for logging, Winkeyer. We were running 95W and had one Hustler whip for 20M and another Hustler tri mount with 40, 15, and 10M. He also planned the route and

directed the trip to pick up as many needed counties as possible. Saturday we had a great deal of rain that slowed us down a bit and we skipped a few counties on our planned route that we were able to pick up on Sunday. 20M was open for the whole time both days and at times the skip zone was quite short and we worked a number of other FL stations, particularly on SSB. It was hard for us to hold a frequency on 20M SSB with only 95W and a mobile whip. We did have a few nice runs on SSB. Also, we made quick QSYs to SSB at the request of some after the rate dropped on CW. 40M was poor. The last few hours on Saturday were fair on 40M. The mobile window put us pretty low in the band and in the way of loud DX stations in the Helvetia Contest. We worked most states (missed MS, UT, AK, HI, WY and both Dakotas. Lots of Canada activity. I bet CCO will have the high out of state club score again this year. But, we also worked VE1, VE9, VE2, VE4, VE5, and VE7. Also a number of European QSOs, particularly OM2VL, of course. Some Caribbean, HK4/KC1XX, and HP1XT. Thanks for all QSOs. K8MFO/M had quite a good mobile signal. Maybe he will go roving in a QSO party soon. 73, John, K4BAI.

QSL and MRC requests go to K4BAI.

N8II fixed WV 396 CW 255 SSB

A personal best probably for me, better than last couple of years. N1MM shows 19:11 hours operating, but my less than 30 minute breaks were often nearly 30 and done several times.

The QRN in the south centered on Florida from storms made for driving misery and listening misery for many FL ops. Thanks so much to the mobiles for sticking with their plans and making it a great FQP! It was so bad my first 40M QSO was not until 2218Z. I heard FL in the 21Z hour but was unable to break through the noise; WB4TDH made several attempts to copy me to no avail. We worked easily later. My 40M signal is inferior to K7SV and N4DJ in nearby VA; they worked several stations who were unable to pull me through.

The QRN was so bad in FL Saturday even on 20, that some ops were seeking refuge on 15 such as K4C/NF4A. The QRN definitely hurt my 20 meter phone run, but I still worked about 140 Q's Saturday and signals were quite loud from 22-01Z, but activity waned after 2330Z. 15 was open to spots all over FL Saturday but it was spotty, probably some Es to certain northern areas. My last 15M Q was at 1925Z, the band died. Sunday 20M was about as perfect as I could hope for with decent signals all day long

with slight decline mid day. 15 was miserable, open at best moment to Ft. Myers and south with a few scatter signals. I missed K4OJ/M on 15 in DAD catching them just crossing into MON.

Many thanks to all of the mobiles, no time now for detailed stats, but K4OJ, AD4EB, AD4ES, K8MR, N4AO, N4CW, W4AN, and N2BA provided a huge number of QSO's. Many, many thanks and a special thank you to John and Jeff operating W4AN/M for QSY's for those much needed phone mults! I must have missed K4TCG operating outside of the 20M mobile window at times, but worked them several times late Sunday. I had 65 counties worked at the end of Saturday, but nothing new until W4AN gave me FRA on both modes, CW at 1936Z. Then AD4EB set up on the Holmes/Washington line giving me WAG for the sweep at 2018Z. Later I worked K4TCG on the same line on 20 and 40. Franklin was the rarest. I added 2-3 new counties late Sunday on 20 SSB by just CQ'ing.

I executed pretty well this time, never spending a long time on SSB without a check for CW mobiles and kept breaks fairly short. The great activity was a pleasant surprise after somewhat of a collapse in the MIQP and ONQP when the noise was bad also. Many thanks for all of the calls and QSO's. The mobiles keep you in the chair!

73, Jeff

Something to Consider

In 1951, the Novice license was created by FCC. It made getting started in Amateur Radio much easier - 5 wpm code and a super-simple 20 question multiple choice written test. Enormous numbers of hams started out as Novices - our numbers grew from about 100,000 in 1951 to about 250,000 in 1964.

Then in the 1970s the repeater boom caused many to bypass the Novice and go straight to Technician as a first license, so they could use the repeaters. Or they got the Novice and very soon upgraded to Technician. This trend accelerated in the 1980s, increased even more in 1987 when the written testing for Technician was reduced, and skyrocketed when the Technician lost its code test in 1991.

By the mid-1990s, very few new Novice licenses were being issued, and in 2000, the

FCC closed off the Novice to new issues.

This evolution had far-reaching effects.

When the Novice was the first license of most new amateurs, most of them/us started out on HF CW - usually 80 and 40 meters. Even the simplest gear was good for QSOs of a few hundred miles, and DX was possible, particularly on 15 meters (the first Novice DXCC was in 1958). Many homebrewed at least some of their gear, and/or built kits, converted surplus, etc.

But when the Technician became the first license for most new amateurs, they started out on VHF/UHF FM voice, almost all with manufactured gear, talking to local folks - a QSO of 100 miles was a special event!

In those times, many newcomers got amateur licenses for "personal communications" - calling for help in the case of a breakdown or accident, keeping in touch with family members, etc. The question of whether it was legal to order a pizza for pickup using the autopatch was seriously debated. I knew of entire families that got licenses and radios just to keep in touch - the term "honeydew hams" was coined to describe them. Nothing wrong with any of that.

Along the way, we got "Technician in a day" cram classes. Many newcomers learned just enough to pass the written test - but in doing so, had large gaps in their knowledge of even basic stuff. "A license to learn" sounds good, but sometimes it doesn't work out that way.

And then....the repeater boom ended. The repeater boom had been powered by how it made mobile and portable communications easy and reliable, but as everyone got cell phones, repeater activity decreased - often dramatically. Where before there were lots of folks on the repeaters for a newcomer to talk to, and lots of busy repeaters, now it's not so easy.

Yet our license structure is still set up to encourage newcomers to start out on VHF/UHF FM.

And there's more....

The amateur who started out on HF CW tended to think of Amateur Radio in national and international terms. To them, organizations like ARRL, IARU, etc., made lots of sense.

But the amateur who started out on VHF/UHF FM and repeaters tended to think of Amateur Radio in local and maybe regional terms. The local club made lots of sense - but not a national or international organization.

The result is that a considerable number of newcomers get Technician licenses, and maybe a VHF/UHF FM radio, but soon lose interest because there isn't all that much activity. And if the local club is a turn-off for them, there's not much to hold them. And of course things like ARRL membership tend to not be of interest to them.

An often-heard response is "upgrade and get on HF!". All too often, that's seen as a sort of bait-and-switch. I think what's needed is a "Novice for the 21st Century" - a replacement for the Technician license as the entry level license. A totally new license, with a balanced mix of bands and modes, and a test that matches the privileges granted. Plus an end to "ham in a day" classes.

73 de Jim, N2EY

220 MHz Sprint

Not a lot of activity on 220MHz but this occurs ever April - and of course , 220 is used in VHF contests. Not much commercial equipment for the band other than the Yaesu FT-736 with the 220 module installed. (now out of production), or transverters. Usually very quiet until a contest – then loads of activity shows up. We already lost 2 MHz of the original five MHz so now it is 222-225 MHz band. In some areas, there are a bunch of FM repeaters on this band. The FM simplex frequency is 223.5 with some activity in contests. Way back when, in the 1970s-era, N4CD had 60W of CW on the band. Worked 17 states from VA. Now, for long range folks are using FT-8. The Sprints are just a few hours long

220 MHz Sprint - April 18 2023

K1TEO FN31/CT 53 CW QSO 27 grids

After being off 222 for a few months with a bad swr issue, I got the tower down last Thursday. Fixed a connector issue at the main coax to rotor jumper coax and then mounted a pair of new DS 16 element antennas. The Sprint was a good chance to give

the new system a workout and it seemed to be fine. Condx hr were about average some of the time and below average other times. As others have noted a good deal of variability so stations would be weak and then come way up.

I was busy the first hour with 36 QSO's, even missing some time to help my xyl out. That was fun. I was in and out for the next 2.5 hours and things not surprisingly slowed down quite a bit, hi! Still waiting for my 222 Beko to return from DL Land but the RIW amp was a fine replacement.

CU on 432 next week. Tnx for the Q's and to the sponsors. And tnx to Dave, K1WHS for starting the Tuesday night activity. And to those who get on each week and make noise. It's great to see the band being used more than I ever remember between contests.

Jeff K1TEO

\NV4R Rover - AL - 25Q 19 grids

I decided to stay closer to home for this rove and operate from my usual spots around the EM64/54/55/65 corner. Due to the Tennessee River running near the corner and a lack of suitable operating locations near the actual grid corner, this results in about an 80-mile route to hit all four grids.

I set up on Colbert Mountain in EM64dq to start. I operated from there until it got too dark to continue around 0045Z. This stop yielded seven FT8 QSOs and two nice analog QSOs, a CW QSO with W4DEX in EM95, and an SSB QSO with KG4WLX in EM86.

I made three FT8 QSOs in motion from EM54, then made a quick stop on Woodall Mountain (EM54vs) with the mobile loop, where I was able to work AJ6T (EM66) and, surprisingly, W5EME (EM32), with whom I had struggled to complete a QSO on the 10-element beam from Colbert Heights.

I then went to my usual hilltop in EM55va, and surprisingly, worked both W5EME and AA4ZZ (EM96) with the mobile loop from there, plus a CW QSO with K4QF (EM64) and four additional FT8 QSOs.

Finally, I drove to a roadside spot in EM65aa, where I finished by working KY4G (EM64), AB4DX (QRP portable in EM64), AG4V (EM55), and AJ6T (EM66). I mention all of these guys specifically because they were the only four stations to work me from all four of the grids I activated. Many thanks to all of you for sticking it out.

Participation in all seemed good, although a couple of regulars had to sit this one out, costing me several Qs and mults, but this is still a personal best score for a 222 Sprint. I really appreciate how much the activity levels have risen over the past few years in the Southeast on 222.

I did have one technical problem in that I have a relatively-new issue with voltage drop causing the FT-736R to go "out to lunch" whenever I run more than about 60-70W out of the amp. Consequently, I was "low power" (<100W) for all of this one. I'll work on it and try to be up to 100W for June.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the 432 Sprint next Wednesday night. I am contemplating a return to EM75/74 for that one.

Figures below do not include one QSO with another rover whose 6-digit grid is unknown.

Total DX: 6524 km

Best DX: W4DEX (EM64dq<>EM95tg), 672 km/417 mi

Avg DX: 272 km/169 mi

Mode breakdown:

22 FT8

2 CW

1 SSB

Rig: Yaesu FT-736R w/Mirage C2512G amp, ~70W

Mobile antenna: M² HO loop

Portable antenna: Directive Systems 10-element K1FO "Rover" Yagi

K9JK/Rover

Another outing for the CoROVERolla but lower key with just the FT-736R and an omni horizontal loop (no amp, no yagi and no vertical antenna).

23 of 27 QSOs were made using FM, 4 SSB. 5 unique calls and 4 unique grids contacted.

Again, thanks to all who participated in this Sprint, to the Central States VHF Society for their continue sponsorship of the Spring Sprint series and to the management team of KA2KQM, W0ZQ and WB8BZK who do the legwork to keep the series going.

Until next Wednesday for 432 MHz.

73, JK

K1WHS - FN43 47Q 23 grids

Conditions were not so great in Northern New England, but I found the activity was pretty good. The band ran out of gas for me at 0200 UT and no contacts were made in the last hour. Best DX was KO4YC, WA3EOQ, W8ZN, and VE3ZV. These contacts were all over about 475 miles. QSB was quite severe at times. I missed with VE3SST and K3SK. Thanks to K1DY & KV1J for my only contacts to the northeast!

ARRL Proposed Changes to 60M Band

ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band
04/28/2023

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned to the FCC to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested."

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth, but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks.

7 LAND QSO PARTY

Mobiles were out and running ! NX7U, N7WA, and a lost K5CM were active. Many County Expeditions were working stations left and right. At least one Park on the Air station – W7Y was very busy giving out contacts from MT.

N4CD worked a bunch of folks who are CWT Wednesday regulars – nice to hear them on – calls like KC7V, WC7Q, K7RL, K7LL, etc.

The same day, the IN QP occurred and a bit later the New England NEQP started. Busy weekend!

Later in the day, a minor Geomagnetic storm sent the A index to 30 and K to 2 - making it tougher to hear and work the mobiles , including county hunter mobiles on the road – like KB6F in VA headed north and W5VS in MD.

