

County Hunter News

November 2021
Volume 17 Issue 11

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.

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumbblings

1) Sunspots – We got them. Then we didn't. The month is ending with the SFI in the low 80s and sunspots just over 10 most days. September had better numbers. Some days have had 'good' propagation listed for 15 and 17m but most days not. We're on the uptrend to a good solar cycle peak in a few years but October was a pause. There were even a few days with no sunspots. There were fewer sunspots in Oct than in September. Not much happening on 15m and 10M dead as a doornail most of the time with only occasional E's happening. Toward the end of the month, the sunspots kicked up to the 80s and SFI over 100! Conditions on 17 and 15M improved greatly and contacts being made on 12 and 10m now.

There was little/no activity in the state QSO parties on 15 and 10m. Or the DX contests until the very end of the month with the SSB WW contest. There has been some activity on 12 and 10m with some openings on FT-8. (that has about a 20 db advantage over cw/ssb).

2) 40M CW Frequency. It looks like 7056.5 is going to 'digital'. IARU band plan shows 7053 to 7060 for digital modes, and recent DX'peditions have been using 7056 for FT-8. Way back we used to be down around 7038 for CW. Moved up to escape QRM there but looks like 7056.5 is going quickly to the digital folks. Time to reconsider where we want to be. You can't beat 10,000 digital signals especially when they don't 'hear cw' and just go ahead and blast away.

Maine QSO Party

This is a weird QSO Party where you can work 'anyone anywhere' for contacts. That's both people in ME and people anywhere else. There is no way to tell how many counties were worked in ME. A few comments indicated not all that many ME stations were on the air, and there is no way to tell from scores how many of the contacts were with ME stations from stations outside of ME.

COVID 2021 – I

Rural Americans are dying of COVID at more than twice the rate of their urban counterparts — a divide that health experts say is likely to widen as access to medical care shrinks for a population that tends to be older, sicker, heavier, poorer and less vaccinated.

Since the pandemic began, about 1 in 434 rural Americans have died of COVID, compared with roughly 1 in 513 urban Americans, the institute's data shows. And though vaccines have reduced overall COVID death rates since the winter peak, rural mortality rates are now more than double urban rates — and accelerating quickly.

In rural northeastern Texas, Titus Regional Medical Center CEO Terry Scoggin is grappling with a 39% vaccination rate in his community. Eleven patients died of COVID in the first half of September at his hospital in Mount Pleasant, population 16,000. Typically, three or four non-hospice patients die there in a whole month.

Vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent COVID infections from turning deadly. Roughly 41% of rural America was vaccinated as of Sept. 23, compared with about 53% of urban America

In hard-hit southwestern Missouri, for example, 26% of Newton County's residents were fully vaccinated as of Sept. 27.

Additionally, the overload of COVID patients in hospitals has undermined a basic tenet of rural health care infrastructure: the capability to transfer patients out of rural hospitals to higher levels of specialty care at regional or urban health centers.

“We literally have email Listservs of rural chief nursing officers or rural CEOs sending up an SOS to the group, saying, ‘We’ve called 60 or 70 hospitals and can’t get this heart attack or stroke patient or surgical patient out and they’re going to get septic and die if it goes on much longer,’” said John Henderson, president and CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals.

In southeastern Missouri's Ripley County, the local hospital closed in 2018. As of Sept. 27, only 24% of residents were fully vaccinated against COVID. Due to a recent crush of cases, COVID patients are getting sent home from emergency rooms in surrounding counties if they're not “severely bad,” health department director Tammy Cosgrove said.

The nursing shortage hitting the country is particularly dire in rural areas, which have less money than large hospitals to pay the exorbitant fees travel nursing agencies are demanding.

Overworked rural nurses are quitting, or taking 'travel nurse' jobs at 3 times the pay.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/covid-is-killing-rural-americans-at-twice-the-rate-of-urbanites>

COVID 2021 – II

The CDC has now formally approved(on 10/21/2021) booster shots for J&J, Pfizer and for those over 65 for Moderna.

They are 'free' paid for by taxpayers. Don't sit around and delay. Time to get your booster shots.

By the end of October, the CDC should approve 'mix and match' boosters so you could get a different booster shot that you got the first time(s). Kids 5-11 should also be approved.

The number of new daily Covid-19 cases has plunged 57 percent since peaking on Sept. 1. Almost as encouraging as the magnitude of the decline is its breadth: Cases have been declining in every region.

There is no reason to expect another Covid surge anytime soon, but surges don't always announce themselves in advance.

Despite all the encouraging news, one shadow still hangs over the U.S.: The pandemic does not need to be nearly as bad it is. About 1,500 Americans have died of Covid every day over the past week. For older age groups, the virus remains a leading cause of death. And the main reason is that millions of Americans have chosen to remain unvaccinated. Many of them are older and have underlying medical conditions, leaving them vulnerable to severe versions of Covid.

For older people, the effects of vaccination are profound. In late August, near the height of the Delta wave, 24 out of every 10,000 unvaccinated Americans 65 and above were hospitalized with Covid symptoms, according to the C.D.C. Among fully vaccinated Americans 65 and above, the number was 1.5 per 10,000.

California QSO Party

A few mobiles out, but mostly this is a 'county expedition' event with singles and groups headed out to the various counties to put them on the air with decent antennas and radios. Lots of activity and all 59 CA counties were on the air. Some only SSB it seems.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

KI6YYT/m - Mobile YL - 90 SSB

Activated 8 counties mobile.
5 Saturday 3 Sunday.

WB6BET/m Mobile 81 SSB

Activated 7 counties mobile.
4 Saturday 3 Sunday.

K6YK mobile 50 CW

Operated from Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras.
Rig: Xiegu G-90, 17 watts, with Hustler mobile whips.

