

County Hunter News OnLine

March 2024
Volume 20 Issue 3

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 – Many days sunspot number over 100. Ten meters very good FT-8 but many days no joy on cw and SSB. Some days good, many days not.

2) Parks on the Air

On any weekend, 20m is filled end to end with Parks on the Air (POTA) stations. Every 3 KHz from 14.225 to 14.337 and sometimes on top of each other. Some even below 14.225 down to 14.150 (extra band). They are in counties – but sometimes you have to do a bit of sleuthing to figure out what county. Some 'parks' like trails go through a couple dozen counties, too, so the only way to get that info is from the activator him/herself

You can check the list at countyhunter.com for a cross reference list. It goes by KFF number for the WWFF program, but the second column is the K number. It lists the county. It's an excel file and if you download it, you can sort on the K number to find the park.

Many upload to QRZ and LotW quite often do not include the correct county – having default to their home county.

3) Dayton Hamvention

Once again, the good ham volunteers (by the hundreds) in the Dayton Area will be putting on the annual Hamvention in Xenia and the Greene County Fairgrounds. If you plan on going, get your reservations in. Usually quite crowded everywhere. Sadly there's no County Hunter Forum any longer (hasn't been one in , what, 10 years?) and no county hunter get together after. Half the restaurants we used are shut down. Many do partake of various other get togethers including the QRP folks at the Four Days in May annual event, the CWT folks /dinner, various DX clubs, ARRL Donor Dinner, ARRL DX Dinner, Parks on the Air meet up and usual QSY to a restaurant for more yakking, etc. N4CD is set to go this year. Mike, KA4RRU and Kyle, WA4PGM will have a flea market table. Who else is going? MARAC has had a booth inside for the past couple years with Lowell and Sandra spending a lot of time there. MARAC will be back again with a booth this year! Lots of regular restaurants to eat at though! Plus Hamvention food to fill you up.

4) Reader Feedback

Sandy, WB4EVH provided feedback on the article about CQ Magazine and possible outcomes:

“I'm sweating the CQ problem. I started a couple years ago trying hard to finish USA-CA because I was certain CQ was going belly up. Having cancer and my wife having cancer sort of derailed my efforts. After her death in 2020 I've tried to get back into county hunting but! Down to 235 to go. 61 in the mail and probably only about 10 of those will be returned. I'm gong to keep plugging away and hope something good happens by the time I finish.

The ARRL charges \$0.17 per call sign to submit your list to CQ for WPX and WAZ. I currently have 1600 calls between the two awards. That's \$272 and the total continues to climb. Have no idea if I have achieved all aspects of WPX. Haven't checked in awhile. Still short on WAZ. There are a couple of other fees which I don't remember. I believe I added it all up one time and it was close to \$500.

Sandy WB4EVH

5) Michigan MINI - time to sign up

The 2024 Michigan Mini will be Hosted by Dorie, N8WTQ • April 25 – 27

It will be held at the SpringHill Suites • Midland, Michigan 48642 (989) 837-2700

Room rates of: \$129.00 plus tax per night if reserved by Monday, March 22, 2024

6) National Convention

Wednesday October 9 to Saturday Oct. 12, 2024

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

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

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

All reservations must be received by Sept 25, 2024.

Minnesota QSO Parry 2/3

Lots of mobile activity. Highest scores reported working 84 of the 87 Minnesota Counties.

KØM 25 CW 275 SSB Rover

Operator(s): KB9VBR KZ9V

It was a pretty amazing Minnesota QSO party. We operated as a rover and hit three #Pota parks in three counties for 750 contacts, 96 multipliers, and 144,000 points. Thank you to everyone that got us in the log. ~KB9VBR and KZ9V



NU0Q mobile 832 CW qso

We had fog in SW Minnesota all day, which slowed us down a bit. Thanks for all the contacts. The pileups were intense. Hard to sort out any calls. Thanks for your patience. Ran only 50 watts to be nice to my Little Tarheel II antenna.



NU0Q mobile

NG0C – Lake of the Woods MN – Also K-2521 Zippel Bay State Park



NG0C

NE00 mobile , AA0AW driving - 370 CW 12 SSB



NE00

W9FZ mobile made 273 SSB qso .

Bruce, W9FZ, and Janice, KA9VVQ, were mobile as W9FZ in four northern counties.





N0HJZ mobile

N0HJZ 1654 SSB QSO

First, a big THANK YOU to everyone who followed me around during MNQP! The weather was great, everything worked and the piles were fierce!

My plan was to start on 80CW, move to 20M SSB at 1430z and then go to 40M SSB at 2300z. I never made it to 40M as the piles were continuous on 20M!

Signals were loud and I had coverage to almost the entire US all day. Stations 200 miles away in northern MN and WI were as loud as the PA/MD/SC gang. Coverage like that made 20M the money band. I've always wanted to beat my QSO record of 1,515 Q's, and this year made for perfect conditions! I only made one stop - I added half a tank of gas and woofed down a granola bar in 3 1/2 minutes! Here are my hourly rates:

1400 - 85
1500 - 187
1600 - 167
1700 - 164
1800 - 180
1900 - 161
2000 - 169
2100 - 176

2200 - 192
N0HJZ

Here are the stations that worked me the most:

25 - K7SEN, WN4AFP & WZ6ZZ
24 - K2KR
22 - N8II, W1KDA & W3JL
21 - AJ4HP & WA1SAY
20 - W1XX & W2LC
18 - AJ4LN, W3LL & W4KW
17 - WA2JQK & WA5SOG
16 - N5OHL, W0BH, W8PI & W9DC
15 - VE3RGO & W0AMT
Most DX Q's - OM2VL (11), LY5W (10) & RZ1OA (3)

My rig was an FT991A (100w) to a hamstick on the roof of my Chevy Impala!