From FB post

AG7GP - Portable 424 CW 120 SSB

Considering the hurdles 7qp wasn't too bad. Last minute plan to county line ORJAC/JOS, up at 2am night before(left at 445am), solar storm knocked out bands and qrn, wind and a little rain, no cell/services-low mults, and some power issues so was down to 30w part of the time. Had to limit my CQ time. Glad I added 80m legs to my dipole the day before, 80 gained some qsos for sure. My shack was cozy but prettier than most! My heroes are those who took the time to spot me!



AG7GP

Amy is big SOTA operator climbing mountains all over the NW – some are in parks. All are in counties.

From the 3830 reflector:

W7Y Portable - NN0G operator - 684 CW QSO

portable in Platte WY in a park.

We had a great time at our seventh 7QP effort, although this was by far the most challenging from a band conditions standpoint. We had hoped 10m would be in play and 15m would be active but saw nothing on 10 and little activity on 15. Qs were fewer and farther between than previous years -- and we missed key mults -- but we nevertheless enjoyed the contest as always and were happy to provide two counties -- WAGRY and WAPAC -- for the price of one. Thanks for all the Qs!

N7N County Expedition 1335 CW QSO

Jon (AI6W) and I (W6DER) had an AMAZING time operating the triple county intersection NV Pershing, Washoe, Churchill (aka NVPER/WAS/CHU). During the contest hours we had sun, clouds, rain, hail, snow, and lightning (5mi away)! DX Commander Nebula worked great with a K4D. All battery power for the whole contest. First time doing an expedition for either of

WY7M County Line Expedition WYHOT/WYPar 1018 CW 34 SSB

This county line expedition was not as productive this year. 10 and 15 were missing, electrical storms inhibited the effort and the county line location was not as good. Still a good time was had and enjoyed. 40 and 80 saved the day as the start of the contest on 20 and 40 was quite slow.

N7WY County Expedition 490 CW QSO

Location - slightly east of the county line between Platted and Goshen counties & slightly north of the county line between Goshen and Laramie counties.
Exchange WYGOS/LAR/PLA

Severely hampered by strange interaction between K3S and N1MM that lead to radio crashes too many times to continue longer.

W6PH/7 County Expedition 51 CW QSO

I delayed getting to my Nevada county line as the temperature was 32F at sun up. It is a jeep trail to the Mineral/Esmeralda county line near the California border. It took about 25 minutes to get set up. I operated from the tail gate of my Blazer. I started S&P working other 7 land stations and thought conditions weren't very good. I tried some CQ's but got very few answers. I checked 15 meters and didn't hear any signals. The temperature was in the mid 40's and there was a strong breeze. It was cold. I wasn't getting any new contacts. I decided to pack it in after 3 hours. Despite wimping out early I had a good time.

73, Kurt W6PH

N7XU (K4XU, W7AM opr) mobile 500 CW QSO

Mother Nature did not cooperate. Band conditions at the start were pretty grim and improved slightly towards 00z. Richard, my driver, W7AM, is perfectly happy to watch the scenery and the road while I tended to the radio. The weather was cool, it hit 60 on one sunny spot and was down to 37 in another. Snowbanks still on the shady side of the road at a 4750' pass.

As we reached the max distance from home in Gilliam County it started to rain. just a light shower but enough to generate pretty severe rain static. It was like bringing a leaky HV power line along with us. Further along the rain went steady.

We arrived back at home and dropped Richard off, changed the HF antenna (Hustler 3 band pitchfork on the fender) for the 80m monster but kept the 40 ham stick on the mag mount on the rear deck. The 80m antenna is barely legal at 14 feet where the top hat hangs out and it must be guyed two ways, but as long as you pick your bridges and stay below 40mph, it works very well ...except when it gets wet.

for most of the day I was able to keep it above 30 QSOs an hour but it was mostly reworking the same lot of loud fixed stations from each county and mostly by S&P. Yes there were some highs - OM2VL in Wasco County and a JA in another but DX was scarce. Thanks to the NEQP we easily got all six in New England but missed several easy ones like Ontario and Ohio! And no Delaware.

They say a muddy field slows all teams, I assume that other mobiles fared about the same. I'm down 45% in QSOs and off 20% in mults from last year. I ran out of QSOs about 06Z so I folded the 80m antenna, got soaked, and drove back home from my favorite night spot on the JEF/CRO border.

The gear is a 100W TS480, 40m hamstick on the mag mount and Hustlers except the big guy on 80m.

Thanks for the QSOs.

73,

Dick K4XU as N7XU mobile.

N7WA mobile 255 CW QSO

Yes Dick, a muddy field does slow all teams :>) and this mobile got stuck up to the axles

(figuratively speaking). This was my worst score since I started running in the 7QP a decade ago (even through solar minimums).

What makes it rough, is there was a whole lot of anticipation for this running of the 7QP. I especially put some effort tweaking my 10m antenna setup. Good reminder that solar max is not always a blessing. <sigh>

However, I was looking for a break and a chance to get out on the road. That part, I thoroughly enjoyed, plus I got to make a FEW Q's along the way. :>}

Got turned down by three possible driver/ops so it was another solo effort and I can't/won't operate while running the back roads of eastern WA. Fourteen hours on the road and 3:47 hours on the air.

Thanks to those who managed to dig me out.
dink

DL3DXX - fixed Germany 80 CW QSO

After the solar flare Saturday morning 20m and 15m bands were almost useless long time of the day. Worked only the big guns on 20m and those station who pointed their beams to Europe. There was a short opening on 15m around 18z for about one hour. Missed K7TQ in Sanders/MT (last county in W7 land) but happy with 29 QSOs on 40m with a simple 3 element beam. Never tried 80m however heard a few W7's weak in the noise.

N6MU fixed CA 250 CW QSO

Poor band conditions this year. Only station heard on 15 was a loud W6OAT. Thanks to mobiles KG6T, K7TQ, N7WA and N7XU for being there. I worked you when I could hear you, hi. 73...

John, N6MU

K6WSC/7 County Expedition 850 CW QSO

This was my fifth 7QP expedition, and the second from a rental house situated on 20 acres near Sonoita in Santa Cruz County, AZ. This was my third time out with my latest antenna system. See details below. The effort required to get the antennas up in the air

and then take it all down hours later is herculean. Each time I do it, I tell myself it's the last time. It takes about 11 hours to put up and 4 hours to take down and properly store the pieces. Time has a way of lessening those memories and the expedition addiction takes over again. Several hours into the contest, my notebook computer began a series of mysterious shutdowns, giving rise to the thought of packing up and going home. I was able to stop the shutdowns by moving the computer power supply cord away from the coax, telling Norton the public wi-fi I was on for assisted operation was OK, and avoiding touching the notebook lid which seems to have a faulty lid position switch. Back in the game at 9AM with no further shutdowns, 20, 40, & 80m were great, although there were plenty of very weak signals. 15 tried to come to life, and 10 was dead. As I write this, time seems to be working as I am looking forward to the next one. Too much fun.

Rig: FTdx10

Amp: KPA-500

Antennas:

- 1) Full size 80 & 40 fan dipole suspended on a 32 ft center & two 28 ft end masts
- 2) 20/15/10 fan dipole suspended below the 80/40

Thanks to everyone involved with running the great 7QP!

73, Bill / K6WSC

K7C in the 7QP

Santa Cruz County, AZ

K7TQ mobile 413 CW QSO

Jay, WA0WWW, and I tried a different route from our usual Snake River Plain in Idaho and did mostly Montana this year. Mountainous terrain, rain, and the same marginal propagation that everyone else had made for fewer Qs than last year. Once we got in the wider valleys of Montana, we did better.

Full story and pictures at <https://sites.google.com/site/randyk7tq/home/2023-7th-call-area-qso-party>

Time Sync Your PC for FT-8

How To Sync Your PC Time For POTA Operation
by Chip Coker KD4C

We've all seen how easy it is to set up and operate out in the field using the low cost quick deploy portable antenna and using battery power and portable radios. But that only gets you SSB and CW. What if the bands aren't great and you want to work FT-8? You'll need a PC, but more importantly, you'll need a PC with accurate time!

FT-8 works on synchronized transmission cycles – some stations transmit in the first 13 seconds (of the minute) and another set replies from seconds 15-28. Then the cycle repeats. One of the benefits of the mode is the knowledge of when stations will be transmitting. All this requires an accurate clock (and given that the WSJT-X software runs on the computer), that means that the computer clock must be accurate. Just how accurate, you ask? According to the mode specs, you need to be within ± 500 milliseconds of standard time (1/2 second). Sometimes that can be tough to achieve with a computer that been connected to the internet recently. GPS to the rescue!

There are several inexpensive GPS devices that have USB ports. With the proper software, these devices can be used not only to accurately detect your position, but to set your computer's clock (much more accurately than is needed for FT-8). The picture above shows such a device that I've used to set a laptop clock within just a few seconds. There are several sync programs available but the one that I used is BktTimeSync (shown below). It's free and available here:

<https://www.maniaradio.it/en/bkttimesync.html>

Just install the software and connect the GPS “dongle”. The driver for the GPS should install automatically, after which the GPS device will show up as a “COMx” port (you can open Device Manager if you don’t know which port number). Once you select the correct COM port in the software and select “connect”, the clock should update in less than a minute (check the status messages in the software). Now you’re ready for portable FT-8!

AI5P Trip Report II

There are two National Parks near Visalia, CA, site of the International DX Convention. These are the Sequoia (K-0063) and Kings Canyon(K-0046) parks. I had been to the Sequoia park previously but never to Kings Canyon.

Unfortunately, with this year's historic snow and rain levels in California, many of the roads within the parks have been damaged and are now closed. The road directly between the parks is closed so you have to divert about two hours around the area highways to visit both parks.

At Sequoia you can enter at Highway 198 and go about 5 miles into the park. You can visit the Foothills Visitor Center but you are not able to see any of the giant Sequoia trees! No cell service but I was able to use the Visitor's Center wifi to spot myself. I was able to get 7 contacts on 17 and 20 meters SSB and 20 contacts on CW.



At Kings Canyon you can get to the Visitors Center and visit the Grant Grove Village but no further. Lots of snow still visible here.

The Grove area features outstanding examples of giant sequoias.

The most famous one is the General Grant. This sequoia is the third largest tree in the world by volume. The stats - Volume: 46,608 cubic feet; Age: 1700 years; Circumference: 107 feet; Diameter: 40 feet; Height: 268 feet; and Weight: 1,254 tons!

In 1926 President Calvin Coolidge designated it as the Nation's Christmas Tree. President Eisenhower declared it a National Shrine in 1956. Unfortunately, you can also see fire damage to many of the trees from the 2021 KNP Complex fire.

No cell service here and I tried to spot myself at the Visitor's Center without much luck. I ended up driving down to another parking area and calling

CQ many, many times and finally getting 17 SSB contacts over about two hours - all but two on 17 meters. No luck on CW at all. This was the day before the major solar disturbances so I guess I was lucky to make any contacts at all. The next day I could not hear anything on any band hi!



These parks will require extensive road repairs to enable you to visit the entire park areas - let's hope this will get done soon!

Rick AI5P

Indiana QSO Party

Propagation Conditions this year not the best.

N9TTK - one county portable 431 CW 194 SSB QSO

Crawford county portable 10-80 EFHW inverted L, 100w. Bands were rough the entire contest. Thanks to everyone who participated, thanks to all the POTA folks that copied faster than normal code and an irregular exchange. All q's will be uploaded to POTA for Hoosier national forest K-4483.

Thanks to my friend for setting up his camper for me and making all the food and gassing up the generator while I was operating.

N9TTK

N9UNX - one county portable 473 CW QSO

Great to hear from folks that I work regularly! TU! And thank you to those that I worked on multiple bands. Also thanks to SMC members for their participation.

KJ9C mobile 216 CW 4 SSB

Growing less enthusiastic about sol mobile operating with every QSO Party.

N8KR Rover 258 CW 242 SSB QSO

5 counties St. Joseph, Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, and Allen. Crappy band conditions this year made operating difficult. . . Its's still fun, though!

K9WX - fixed - IN 330 CW 70 SSB

I no longer have my 2011 Nissan Rogue that served so well as an HF mobile. So, 2023 was planned as a portable operation from a rare county. That morphed into a full time

operation from home. Which morphed into a part time operation from home. So the contest became more of an easy jog rather than a full-out sprint, and not a bad way to spend a day.

The bands were dead the first half of the contest, as if every QSO partner was operating QRP. Mid-contest they started to open up and by the end of the contest they were pretty decent. Until the storms moved in, making 80 meters a steep challenge I ended up with more breaks than I had planned and was forced to unplug for the last hour of the contest. N1MM says I operated 7 of the 12 contest hours.

Every year I look at my INQP score and say, "I should have spent more time on phone." I knew that going into this one. Yet this year I had only 70 phone QSOs, although half of those were mults, so I had quality if not quantity. Nevertheless, next year, I need to spend more time on phone.