K6M County Expedition, MODOC- 1248 CW 805 SSB

Long weekend with beautiful wx. Ten guys in the group: 4 ops each for SSB and cw, plus a cook and a groupie. Still trying to merge logs. Three stations, N1MM, 2 k3/KPA500 and a FTDX10/AL811. Had a hell of a time keeping the network working even though all stations were within 50 yds of the router. Two tri-banders at 35', a 40m GP and 3 80m OCFs.

Anyway, we made a sweep, and doubled our score from last year. This was our 22nd year at this location, a fire lookout in the Modoc National Forest. Just a Field Day operation in three trailers.

73,
Dick K4XU

W6IA - COunty Expedition - Sacramento 385 CW 245 SSB

Operated from a motel near Willows, CA, just off Interstate 5 about 80 miles north of Sacramento. As this location is in the Central Valley, elevation 138 feet, we didn't have any extra benefit from mountains nor down-sloping terrain. At times we felt like we were struggling to be heard, especially on SSB. For those on CW and Phone where we asked for repeats...thank you! The low bands seemed to be in pretty good shape Saturday night with plenty of activity on 80 meters which was a highlight. It was also nice to see 15 meters in play as well.

We missed SD and NT for the sweep; worked 47 of the 58 California counties.

Thanks to Jerry, KD6WKY, who had been on an expedition to Glenn before and offered us some operational and local dining tips.

Thanks for the Qs! 73, Mark W6IA and Tim, W7EEE

W6DMV County Expedition - STAN - 7 CW 165 SSB (W6DMV, K7JFA)

This all started from watching a NCCC meeting presentation about CQP and Expeditions. W6DMW thought, now this will combine the 2 hobbies into one fun weekend. So he talked to W6JFA about it and away we went.

After a quick look of which counties our favorite off-roading area encompassed we found that we could get to an 8,700 or so foot peak in Alpine County. W6JFA did a quick site visit in August before the forest shut down and we decided the Mt. Reba peak would be perfect. It has a 2.6 mile "advanced" rated trail off Highway 4 that starts at the Round Valley Sno-Park. It is filled with a big mix rocky terrain, loose dirt, and complex switch backs. Perfect for the adventure factor.

We got out there the Friday, setup, and got on the air for the practice. Only had one QSO and realized we had an issue with the Flex. It wasn't high SWR as suspected since our EFHW (inverted L) and Gap Titan were tuned around 2.5 or better for all bands. We had no clue what the issue was. Restarting the Flex fixed it for the meantime. We found out the next day that it was the USB adapter we were using for the footswitch that didn't like all the RF and would cut out the signal to the laptop. Oops. We operated with VOX all weekend and were quite happy with the results.

Event day! We got on late. We both did math wrong and had a 45 minute late start. Oops.

20 was packed, we were never able to get a foot hold and call CQ. We kept getting stomped on.

15 was great but we had the same issue. 15 had a fantastic amount of stations and activity. That was so great to see. Same with all the participants of the Oceania Contest. That was a fun coincidence.

40 was fantastic and 80 was fun since 80 was the CA stations. While we only got a few QSOs on 80, there was a lot of fun there. It was neat hearing the comradery between CA stations.

We didn't hit our goal at all, we didn't even come close. We did have a lot of fun being up there and on the air. The only real negatives were the cots that felt like we were sleeping on plywood and how darn cold it got! When things got draining mentally what kept us going was the few small runs we had and of course hearing the joy in operators when they would say Thanks for the new Mult!

We have 2 notes to ourselves:

- 1) this is the last straw, learn CW. We didn't have the planned operator for CW. We tried CWGet for a moment but it became chaotic and then N1MM crashed. So we said forget it! We need to learn it for real.
- 2) Next time we need an AMP. LP took some fun out of it)

73! Thanks for the QSOs and support. We hope to activate Alpine again the future.

K6T County Expedition - Tehama --1241 CW 771 SSB (ops AA1ON KØBEE K6TLR N6DE W1RH W1SRD)

Returned to same off grid location used in 2018 and 2019. Local noise level was up from prior visits and we felt we were missing a layer of stations we would have heard in prior years.

Overall score is slightly lower than our last effort from this location with fewer total QSO's but more

CW QSO's.

Great time had by all together again after missing 2020.

Good food, friends and radio. Doesn't get any better. Until next year...

TU,

K6T Team Tehama

K6QLF - County Expedition - Alameda 334 CW 94 SSB (W6QLF WQ6X)

This was a first-ever CQP operation by the Amateur Radio Club of Alameda (ARCA).

As club president, I spearheaded a Field Day like operation from the picnic tables on the back patio behind the California Historical Radio Society's museum grounds on Central Avenue in Alameda California.

While they were unpacking and categorizing surplus military equipment on Saturday, we running CW & SSB from the front table. Our goal was to break the M/S (LP) 25.2k point all-time high score for Alameda county, which we certainly accomplished.

The event served to strengthen the operational bond between ARCA & CHRS, as well as expose newer club members to the insane-pandemonium we call Radiosport (in General) and CQP in particular.

Some CHRS workers found time to sit down and chit-chat with us to more-understand our insanity - I think we infected a couple of them for next year.

This CQP event will probably sport several Blog posts in the

WQ6X Contest Blog: <http://WQ6X.Blogspot.com>.

NT6V County Expedition - NAPA 1056 CW

Plan for the county expeditions formed on short notice since Napa seemed rare on CW. Operated from a residential location in the city of Napa and set up a fan dipole @ 30 ft overlooking the Napa River. Arrived on site Friday 4 pm and still had to cut and tune all the elements. Had 40,20,15m ready by night fall. Then during Saturday afternoon in a break added and tuned quickly two wires for 80 m. Worked out nicely for how makeshift and untested everything was. Went CW only after SSB seemed to cause issues with the landowners TV set, which we found 2 min before the contest start, and there was no time to troubleshoot. On Sunday morning suddenly high SWR on the antenna. Turned out the coax center pin disconnected at the dipole and had to be resoldered, for which I lost an hour. Overall, I had a blast. My first CQP participation and first county expedition.