Thanks again to everyone who worked me. It was an incredible run and a QSO record that I'll find hard to beat (I'll keep trying!).

73 Rich N0HJZ

K0PC mobile 1067 CW qso

Another solo trip for MN QSO Party again this year. 18 counties and few problems until the last twenty minutes when my computer died.

I had 314 unique calls and many that followed me all day long. The big hitters were

22 - W5TM
21 - K9CW
19 - K9PW
18 - W0BV W0ELT W8PI WA0MN WB9HFK WN4AFP

Thanks to everyone that participated and my apologies for my 'mobile fist'. I think it gets worse every year!

73, Pat K0PC

AC0W mobile 1014 CW qso

Thanks to all those that followed me around and worked me. Made for a fun day.

73 Bill AC0W

NE9U mobile 914 SSB QSO

Operator(s): KB9S NE9U

First time out in MNQP mobile in a few years. In good years, Minnesota is a tough contest for a CW guy to be competitive, and I think this was one of those years!

Unfortunately we weren't very competitive. Our rates until hour 7 just never got going. I suspect we should have never left 20 meters, but I feel guilty not trying to hand out mobile counties to the instate guys on 40 and 80 meters.

I would spot ourselves on 80 and 40 meters and receive a handful of loud callers and then zilch. WA0MN wins the 80 and 40 award for being most on the ball. Worked him 30 times and he was always first caller on 80 and 40! Hope he ended up with a good multiplier total. Seems like most of the Minnesota guys stayed up on 20 full time. Its where the money was.

Had a couple Murphys. 20 meter coil developed high SWR about 2pm. Internal tuner intermittently would tune it up OK only to intermittently fail. So last 4 hours we were running 20 watts into no clue what for an antenna. But the last 3 hours were our best rates at around 140, so who knows!

Other Murphy was an Operator generated log screwup that WA0MHJ is helping us with.

After a month of N9W (23,000 qso's!) and the MNQP, time to rest up for my H40WA trip in 2 weeks. I hope I can give everyone a new band or mode from Temotu!

Scott NE9U

KE0TT Rover QRP 256 CW QSO

Lots of activity, thanks for the fun! Ran a K-1 at 5 watts and a 66' portable inv vee in

GOO and WAB counties, then a K-3 driving a 100 watt amp from OLM county using home dipoles. Enjoyed 3 DX Q's on 40M with Germany, France, and Slovakia also. Made about 80 Q's in GOO, only about 20 in WAB, and about 155 in OLM. C U next time, 73, Dan ke0tt

AC0W mobile 1005 CW qso

Thanks to all those that followed me around and worked me. Made for a fun day.

73
Bill
AC0W

AE0EE mobile 1257 CW qso

What a rush!

Matt (K0BBC) and I teamed up for a reprise of our MNQP mobile effort from last year, with a bit more experience with the setup and route. We expanded from 23 counties to 27, had better estimates of our time in each county, and were able to stick to the schedule until the last few hours when we were going along I-90 and had quite a bit of time in each.

Last year we ran out of battery for the rig (hadn't been running on vehicle power) with 40 minutes to go, which cut us off from a good run and a shot at first place mobile. This year, we planned ahead and had vehicle power ready so that when the battery faded (and we knew about where that would be), we were able to switch it in without much lost time---and still logged two QSOs that minute!

Rates started out good, with 97 in the first hour, and stayed over 100/hour until the final hour where I made a tactical error in switching down to 40 m. We had S9 noise and really didn't have the rate---or the multipliers---there, so I ended up going back to 20 m to finish out the contest. Best clock hour was 2100-2200z, with 158 contacts, and best 60 minutes was 168.

DX was less successful this year than last, but we still managed a bunch of QSOs with DL, F, LA, LY, OM, and UA. In order to help the folks in the pileups get through

quickly, I ended up bumping up the speed above what I usually would. Generally I was cruising around 30 wpm, but in the short-time counties often cranked it up to 32 (and slowed if a station came slowly).

There was a bit of an exception to the higher-than-normal code speed, and it resulted from the one mishap of the day: the lunch order. We had ordered subs to pick up along our route, but I had apparently missed unchecking a default option to add a pretty runny sauce to my sub. As a result, it was a pretty messy affair trying to eat while running in Sibley and Nicollet counties. I was trying to keep from getting sauce all over everything while bouncing down the road and typing one-handed. So I did the one thing I knew would help hold the rate down a little: turning the speed to 22 wpm.

All in all, the bands were in great shape, the roads were in good shape aside from some fog in low-lying areas, and there were few points where it seemed like there was opportunity to improve except perhaps in getting callsigns correct the first time around and picking them out of a dense pileup. It's been a bummer not to have much snow or winter this year, but it certainly made the challenge of route planning much easier, knowing that regardless of what road we were on, the chances of ice were slim.

Thanks for all the contacts!

Top chasers:

W5TM: 27
W8PI: 24
W0BV: 21
K9CW: 19
WB9HFK: 19
WA5SOG: 18
K3YP: 17
N0AT: 17
N8II: 17
W7GF: 17
LY5W: 11

K0LD (WA0MHJ opr) mobile 294 CW

no comments

W0ZQ Rover 841 CW 8 SSB

My 20th consecutive year operating as a mobile/rover in the MnQP. This year the weather was fantastic with no snow on the ground and temperatures into the 40s. Mud was a bigger hazard than snow drifts. As a solo op/driver I had planned to make it to 12 counties, "Plan A", but mid afternoon I took a wrong turn somewhere and was surprised to look up and to see my car compass saying "East" when it should have been reading South. Hmmm. With the heavy overcast the Sun wasn't much help. That mishap in navigation cost me some time and two counties, so I pulled up short and went to "Plan B". Despite my own navigating skills (?) Qs were made and I still had lots of fun. I thought the bands were in good shape and really enjoyed the stints on 15m. The 80m Qs were all made in the last half hour and I was surprised as to how well that band played. Thanks for all the Qs and your patience's in those pile-ups!