Thanks to the mobile, portable and rover stations. You activate a lot of counties that would not otherwise be available as mults.

Don't Count the IC Engine Out Quite Yet

from Motor Trend Magazine – abbreviated quite a bit

Combustion Engines won't vanish any time soo, if ever. Certain transportation tasks or operating environments simply don't lend themselves to battery or hydrogen powered electric propulsion. A century and a half of research and development has greatly increased the efficiency of combustion engines and engineers have loads of addition tricks up their sleeves that promise to extract even more work from a molecule of fuel which producing fewer harmful emissions.

98-Octane Gas

Simply being able to design an engine to run 15:1 or higher compression greatly improves its thermodynamic efficiency and power density, permitting further engine downsizing. That requires higher octane fuel, and a research octane number (RON) of 98 represents a sweet spot, above which producing/refining the fuel consumers more

energy, decreasing the well-to-wheel' energy/CO2 benefit.

Smart Cylinder Deactivation

Engines sized for worst-case scenarios like quarter-mile acceleration or towing heavy trailers up Davis Dam. Cylinder deactivation improves efficiency during less extreme driving situations by making fewer cylinders work. Dynamic Fuel Management can shut off any or all cylinders in GM's 5.3 and 6.2 liter V8s to boost EPA fuel economy by nearly 12 percent. Tula Technology and Eaton now propose similar systems for long haul diesel engines, where a smaller fuel efficiency payoff (1.5 to 4 percent) pays huge NOx dividends by maintaining exhaust temperatures needed to keep catalysts lit.

Fancy Ignition Systems

Because fuel takes time to burn, conventional spark plugs fire as the piston is still moving upward, rendering the initial combustion counterproductive. Schemes to ignite more of the mixture simultaneously promise faster combustion that allows it to mostly happen on the downstroke. Ford developed near infrared lasers to ignite multiple points in a combustion chamber, but cost and reliability remains a problem. Transient Plasma's drop in spark plug replacements injects sheets of low-temperature plasma that promises to ignite ultra-lean mixtures quickly and coolly for a fuel economy boost of 10-15 percent and dramatically reduced NOx. Even Maserati's new pre-chamber Twin-Combustion system qualifies as an ignition accelerator.

Variable Compression Ratio

this cake-and-eat-it-too concept promises high compression for parsimonious light-throttle cruising and low compression when turbo is on boost. Nissan has a connecting rod gizmo that alters the ratio between 8:1 and 14:1. Motor Trend has been underwhelmed by the Nissan/Infiniti VC Turbo's performance and fuel economy. FEV's eccentric connecting rod might be simpler and work better. They promise an 8:1 to 12:1 change with a 5% drop in fuel use.

Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition

Efficiency of a diesel with gasoline emissions. That's the dichotomous promise of HCCI, which seeks to spontaneously ignite lean gas mixtures by compression. GM, Mercedes and Hyundai all had promising HCCI programs, but only Mazda has brought HCCI to production. Sort of. SkyactivX uses a spark plug some of the time and is still deemed too costly for sale in North America.

Waste Energy Recovery Systems.

Recovering exhaust energy – to generate electricity – or other functions. Still in development.

- - - -

de N4CD: I'm not ready for an EV yet. Let's see...you leave home. Maybe 6:30am. Headed to a convention somewhere. You have a full charge of maybe 250 miles on a good EV. That's in moderate weather (not too cold, not too hot). So you head out. At 200 miles you start to look for a charge point. Maybe find one soon, but the nerves get you. So you pull in at 210 miles and charge for an hour. IF you wind a working charger! And don't have to wait for someone else to finish first.

After an hour, you get a 80-85% battery charge, not 100%. If you're on interstates here in TX, OK, AR, you've been doing 65 and 70 mph – and in TX – 75 mph. Just a couple hours. 3- hours till you got to charge. Maybe only less 3 hours if cold or dark. Not even 3 hours. Traffic can move at 80 mph on the interstate. You can't quick charge much above 85%. So now, instead of 250 miles range (less than 3 hours at 60-65 mph), you only have 200 or so miles of range. AT 150 miles you start looking for a charge point. I don't like running below 25% 'tank'. (200 miles, then 150 miles, and if you're up to it, a 3rd stop at near 500 miles. That assuming 'moderate weather). It's not even lunch time and you're in for a second charge for an hour. Late afternoon and you need a charge before getting to the motel. Another hour. Hope you find a quick charger. Another hour sitting there. Waiting...waiting.... then you get another 2 hours of driving charge. Wow....

Now if it's 10 below..or you need to have your wipers and lights on for hours and hours....those number plummet.....maybe only 200 or 180 miles to start. Then recharge gets you 150 miles max.....and again after hours, another 150 miles max. You see the stories of folks bundled up in warm clothes, trying not to run the heat in their EV's so they don't run out of juice too quickly at 3F up north.

Meanwhile, N4CD recalls the past. Up at 6 and on the road by 6:30am. First stop maybe 150 miles for a quick 10 minute break at McD for Egg McMuffin. Next stop at 375 miles to gas up and grab lunch at the Pilot Truck stop (Subway) just past Little Rock. 5.5 hours to there. Take a break at 3pm for 10 minutes, then keep driving. 550+ miles or more the first day stopping at Blytheville AR at 4-4:30pm. Dinner at 5.

Meanwhile the guy in the EV has had to stop at 200 miles, at 325, at 475, etc, for an hour at a time, assuming an open charger. Maybe you wait two hours! Each time! In moderate weather. If it's 3F outside or 110F.....all bets are off. A lot less miles per charge. He shows up at 8pm. Restaurants closed other than fast food places. Maybe the Subway still open. Everything else shut down at 8pm. Now he has to find a charger and charge up for an hour, twiddling thumbs.

Is N4CD going to buy an EV any time soon? Not for trips! My around car is a 2007 Prius. Gets 40+ mph and a drive it about 100 miles a week. Needs 7.5 gallons or so at \$3/gal every 3 ½ to 4 weeks. Still running great but a few things here and there are taking some money to fix as it is getting 'older'. I'll keep burning gas in that one, too, for another couple years. If I remember right, the average age of cars on the road is 14 years, so lots of 'older cars' out there. Most US made cars are good to 200,000 miles. Toyotas to 250,000 before major repairs start to eat the budget.

US County Contest 2023

MARAC 2023 United States Counties QSO Party

Sponsored by Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

www.marac.org

Dates/Times: 00:00Z July 29, 2023 to 23:59Z July 30, 2023

Objective: To establish radio contact with as many U.S. Counties as possible in all 50 U.S. states with the emphasis on maximum scoring of mobile entries. Contacts are good towards the various MARAC awards and CQ Magazine's "Worked All Counties Award."

USA Modes and Categories:

Eligible Modes: CW and Phone. No digital modes. All logs submitted shall be for Single Operators. Multiple operators can participate from one station, but each operator submits a log entry.

Fixed Categories:

CW- May be Home/Club or Portable

Phone- May be Home/Club or Portable

Mixed CW/Phone Fixed- May be Home or Portable

USA Mobile:

CW-Single Operator Mobile

Phone-Single Operator Mobile

Mixed CW/Phone Mobile

DX:

Mixed CW/Phone Overall Single Operator.

A qualified DX exchange shall be between USA and the DX station. No DX-to-DX contacts are allowed.

Contest Exchanges: USA stations send RS(T), State and County abbreviation. All logs shall indicate the proper abbreviations for scoring. Hawaii stations use state/county. Alaskan stations use Judicial Districts 1 through 4.

DX stations shall send RS(T) and “DX” for their exchange, and must indicate USA state/county abbreviations worked in their received log exchange.

A list of recognized abbreviations will be provided on the Contest section of the marac.org website soon. Credit to Larry, W0QE for formatting and sharing for use.
Operational Guidelines:

Portable-Single Operator- If a portable station operates from more than one fixed location, multiple logs may be submitted. Portable stations are required to package equipment or stow antennas for travel. Portable stations shall be set-up less than 3 days before the QSO party starts, and removed within 5 days of the end of the qso party. Portable stations may also setup and tear down during the QSO party.

Other stations are in the “Fixed-Home/Club” category.

Fixed-Single Operator- One individual performs all radio operating and logging functions from a single location. Some fixed stations’ footprint straddle a county line and must select one of the counties to exchange for the duration of the QSO Party.

See MARAC General Rules for details.

Portable and Fixed (Home/Club) stations are in a single category. Do not attach a “/” after fixed/portable callsigns or incorrect scoring will occur.

Mobile- A station which is either in motion, or capable of immediately being in motion. This includes transmitter, receiver, power source, antenna(s), and logging equipment. Mobile stations may be moving or, if safely stopped, be capable of drive-a-way without lowering antennas or loading equipment. Mobile class entrants shall use “Mobile” or “/M” appended to the call sign. Mobile entrants shall be Single Operator only. Drivers are allowed.

A Club callsign may be used for mobile operations provided only one mobile station uses it and it is not used by a Fixed Entry.

DX: Hawaii and Alaska are U.S. entries. Canada, Mexico and other North American entities are DX-Class. Stations outside the 50 United States are all DX-Class.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2m are used in this contest. Phone qso’s only in the Phone sub bands, CW qso’s only in the CW sub bands. No cross mode, cross band, repeater, or satellite qso’s permitted.

Suggested Freq’s:

CW 50khz up from bottom of band

Phone 1850, 3850, 7250, 14341, 21341, 28341, 50135, 144.200 or 146.550 (FM) are suggested. Mobile windows: 5 khz down from the suggested freq. If you are a fixed station, please keep these freqs clear for mobile operations. Saturday’s contest period overlaps RSGB IOTA Contest, but their rules prohibit operation above 14.300 MHz on 20 Meters SSB.

Scoring: US Stations score 1 point for U.S. Fixed, 2 Points for DX, and 15 points for U.S. Mobile.

DX stations score 1 point for U.S. Fixed, and 15 points for U.S. Mobile.

Multipliers: Total of U. S. Counties worked once per mode, regardless of band. A CW or Phone only station has a maximum of 3077 mults. A mixed mode station has a maximum of 6154 mults.

Spotting and Planning: Mobile Operators are encouraged to post their plans for operation on the K3IMC website, www.countyhunterweb.org/displaytrips.php.

During the QSO Party one will find most county hunters follow the W6RK “Mobile Spot Page” at <http://ch.w6rk.com> When posting on W6RK, please include the entire county name and the state abbreviation as mobiles change counties, bands or modes.

Since mostly written and mailed QSLs are required by CQ Magazine for a first time Worked All Counties Award, please be courteous and return SASE QSLs and Mobile Reply Cards (MRC’s).

Miscellaneous:

A. Connecticut has eliminated counties. For 2023 use the old county lines as guides using maps, gps, or remaining signs to determine location.

B. Self-spotting as a fixed station is not allowed. Self-spotting as a mobile is permitted.

C. Drivers for Single Operator Mobile stations are permitted, provided they do not assist in any way with the contest on-air operations. Two people may transmit from a single vehicle and both shall enter individual logs.

D. County Line operations: As defined by MARAC, a stationary mobile may operate from one county line, and contacts with that mobile shall count as one qso, and 2 counties worked. Some part of the vehicle must be in both counties for the duration of the QSO. Operation from more than a double county line is not allowed under MARAC General Rules. If a safe stopped position at a county line isn’t possible, or if traffic is being slowed or blocked, operators should transmit from each county.

E. Independent city-a station must use only one county for use in the contest exchange, for the duration of the contest. If mobile in an independent city, the entrant may not use the adjoining county listed in the same independent city as a new county without actually moving to the new county.

F. Parks-On-The-Air and other award program stations are encouraged to participate. The basic information for MARAC must be exchanged to count towards MARAC scoring. The station shall enter the appropriate Mobile or Fixed and Portable class. Stations shall indicate in “Comments” if they are operating POTA, IOTA, US Islands, or other award programs. Each Portable log file shall be for a single county with WARC band QSOs and mults removed from the log.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to top scoring entrant in each Category. One certificate each for mobile, CW, SSB and Mixed. One certificate each for fixed or

portable CW, SSB and Mixed. One certificate to the leading DX station.

Log submission: Please note that the contest committee will not score your log. Unscored logs will be considered check logs only. Please use the Summary Sheet, which can be found at www.marac.org under the Contest Tab, and enclose a printed copy of it with the log copy only if you have a Mobile-Class paper log.

Fixed-Class logs and if possible, Mobile-Class logs, shall be emailed using Cabrillo (preferred), ADIF, pdf or MS Word/Excel.

Logs must be received by September 1, 2023 to qualify for awards. Logs may be sent via email or USPS if using a Mobile paper log. Email: marac23@earthlink.net. USPS via N7NU - Lee Hallin, 3413 Walton Ln., Eugene, OR 97408-4673.