W6TED - County Expedition 806 CW

Camping on a summit in Southern Riverside County at 6800ft. Very windy and cool.

Still lots of fun. KX3, PX3, KXPA100, Sotabeams 20-30-40 clip dipole inverted V at 20' and homebrew 73ft random wire with 17' counterpoise sloping from 30' - 10' (same rst reports as my

dipole). Had a law enforcement ranger stop by and gave him a tour of the whole setup. He seemed very interested. Had some random technical difficulties with N3FJP software doing automated keying through a Winkeyer 3.0.

Thanks to NCCC for putting a great event! Looking forward to next year.

K7ZOO/6 County Expedition Riverside 651 CW 156 SSB

The location chosen in IMPERIAL County was absolutely PERFECT! I operated from "Valley of the Names," about 10 miles north of Yuma AZ (yes, it's in California!). It's a desert mesa, absolutely NO RFI, with a large flat open space for antennas. For antennas I used: 160 meters - inverted L; 80/40 meters - 135 ft doublet at 28 ft flat top; 20 meters - 1/4 vertical w/ elevated radials; 15 meters - 1/4 vertical w/ elevated radials; 10 meters - same 135 ft doublet. I finished constructing the 160m inverted L this past week and tuned it (trimmed it) at the operating location... it worked like a dream!! Also notable was the new radio... a Yaesu FTdx10; absolutely the best radio I've ever used (and I've used many). Thanks to all the people that I worked this past weekend, and thanks to Dean for managing a first-rate contest. de K7ZOO

K6CSL - county expedition - StAN 164 CW

WOW!!! What an event. I was surprised on 20m, on Saturday, being called by stations in France and Germany calling me for my STAN. I was sure hoping for 200 Q's, but came up some short. The last 45 minutes, for some reason my computer stopped responding to my wireless keyboard. I ended up having to reboot the computer to get it working again. That probably cost me a half a dozen Q's, while was running on 40m to end the contest. It sure was fun. My new IC-7300 really helps. 73's to all Bert, K6CSL

W6ML County Expedition 1199 CW 386 SSB

Fortunately, the smoke from the California fires, wasn't as bad as last year and I had mostly blue skies to launch my antennas. This year again I used dipoles for 40, 20 and 15 plus an inverted V for 80. They were all squeezed in between my two favorite pine trees. I upgraded the coax feedlines from RG8x to RG213 so I could run full power with my new KPA1500 amp. And for the first time I had an antenna analyzer to check the antennas and troubleshoot one high SWR problem.

One highlight was getting called by KL7SB on 40m CW who had a very strong signal and thinking to myself that the propagation from NT, the last section I needed, would also be good. My next CQ was answered by VY1CO who gave me his #34 for my sweep. You always sleep better when you get a sweep on Saturday night and it takes all the pressure off of Sunday operating.

Thanks to pretty good propagation and no power outages and RFI Murphy visits I was able to put in a full-time effort and achieve my all-time best single op Mono County expedition results that included almost 1,200 CW QSOs.

Also, thanks to Hank, W6SX (we are about one-half mile apart in Mammoth) for helping share the bands between our two HP stations during CQP.

And, many thanks to the NCCC for sponsoring another great CQP!

Rig: K3s, KPA1500, wire antennas at 60 Ft high in the pine trees plus 8,000 Ft above sea level in Mammoth Lakes on the Eastern side of the beautiful High Sierra

73, Jim W6ML (W6KC)

K0EJ/6 County Expedition - TUOL 704 CW 26 SSB

Missed the trip last year. Similar setup as in the past. FT857/80M OCF with a 15M delta loop hanging from a oak tree limb about 30'. Best performance to date but high noise levels and QSB gonna take away some of those Qs! Happy to hand out TUOL. Missed ND and NT. Maybe again ne

AF6GA County Expedition 921 CW COLU

First, thank you to the kind and considerate OPs who patiently repeated their calls. There were a couple of occasions where my brain must have blanked but they were great OPs who stuck with it when they could have easily moved on. Thanks also for all the QSOs.

This was the third time I've been a run station, the other two occasions in 2014/2015 were also for CQP. So this isn't a strength of mine but some MorseRunner practice in the weeks ahead of time definitely helped.

Field day was cut short so I decided to look for a good radio/camping weekend. A CQP expedition seemed like a good fit. Somewhere high, in a national forest so I could include camping and free space for antennas. Colusa county ended up the final choice with a bit of rarity and reasonable proximity to Santa Clara county. The added bonus was going through an OHV park for some light four-wheel fun. I've never been to Colusa county or the east side of Mendocino national forest but the views from Goat Mountain are very impressive. That does have a downside as far as contesting goes: I found myself taking extended food breaks just staring at the scenery and enjoying the peace and quiet. Probably not the best for the bottom scoreline, but it certainly added to the overall experience. Something has to offset eating MREs to avoid any chance of burning down the forest.

There were a few technical difficulties, the most annoying of which was a USB issue on an aging MacBook (2006) running W7. Either the screen would go blank for a second and then no more keying, or it would just hang the keying on. So every 30 minutes or so either a CQ call would stop or more frustrating a call would be lost. Closing N1MM and restarting fixed the issue. I'm sorry if we were mid-QSO and you thought I'd gone AWOL. The generator running out of gas was more considerate as I was just calling CQ at the time. October in CA is still very warm, so I really wish I'd brought a fan. I suppose this operation was on the border of just having fun and wanting things to go smoothly...