W5TM - Fixed OK 269 CW 80 counties worked

WA0MN (N0UR opr) fixed MN - 610 QSO

AD8J - fixed - NC 183 CW 96 SSB 78 Counties worked

As usual, the mobiles were amazing. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be doing a full time effort. The XYL requests that I do this contest each year as she like the rice award. I had 11 more mults this year than last year as a result of almost continuous S&Ping

KA6BIM - fixed OR - 159 CW 69 SSB 78 counties

Fun contest, lots of activity. It was fun chasing the mobiles. Only missed 9 of the 87 counties New high score for me, double last years score and 25% over my previous high score Thanks for the QSO's Dave Ka6bim

NS2N - fixed - NY 123 CW 28 SSB 68 counties worked

NO RICE THIS YEAR ;-(

N8II - fixed WV 187 CW 107 SSB 81 counties

I didn't feel like spending the day on the radio until I got my feet wet into the fray starting 13 minutes late. By 1430Z, it was obvious that there was a good mobile turnout and then I heard the "iron man" Rich, N0HJZ at 1455Z back in his mobile after taking some time away from mobile operating in QP's. Rich told me his total time off was about 6 minutes of the 10 hours to get gas and gobble down a granola bar, great effort OM! He also mentioned that he had almost continuous pile ups on 14254 KHz, very few CQ's needed. Rich was loud the whole day here as were many other mobiles on 20.

My QSO pace started off sort of slow, it was past 17Z before I had 100 Q's logged. The pace picked up a bit in the afternoon and evening starting at 19Z. It took a while, but finally the CW mobiles started spending most of their time on 20M, and some even went to 15M. I should have chased spots more, but finding the mobiles is more rewarding. About 1930Z, I was finally able to run some ops on 20M SSB off and on until about 22Z. I also foolishly worked any BC stations I bumped into while S&P'ing for MN. Around 21Z, I spent about 4 minutes working 8 BC ops on 10M CW.

The mobiles make for a great experience in a QP. Many thanks for your many miles driven hopefully in decent WX. Matt(Bill), K0BBC operating AE0EE was one of the reliable ones on 20; his CW skills are greatly improved. Bill, AC0W was handling the pile ups well as usual. Jon, W0ZQ was loud on all bands as usual. Bill, NU0Q came over from IA for some fun, thanks for many rare ones. Bob, K0RC was loud on 20 from up north with help on some rare ones, CHS was my last mult, thanks! Neo, N0EO was up north handing out some counties that I think only he activated. Thanks to W0ADL and W9FZ for some SSB Q's. Scott, NE9U was very efficiently running. And Pat, K0PC always hears me well, many thanks to all.

Congrats to K9PW and WN4AFP for working 84 counties, only 3 short of a sweep. I worked 81, much better than last year and maybe 2nd best ever. My Q's were way higher as well. SSB activity on 40 was very low it seemed and 15 took a while to get going on both modes, but was wide open for hours. Some of the ops who called on 20 were right in the noise at the same time N0HJZ/M was 10-20db over S9. Many thanks to all for the QSO's and mults.

73, Jeff

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 178 CW 73 SSB 84 counties

That was my best score ever in the MNQP thanks to everyone for the Qs. This was a great QP at the start of the QP season! Special thanks to the mobile operations out there AC0W, N0HJZ, AE0EE, K0LD, K0PC, K0RC, N0EO, NE9U, NU0Q, W0ADL, W0ZQ and W9FZ! These folks gave me a ton of counties and Qs. It was great to hear Rich N0HJZ running counties again. What a blast that was chasing him around MN. Activity seemed to be pretty high in this QP today. I heard many of my fellow Swamp Foxes making a lot of Qs toward the SQP CC. I'll keep working on BC and VT and then get ready for the SCQP coming on February 24th at 1500z. Please come to the SCQP! It's QP contesting season once again. How sweet it is! 46 more to go!73 Dave WN4AFP

Amache National Park

Colorado is now home to America's newest national park

The town of Granada donated land needed to turn Amache National Historic Site into a national park

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Amache National Historic Site in southeastern Colorado is officially America's newest national park, the National Park Service announced Thursday. (Feb 15 2024)

Amache, located one mile outside of Granada, was one of 10 incarceration sites used to detain thousands of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The town of Granada acquired and donated the land needed to establish the site as a national park.

“Amache's addition to the National Park System is a reminder that a complete account of the nation's history must include our dark chapters of injustice,” National Park Service Director Chuck Sams stated in a Thursday news release. “To heal and grow as a nation we need to reflect on past mistakes, make amends, and strive to form a more perfect union.”

Nearly two years ago in March 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law a bill backed by Colorado lawmakers to designate the camp a National Historic Site.

The goal then was to make Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, eligible for increased funding to protect and preserve the historical site.

Before becoming a National Historic Site, Amache was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1994, and designated a National Historic Landmark on February 10, 2006.

“As a nation, we must face the wrongs of our past in order to build a more just and equitable future,” Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland stated in Thursday’s news release. “Today’s establishment of the Amache National Historic Site will help preserve and honor this important and painful chapter in our nation’s story for future generations.”

More than 10,000 people were incarcerated at Amache between 1942 and 1945, according to the release. Now, Amache joins six other national parks already established to preserve this chapter of American history.