Please watch the contest section of the MARAC website www.marac.org/Contests for updated information. For rule questions, please email the Contest Manager wa4ja@arrl.net for a quick reply or ruling.

John Almon, WA4JA MARAC Contest

Nice Portable/Mobile Paddles

Another nice small portable paddle from across the sea.....

Lots of nice features – including a mounting plate that you can attach to a board or other place then stick the key on the mounting plate when needed.



“The /paddle is small in size, light-weight, but yet very precise and comfortable to use - either handheld or mounted to a rig or any other suitable surface.

- compact and light-weight
- retractable levers
- adjustable contact spacing
- adjustable push resistance
- gold plated contacts
- all stainless steel hardware
- flexible mounting options - plate can be attached to all four sides of key
- allen wrench included

The retractable design allows for a safe transport. Contact spacing and depression force of the two levers can be adjusted using the included allen key. The allen key is safely stored inside the mounting plate when not needed.”

Dimensions: 26.5 mm x 24mm x 85.7mm

Weight 45 grams

<https://www.radioadventuregear.de/en/product/view/1/1?>

\$58 Euro plus shipping – about \$100 US .

Garmin GPS

If you have a Garmin GPS, it only understands GPS coordinates in 'decimal form'. If you look at some of the sites for State Game Areas, often they will give the locations of a parking area in degree, min, second format – ie, like parking lot 1 for Maple River State Game Area at Lat 43 deg, 08' 35.5" N Long 84 deg, 37 min, 10.5 sec. Your GPS won't digest that.

Using this formula you can convert to decimal form

Converting from degrees, minutes, and seconds is actually quite easy. Consider the latitude value 39° 25' 30". There are 60 minutes in one degree and 3600 seconds in one degree. To convert minutes and seconds to decimal degrees, divide minutes by 60, divide seconds by 3600, and then add the results to obtain the decimal equivalent. Use the following formula to make the conversion:

$$\text{Decimal degrees} = \text{Degrees} + (\text{Minutes}/60) + (\text{Seconds}/3600)$$

For Example, to convert 39° 25' 30" to decimal degrees

First, convert minutes and seconds to their degree equivalents and add the results

$$25'/60 = 0.4167^\circ$$

$$30"/3600 = .0083^\circ$$

$$\text{and } 0.4167^\circ + 0.0083^\circ = 0.425^\circ$$

Then, add this number to the number of degrees.

$$39^\circ + 0.425^\circ = 39.425^\circ$$

So, the final result is:

$$39^\circ 25' 30" = 39.425^\circ$$

or you could be lazy and use this website that does it all for you

<https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/dms-decimal>

I'll be ready next year to find those way out of the way state game areas in MI that I didn't have time to run in 2023 when the next Mini is held!

I think there might be a way to enter it either way. To get a degree symbol, on a PC, it's a pain. ALT 0176 or something. On a handheld, holding the zero down for a few seconds will give it to you. Best way is simply copy and paste when copying directions and coordinates.

There's also conversion programs on web to go between the two systems.

New England QSO Party

Propagation gods did not cooperate. Almost nothing on 10m for most NE stations. 15M not much better. Half dozen mobiles out there running around and loads of fixed stations. Maybe all of of New England counties made it on the air according to the multipliers listed but Dukes seemed to be absent. No one claimed a sweep on 3830 contest reflector. Best was 66 of the 67 counties worked. In the past, W1ACT group faithfully put out Dukes from a big portable operation, but has been absent the last couple years. At least two stations were on from Nantucket.

W1DX mobile 703 CW QSO

The NEQP is a fun contest. Thanks to Tom K1KI, the CTRI Contest Group and the YCCC home team and all who participated and supported the operations this year.

For W1DX/m below are the statistics for our 2 day, 12 county rover tour. Note that we did only 1 SSB contact.

Mostly all went well. But, we did have a few computer lockups due to Murphy who has found a welcoming home in Windows 10.

Ops: John W1XX, Bob K1XA, and John W1AN
Total QSOs: 703 which is down 47 from last year.

Rig: K3 100W on marine deep cycle battery
Logging software: N1MM+ Murphy V2023.88
Antenna: 40M, 20M pairs of hamsticks at 22 feet mounted on Ford van hitch.

Total on air time: 10 hrs 04 min
Max 60 minute rate: 103
Max 10 minute rate: 150

We worked OM2VL from all 12 counties
Other DX included DL, LA, HK, UA, SP

703 QSOs,

Saturday
Total miles driven: 61
QSOs: 272
Counties:
NLNCT: 75
WINCT: 56
WASRI: 94
KENRI: 47

Sunday
Total miles driven: 205
QSOs: 431
BARMA: 87
BRIMA: 30
BRIRI: 55
NEWRI: 50
NORMA: 26
PLYMA: 94
PRORI: 30
SUFMA: 59

W1VE mobile 1249 CW QSO

921 miles of driving, 35 counties activated, 3 tanks of gas, many OM pee breaks, and beautiful New England spring weather.

I credit Ed, K1EP with a tremendous amount of planning. Doing well in NEQP mobile requires a lot of skill in planning the route. Ed and I have both been in NEQP many times, and know the pitfalls to avoid. We were almost always mobile-in-motion, and had only a few times where we stopped for any length of time.

Thanks to the amazing posse who followed us around each county. We were not loud, as conditions were not the best. We ran just 100 watts from the K4, into Hamsticks on Ed's Subaru Forester.

Ed's setup had the K4 on the left-side back seat. He purchased a 12v big monitor, which was attached to the back of the passenger seat. He had a wooden tray for our lap, which held the keyboard and mouse. This made "butt in seat" pretty comfortable.

The Elecraft K4 was a pleasure to use, and we had no issues at all.

Thanks for the fun! It was a blast.

QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW once I split the log into 35 ADI files :-)

73,

Gerry W1VE & Ed, K1EP

N8II - fixed WV - 205 134 SSB 66 counties (out of 67)

This was almost the weekend that wasn't for me. I had dental surgery Thursday PM and was in horrible pain Friday morning. It rapidly improved Friday evening, but I woke up Saturday feeling washed out. As the day progressed, a bit of discomfort turned into real pain by evening. I was tired in the 24Z hour, took a short break at 01Z and felt more energetic but still hurting.

I could only ask for better conditions and more activity on 80M; both home station and mobile activity did not disappoint. There was no Es "magic" at any time during the NEQP this year which lead to a long opening to ME and the rest of New England skipping over me for most all of Saturday and Sunday. At the best moment Sunday in 14Z hour stations in north VT/NH, RI and EMA were at the edge of the skip zone enough that I could get through. The rest of the day was tough scatter QSO's. 40M was

the money band for sure, 75M phone a wasteland at least until my quitting time of 0239Z. 40 was open well from the start (sparse activity first 30-40 minutes) until bed time. At 02Z the 7's outnumbered the 1's left on 40M CW. I put 7QP on the sidelines in order to focus on IN and NEQP. It was easy to work a few 7's on 40 as I searched for the W1/IN ops.

Sunday was okay, but I could have worked so many more NEQP ops on 20 if I lived only 150 miles farther away. The western CT border is probably only about 250 miles away. 40M was sparsely occupied at 13Z and by 15Z until 1830Z nearly devoid of 1's. Part of the problem was some loud QRN from storms all morning which I expected to get worse. Most of the storms dissipated in the afternoon and the ones close in VA were the 40M skip zone. Luckily mobiles K2UA, W1VE, and NZ1U were far enough away to work for several hours on 20 CW. 40 never closed Sunday, good signals by 1930Z until the end thanks to a relatively low MUF.

Speaking of the the mobiles, there were more than expected. I didn't connect well with W1DX. I felt a special connection with NZ1U as they worked their way through all of the counties of ME. The first time a I called, he seemed to not sort out my call well. After that we were locked in and several Q's were made at my noise level easily. Thanks so much, would have missed several ME counties without the mobiles! Gerry, W1VE seemed easier to find Sunday, easy to work as well. Thanks to K2UA for a lot of VT counties I would have missed otherwise and some rare NH as well. Those 5 letter x 2 county lines are no fun to copy. I found Mitch operating W1NVT/M in Grand Isle, VT on 40 phone and mentioned that I needed Chittenden where he lives for the VT sweep, no offer to help due to busy portable/mobile operating. But my next QSO was Dave, KM3T/M on 40 CW in CHI for the sweep! Later the Chittenden ops came out of the woodwork working AA1SU twice and KC1SFJ. Thanks to Dave for several other Q's, very easy to work. I caught K1JB/M once; he was at home Saturday and booming as usual.

I had 2 ops from Nantucket, MA call 2 QSO's apart on 40 phone Sunday; they live about a mile apart. I was not so lucky with Dukes, never heard one. FYI, I used very little spotting. No spots lead to a mult. So, I worked my 66 out of 67 with my own skills.

Thanks for a fun QP, most ops were very proficient. The casual guys on 40 SSB always gave their county when quizzed and I helped a few out with the proper abbreviation. Don't forget we still have a 500 KHz allocation starting at 3.5MHz, Hi!

73, Jeff

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 213 CW 30 SSB QSO

I found 62 out of 67 mults, so that was a pretty good contest. Thanks to all for the Q and especially the mobile ops... K2UA, W1DX, W1VE, KM3T, K1JB, K5ZD, N1V and NZ1U. 73 Dave WB4AFP

W1NVT – multi op portable Grand Isle VT 700 Q

W1NVT activated park 3125 (Knight Point, VT) on 5/7/2023. 40m, 20m, and 15m were up and down, going from 9 QSOs/hr to 100+ QSOs/hr. In the late afternoon, 15m opened up to Europe for about 30 minutes, so there was some joy. Still, it was sunny, afternoon high of 72, so it was a good day. We had two 500w stations and put over 700 QSOs in the log in 6 hours.

YouTube video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeX8RdqODko&t=8s>

KA2LHO Trip Report

Bahia Honda State Park in Monroe County, FL. KFF-1834 Monroe County FL



Hats and t-shirts are what I commonly buy as souvenirs. I actually forgot a hat for this trip and this colorful one caught my eye.



Love "meeting" new people from literally all over the world this way. Today we had calls from Poland, Italy France and Germany in addition to most areas of the US. Some I have met and know personally and others are new to me.



Deborah and I get to see many places that many Floridians who have lived here their entire lives have not seen! Love this hobby!

Note de N4CD – Kraig has put out over 120 Florida parks now. Headed to Key West for a park there and sightseeing.

--

Delaware QSO Party

K4BAI fixed GA 8 CW 2 SSB QSO

Worked all DE stations I heard, just not that many QRV. Wonder why the big contesters in DE don't participate! Nice to work the club call W3PP in memory of my long-time

ham friend Dallas.

73, John, K4BAI

W0BH fixed KS 3 CW 1 SSB

It was really hard to find any DE stations amidst the 7QP, NEQP and INQP. Not having found a single one, I finally resorted to calling CQ on 20m later on Saturday and got WA3WAT to answer on SSB. Normally CQing isn't a problem and I do lots of it this weekend, but I lost my voice that morning from a cold, so talking was a challenge :) After that, a few more DEs finally trickled in on CW.

I worked NDE and SDE, but never heard KDE in lots of listening.

73, Bob, W0BH

On the Road with N4CD II - Dayton

The annual trek to Dayton for the Hamvention started with a route up through eastern OKLA to get a few parks that eluded me previously. Some interesting, many not so - after you've seen a dozen Wildlife Management Areas, there's not much new to see at the next one and the one after, etc. It's 984 miles from Plano to Dayton with no detours. Needless to say, the N4CD takes lots of detours and a less optimal route.

Saturday May 13 2023

Gary Sherrer WMA K-8140 in Pittsburg, OK – miles of gravel road to get there as you wind through the boonies to reach it. The road starts off paved, then runs out of paving as you wind up a mountain. Middle of nowhere. Good thing it's in a county so I can run the county and get the contacts- hi hi. Just need 10 Qs. Not much in the way of internet there. Next to zero – a few blips here and there.

From the web: The Gary Sherrer WMA covers 1,280 acres of southeast Pittsburg county. Located approximately fifteen miles south of Hartshorne, the area is comprised of a mixture of oak/pine forest with steep slopes, shallow soils and rocky terrain.

Some of the native tree species you will encounter are shortleaf pine, post oak, red oak, black oak, water oak, sycamore, hackberry, hickory, elm, blackgum, sweetgum, rusty blackhaw, flowering dogwood, and hawthorne. You will also encounter high bush huckleberry, low bush huckleberry, different varieties of sumac, coralberry, poison ivy, green brier, blackberry and others. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 52 inches.”

Quick run – the gone off to the next.