Conditions were excellent: getting called by SM2M on 15m and hearing the polar path flutter that I've not heard for years gave me hope that things are looking up again. 20 EU DX contacts with 12

different entities was a pleasant surprise. As for mults: almost a sweep, just ND didn't stop by.

I usually use an FT-897 for portable use but decided at the last minute to use a K3/P3 combo. That way I could find a somewhat free space to move to after getting squeezed out or to be able to check band conditions. I checked several times to see if there was any activity on 10m, but the P3 said no. A single OCFD, Aerial-51 807-HD, at 16m on an 18m Spiderbeam mast and an old army surplus 29ft AL mast to support one end. A convenient tree supported the other end.

The end result was a great weekend and 939 Qs including dupes over 18h22m for a raw score of just over 157k. That is more than the current COLU S/O LP record. I doubt that will stand log checking as there are probably more than 2.9% errors. So maybe there will be a return trip next year to see if I can get any closer. A little less nature gazing/sleep and more time in the chair, together with some S&P instead of 100% running and fixing the keying issues...

73,
Phil

AI5P Trip Report

Do you know what America's first National Monument is? I didn't remember either - it's Devils Tower in Wyoming. In 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed it as our first National Monument under the new Antiquities Act. His action made Wyoming the home of both the first National Park - Yellowstone in 1872 - and the first National Monument.

I had the chance to revisit Devils Tower (Crook County, WY) in September. It is such an amazing site to see - first from a distance - and then up close. Native Americans called it Bear Lodge (among several other names). Colonel Richard Dodge named it Devils Tower (apparently a mistranslation from his interpreter) in 1875 during his military expedition sent to confirm reports of gold in the Black Hills and to survey the area.



According to Native American tribes of the Kiowa and Lakota, a group of girls went out to play and were spotted by several giant bears, who began to chase them. In an effort to escape the bears, the girls climbed atop a rock, fell to their knees, and prayed to the Great Spirit to save them. Hearing their prayers, the Great Spirit made a rock rise from the ground towards the heavens so that the bears could not reach the girls. The bears, in an effort to climb the rock, left deep claw marks in the sides, which became too steep to climb. Those are the marks which appear today on the side of Devils Tower. I prefer this explanation rather than some dry geological story!

The "first" ascent to the summit was on July 4, 1893. With fanfare and over 1,000 spectators, William Rogers and Willard Ripley, local ranchers, made the "first" ascent, using a wooden ladder for the first 350 feet. The fact that there was already a flagpole for raising Old Glory atop the Tower suggests the first ascent might have been earlier! The climbers' wives ran the refreshment stand and sold pieces of the flag as souvenirs. I was surprised to learn that some 5,000 climbers come every year from all over the world to climb on the massive columns. Over 220 different climbing routes have been used.

For the Park collectors, this is KFF/K-0920. 37 contacts were made - 16 on CW and 21 on SSB. Be sure and visit if you get to Crook County, Wyoming!

73 Rick AI5P

comment de N4CD

This site was made instantly famous by the 1997 movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* – which featured an alien space ship landing on top of this monument. (movie trailers available on YouTube).

Nevada QSO Party

Some interesting stations to work – and maybe 10-11 counties on the air. Hard to tell by way the multipliers worked – each band counted as separate mult. On CW, probably 5 or so counties. On SSB, maybe 10-11, together maybe 14? There are 16 counties in the state.

From the 3830 reflector:

W6US County Expedition/Rover 420 SSB

Lot of fun! Worked from 3 county line locations, Pershing/Humboldt, Eureka/Lander, and Elko/White Pine. It took about 800 miles of driving including 80 miles of dirt roads to hit these locations and back. Was using a Hustler 6BVD vertical mounted on a receiver hitch on the back of my motorhome--it was easy to assemble and put up at each location. 40 meters was good in the evenings, and actually better on Sunday than 20m. 20m was excellent on Saturday especially close in. I worked a number of Nevada stations and all the surrounding states on 20. Other than PA, the east coast was quiet without contacts from most of the states. Sunday, 20m was very quiet. I spent several sessions on FT8 scattered through the locations with no contacts even though there was lots of activity on the main digital channels. I heard lots of other stations working other stations in Nevada, so there was a lot of activity. Thanks to everyone who participated!!!

K7RC - remotely operated at W7RN – Storey County - 557 CW

AA6AA was in Los Angeles, K6DGW in Sparks NV. We both operated W7RN in Virginia City Highlands NV remotely with logs synchronized via a VPN hosted by Bill, W6KKN. Steve and Skip alternated several-hour remote shifts during the breaks that Jeff, WK6I, took while operating W7RN on-site in the Makrothen RTTY. The W7RN remotes [3 of them] are operated via the Microbit RemoteRig connections. Despite the large number of "moving parts" and significant remote technology, it all worked, essentially flawlessly, and the two NVQP logs were identical except for one QSO. Learned a lot, had a lot of fun. The use of ARRL sections instead of SPC everyone expected for out-of-state stations was not an optimal choice, but we made it work. Thanks to Tom, K5RC, for the W7RN super-station, Bill, W9KKN, for the VPN, and to all who gave us a Q or three. And, thanks to Matt, WX5S, who figured out all the technicalities last year.

73, Steve, AA6AA and Skip K6DGW

South Dakota QSO Party

Looks like 3 mobiles out including AC0W, K5CM and K0BBC.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

AC0W mobile 816 CW 36 SSB

Appreciate everyone's patience on Saturday as we dealt with severe weather and related noise most of the day. The issues started 3 Q's in the noise suddenly being 20 over. We moved from SSB to CW, which helped a little.

Then late in the day in Marshall County weather alerts started going off, tornado warning. Apparently the wall cloud I saw earlier produced a tornado, we just couldn't view it as it was rain wrapped at that point. Also it was clear we were driving right towards the tornado. So decided to QRT for a while and seek shelter. After 25 minutes we finally back on the road. Band conditions were a struggle after that for me. XYL (driver) and I were glad to finally reach our destination for the day.