Although the camp itself is in ruins, Amache’s historic building foundations and road alignments are largely intact, preserved through the years by Amache survivors and their descendants, residents of Granada, the Amache Preservation Society and more.

The site consists of a historic cemetery, a monument, concrete building foundations, a road network and several reconstructed and restored structures from the World War II era including a barrack, recreation hall, guard tower and water tank.

Amache’s official redesignation announcement came just four days before the Day of Remembrance of Japanese-American Incarceration during World War II, recognized each year on February 19.

Source: <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/02/16/amache-national-park-historic-site-new-national-park-colorado/>

de N4CD – This park is in Prowers County CO – southeast corner of the state. Rick, AI5P, visited last year and nice article in the May 2023 County Hunter news about his visit and some good pictures.

Link here <https://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20May%202022.pdf>

During World War II, the U.S. created 10 incarceration sites to detain Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their homes on the West Coast under Executive Order 9066. The order deemed them a threat to national security following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Under the order, 122,000 people, including children, were taken to these isolated and fenced internment camps. Over half of those incarcerated were American citizens. They lost their personal liberties, homes, businesses and property, according to the National Archives.

With original building foundations and the historic road network, Amache is one of the most intact World War II internment camps, thanks to the preservation work by Amache survivors and their descendants. Visitors can see a historic cemetery, a monument and several reconstructed and restored structures such as a barrack, recreation hall, guard tower and water tank. There is no fee to visit Amache, which is located about a three-and-a-half hour drive from Denver.

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De N4CD – I've visited the two in CA and one in ID during NPOTA. Guess I'll have to head this way some day and run it!

Mobile Activity in February

At the beginning of the month

K8ZZ zipping around in IL, WI headed back home from the Polka Festival in Chicago. Ran a good part of WI.

W4SIG was in Daggestt UT and running UT counties for several days

NHAM spotted in running counties in KS. Then IA, MO, Then more KS. Then IA. NU0Q was up in MN - for the MN QSO Party

W0FLZ spotted in park in WA

AI5P spotted in Clark, AR. Later in several parks/counties in AR

N8KIE ran Honolulu HI – later in month took trip to Hawaii County -

NA8W noted in several parks in FL

KB3WAV noted in parks in VA – headed to FL for Orlando Hamvention – put out a few parks along way and back

Around the 10th – 3 days no activity

N3MRA put out counties in south FL

W4SIG after ski trip headed back home via bunch of counties in UT

N3KAE busy putting out counties in PA

W5VS spotted out in VA counties

K4YT hopped on airplane to run counties in WA including San Juan and Island. Finished up his Mobile Diamond award. Had some bad weather.

Toward end of month – busy weekend with SC and NC QSO Parties.

K4YT finished running WA counties, ran ID counties, hopped on plane back to VA.

End date 2 /27

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Some mobile comments/others from trips

K4YT: After I ran Jefferson/Clallam the sunny WX went to crap. Then at Pacific/Grays Harbor it started to rain. With the rain came darkness very fast and the rain got worse. By the time I got to the county line park for Wahkiakum/Cowlitz it was pouring and park lights were not on. This trip I was setting up the hustler mast and coils at each stop then dismantling and moving on. I decided to get a motel and run it tomorrow. Still

raining at 2138.

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KC7YE: Good thing you are going east at south end of WA. US 2 & US 90 chains required , expect 3 +ft snow today. Keep eye on WX as gorge can get ice, high winds.

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KK7X I -90 Bare and wet, with snow and slush in places Stevens - Travel eastbound Traction Tires Advised, Oversize Vehicles Prohibited. Travel westbound Chains required on all vehicles except all wheel drive, Oversize Vehicles Prohibited. Here at my Castle 36.5° Mostly Sunny -

N8KIE back in Honolulu was very rainy in Hilo. I feel very fortunate to have helped several

KB6UF Planned Trip

Need a Minnesota/South Dakota/Montana County?

KB6UF - Thursday 04/18/2024 to Sunday 04/28/2024 using SSB and CW
MINNSOTA

Houston, Fillmore, ,Mower, Freeborn, ,Faribault, Martin, Jackson,Nobles, Rock
Pipestone, Murry, Cottonwood, Watowan, Blue Earth, Waseca, Steel, Dodge,
Olmstead, Winona, Wabasha,Goodhue, Rice, La Sueur, Nicollet, Brown, Redwood,
Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Sibley, Scott, Dakota, Washington,
Ramsey, Hennepin, ,Carver, McLeod, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle
Swift, Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Sterns, Meeker, Wright, Sherburne, Anoka, Chisago,
Isanti, Pine, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Benton, Morrison, Todd, ,Douglas Grant, Traverse
Wilkin, Ottertail, ,Wadena, Cass, ,Crow Wing Aitkin, Carlton, Saint Louis, Lake,
Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard

Becker, Clay, Norman, Mahnomen, polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Roseau
Kittson

NORTH DAKOTA

Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Traill, Cass, Richland, Ransom, Lamoure, Barnes
Stutsman, Kidder, Sheridan, McLean, Oliver, Mercer, Dunn, Mountrail, Ward, McHenry,
Pierce, Benson, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Steele, Nelson, Ramsey, Cavalier, Towner
Rolette, Bottineau, Renville, Burke,

MONTANA

Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Custer, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Rosebud, Big Horn
Treasure, , Garfield Petroeum, Fergus, Musselshell, Golden Valley, Powell, Granite,
Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead

This is the start of the final push to run them all in lower 48

Well thats all I have left to run in lower 48.

Heading to California next week, if weather and road conditions are OK may try and run
some Montana and North Dakota on way home.

When these are done Hawaii here I come.