Wister Wildlife Management Area – K-6350

from the web: “Wister WMA covers 35,500 acres of central Leflore and eastern Latimer Counties in southeastern Oklahoma. Located around the 7,000 acre Wister Reservoir, along and either side of Hwy. 59 and 271 south, south of the towns of Wister and Heavener. The area is a mixture of river bottoms, upland and foothills. Bottomland consists mainly of Oaks and other hardwood species. Upland sites are a mixture of small fields of native grass, greenbrier and sumac. Foothills consist of post oak, hickory and pine. The Poteau and Fourche Maline Rivers run through the east and west portions of the area and offers a good example of bottom land hardwoods floodplain. The average annual precipitation for the area is about 50 inches.”

Ran it in Latimer County. Instructions for the Cedar Creek access point say turn off main highway 29 and turn south on on N4550 just before Fanshawe. Duh! Drive by 3 or 4 times hunting for it. Nope. Then in dawns on me turn first on Cedar Creek Road (small road) , then turn on N4550 to get there. Finally success. Short run of 25 with just 2 on 17m, 7 on 30m, rest on 20m.

This is the entrance to the WMA – only hint is OK Wildlife Management Area at bottom of sign. N4550 into the WMA. One lane gravel. Public Hunt Area – Vehicles must stay on the 'road'.



I had just installed a new 'old' 40m resonator and things were working fine on 40,30,20 and 17m.

Next up was an interesting site. It's **Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center State Historic site K-8648. Leflore County**



From the web: “Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center preserves 150 acres of the site along the Arkansas River. The center offers interpretive exhibits, an introductory slide program, and a small gift shop. Visitors can explore nearly two miles of interpreted trails, including a one-half mile nature trail.

The mounds site, located seven miles outside of Spiro, Oklahoma, is the only prehistoric, American Indian archaeological site in Oklahoma open to the public. The mounds are one of the most important American Indian sites in the nation. The prehistoric Spiro people created a sophisticated culture which influenced the entire

Southeast. Artifacts indicate an extensive trade network, a highly-developed religious center, and a political system which controlled the entire region. Located on a bend of the Arkansas River, the site was a natural gateway from which the Spiro people exerted their influence. Much of the Spiro culture is still a mystery, as well as the reasons for the decline and abandonment of the site.

Today, the Spiro Mounds site and artifacts are among Oklahoma's richest cultural resources. The protected site included 150 acres of land that encompass twelve mounds, the elite village area and part of the support city. Although various groups of people camped on or near the Spiro area over the previous 8,000 years, the location did not become a permanent settlement until AD 800 and was used until about AD 1450. During this period, known as the Mississippian period, Spiro leaders were developing political, religious, and economic ties with people from the Gulf of California to the Gulf of Mexico and from the coast of Virginia to the Great Lakes. They shared horticulture, elaborate ceremonies, mound building, and an iconographic writing system with more than sixty different tribes. From AD 900 to 1300, the leaders at Spiro Mounds thrived. The mound center declined and was eventually abandoned by AD 1450, although the city continued to be occupied for another 150 years. The people of the Spiro Mounds are believed to have been Caddoan speakers, like the modern Wichita, Kichai, Caddo, Pawnee, and Arikara. The site remained unoccupied from AD 1600 until 1832. While Choctaw and Choctaw Freedmen cleared the mound site for farming late in the 1800s, they did not allow any major disturbance of the site until the Great Depression.

During the 1930s commercial, and later academic, excavations revealed one of the greatest collections of artistic and utilitarian prehistoric American Indian artifacts in the United States. Early looting of the site led to new laws, making Oklahoma one of the first states to preserve and scientifically research archaeological sites. Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center opened to the public on May 9, 1978. Today the site is owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society.”

this is one of about a dozen mound sites you can visit. There's one in LA, one in IL, one in AL and a dozen more scattered about. They all seem to have ended about the same time, as well as places like Chaco Canyon and other inhabited sites – all going downhill after about the peak at 1100-1300 AD.

That was it for the first day. Unfortunately, the stinger on the new 'old' 40m resonator well out. That took out 40 and 30m on the main mast. Only way I could run them now was to put a 40m hamstick (or 30) on the top mag mount separately. I wouldn't be running as much 40m from here on out. Didn't have a spare 40m. Seem to go through them quickly. Lost the last one on the trip to MI. The whole resonator

Stopped at a Days Inn (\$81) in Alma OK for the night after a couple hour drive headed north. I'd run one park in AR, the scoot up to MO for the next couple parks/counties.

Sunday May 14 2023

Headed up to Lake Elmdale State Recreation Area K-9166 in Washington County AR. Parking lot by the dam. Just ran 20m here. A few miles off the Interstate.

From the web: "Lake Elmdale is constructed on Brush Creek, a tributary of the Illinois River. It includes 200 acres between Elm Springs and Springdale (name combines the two communities) in northwest Washington County. It was built in 1953 by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Fishing is popular all year, with favorites being largemouth bass, bream, catfish and crappie. Biologists have found shad, bluegill and redear bream in good numbers – this probably helps to explain surprisingly good numbers of fish-eating birds on the lake at times."

Now up to MO for some parks! And the roller coaster hills of this part of the state – up and down – up and down good size hills.

Huckleberry Ridge Conservation Area K-7659 in McDonald County MO

From the state web site:

Huckleberry Ridge Conservation Area is in southern McDonald County, east of Pineville. Visitors can access the area from several area roads that originate from Route K. This 2,106-acre area is almost entirely forested. Purchased in the early 1960's and originally named Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, this area was the first large forested tract acquired by the Conservation Department in southwest Missouri. The forest primarily consists of oaks and hickories with a few scattered groves of shortleaf pine. Huckleberry Ridge Conservation Area is on the edge of the range for shortleaf pine, Missouri's only native pine. The species used to be more abundant. In fact, the nearby community of Pineville was named for the abundance of pines in the nearby hills at the time of settlement. Indiscriminate cutting in the 1800's and past land use practices have significantly reduced the occurrence of short leaf pine in this region of Missouri. The Conservation Department is seeding and planting new pines and encouraging natural reproduction of existing pines on the area. According to legend, locals used to harvest huckleberries, a type of blueberry belonging to the Vaccinium family in this area. Ozark chinkapin, native to only five counties in Missouri, is also found on the area. Ozark

chinkapin, a close relative of the American chestnut, has also been ravaged by the chestnut blight since the late 1800's. The area hosts 17.3 miles of multiuse trails that are open to hiking, biking, and horseback riding.”

Put 44Q in log and off to the next

Big Sugar State Park K-1750 - still McDonald County



“Big Sugar Creek State Park is a public recreation area encompassing more than 2,000 acres in McDonald County in southwest Missouri, United States. The state park was established in 1992 to preserve part of the Elk River water system, which Big Sugar Creek is part of.”

Worked mostly POTA folks since it was the same county. Just spotted on POTA.

Roaring River State Park k-1780 Barry County MO

I'm headed east along the southern part of MO

from the state web: “With a deep, narrow valley surrounded by a striking and rugged landscape, Roaring River State Park is one of Missouri’s most popular state parks.

Located in the southwest Ozark hills, Roaring River State Park is one of three state parks stocked with rainbow trout. Eager anglers flock to the park year-round to try and catch

their lunker trout.

The scenic setting makes everything more fun. The park has seven hiking trails, picnic tables for a leisurely lunch and a nature center to learn about the park.

For those wanting to spend the night, the park has many options. The campground has basic, electric and sewer/electric/water site. Rustic cabins are scattered throughout the park, or guests may choose a modern room at the Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center. The center also boasts a full-service restaurant.”

Pilot Knob State Conservation Area k-8308 Stone County MO

Rain! Thunder! Nevermind – just work the radio ! Free car wash – downpour. New county.

from the state web: Pilot Knob Conservation Area has a 6.6-mile out and back trail (slightly more than three miles one way) that is good for nature-viewing and nature photography. It's a good option for those looking for an off-the-beaten path hike. Hunting is allowed. Habitat consists of large contiguous tracts of woodlands and glades. The term "pilot knob" comes from the use of the tall hilltops in the Ozarks as reference and triangulation points. The tops of these hills were often cleared of all but one tree. This "signal tree" designated the hilltop as a pilot knob. Several pilot knobs existed across southern Missouri in the early 1900s. Pilot Knob Conservation Area contained one of them.”

Had to skip one- running out of time. Headed to Branson MO for the night.

Table Rock State Park - K-1787 Taney County MO

from the state web: “Nestled near one of the hottest tourist towns in the United States, Table Rock State Park serves as Branson’s natural getaway and an outdoor recreation base camp for those wanting to take in the area’s abundant attractions.

The park is also handy if you are seeking outdoor adventures. If water recreation is what you desire, State Park Marina rents everything from ski boats to paddleboards and offers all the supplies you will need for a day on the water, whether it is a relaxing day of fishing or an exciting day of skiing. For land-based activities, take a hike or go for a bicycle ride on a paved trail or a challenging mountain biking trail.

The park is also a popular resting spot for those wanting to take in the area attractions. Located among oak and hickory trees, basic, electric and sewer/electric/water campsites wind along the shoreline of the lake. Visitors can also stay in the premium yurt.

Just coming for the day? Numerous picnic sites are scattered near the lakeshore. An open picnic shelter, perfect for family reunions and get-togethers, can be reserved by contacting the park office. Although there is not a designated beach, you can swim in several areas of the park.”

Ruth and Pau Henning State Conservation Area k-8510 Taney County

Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area is in the White River Hills of western Taney County on the west side of Branson. Much of this 1,534-acre area consists of steep hills covered with typical upland oak/hickory forest. The forest is interspersed with a series of scenic glades (open desert-like areas), which make up the White River Balds Natural Area. The area also includes a small section of bottomland forest along a one-half mile stretch of Roark Creek, a relatively undisturbed Ozark headwaters stream. The glades or balds, as local people refer to them, played an important role in the history and folklore of the region. Because post-Civil war vigilante groups often met on the balds, they became known as baldknobbers. Several features of the area were also immortalized in Harold Bell Wright's book, *Shepherd of the Hills*, including Dewey Bald, Boulder Bald, a portion of the trail that is nobody knows how old, Sammy Lane's Lookout, The Signal Tree, and Little Pete's Cave. Most of the area was donated or purchased from Ruth and Paul Henning. Paul is best known as the creator of the *Beverly Hillbillies*, *Green Acres*, and *Petticoat Junction* television series. It was their wish to keep this beautiful landscape for all to enjoy. An additional 200 acres was donated from the Herschend Family in 1981.

Visitors will find 5.6 miles of hiking trails, a scenic overlook, and a lookout tower. Horses and bicycles are not allowed on trails. The 3.4 mile Homesteaders Trail features 14 informational stops that either showcase the natural features of the area or places of historical interest. “

White River Balds State Conservation Area K-8511 in Taney County MO

from the state web:

“Just beyond the glitter of Branson the hills and hollows of White River Balds Natural Area appear much the way they did when Harold Bell Wright wrote about this very spot

in his 1907 book, *The Shepherd of the Hills*. Here are some of the finest and largest dolomite glades, known locally as balds, in the Missouri Ozarks. Dolomite glades that sometimes encompass whole hillsides and knobs such as these occur throughout the steeply dissected terrain of the White River basin of southwest Missouri.

These glades harbor many fascinating plants and animals well adapted to the hot, dry and sunny conditions found here. The glades are a visual feast of blooming wildflowers. In the spring visitors can see yellow coneflower, Trelease's larkspur, and cobra beardtongue – all species whose global range is limited to the Ozarks. Over 200 native plant species have been documented on the natural area. Other showy wildflowers include Missouri evening primrose, pale purple coneflower, narrow-leaf gayfeather, blue wild indigo, prairie dock, and aromatic aster.

Many of the species inhabiting these glades are considered relicts of the Xerothermic or Hypsithermal period. 8,000 to 4,000 years ago the climate of Missouri was hotter and drier and this in combination with aboriginal use of fire allowed for more southwestern species to expand into Missouri. Since then the climate has changed and over the last few thousand years these species have become restricted to glades, especially in the White River Hills region. The Texas mouse, eastern collared lizard, prairie racerunner, Texas brown tarantula, striped bark scorpion, greater road runner, and painted bunting are all animals whose center of distribution is south and west of Missouri but occur here. Plant species more common to the southern plains but found here include smoke tree, stenosisiphon, centaury, palafoxia, Ashe's juniper, and glade buck brush. Some of the smoke trees here are nearly 300 years old.

In the absence of periodic fires, eastern red cedars slowly take over glades and create low diversity cedar monocultures. Historically fires occurred every 3 to 5 years in the glades and woodlands of southwest Missouri. Today the Conservation Department uses cedar thinning and prescribed fire to restore glades.