Sunday was much better. Great pile-ups and a lot of good ops who were patient as I worked through the pile-ups. Originally I had plans to mount the 80 CW whip Sunday morning but decided not to install it in the rain and start the day wet. Hind sight I wished I had as things were slow on 40 for the first hour. But things picked up nicely, with great pile-ups all the way up to the end.

Very please with the amount of DX Q's made. 72 Q's with 13 different countries. Very pleased to even get a couple of JA stations in the log. Countries worked include DL, F, G, GM, HA, I, JA, LY OM, ON, PA, SM, SP.

Missed 6 states: IA, ND, RI, HI (KH6), MT, WI. Worked 3 provinces: AB, BC, & ON. Also worked 1 SD county.

Thank you for all the contacts and for following me around the state. Again I appreciate everyone's patience on Saturday as I dealt with all the weather issues.

73
Bill
AC0W

K5CM Mobile 831 CW 296 SSB

Pam and I drove up from Oklahoma on Friday and spent the night in Sioux City. Noise was bad Saturday especially on 40 meters. Thanks to the many stations who followed us around. After the party was over Sunday afternoon we made the trip across the state to visit Mount Rushmore. Very impressive. The drive home on Monday seemed long.... about 1000 miles and 14 hours.

73, Connie / K5CM

OM2VL - fixed - DX 37 CW 5 SSB 29 counties

I was very busy in the PA & AZ QP ...

K5CM/0 - 21 QSO / 15 cty
AC0W/M - 13 QSO / 13 cty

Thanks for the QSOs!!

73, laci OM2VL

AA4TI - Fixed - FL - 24 CW 9 SSB 22 counties

Not many hams in SD, but I always enjoy following the mobiles around the state. Kudos for the mobiles that came in from out of state to activate a lot of counties.

K0AP -- Fixed 19 CW 9 SSB 9 digi 22 counties

Great job by the mobiles/rovers (K5CM, K0BBC, AC0W). It was fun chasing those rare SD counties.

73 Dragan K0AP

Mobile Activity this Month

At the beginning of October:

N9JF was putting out counties and parks in FL

KE4UP was mobile in NM

K1YAG was mobile in MA

K0DEQ was zipping around in IN

Then we had the CA QSO Party with a few mobiles out. Lots of fixed stations spotted. K6AQL was one of the CA mobiles.

K1YAG was in NJ and CT. Next spotted in IN, IL, MO. Over to OK to TX

KA4RRU noted in NY – during busy QSO Party weekend

Ron, KB6UF, popped up in FL and proceeded to put out lots of FL

WY0A was spotted in lots of counties in WY, MT, UT, ID, CO, KS

KE4UP noted mobile in NM CO NV

K2HVN noted mobile in CT and RI

Another weekend of QSO parties with mobiles out.

K0DEQ out in MO and IA

N9JF was out for a week running many parks in MO, I as N9G during a week long Get Your Park on the Air sponsored by WWFF. (During this week there were up to 80 different parks on the air on many days all over the country and including digital in AK and HI).

AI5P ran counties and parks in CO and UT

K8ZZ headed out from KS down through OK, TX then east to GA running dozens and dozens there. Popped up occasionally on FT-8 and/or FT-4. Then headed west to LA and TX. After running a bunch in TX, zipped up through OK to KS.

There was another weekend of QSO Parties – mobiles out in some.

K5GE popped in GA while K8ZZ was there. Both in GA, AL, MS together putting them out.

N8OYY spotted running counties in TN.

End date 10/26/2021

Arizona QSO Party

There are usually many 'county expeditions in this contest and a few mobiles. Lots of loud signals from AZ this year as conditions decent. Several other QSO Parties going on at same time – NV, SD, PA, etc, made for interesting weekend.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

K6GT/M 252 CW 132 SSB

I ran solo mobile across southeastern Arizona in five counties running 50-100 W into various whips and loading coils. I started just north of Sonoita in Pima County; drove south into Santa Cruz County; went back north and then east of Benson into Cochise County; north until I was south of Safford in

Graham County; and then finally drove east and stopped just over the county line in Greenlee County. Total drive time during the contest was 2.5 hours with another 1 hour to get to my first stop and 2.5 hours to get back home -- all together a 19 hour day! This was my first time (a) running mobile for any contest, (b) using most of my mobile antennas, and (c) field testing my new batteries. Given that my choice of both counties and route was a last minute decision, I would call the operation a great success! Thanks to everyone who worked me, especially those who caught me in multiple counties. Shoutout to K9RS, N6MU, and WN6W, who worked me in all five counties. Special shoutout to OM2VL, who not only worked me in every county but also worked me a total of 9 times! Also thanks to K7ZOO for advice and help with the mobile antennas. Looking forward to next year!

W7CXX/M 108 CW

Arizona state line (Mohave County) is only 8 miles south of my home QTH here in southwestern Utah. Made it super easy to participate mobile.