Vermont QSO Party

This held weekend of Feb 3 and 4. Heard 2 VT stations on 20m CW and snagged both.
N1SP and KI1B/mobile. Heard no others in a couple hours of listening on Saturday
morning, nor saw no other spots. Likely lots activity 40 and 75m later in evening hours
as they try to work each other. As usual, most VT folks get on for the New England
QSO Party later in the year. Quite a bit of activity Friday night as well as contest runs
48 hours.

There were only 3 spots for VT but also I know many more were on the air.

There are 14 counties in VT

K1IB mobile 171 CW QSO

Murphy struck early. I had planned rover stops at county line locations touching on five different counties. As I was operating at my first Saturday stop, on the Windsor/Orange county line, I noticed a plume of steam rising up from beneath the hood of my car. Oh no! a coolant leak. Fortunately I was able to limp home, but that eliminated the possibility of further travel.

I did get in a period of Friday evening operating from within my home Windsor county, adding some 40m and 80m points. Both bands sounded terrific that evening. Conditions seemed less good during my time on air Saturday. Much QSB, weak signals, and unexpectedly few contacts west of the Mississippi (California was almost totally absent.)

Better luck next year!

KI1P - Rover

Thank you to all that helped me pull off this rove. My first POTA activations. 5 parks in 48 hours. Over 1500 QSOs during the Vermont QSO Party.

KI1P Rover 1086 SSB qso 316 dig qso

Five county rove in my Ex NBC news van. Two masts. one 40' and one 50' 4 dipoles (80,40,20,10) 1401 Q's with 6 gallons of gas on the generator. That's 233.5 QSO's per Gallon! Trying to think outside of the shack when contesting. I really enjoy contesting but don't live in a great location.

Got a late start Friday. (my daughters concert takes priority) arrived at Little River State Park (Washington County) at 10:30 stayed on the air most of the night. Saturday off to Sand Bar State Park (Chittenden County) from 9:am to 4pm. Watching the ice fisherman I thought they were crazy to be out in the cold. Then I thought it wasn't that crazy when I traveled all the way there to mess around with antennas in the same parking lot.

Saturday 4pm off to Grand Isle State Park (Grand Isle County), got a little sleep between QSO's then off to Elemore State Park (Lamoille County) Sunday morning. Left at 3pm to the last leg of the tour... Crystal Lake (Orleans County). Long trip. Had fun!

See you all in the New England QSO Party.



KI1P mobile

K1IP – remote at K2LE contest station 102 CW 145 SSB qso

Thanks to K2LE for the use of his station. Andy, K2LE, was using the station for the FOC marathon this weekend, so my operation had to work around his contesting. I did get a couple of good hours in. I had to make a cable to actually get on phone, so that didn't happen until later in the contest. Thanks for the Qs.

N3FR - fixed PA 30 CW 16 SSB 90 digital
7 CW mults 6 SSB mults 19 digital mults

N6AR fixed FL 26 CW 33 SSB 3 digital
5 CW mults 11 SSB ssb 2 dig mults

Two club stations, W1NVT and N1FS were additional multipliers. There are 14 counties plus these 2 extra for a possible score of 16 multipliers – but less than that gives no idea of exactly how many counties were actually worked.

N1IBM fixed VT - 2 phone 909 digital contacts!

K1NZ/mobile 316 SSB qso

Here's the brief summary:

Miles driven: 576

Counties activated: 14

Total QSOs: 316

Breweries visited: 3

Ditches stuck in: 1

A little over a week before the QSO party, I realized I had nothing going on that weekend and decided that with the 48-hour timeframe, a 14-county rover was feasible. I picked out a route where I could maximize county lines while trying to avoid dupes. The only dupe was RUT and the only solo county was Grand Isle - the bridge is too narrow and I didn't have a boat!

Friday was pretty uneventful, except for an accident on 91N near Easthampton, MA that delayed my arrival at the first county line (BEN/RUT) until just before the contest started with no time to eat my dinner sandwich! I did get "stopped" while wrapping up at the RUT/ADD line by a concerned police officer because he thought I might have needed assistance but a quick mention of the county line and an assurance that I was all

set was all he needed to head on his way. I stayed the night at an airbnb in Vergennes.

On my way to GRA in the morning, I saw the Dutch Mill Diner in Shelburne and had to stop for breakfast. After a big breakfast burrito that gave off egg roll vibes (it was fried!), I continued on my way to Grand Isle. Just after you get onto the island, there is a nice boat launch parking area that made for a good first stop. The high bands were nicely open to Europe with their contest going on so it was an easy source of mults. 15m was full of awful noise so I didn't spend much time on the band. Moving on to CHI/FRA, my ATAS decided it was going to start being cranky, picking 15m to be the band it decided it wasn't going to tune so I avoided 15 for the rest of the day.

Now comes the "fun" part! I planned my route so that it would take me by Hill Farmstead which is one of my favorite breweries. Since I'm driving all this way, I had to make a stop! This caused my LAM/ORL stop to be on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. When I pulled over, I pulled over a little too far which meant that one of my wheels was now off of the tractionable surface and I ended up in the ditch. 20 minutes later, I managed to escape and set up on the other side of the road to avoid a potential repeat. The other fun part of being in the middle of nowhere is the lack of cell service. I called CQ on 20m for a good 20 minutes before I could finally get a text out to a friend to spot me. It's disappointing that phone contesting is so heavily dependent on spots; the self-spotting rules change has helped but it's still not perfect.

I then headed off to Hill Farmstead. After passing through East Craftsbury, the roads turned to dirt again, but with an additional ice-snow layer on top. This was probably one of the scariest 5 miles I have ever driven, but I lived to tell the tale (and not land in a ditch!). After some phenomenal beers at Hill Farmstead and a delicious prosciutto and goat cheese pizza at Red Barn Brewing, I hit the CAL/ESS line and then retired at an airbnb in West Topsham.