Most of the large Ashe's junipers that grew on the glades were harvested by the American Eagle Pencil Company from 1945 to 1948. Ashe's juniper was prized for its soft, light-colored wood for pencil production. North of the natural area in the nearby Roark Creek valley a number of families homesteaded during the 19th century. Boulder Bald found on the natural area is a landmark mentioned in *The Shepherd of the Hills*. This natural area owes its existence to the generosity of Ruth and Paul Henning who sold the land at a reduced price to the Conservation Department in 1982.”

OK.....short run – same county. It's time to head to the Days Inn in Branson. Then a stop at the Golden Corral for dinner. Used to be one here in Plano TX but it disappeared

during the pandemic. Ours not in a good location, either. Nearest one to me is an hour drive through rush hour traffic. So I enjoy them when I find them! Otherwise, lots of restaurant choices here in TX. Everything eating wise in Branson. A couple dozen places to eat – and they will be very busy come summer vacation time!

Not many tourists in Branson. Not quite the tourist season when it will be mobbed with endless traffic jams on the main drag. This time in mid May not so busy, but still lots of folks around.

Monday April 15 - headed north to Springfield MO, then across the interstate to the St Louis, MO area, then into IL – stop – then across the state to IN, then wander northeast to Dayton.

68F and clear today. Done 534 miles so far in 2 days.

Busiak State Forest – K-4838 - 16 miles north of Branson in Christian County MO



from the state site: “Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area is named in honor of Dr. Urban and Erma Marie Busiek. The original 740 acres was purchased from their son, Dr. Paul Busiek, in 1981. Approximately one-quarter of the purchase price was donated back to the Missouri Department of Conservation. Additional land was purchased by the Department over the next several years that increased the area to its current size.

The area provides multiple recreational opportunities. Hunting is allowed in accordance with the proper seasons. Also, a well marked trail system provides approximately 18 miles of trails for use by hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. Visitors will find eight primitive tent-only campsites. Camping is permitted ONLY with a permit; available through the Southwest Regional Office(417-895-6880). An unstaffed firearms shooting range is located on the area.”

If you're looking hard for it, turn off off the interstate – good area to run.

Next up right in Springfield MO

Nature Center K-8512 - Greene County MO

from the state site: “This 80-acre slice of the Ozarks outdoors, within the city limits of Springfield, is a place to connect with nature and learn the importance of conservation. Enjoy: three miles of walking trails; educational and informative programs and events; nature and conservation exhibits. The Visitor Center features an information desk, where visitors learn about the facility and its schedule of programs. Hunting and fishing permits are sold. The building includes a self-guided exhibit area, a gift shop, a 150-seat auditorium, classrooms and restrooms. The grounds include a covered picnic area. There is pull-through bus and RV parking. “

Caught a few in the Monday Slow Speed Test (MST) on Mondays from 1300-1400 and again from 1900-2000z. Then some others for a total of 21. Several county hunters starting over on new awards which helps. They need everything! Run counties in between parks most of the time.

I'm headed toward St Louis – lots of miles to make today. Plus I've run many of the parks along the way on past trips. Got to find 'new' ones for me.

Meramec State Conservation Area K-6500 in Franklin MO.



From the web: “Meramec Conservation Area consists of 3,938 acres in southern Franklin County, Missouri. It is located southeast of the town of Sullivan and bordered to the south by Missouri Route 185 and to the west by the Meramec River and Meramec

State Park” “Meramec Conservation Area has something for almost any visitor, from those looking for a casual walk or a more challenging hike. The area's paved, one-mile loop trail provides a flat surface suitable for those with any level of mobility. It's not without its scenic charms. You'll pass by Black Onyx cave, lush forestland, and several tantalizing views of the Meramec River. Those seeking a more adventurous trek can depart from the paved trail and explore the extensive natural surface paths that meander through steep woods”

Robertsville State Park K-1791 - Franklin MO



Robertsville State Park is a public recreation area bordering the Meramec River in unincorporated Robertsville in Franklin County, Missouri. The state park's 1,225 acres include a boat launch, campground, playground, picnic shelters, and the Spice Bush and Lost Hill hiking trails.

Pacific Palisades K-8314 in St Louis County

from the state site: “Pacific Palisades Conservation Area is a 695-acre tract in Jefferson and St. Louis Counties immediately east of Pacific and three miles from Interstate 44. Three miles of lower Meramec River frontage make this a popular spot for anglers to catch bass, crappie, bluegill, and non-game fish.

There are two abandoned gravel pits which are connected to the Meramec River during times of high water. The gravel pits are not stocked and are not managed.

The area is about 65 percent forested and contains 136 acres of crop fields and grasslands.

Birdwatchers may search woodlands, open land or edge for a variety of avian visitors. Squirrels, quail, rabbits, deer, turkey, and furbearers also find food and cover at Pacific Palisades.”

Ran it in St Louis County.

Then headed up I-44 to run St Louis City County. Ugh! Lots of traffic, noise, QRN, and relatively short county, too! Was thinking of trying to run the Arch park in downtown, but it was getting late, and I didn't want to get stuck there in rush hour. It's bad enough any time during the day. There's supposedly a tiny bit of road you can run it from – otherwise, you're portable to run it

Up I-44 to get to the bypass going south to get to the next.

Cahokia Mounds k-7368 in St Clair County IL



from the web

The Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is the site of a pre-Columbian Native American

city directly across the Mississippi River from modern St. Louis, Missouri. This historic park lies in south-western Illinois between East St. Louis and Collinsville. The park covers 2,200 acres, or about 3.5 square miles, and contains about 80 man made mounds, but the ancient city was much larger. At its apex around 1100 CE, the city covered about 6 square miles and included about 120 earthworks in a wide range of sizes, shapes, and functions.

Cahokia was the largest and most influential urban settlement of the Mississippian culture, which developed advanced societies across much of what is now the Central and the Southeastern United States, beginning more than 1,000 years before European contact. Today, the Cahokia Mounds are considered to be the largest and most complex archaeological site north of the great pre-Columbian cities in Mexico.

Cahokia Mounds is a National Historic Landmark and a designated site for state protection. It is also one of the 24 UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the United States. The largest prehistoric earthen construction in the Americas north of Mexico, the site is open to the public and administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Division and supported by the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society.

Although some evidence exists of occupation during the Late Archaic period (around 1200 BCE) in and around the site, Cahokia as it is now defined was settled around 600 CE during the Late Woodland period. Mound building at this location began with the emergent Mississippian cultural period, around the 9th century CE. The inhabitants left no written records beyond symbols on pottery, shell, copper, wood, and stone, but the elaborately planned community, woodhenge, mounds, and burials reveal a complex and sophisticated society.

The city's complex construction of earthen mounds required digging, excavation and transportation by hand using woven baskets. Construction made use of 55 million cubic feet of earth, and much of the work was accomplished over a matter of decades. Its highly planned large, smoothed-flat, ceremonial plazas, sited around the mounds, with homes for thousands connected by laid out pathways and courtyards, suggest the location served as a central religious pilgrimage city.

The city's original name is unknown. The mounds were later named after the Cahokia tribe, a historic Illiniwek people living in the area when the first French explorers arrived in the 17th century. As this was centuries after Cahokia was abandoned by its original inhabitants, the Cahokia tribe was not necessarily descended from the earlier Mississippian-era people. Most likely, multiple indigenous ethnic groups settled in the Cahokia Mounds area during the time of the city's apex.

Historian Daniel Richter notes that the apex of the city occurred during the Medieval Warming Period. This period appears to have fostered an agricultural revolution in upper North America, as the three-fold crops of maize, beans (legumes), and gourds (squash) were developed and adapted or bred to the temperate climates of the north from their origins in Mesoamerica. Richter also notes that Cahokia's advanced development coincided with the development in the Southwest of the Chaco Canyon society, which also produced large-scale works in an apparent socially stratified society. The decline of the city coincides with the Little Ice Age, although by then, the three-fold agriculture remained well-established throughout temperate North America.

Cahokia became the most important center for the Mississippian culture. This culture was expressed in settlements that ranged along major waterways across what is now the Midwest, Eastern, and Southeastern United States. Cahokia was located in a strategic position near the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers. It maintained trade links with communities as far away as the Great Lakes to the north and the Gulf Coast to the south, trading in such exotic items as copper, Mill Creek chert, and whelk shells.

Mill Creek chert, most notably, was used in the production of hoes, a high demand tool for farmers around Cahokia and other Mississippian centers. Cahokia's control of the manufacture and distribution of these hand tools was an important economic activity that allowed the city to thrive. Mississippian culture pottery and stone tools in the Cahokian style were found at the Silvernale site near Red Wing, Minnesota, and materials and trade goods from Pennsylvania, the Gulf Coast, and Lake Superior have been excavated at Cahokia. Bartering, not money, was used in trade.

At the high point of its development, Cahokia was the largest urban center north of the great Mesoamerican cities in Mexico and Central America. Home to about 1,000 people before circa 1050, its population grew rapidly after that date. According to a 2007 study in *Quaternary Science Reviews*, "Between AD 1050 and 1100, Cahokia's population increased from between 1,400 and 2,800 people to between 10,200 and 15,300 people".an estimate that applies only to a 0.69 sq mi high-density central occupation area. Archaeologists estimate the city's population at between 6,000 and 40,000 at its peak,with more people living in outlying farming villages that supplied the main urban center.

As a result of archeological excavations in the early 21st century, new residential areas were found to the west of Cahokia; this discovery increased estimates of historic area population.If the highest population estimates are correct, Cahokia was larger than any

subsequent city in the United States until the 1780s, when Philadelphia's population grew beyond 40,000. Its population may have been larger than contemporaneous London and Paris.

One of the major problems that large centers like Cahokia faced was keeping a steady supply of food. A related problem was waste disposal for the dense population, and Cahokia is believed to have become unhealthy from polluted waterways. Because it was such an unhealthy place to live, Snow believes that the town had to rely on social and political attractions to bring in a steady supply of new immigrants; otherwise, the town's death rate would have caused it to be abandoned earlier.

The population of Cahokia began to decline during the 13th century, and the site was abandoned by around 1350. Scholars have proposed environmental factors, such as environmental degradation through overhunting, deforestation and pollution, and climatic changes, such as increased flooding and droughts, as explanations for abandonment of the site. However, more recent research suggests that there is no evidence of human-caused erosion or flooding at Cahokia.

Political and economic problems may also have contributed to the community's decline.[It is likely that social and environmental factors combined to produce the conditions that led people to leave Cahokia.

Another possible cause is invasion by outside peoples, though the only evidence of warfare found are the defensive wooden stockade and watchtowers that enclosed Cahokia's main ceremonial precinct. There is no other evidence for warfare, so the palisade may have been more for ritual or formal separation than for military purposes. Diseases transmitted among the large, dense urban population are another possible cause of decline. Many theories since the late 20th century propose conquest-induced political collapse as the primary reason for Cahokia's abandonment.

Together with these factors, researchers found evidence in 2015 of major floods at Cahokia, so severe as to flood dwelling places. Analysis of sediment from beneath Horseshoe Lake has revealed that two major floods occurred in the period of settlement at Cahokia, in roughly 1100–1260 and 1340–1460.”

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Lots of history here for the history buffs.

After a short visit here, I headed to a Days Inn in Collinsville. Inexpensive but not

worth it. The place was probably 70-80 years old and under reconstruction. Rooms updated but baseboards, hallways, etc, still need a LOT OF WORK. Laminate floors and decent beds. Logged another 313 miles today on the way toward Dayton. Now up to 847 miles from home. Getting close to 30 mpg in the Malibu. Dinner at the Cracker Barrel 500 feet away. Breakfast was get it and take it. No tables in breakfast area – under reconstruction as was the 'office'. For Breakfast - Grabbed bowl of cereal and ate it sitting on pile of construction stuff in the lobby. Got some coffee and juice and went back to room 300 feet down the hallway. Won't stay here again.

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Tuesday May 16 2023

Headed east – going across route 50 to Indiana.

Eldon Hazlet SP K-0991 in Clinton County IL



from the web: “Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area is a 3,000-acre site on the western shore of Carlyle Lake, a Kaskaskia River impoundment. The site is located 3 miles north of Carlyle and 2 miles east of Illinois Route 127 in Clinton County.

Eldon Hazlet SRA attracts more than 800,000 visitors annually to camp, boat, fish, hunt, picnic, bird watch and to hike more than 9 miles of trails. Also popular are the sailboat regattas, held almost every summer weekend.

The site is leased by the IDNR from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which built the 26,000-acre lake. The state recreation area is named for Carlyle attorney Eldon Hazlet, the first president of the Kaskaskia Valley Association, which organized and promoted construction of two of Illinois' three largest reservoir/recreational complexes - Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville - plus other improvements on the Kaskaskia River.