73 Jack, WA7LNW

K7ZOO/P - County Expedition - LaPaz - 176 CW 86 SSB 11 digi

Great contest! Thank you to ALL of the people I contacted. Notable QSO's: OM2VL (multiple contacts, and one SSB!); KI6RRN (thanks for spurring me down to 160m!); W7A (who persevered with my weak 80 m signal and got me 100 bonus points!); KG6T/M (great job running around AZ with a mobile setup!). In addition: good propagation, low noise, and parallel contests to visit and capture QSO's. I used a newly-acquired Yaesu FTdx10 (GREAT rig!), 135 ft non-resonant doublet inverted V at 28 ft; 20m 1/4 vertical w/ 4 elevated radials, 100w solar panel --> 135 amp-hour of SLAB capacity. My unfamiliarity with the radio cost me 4 hours "off the air": I must have changed some setting, as the output power went down to ZERO! I had to set aside my Yaesu and deployed the backup rig: FT-817nd. I started watching training videos on JS8Call (blah), and instead made some PSK31 contacts. After four hours a text conversation with K7WSC prompted me to reset the FTdx10 firmware to the factory settings -- thankfully that restored the Yaesu's power! It's an amazing radio; the user just needs more training. I operated from BLM land about 3 miles SE of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. Hope to catch you all next year :) de K7ZOO

K7L (K6LL Op) fixed AZ - 291 CW 872 SSB 176 digi

CW activity was way down from last year, especially later in the day, which is reflected in the 40 and 80 Meter QSO totals. Conditions were pretty good, with a nice opening to Europe on 15 and 20. Lightning static started at about 9 a.m. and persisted right until the end, which was annoying, but not a show-stopper. We had a brief power failure 10 minutes before the contest, which required a complete restart of the logging computer and bringing back all of the logging and support programs. Spectrum Internet service didn't return for three hours. OM2VL was very loud on 15 through 40 on all modes.

It was all fun. Thanks to everyone for all of the QSO's!

Pennsylvania QSO Party

all counties were on the air – many got 'clean sweeps' of the state. Several mobiles out including K8MR, N2CU,

from the 3830 contest reflector:

K8MR mobile 1068 CW 162 SSB

Gary/AF8A & I returned for the PAQP and Sunday bike ride on the Ghost Town Trail in Indiana & Cambria counties. Sunday was a beautiful day for the ride, for which we did the 50 mile round trip from Black Lick to Nanty Glo and back.

The radio part was fun too. We had 994 QSOs the first day, mostly CW except for 20 or so SSB QSOs from Clearfield, and a lot of band changes with OM2VL. Sunday after the ride we decided to do thing a bit differently on the way back to Cleveland, with lots of SSB. Perhaps people were off watching football or something, as we found open frequencies to have some very nice SSB runs, normally a difficult thing from the mobile.

It was nice having enough solar activity to make 40 meters short during the day. 15 seemed open but not much activity. Best surprise was OM2VL booming on both CW and SSB around 1930Z on Saturday. Busiest county was Clinton, which included a food stop, with 109 QSOs, followed by Indiana with 105, split between Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to all who chased us around the state. Next serious QSO Party, Florida in April.

73 - Jim K8MR

N3VZ portable 902 CW 1221 SSB

Extra thanks to the Rovers for making this weekend so much fun and thanks to AA3B for all the planning and prep work in advance!

We (KC3WX, KQ3F, N3VZ) were portable again this year at Flint Hill and Wimmer Roads in Lehigh County and had a blast! It's a lot of work but well worth it.

73,

Steve
KC3WX

NY3B portable 550 CW 571 SSB

Portable operation in the mountains near Marshburg, McKean Co. Always alot of fun in the most well-run of the State QSO party contests!

N2CU mobile 662 CW 392 SSB

Got a late start (45 minutes) due to the inevitable strike from Mr. Murphy. All worked well last weekend for the CQP but my paddles decided to quit while 30 miles from home base. Had to drive back, grab a new cable and Rube Goldberg it.

Operated in 11 counties (CLA, CRA, CRN, ELK, ERI, 2x FOR, JEF, MCK, POT, VEN, 2x WAR); all QSOs were made by running. Glad to have W3RRR call me once to get a bonus. Eight years ago I nearly broke 1,000 QSOs and made it my goal every year. I finally achieved it. Thank you to all who made this a personal best year for me.

K3/100

15, 20 or 40m hamsticks on the roof (used most often), KA8KIP screwdriver on hitch mount (used mostly on 80m)

N1MM+

2017 Toyota RAV4

73, Tom N2CU/M

N8II - fixed - WV 210 CW 299 SSB worked all counties

Wow, what a change from the past several years; the ionosphere cooperated! 40 meters was open to all of PA with huge signal levels for many hours both days (a bit slow to open Sunday AM)! The last year we had similar conditions was probably 2014. PA ops love to work PA ops, so that gave us two good bands with lots of PA activity. Compared to last year 75M activity was definitely down, but propagation was fine. Also 15 meters and even 10M were useful for PA QSO's with Europe (+ west USA on 15). I heard OM2VL CQ'ing PAQP on 10M SSB and heard him working PA! It was very tempting to start DX'ing Sunday morning, but I stuck with the slow grind of searching down stations and running a few, but not many.

It is a shame that now 3 other QP's have descended on the same weekend; I only worked those QP's as I bumped into stations from NV, AZ, and SD. Last year I tried to keep up with all and it didn't work well for PAQP. It was slower than hoped for at the start, few answers to 40M SSB CQ's, so I had to S&P. I did have some success running stations on 40 and 80 Saturday, mainly SSB. The CW rovers/mobiles were nice enough to work 40 and 80 from most of their counties. I missed K8RYU a lot, did reasonably well with Jim, K8MR and Tom, N2CU, but there was room for improvement. Many thanks to all of the rovers, mobiles, and

expeditions to rare counties/county lines. 160 was not in great shape with QRN and weak signals; thanks to those who came down to make Q's.

The possible sweep caused a bit of anxiety, but I think I ended up with more than one QSO from each county. At 0253Z, I quit for the night because activity had plummeted. I had 339 QSCCO's and 65 counties having just worked N3SRC in SUS thanks to a spot, big pile up! I found N3ST in Adams early Sunday on 40 CW (called by ADA on SSB later) and thanks to another spot got W3GY in Montour for the SWEEP! WC3B in MTR called later on 40 SSB.