On Sunday, I probably left a little too early; I got to the WAS/ORL county line around 8 AM. Thinking that it was a little early I tried to hop on 40 but alas, the ATAS decided that after all the QSOs last night it was now sick of 40m and wouldn't tune that band. Instead, it was now happy with 15. I made Qs on each of the high bands and then headed toward the last county line, the county line to confuse them all, WNH/WNS. On the way there, I stopped at a rest station on 91 for a bio break. Before I left, I figured I had time to try and figure out why the ATAS was being so cranky. As far as I can tell, with the antenna swaps back and forth between the ATAS and the 80m whip over the weekend, the "nut" that holds the SO-239 into the mount loosened up enough that it was no longer making a good enough ground connection with the car which sent the ATAS into a tizzy on 40.

After an hour or so at the WNH/WNS line, I decided I had enough fun for one weekend and started heading back home. I stopped at Tree House in South Deerfield, MA for pizza and beer and then did a bonus POTA from Mount Sugarloaf. All in all it was a fun weekend and I would definitely consider doing it again. Thank you to all the guys who were regular chasers!

73, Nick K1NZ

WN4AFP - fixed SC - 22 CW 29 SSB 6 CW mults 10 SSB mults

I hit this one pretty hard on Friday evening when it was the only QP on the air. It was great to hear the mobiles running in VT. This always makes the contest more interesting. Thanks the Mitch and the RANV gang for putting this one on the air. I had obligations on Sunday, so had to stop early. 73 Dave WN4AFP

N8II fixed WV 25 CW 25 SSB 5 mults CW 9 mults ssb

I made 27 Q's Friday evening without a huge effort; the rest of the time it was very slow from here, but my focus was on MNQP Saturday. During the day northern VT was mostly loud on 20M, but southern VT mostly skipping over. Conditions were good enough to make backscatter QSO's on 10 and 15 beaming west in the afternoon.

Congrats to NX3A nearby for making more than twice my QSO's, 50 on digital. 20 M phone activity was disappointing. It was a good turnout overall from VT stations, but a 48 hour contest period is not justified.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

10-10 Winter Contest Feb 3, 4 SSB

10M was open. Some tidbits from 3830 scores:

N5XZ – fixed TX 975 QSO

KE6GFI - fixed AZ - 329 QSOs

AE1P Fixed NH 109 QSO

Condx's seemed good, surprised not more participation...

73, Neil AE1P

WB7UOF - fixed - 287 QSO

152 MEMBERS

135 NONMEMBERS

A FUN TIME -- 10M IS OPENING UP!

POTA Alaska Style K-7220

KL7EC went to Nancy Lake State Recreation Area for POTA. You head north on the 'Parks Highway' between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Turn at milepost 67.3 and it's five miles into the SRA. It was -10 as he parked the truck, rode the snowmobile in the last couple miles, then set up the tent and antenna. Got down to 34 below zero at night.



KL7EC – Nancy Lake Alaska

As far as I can tell from his posts, he's been as far north with radio as Denali National Park (still 3rd AK). Who knows? With warmer weather, he might head to some of the never run parks in 2nd AK! Someone will have to drop him a note. He has a good signal on 10M many days. Runs Yaesu 991 – full size vertical on 10m.

Here's a video of his operation at 'his most challenging' operation to date. He went out the day before WFD to set up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzxCJIZBDX0>

BTW – It was 53 degrees below zero in Fairbanks that same night! Not many folks out there for Winter Field Day that weekend.

He also has Buddi-hex beam for 'warmer' set ups.

- - -

If you are a county hunter planning on running the Dalton Highway to the Second District, the weather forecast for Atigun Pass for Jan 31 is high of 4 and low of -13. Feb 1 will see temps drop to -41F at night with a high temp for the day at a balmy -34.

It won't be getting warmer for a week there.

For county hunters, when you get to the Second District line, you'll probably still need to head to Atigun Pass to get a good location to get a signal back to the lower 48.

CW County Hunter Stats End 2023

CW County Hunter Stats – at end of 2023 courtesy NF0N

CALL	2023	2022	2021	2020	
AA8R	3043 #2		3041 #2	3035 #2	
AB7RW	3019 #4		2977 #4	2909 #4	2696 #4
DL3IAC	2830				
DL6KVA					
K2MF	3077 #2		3076 #2	3057 #2	
K4XI	3047 #3				
K5GE	3073 #3		3042 #3	2992 #3	2803 #3
K7REL	3070 #6		2972 #6		
K8IW	3077				
K8OOK	2959	2917		2845	
K8TE					
K8ZZ	3058 #3			2191 #3	
KA4RRU	3072		3061		
KA9JAC	2519 #2		2306 #2	2112 #2	1992 #2
KC3X	3055 #6		2914 #6		3066 #5
KC5P			3036		
KC7YE	2618	2618			
KE3VV	2962 #3		2791 #3	2429 #3	757 #3
KK7X		2268			
N1API	3066	3065	3052	3047	
N4CD		2821 #6		2788 #6	
N4RS2950 #6		2747 #6		1310 #6	
N5MLP	2879	2615	2408	1706	
N8CIJ	1858 #2		1602 #2	1163 #2	568 #2
N9JF			239 #2		
NF0N	2550 #3		1912 #3	1008 #3	3074 #2

NS2N	3076 #3	3066 #3	3053 #3	2941 #3
NU0Q	3062 #3	3014 #3	2937 #3	2630 #3
NX0X		2601		
SM6VR		2020 #2		
W0GXQ	3077 #8	3059 #8	3031 #8	2741 #8
W3DLM				
W4SIG	2401 #4	266 #4	3072 #3	
W4YDY	786 #3	185 #3	3076 #2	3075 #2
W7EEC	1687 #1		1466 #2	
W8BZY	3077 #1	3063	2967	
W8OP		2954		
WA1ZIC		2954		
WA3QNT	2284 #2			
WD4OIN	3002 #2	2946 #2	2764 #2	

MARAC Booth at Dayton Hamvention

Great news!! MARAC will once again host a booth at the 2024 Dayton Hamvention this spring. Mike, NF0N, is spearheading the booth this year with help from Alan, W8OP, and Sharon, KJ8F. We will be in Building 5 at booth number #5103. Please stop by for a chat, sit for a spell, and maybe give a break to one of the other county hunters so they can walk around a bit.