Eldon Hazlet SRA is probably best known for its camping facilities. The Illini Campground has 328 Class A campsites with 30 and 50 amp electrical hook-ups, 36 Class C campsites for walk-in tent camping and two rustic rent-a-cabins “

Halfway House K-7372 in Marion County IL



In 1779 George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) led his army from Kaskaskia through this area to Vincennes, Indiana, where they captured Fort Sackville from the British. At the time of Illinois statehood in 1818, several taverns were located along the Vincennes-St. Louis Trail. This building is named from being near the midpoint of the trail.

Legend of Half-Way Tavern

There is a legend surrounding the Half-Way Tavern, located on U.S. 50 just east of Salem, a legend concerning lost gold.

Some historians say that one day in the early 1800s a stagecoach passing through the area was held up by Indians. The coach was carrying gold which the Indians made off with.

When a posse closed in on them they supposedly buried the gold in a wooded area just north of the tavern. And as far as anyone knows, it is still there awaiting discovery.

Naturally, as with all legends dealing with lost gold and lost gold mines, people are said to have sought the treasure. But no one is known to have found it. Farmers have plowed up Indian arrowheads in this area. No farmer, however, ever claimed to find the buried gold.

Half-Way Tavern got its name because it was located halfway between St. Louis and Vincennes. The building was originally constructed in 1815 and was used as both an Inn and livery stable. Stagecoach passengers used the Inn on their travels between St. Louis and Vincennes.

One of the more prominent customers of the Half-Way Tavern - although he probably wasn't considered so at the time - was a young attorney named Abraham Lincoln. He and other lawyers "rode the circuit" from courthouse to courthouse trying cases in those days. It is highly likely that Half-Way Tavern, lying the location that it does, was visited more than once by the future U.S. president.

Some years ago the state of Illinois took over the property and renovated the old building replica. Now it can be seen by motorists traveling east from Salem on U.S. 50. The building itself is closed to the public.”

It's a two story building. Downstairs is stables for the horses. Upstairs is a tavern and sleeping rooms up in attic. Nice little parking area to run the park. The building is 'closed' upstairs, but you can walk around it and through the downstairs area.

Martin T Snyder Memorial State Nature Preserve k-7871 Clay County IL

Sandstone cliff and dry mesic upland forest of the Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. 94 acres.

Red Hills State park – K-1018 Lawrence County IL



from the web: Red Hills State Park is an Illinois state park on 967 acres in Lawrence County, Illinois, United States. The park sits at an elevation of 515 feet. Red Hills State Park is open for year-round recreation including boating, fishing, hunting, hiking and various winter sport

In southeastern Illinois midway between Olney and Lawrenceville on U.S. 50, Red Hills is a carefully preserved and maintained 967 acres of high wooded hills, deep ravines, captivating meadows and year-round springs. It's the perfect setting for natural relaxation and outdoor activities. The sparkling 40-acre lake is ideal for fishing and boating.

Pause to enjoy the spectacular scenic view from atop Red Hills--the highest point of land between St. Louis and Cincinnati.

A satellite area of the park, the 627-acre Chauncey Marsh Nature Preserve contains the best remaining example of what is called a Wabash Border Marsh Ecosystem, with marshes, dry and wet prairie, lush bottomland forest and thriving riverine communities. During late July and early August beautiful pink and white hibiscus and hairy rose mallow are in bloom.

Red Hills State Park offers hiking trails, equestrian and bike trails, seasonal hunting programs, and shaded picnic areas. The Red Hills campground features more than 100 campsites, “

Lincoln Trail State Park k-7373 in Lawrence County IL

“The Lincoln Trail State Memorial marks the location where, according to tradition, Abraham Lincoln entered Illinois with his family in early March, 1830.

The monument, sculpted by Nellie Verne Walker and dedicated in 1938, is a full-length bronze figure of Lincoln set within a sculptured limestone wall panel that depicts three adults and two children walking beside an ox-driven covered wagon, with an angel leading them to their new home.”

Parking area and not much more to look at the monument. Put a dozen CH in the log and moved on. Getting late in day and miles to go!

Vincennes State Historic Site – K-6978 Knox County Indiana

“The original territorial capitol (red building) was used from 1800 to 1813 while

Vincennes was the capitol of the Indiana Territory. It is considered the oldest major government building in the Midwest. A replica of the Jefferson Academy (1801) is used to interpret the first college in Indiana, the direct predecessor of Vincennes University. The Elihu Stout Print Shop is a replica of the building where the first newspaper, the Indiana Gazette was published (1804) featuring an authentic Ramage press of the era. The Thompson birthplace is a small frame house where the author of Alice of Old Vincennes was born. An 1830's style Log Cabin serves at the Visitors Center.”

Salt Creek State Recreation Area – k5688 – Monroe County IN

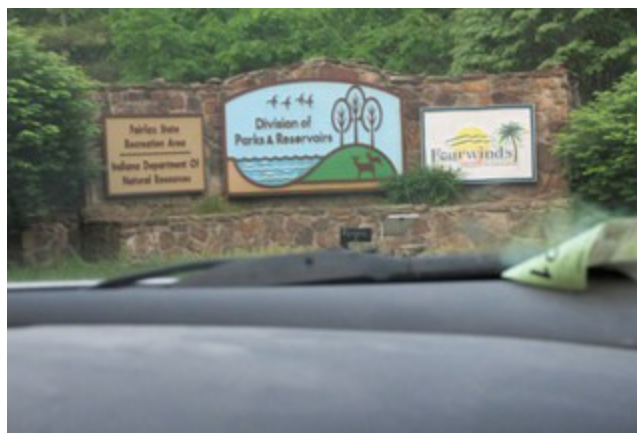
There are half a dozen state recreation areas and parks around large Lake Monroe. I'd visit a few more tomorrow. I headed there today because there was a mobile K9EI already there and I hustled there to have an eyeball with him. He was packing up ready to go. Ran a handheld 10w CW rig with a hustler 20m antenna on the rear of his SUV. Had eyeball and whipped off 14 QSOs, all but 3 county hunters. I worked him 25+ miles away then headed there. Was on the list for tomorrow, but what the heck.

Headed into Bloomington, IN at a Super 8 for the night. Nice. Dinner at Bob Evans – turkey dinner! Next day nice breakfast at motel with eggs, oatmeal, half waffle, orange, apple. Yum. Biscuits and Gravy for those desiring it. Ready to run parks and counties.

Wednesday May 17

Headed to Dayton – will get there a day early. Hamfest starts on Friday and have motel for Thursday to Sunday. Meanwhile – parks to run and another couple hundred miles to get there.

Fairfax State Recreation Area – K-5686 Monroe County IN



“Fairfax State Recreation Area is operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and is located on the west side of Monroe Lake. The recreation area features a swimming beach, boat ramp, and picnic areas. Fairfax SRA is also home to the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina, which offers overnight accommodations and dining options, as well as a full-service marina and boat rental service.”

33 Qs on 40m CW using full size hamstick on 4 mag roof mount.

Moore's Creek SRA K-5682 - Monroe County

another recreation area on Lake Monroe. Nice boat ramp. 18Qs on 40m cw. Short run.

Cartop State Rec Area – K-5692 – Monroe County – on Lake Monroe.



3.3 acres on Lake Monroe. Another short run on 40M. Still early in the day

Paynetown on Lake Monroe SRA K-4171 Monroe County IN

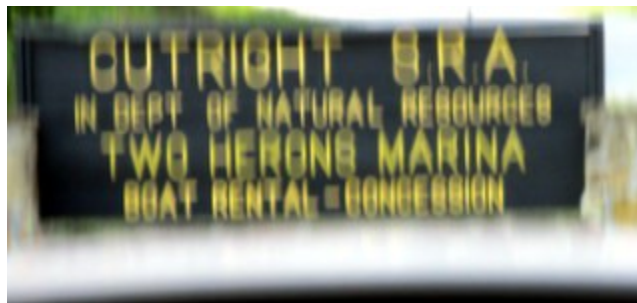


Another SRA on Lake Monroe. Someday I'll get out of Monroe County but close together parks are east to run.

“This state-operated recreational area on the northeast side of Monroe Lake offers electric and non-electric camping, as well as a beach, boat rental service, marina with gas sales, and camp store.”

Took advantage of the weekly CW Test to quickly work 11 and skedaddle to next. Runs 1300-1400z in mornings on Wednesdays. (later 1900-2000z)

Cutright SRA – Monroe County - K-5687 on the Lake.



Again, took advantage of CWT to quickly work 11 Qs then gone.

Pine Grove SRA – on Lake Monroe – K-5689

Somewhere along here I had to pay \$6 for a day use permit. Good any other park same day so got to use it several more times during Wednesday! Serendipity. Short Run.

Morgan Monroe State Forest - K-4215 – Morgan County -short detour off Interstate

- quick run here of county hunters. Run the counties along the way to the next 100 miles going NE.

Wilbur Wright State Fishing and Wildlife Area K-4232 in Henry County IN.



“Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area is 1,070 acres of river valleys and associated uplands in Henry County. The Big Blue River is the western boundary, and the dark, organic soil floodplain occupies approximately one-third of the property. The remainder of the property is the adjacent uplands and the Little Blue River valley. The property has areas of mature woods, fallow cropland, prairie grasses and forbs, and other areas of early to mid-successional habitat. There are also areas of annual and perennial wildlife food plots, and there is a small wetland near the Big Blue River. An ADA accessible hunting area featuring a mix of upland and woodland is located on the property.

Wilbur Wright was created with surplus state lands transferred from the Indiana Department of Mental Health (New Castle State Hospital) to the DNR Division of State Parks in 1972. The acreage was transferred to the Division of Fish & Wildlife in 1974 when wildlife management began with trees and food plots planted throughout the property.

Most revenues used in land acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of Wilbur Wright FWA are derived from the sales of hunting, fishing, and trapping license licenses. Funds are also received from the federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs to aid fish and wildlife restoration. These funds are derived from taxes levied on sport hunting, shooting, and fishing equipment. Indiana hunters and anglers are proud to provide this property for the enjoyment of all people.”

Summit Lake SP – K-2270 - Henry County IN



Summit Lake State Park is a park located near New Castle, Indiana in east-central Indiana. Summit Lake became Indiana's 19th state park in 1988. The park covers 2,680 acres, including an 800-acre lake

Shrader-Weaver Woods State Nature Preserve K-4226 in Fayette County IN



In 1974, Shrader-Weaver Woods in Fayette County was dedicated as a State Nature Preserve and a National Natural Landmark. This preserve offers a number of sites to see: old-growth forest, floodplain, successional forest, a seep spring, a 1830s-era homestead, and one of the best wildflower displays in Indiana. Though the incredible mix of wildflowers brings quite a draw, many believe that winter is the best time to visit. No

matter what time of year, Shrader-Weaver Woods is certain to please.

Shrader-Weaver, a National Natural Landmark, contains a pioneer homestead, open fields, and woods. A 28-acre old-growth upland forest is beech-maple dominated. Large specimens of tulip, black cherry, black walnut, red elm, and bur oak are also present. The diverse shrub layer includes pawpaw, Virginia creeper, and spicebush. There is also a rich variety of spring wildflowers. The old field area is now being invaded by woody species. It illustrates the successional trend to a forest community. Hayes Regional Arboretum and Earlham College have planted black walnut in this area using seedlings from selected trees having superior qualities. The lowland woods have been cut and grazed, but still contain some of the larger trees, including bur oak, red oak, green ash, and sycamore. Skunk cabbage, golden ragwort, marsh marigold, jewelweed, and a few Michigan lilies are found in this portion”

Had a decent run – first a bunch of contacts in the 1900-2000 Wednesday CW Test – which occurs 3-4 pm eastern time. Then county hunters for Fayette County. After I decide to head to the Microtel Inn in Dayton for the night. An extra night there but I'll be here for 3 more nights after this. Know the area and good spot to head north tomorrow for a few more parks. Long day of parks today! Whew! And miles of road once I finished up everything around Lake Monroe- 7 parks there!

Turkey Dinner at the Bob Evans right near the Microtel in Dayton-Riverside.

Thursday May 18

Cereal, half waffle, orange and coffee for breakfast.

The hamfest starts on Friday but folks are setting up in the flea market. Lots of stuff gets swapped as cars arrive if you are a bargain hunter. Don't need any boatanchors.

I head out for some additional parks to run. I've run most close in so now it's 40-50 miles to get to a new one! 46F this morning – Brrrr – back to long pants again!

Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserver K-9408 in Clark County OH.

From the state site:



“John F. Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve contains one of the best examples of a prairie fen community in the state. At least 26 state-listed species have been reported from this preserve. The fen meadows support a variety of fen species including prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*), tall larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*), grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*), blue-leaved willow (*Salix myricoides*), Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*), and Canada burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*).