Many thanks for all of the calls and QSO's and pulling me out of the noise on the high bands. The backscatter on 20 was fairly good Sunday, not that many ops were heard however. The majority of SSB signals were not that broad, but solid state amps seem to cause some splattering issues. Signals on 40 phone were so loud and numerous that it was difficult to find a run frequency at times. The improved conditions leveled the playing field quite a bit, making it easier for QRP and LP ops.

73, Jeff

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 101 CW 39 SSB

This was another weekend with limited opportunity to work the QPs, but I managed to find 7 hours devoted to the PAQP. I went mixed for a change from CW because wanted to maximize my BIC. On Sunday around 1600z, PA stations were booming into SC on 20m from about an hour and then they were gone again. 40m was the money band. It was open to PA throughout the contest, but there was a "wall" of closer stations. I did hear some ops in rare counties working other counties and was never found in the 'running' mode. It was a pleasure to work N2CU/m, K8MR/m and others rolling around beautiful PA. Thanks for the Qs and thanks to the PAQP Team for throwing a great QSO party contest.

73 Dave WN4AFP

KB3RC multi-op portable 685 CW 382 SSB

This is the 8th year that our TVDXA crew has trekked from Tennessee to participate in the PA QSO party. Located in a cabin in the Rothrock State Forrest adjacent to Greenwood Furnace State Park near Belleville, using simple wires in the trees and low power, we still managed to have fun and work a lot of stations. We also made the county sweep for the second time. Thanks to all who called in and gave us a QSO.

73 from the KB3RC team: Ken K3JWI, Gary K4VIG, Bill W4XK and Ted W4NZ

New York QSO Party

Looks like all the NY counties were on the air – either from fixed stations or mobiles. At least 4 mobiles out there. This was on same weekend as Work All Germany contest with many LOUD Europeans on 20m CW all day long. Made it challenging to find the 20m mobiles in TX but they moved up a bit in frequency which helped. I'm sure signals were very loud in NY from the stations in EU and US stations calling CW WAG and working them by the hundreds. Here in TX, the mobile signals were about the same level as the dozen EU super contest stations – S3-S4..... made it challenging. With all the park activity also, SSB filled up quickly.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

There are 57 counties in NY

K2UA mobile 1413 CW qso

In the 2020 NYQP, Mike, N2MG, and I had a great time operating as K2UA/M in 11 counties, where we ran 200 W into a Tarheel antenna and made a little more than 1000 QSOs in our CW-only operation. Mike started to get the itch to get his F-150 set up for mobile operating also, so he gathered a Tarheel and a TS-480HX. As a result, we started talking about doing something a bit different this year.

Back in the early springtime, N2MG and I started talking with Ken, N2ZN, about whether he was interested in joining us. He immediately agreed, so that left the question of our fourth op. Right away I thought of Mark, K1RO, who is a perennial state QSO party operator and a fine op. I reached out and we talked about it, and Mark was interested--he had never operated mobile in a state QSO party, but he was interested in giving it a try. He and I also have a lot of history, though we had not seen each other in a long time. Mark was my first manager at ARRL 35 <gasp> years ago when I was just out of college. We worked together at ARRL HQ for 7 years, but somehow we had never operated in a contest together. We hadn't seen each other in 28 years, since I left ARRL HQ and moved to the Rochester area, so this was a great opportunity to reconnect and enjoy some new radio experiences in the NYQP.

Since last year, I upgraded the station in my Honda Pilot, including adding a second antenna up front on a brush guard. I wanted to have a dedicated antenna for 40 meters so we could quickly switch between 20 and 40, or 80 and 40, without having to retune the back antenna. This turned out to be a great asset, as we never had to think about whether it was worthwhile to change bands--we were able to bob back and forth easily. I also added an SGC SG500 amplifier that N5OT found for me earlier in the year, and wired it to the rear antenna. It runs from a dedicated SOK 206-Ah lithium iron phosphate battery that made it through the 12-hour contest period with a lot of charge to spare. These were really good upgrades, as it turned out.

I drafted a 24-county route starting and ending in Albany back in the spring, and N2ZN took that and refined it to what we used. We all got together in Albany Friday afternoon, which was roughly central to us all. Saturday morning we headed up to Washington County, where N2MG/M hit the road about 10 minutes before K2UA/M so we weren't going to interfere with each other but we could stay in simplex range on 2 meters. Most of our stops also coincided with each other, so we had to coordinate which station was on 20 and which was on 40 throughout the day. We wanted to make our counties available to as many stations as possible.

The weather was really great for the first several hours. Sunny, warm, and calm. By midday it was up to 79 degrees Fahrenheit and we were doing well, running a little more than 100 QSOs/hour. Early on, Laci, OM2VL, told us that 15 was open so we went there and made a few QSOs (including one with Laci), but it was too early for any rate. Back to 20.

Much of the day we spent between 20 and 40 and the rates were slowly improving. But in Delaware County, about 4 hours into the contest, it was clear that the weather was about to change and the rates slowed a bit as well head of the front. We needed to take a rest stop/driver change around that time. We pulled into a rest area and the sky opened. The parking lot filled with water and the wind picked up significantly. The front passed quickly but we still lost a bit of time there. Behind the front, we had mostly steady rain the rest of the way except for a nice break around sunset along Seneca Lake--which was really beautiful, including a rainbow just before sunset in Seneca County. At about this time, it became evident that our rates were climbing--we made 150 QSOs in the 21Z hour--so it began to look like 1300 QSOs or more would be possible.