Ham Radio on the Moon

**The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting
02/02/2024**

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

Source: ARRL news

South Carolina QSO Party

N2CU mobile 610 CW 359 SSB

That was a blast! I quit 1.5 hours early to get home at a reasonable time. Bands were excellent, as were the pileups. Big hitters: NS2N 41, OM2VL 39, WB9HFK 23, DL3DXX 22, DL3GA 16, KV8Q 15, K9CW N0HJZ W8PI 14, W9QL 12, K2QO K0TRL WA5SOG 11, plus lots just under 10 QSOs. Thank you to everyone for making my first SCQP mobile a great time!

My apologies for the DILL/MARI county line. Power line noise was S7 and copy was very difficult.

K3/100

Tarheel M75A on roof of Chevy Equinox

73, Tom N2CU/m

WA4AUG County Expedition -rover - AA5JF operator - 696 CW 347 SSB

Great QSO party! Lots of activity -- thanks to all who called in. Great conditions. And beautiful day in SC, perfect for portable operations. Thanks to both the state QSO party fanatics, and the POTA hunters. Made lots of P2P contacts too!

This was a re-worked route that KY4ID and I developed last year, but this time included two county-line locations, both at POTA sites. Five counties (BARN, AIKE, EDGE, MCOR, and ABBE), from three different locations. And as a bonus, all three sites had cell coverage! Made a total of 635 Qs (includes a few dupes), of which 2/3rds counted as two counties.

One new wrinkle I discovered with the new multiplier rule is the need to change bands quickly (especially to the higher bands), which is harder with my portable antenna setup of dipoles. Setup the 80M EFHW at the last site, but it is a lot of work to deploy, and not as good on 40M as the dipole. May have to develop a solution for this before next year.

Andy AA5JF

N4VGE County Expedition 180 SSB QSO

I needed another few days to get my antennae tuned.

W1MRC County Expedition 168 SSB QSO

Another SCQP with great weather, low 60's, sunny, and no rain! It was very windy for me right off the water at Baker Creek State Park, but nothing to bad. I was glad to hear a lot of counties being activated as well as other states hunting SC Counties. Thank you everyone who participated!

K4TYZ mobile 54 SSB qso

Operated as a mobile Bonus Station in Kershaw, Fairfield and Newberry counties

AE4XY mobile 45 SSB qso

no comments

NS2N - fixed NY 96 CW 60 SSB

movin' right along ...

good contest ...thanks

DL6KVA - fixed DL - 141 CW qso

Score includes 3000 bonus points for working W4CAE and WW4SF on 10-80m.

New multiplier rule brought more stations to 10 and 15m!

Thank you to the organizers of the party and to all who attended, especially to the mobiles N4CW and N2CU and the POTA stations WA4AUG and KC5F and W4CAE from 3 different counties.

North Carolina QSO Party

N4NTO County Expedition 416 CW

Wow, what a rove! Started in Dare and roved through 15 counties. Zigged and zagged throughout NE NC. Grand fun!

73, Tripp, N4NTO and Johanna N4JSO at the helm.

N2CU mobile 834 CW 320 SSB

Two days of mobile contesting = lots of fun! Being single-op, no-driver, operating time is limited when counties are big and you need to get to the next county line. So I put in what time I could and quit early so I could make the 2-1/2 hour drive home before too late (9:30 PM). It appears that I should concentrate on 40m and 20m, and run more counties but I wanted to ensure that others maximized their score by working me on multiple bands/modes. I activated 7 counties while working 26 myself. 45 states and provinces worked. I was really surprised to work a 4Z4 and HZ while in one county. That seldom happened at my old home QTH with QRO and a yagi!

Big hitters were: NS2N 36, OM2VL 32, DL3DXX 18, K2QO KV8Q 15, K9CW 14, N4OX N8II 13, WB9HFK W8PI 12, DL3GA N1CGP WB2PJH 11 and lots with 2 QSOs. Thank you for your dedication to working us mobiles. I'm always glad to move to other bands/modes for stations, but hate to do it in the middle of a run. I'll get there eventually. I don't think any bonus stations were worked. I was strictly running and didn't have time for S&P.

I experienced some great rates in this contest, better than yesterday in the SCQP. Maximum 10 minute rate was 444/hour and 60 minute rate was 316/hour.

Altogether, it was a great contest with good conditions, including short skip on 20m. Lord willing, I may do this again next year with a change in strategy. Maybe.

K3/100

Tarheel (appropriate) M75A on roof of Chevy Equinox.

73, Tom N2CU

N4Q mobile 927 CW qso
Operator(s): K4QPL N4CWZ

This was a Sunday Funday for us. K3TD retired and moved to TX so I missed having him on the team. Dave, N4CWZ, jumped into his place with gusto and got his first taste of bouncing keyboards, tuning a screwdriver antenna by ear, and handling pileups when the Rx antenna is nothing like the antenna back home. But he got his sea legs very quickly and helped put up a very good mobile score. The town and country powerline noise was a continuous factor. Stronger signals helped a lot with only a couple times that the noise brought operations to a halt until we passed through.