The oak savannah above the fen meadows support a variety of dry prairie species including nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*), false garlic (*Nothoscordum bivalve*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), whorled rosinweed (*Silphium trifoliatum*), early buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), false gromwell (*Onosmodium molle* var. *hispidissimum*), and hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*). The Preserve is named in honor of John F. Gallagher, a well-known environmentalist from Springfield.”

Davey Woods State Nature Preserve K-9403 in Champaign County OH



“This mature forest woodland has numerous large tuliptrees, sugar maple, ash and oak as well as an excellent array of spring wildflowers. It is one of the best woodlots remaining in this part of Ohio. Named in honor of the Davey Tree Expert Company which, through The Nature Conservancy, provided half the funding to acquire this site in 1989. The terrain, hilly for this part of Ohio, offers pleasant summer hiking (no mosquitoes), nice fall colors and a beautiful winter landscape.”

Cell phone rings. It is motel saying I got to change rooms. Got a downstairs room (usually request one when making reservations). They 'needed' the downstairs room. Nope – I'm 2-3 hours away and won't get back soon. They can move my stuff if they want to an upstairs room. (won't happen). Then Mike, KA4RRU calls. Seems I need to drop by for an additional flea market ticket. Hmm...got two but this year it takes 3 different ones to get in and park at flea market. He gets two spaces with Kyle, WA4GPM, and a 3rd ham back that way, and each spot comes with 2 parking passes and flea market entry pass. Will have to shorten trip to make it back in time.

Siegenthaler-Kaestner Esker state nature preserve K-9434 Champaign County



Siegenthaler-Kaestner Esker is one of the finest glacial eskers remaining in Ohio. It is an outstanding example of a sinuous esker, indicating the location of an ancient ice-walled stream channel which flowed through a Wisconsin glacier some 11,000-25,000 years ago. The original stream channel can be clearly seen from the top of Siegenthaler Esker today as it curves across the landscape.

Owens Fen SNP - K-9434 - Champaign County OH Last one!



“Owens Fen State Nature Preserve is a small, high-quality prairie fen community that supports shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*), queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula*

rubra), Riddell's goldenrod (*Solidago riddellii*), spiked blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), and state-listed plants such as white wand-lily (*Zigadenus elegans*).

The preserve is dedicated in honor of David B. Owens, a naturalist and former volunteer for the Division. His generous gift enabled the purchase of critical portions of this preserve, formerly known as Liberty Fen.”

Whoa – low low underpass 12'2". Had to remove the top hamstick antenna to pass under it. Same leaving headed back home. The rear 6 foot mast on trunk deck takes 9'6" of clearance.

Chain across entry road here at this area, but enough room, barely, to be park legal. Front half of car, hamstick antenna, rig, operator, in park. Indented gate enough to squeeze in. Dunno why chain blocking entry. You can walk in.

Decided to skip last two on list. Time to get back to get motel and flea market pass situation taken care of. Next year's Dayton trip – I'll get those last two and more!

OK...time for a gas station – dang.....80 miles so far and not a gas station seen! All back roads through nice farm land in OH....one or two teeny towns – no gas stations or stores. Head to get gas as down to ¼ tank. Find town with gas stations. Grab a Subway sandwich.

Head back to Dayton 75 miles away. Stop at motel – they figured out something different. Get to stay in original room. Then head to Greene County Fairgrounds to meet up with Mike, KA4RRU. Success. Got the additional ticket. Check out POTA booth area. Set up but no one there – all off running parks!

Back to motel after hour or two.

It's 84F, humid and hot.

Dinner at the Bob Evans nearby

Friday May 19 2023

Head over to the Hamvention after breakfast at 6am. Not much traffic yet. Park in flea

market area by gate into rest of hamvention area. Spend a lot of time at the POTA booth not far away.. Catch the POTA forum – maybe 120 folks there. Basic. Wander around a bit – grab breakfast sandwich. Later lunch. Around 2pm, had enough. Hot! Humid! 84F. Meet lots of POTA folks. Not many county hunters seen. I know KA9JAC/KB9YVT there. As well as KA4RRU, WA4PGM Kyle, and probably half dozen others. I'm limited as to how far I can walk these days. Lots of rest stops.

Dinner at the Bob Evans -

Saturday May 20 2023

It wouldn't be Dayton if it didn't rain. Wake up at 6am and it is solid steady rain outside.

60F.

Back to long pants and long sleeve shirt. Windy. Check weather forecast on WeatherBug and the rain will stop about 8am -9am. So grab breakfast and head over that way a bit later. Rain seems to be tapering off about 7:30 so head on over. Things very wet of course. By 9am regular entry time, rain is long gone and the crowds pour in. At noon it was 65F and wind about 10-15 mph. Chilly when out of sun. Not a bad Dayton Hamvention Day, though.

Spend a lot of time at POTA booth meeting folks. Worn out by 2pm so head back to motel to rest up. Dinner at Bob Evans.

Sunday May 21

Up at 6am, eat quick breakfast, then on the road by 6:30. Zip on along – Dayton – Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, Little Rock to Dallas – all Interstate – no parks. Stop in Bryant AR just SW of Little Rock first night. Cracker Barrel Dinner. Next day head on home – by 1pm. 2602.8 miles on trip. 2016 Malibu has 157,121 miles on it. Needs new tires.

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Some quick notes – some parks are really interesting - like Spiro Mounds, Cahokia Mounds, Halfway House, with lots of history. Many parks like State Natural Areas and Wildlife Management areas are dull. About exciting as running county after county in North Dakota or Kansas with endless fields of agriculture and not much else. I'm trying to 'activate' as many parks as I can. Like trying to run all the counties – in a state

or area – or the entire country. There are 9800 parks and no one will ever run all of them. So far, top activators are up to over 1,200 parks run. If you keep going, you could probably run 3000-4000 in 10 years of very active 'on the road' time. Worse, they keep adding parks – and likely in 3 years there will be 15,000 park in the US and 100,000 worldwide. No end in sight!

Thanks for riding along. Appreciate the county hunter Qs. Tried to run as many counties in between parks as could. Sometimes it didn't work out but most times, yes.

Mobile Activity in May

At the beginning of the month:

K4YT was mobile in ND – running all over the state for days and days.

K8ZZ was returning from his big trip back east. Now in MI in the upper part and WI on way home.

W4SIG was down in MS putting them out.

KB6UF was busy in TN then into VA to NY City area then NJ then more NY. Then into PA. Later in KY. Later in IN. Then more KY counties.

Busy weekend with 3 or 4 QSO parties – but CH mobiles still running

KA2LHO took trip down to Key West (Monroe) FL

KB9YVT/KA9JAC running around in WI – then later headed to Dayton OH

N6PDB spotted in NE and CO on FT-8

N4CD hit the road headed to Dayton OH via OK, MO, IL, IN, OH.

AI5P spotted in IN counties running parks. Later in OH.

N3MRA noted in NM

KA4RRU noted running from VA up through WV to OH.

K5GE took a trip to south TX to get WBOW for W8OP. Later another trip for more counties in TX.

W4SIG spotted in TN counties mid month

AR QSO Party - a mobile or two including K5CM

K4YT now running counties in TX for a couple days. Then some in OK.

K0DEQ was running around in AR

end date 5/24

Arkansas QSO Party

Held Dayton Hamfest weekend. Most folks worked 18-20 counties max. Many a lot less. Only one day event this year again. Might have been more mobiles if not that weekend. N4CD hit AR on Sunday – but no QP on Sunday. Oh well!

K5CM mobile 1182 CW 536 SSB QSO

I first thought something was wrong with the station. A G2-class geomagnetic storm caused very poor conditions especially for Saturday morning. Fortunately conditions recovered somewhat in the late afternoon and early evening. Pam had commitments on Saturday so she stayed home and operated the station in Muskogee when she had free time.

Some of the most worked stations:

62	N5KW
32	KA6BIM
29	OM2VL
27	AC0W
23	K9CW N2CU
22	N8II
21	N1SOH
20	W5XG WB9HFK

19 K2YG VE9VIC
18 W2LC
17 K4DR KD2KW KR4AE
16 K2AL K4BAI K4YT W4EE
15 K8LF N6AR
13 K2MN KE0TT NS2N W1SSN W3MAM W8JRK WA2JQK
12 K3YP KB4CG
11 K5BAT VE7CV
10 AE0G K5YX KE8PX KM6HB VA3IDD W3GQ W3WHK W8WVU W9DC
WA9YI

K5ZZR rover 18 SSB QSO

18x2 for Rover. 36x12 is 432. I've never seen such horrible conditions even though the sunspots were, as I recall, 133. Fortunately, I live next door to AR and was able to slink off to OK and lick my wounds. Hi. Next year will be better for sure. Russ K5ZZR

KA6BIM - fixed OR 40 CW 50 SSB 25 Mults – Counties

Band conditions were just plain poor. I was hoping to find some new counties but only found 1 that I had previously worked but not confirmed. I was able to work all I could hear, but only heard 25 of the 75 counties. First QP that I have worked in quite awhile that had more SSB stations than CW! I hope there is increased activity next year, and a few rovers covering some of the under represented counties. Managed 4 qso's with the bonus station. Thanks for the qso's! Dave ka6bim

K5KPE - fixed AR 756 SSB QSO

The committee needs to work on better band condx next year. HI HI I talked to Ed, WA5SOG, late in the contest and told him after 2 or 3 hours I was ready to go and watch TV.

Thanks to all who participated.
73, Bob K5KPE

Awards Issued

Worked all Counties:

KE3VV completed his 9th time on 5/10/2023. He received #13

K7REL completed his 10th time on 5/8/2023. He received #8

Bingo Awards

Roadrunner: KB6UF attained 2025 last counties on 10 May 2023. He received #2

K7SEN completed Bingo II on 1 April 2023. He received #109

K8ZZ completed Bingo III on 21 April 2023. He Received #49

K7SEN completed Bingo II on 4/21/23. NR pending.

AB7NK completed Bingo III on 4/1/2023. She received #47

KA9JAC completed bingo III On 5/10/2023. He received #48

Master Gold Awards

K7SEN completed the requirement for MG on 4/21/2023. He received #75

Ran All State Awards

K4YT completed all North Dakota on 5/5/2023. He received #35

K8ZZ completed all Massachusetts on 5/18/2023. He received #19

Roadrunner Awards:

K8ZZ on 4/29/2023 attained 1650 for #3

K8ZZ on 4/21/2023 attained 1675 for #3

W4SIG on 4/27/2023 attained 1000 for #15

K4YT on 5/1/2023 attained 425 for #51

K4YT on 5/5/2023 attained 450 for #49

K5GE on 4/25/2023 attained 725 for #24

KB6UF on 5/7/2023 attained 1950 for #2

KB6UF on 5/8/2023 attained 1975 for #2

KB6UF on 5/9/2023 attained 2000 for #2

KB6UF attained 2025 last counties on 10 May 2023. He received #2

Events for County Hunters

The state QSO Party season is winding down. Last two this month until the end of August when the KS QP starts the fall season followed by the TX QP in September.

June 3 1300z to June 4 0100z 1.8-28, 50,144

Kentucky QSO Party

CW,Ph,Dig RS(T), KY county or SPC

www.kyqsoparty.org/rules

June 17 1600z to June 18 0400z 3.5-28

West Virginia QSO Party

CW,Ph,Dig RS(T), WV county or SPC

www.qsl.net/wvsarc

Also this month – ARRL VHF/UHF contest and Field Day (June 24).

Many other smaller contests – see

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2023/June%202023%20Corral.pdf>

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It was a very good month for county hunting. Hundreds and hundreds of counties on air with 7QP, INQP, DE QP, New England QP, Florida QP, etc, and half dozen super mobiles out on trips – TX, AR, ND, MT, KY, VA, NY, etc.

Next month - Second District AK coming up.

WY0A Heads to AK

Future planning purposes. WY0A posted trip on K3IMC. Kark, K4YT may join him in Second AK.

Tentative schedule:

Sunday, June 18th through Monday, June 19th

AK: 3rd Judicial District

Tuesday, June 20th

AK: 3rd Judicial District, 4th Judicial District

Wednesday, June 21st through Saturday, June 24th

AK: 4th Judicial District

Sunday, June 25th through Monday, June 26th

AK: 4th Judicial District, Stay in Coldfoot, AK

Next day 2nd Judicial District all the way to Deadhorse, and return to Coldfoot. Next day 4th Judicial District

Tuesday, June 27th

AK: 4th Judicial District

Wednesday, June 28th

AK: 4th Judicial District, 1st Judicial District
Thursday, June 29th
AK: 1st Judicial District
then back to lower 48 a couple days late

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That's all this month - 73 de N4CD