Conditions were not multi-band good although we hoped to include some 10M runs. We never saw anything on the bandmap that was worth giving up the great pileups on 20

and later on 40. We did do a brief excursion to 15 but again, the rate just wasn't there. Crossing even the biggest counties there was always activity from one county line to the next and often we felt bad having to leave some folks waiting in the pileups when we had to move on.

Plans changed a bit when we realized how much time it would take to navigate the top of Stokes to get into Surry. We sort of made up for it later by a short excursion into Richmond.

Raw stats:

Counties: 17

Miles: 370 (about 600 Km.)

QSOs: 927

A mobile qso party is a unique experience and having so many followers made you all like friends. And we REALLY didn't bust your calls as often as it seemed. Typos are rife with a bouncing keyboard that always seems to throw a wrong letter or number in there somewhere! Thanks for being there and your understanding.

73,

Jim K4QPL

Dave N4CWZ

DL3DXX fixed DL 256 CW

score includes 500 bonus points for working all 6 POTA stations in NC

N4W 547 CW 358 SSB

Operator(s): W4MGT W4MPS

Bonus station operating at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC

VE9VIC - fixed 147 cw

Same number of qso's as last year, but more multipliers. thanks to all and specialty the mobiles,A big thanks to N4CW for 22 counties, we were like a bunch of bees calling him, nice job,I was surprised to see N4CW on 80 meter.

NS2N fixed NY 165 CW 93 SSB

thanks for a nice running of NCQP

wish 19 and 15 were more open

N8II - fixed WV 128 CW 128 SSB

Score includes working all bonus stations for 500 bonus points. I barely caught NC4QP thanks to their call from BEA on 40 phone. It pays to read through the rules and check out the bonus calls which I did not do. I wasn't fully committed to the NCQP this year. I had a very busy couple of days Friday and Saturday.

The band conditions were slightly better than last year, but the solar flux was not quite enough to open 20M to the Raleigh area and farther north and east. N4CW/M roamed around E/NE NC and I only was able to work him once on the PEQ/PAS line on 20. This cost me several mults. I only heard N4NTO and a couple of other rovers/portables once they hit 40. Thanks to N2CU/M for his great operating and being workable on 20 most of the time (even got him on 15 once). Western and southern NC were workable for several hours on 20, but the triangle metroplex was not. I could work some of the big guns on scatter, but my local noise covered over the weak ones. My best 40M phone run was over 30 stations in the 19Z hour when a lot was happening on 20. QSO total was definitely the lowest in recent years on 40 phone thanks to 20 being open well from the start to most of NA. From late afternoon onward Bert, N4CW/M was worked on most of his route and other rovers/portables were heard for the first time. 80/75 suffered from a lack of activity despite good conditions from 23Z onward. I like this QP, but more activity is needed plus a little bit of luck with higher solar flux. Many thanks to all and especially the mobiles and portables, and the ops who activated rural counties.

73, Jeff

N1XI portable 554 CW 212 SSB

It was a beautiful day on the Blue Ridge Parkway for a portable operation. There were a few icy spots on the drive there but no issues.

N4E (WA4PGM Opr) 590 CW 177 SSB

Beautiful day with sunny weather with temps in the 50's. Single op, setup, tear down,

drive, navigate, and operate.

I was able to run 11 counties, had to cut the route short if I was going to back at the VA line before the end of the contest. Left my house at 6:45AM and got back home 9:30PM.

Had some nice runs but they didn't last long. First time out as portable and I learned a lot. Found some great spots to setup and operate.

Once the sunset it became a whole different ball game. Added stress in driving and trying to find places to stop and setup. Lost at least an hour when traveling back North near Raleigh. Won't make that mistake again.

The contests times 10AM to 8PM work well for me and doesn't keep me out in dark to much. Besides Monday comes early and lots of people have to work. Operating from home you're in your comfort zone.

Elecraft K3, Homebrew 80/40 meter resonators plus a 17 foot telescoping vertical.

Packing today for my trip back to NC in a few hours for a early AM flight on Tuesday to J62K for the ARRL DX SSB this weekend. Hope to work you all.

Thanks everyone for your patience and contacts. You make the NCQP great!!!

73 Kyle, N4E, WA4PGM, J68KC

W4KAZ portable 5 CW 163 SSB

Had some issues to work through, but the broken antenna was the show stopper. Managed to muddle through but lost a lot of time. Better luck next time

Awards Issued

RoadRunner Award

N8HAM attained 200 last counties and received #132

NU0Q attained 250 last counties and received #101

W4SIG attained 1125 last counties and received #10

Polaris Award:

W0GXQ attained Level 250 and received #488

Gemini Award:

W0GXQ attained Level 150 and received #185

Combo 1X2 award:

W4SIG completed the 1x2 combo and was assigned #8

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

MICHIGAN MINI - see above – time to make last minute trip planning for April!

March 9 1500z to 10 2100z

3.5-28,50

Oklahoma QSO Party CW Ph Dig

RS(T), OK county or SPC

k5cm.com/okqp.htm

March 9 1900z to 10 1900z

1.8-28

Idaho QSO Party CW Ph Dig
RS(T), ID county or SPC
www.idahoqsoparty.org

March 10 1800z 11 0100z
All Wisconsin QSO Party CW Ph Dig
WI county or SPC
www.warac.org

March 16 1400z to 17 2359z
All Virginia QSO Party CW Ph Dig
Serial, VA county or SPC
www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party

March 30 0000z to 31 2359z
1.8-28 CQ
WW WPX Contest, SSB Ph RS, serial
www.cqwp.com