I took a wrong turn in the Cayuga/Onondaga County border area and wound up headed east instead of southeast, which caused a couple of additional stops to regroup on the route. For some reason, the NYS Thruway (I-90 and I-87) does not have county line signs, like every county and state road in NYS does, so I had to plot them out as Mark was operating. We were also now out of simplex range as N2MG and N2ZN had continued on the planned route. We knew about 3 hours before the finish that we were not going to be able to hit all 24 counties, so Mark and I instead agreed to focus on routing back quickly toward Albany on I-90. We didn't have to drop any counties along the path, but we were not able to head north from Montgomery into Fulton and then over to Saratoga before the end. Instead we went straight through Montgomery to Schenectady and Albany Counties.

In the last three hours, we logged 400 stations on 80 meters--it was one giant pile-up for that entire stretch! Usually mobiles experience a nice pile-up when we enter a new county, then a steady QSO rate that tends to tail off toward the next county line, where the cycle begins again. Once we hit 80 meters full-time with a little more than 3 hours to go, it was wall-to-wall from county line to county line. I'd say we rarely had fewer than ten callers at a time, even as we were about to cross the next county line--quite a rush!

We had some regular callers all day long, including OM2VL, K2SSS, and N5OT, just to name a few. We really appreciated their dedicated support! OM2VL worked us 24 times and N5OT and K2SSS each worked us at least as many times as our county total. However, it was tough to pull stations out of the pileup on 80, so at times I called stations in the blind who I suspected were in there calling--including N5OT and OM2VL. The first time I tried this was with OM2VL on 40 in the 21Z hour, and he came right back to me. So I tried the same thing three more times with Laci on 80 meters; he answered me three out of the four times when I called him before I had heard him! That was some real QSO Party

magic right there!

As the contest period was drawing quickly to a close, the rates stayed high--we had a big group of callers right to the end. We crossed into Albany County at 0147Z and made 38 QSOs in that last few minutes, including five Qs in the final minute. When the clock ticked over to 0200Z, we were on the off-ramp next to the hotel and we pulled into the lot at 0201Z. Thrilled and exhausted!

Because we were way out of simplex range, we weren't aware that the N2MG team had decided to go north to put Fulton County on the air at the end. So in total we wound up activating 23 of our 24 planned counties, missing only Saratoga, which turned out to be well-represented.

N2MG and N2ZN were 40 minutes from the hotel at the end, but they stopped for refreshments so we could all enjoy a "cold one" together as we shared our experiences and decompressed a bit from an eventful day. We all had a terrific time and we'll be back in 2022 for another run!

It was great to spend some quality radio time with old friends--both on the air and in our group. In the end, that's what this is all about.

Rig: Kenwood TS-480HX (barefoot on 40 at 200 W); SGC SG500 amplifier on 80, 20, and 15 at 500-600 W

Antennas: 40 meters--Tarheel M40A-HP mounted on a brush guard up front; 80, 20, 15 meters--Tarheel M200A-HP on receiver mount at the back.

--73, Rus, K2UA

N2MG mobile 1283 CW QSO

What a thrill it was to take the F-150 out on its maiden mobile contest voyage and not have anything break - even after 600+ miles through 21 counties and a driving rainstorm. In fact, it all performed tremendously. The station is a Kenwood TS-480HX (200W) with a pair of Tarheel 100A-HP antennas - one at each end of the truck - the rear unit being my more-or-less permanent installation (in the driver side rear corner of the bed) and the front is for the contest only, mounted using a 2" hitch-receiver. While both were tunable from the cab, the front Tarheel was left (as intended) on 40m allowing quicker switching amongst the money bands - a great convenience. The mental anguish of not knowing if one band or the other was open was mitigated by not usually having to wait for an antenna to tune. (Problems, problems!)

Ken, N2ZN, and I took turns at the wheel and at the rig, tag-teaming that "other" motivated mobile multi-op - the K2UA/M team of Rus and Mark K1RO - you may have heard of them - as, together, we traversed New York State's highways, traveling clockwise along a giant "circle" from the Albany, NY area back again to Albany.

Thanks and kudos to Rus for all his help (coercion?) in getting my station on the air and for his team's victory in this inaugural NYQP XL RoadRage Team Smackdown Challenge Cup (tm). And, of course, thanks to the nearly 400 unique stations with good ears, timing and loud-enough signals who diligently

(or not) managed to track N2MG/M across NY and somehow got us in their logs.

KV2X/R mobile Operator(s): AE2DM KV2X 281 CW

no comments

N2CU mobile 728 CW 149 SSB QSO

Wow! Excellent participation from inside and outside the state. Is this the year someone gets the first county sweep? I ran eight counties this year (ALL, CAT, CHA, ERI, GEN, NIA, ORL and WYO) with a different strategy. It must have worked as this is my personal best for the NYQP in the mobile. Thank you to all who dropped by to give me a QSO; most notable OM2VL(20), NS2N(13), K2QO and K3WJV(11), K5CM(10) and plenty of others close behind. Kudos to all the PA stations that returned the favor for my mobile last week when I did mobile in their state. Fellow NFR'ers K2QO and NS2N worked me in every county at least once. As mentioned by others, the pileups were fierce. It's tough when everybody (almost) is calling zero beat. The ones who didn't usually got through first.

I worked 34 counties, 45 states and 5 provinces. Every QSO was from running which explains why I'm low on counties - couldn't follow the other mobiles. Again, thank you to all who participated and please keep it up. This should and will be one of the premier QSO parties with your help.

K3/100

40m hamstick on roof mag mount

KA8KIP screwdriver on hitch mount

N1MM+ (of course)

NFR - We Have Fun!

73, Tom N2CU/m

KA6BIM - fixed CA 177 CW 63 SSB

Fun contest with lots of activity. Too bad the mobiles went to 40 meters so early, I missed several counties they operated from before 40 finally opened to West Coast. Thanks for all the qso's! Dave KA6BIM

OM2VL - fixed - DX 181 CW 100 SSB

15m was again open and I had nice pileup of US station, but unfortunately from NY only few Thank you very much to mobiles to be on 20m also when 40m was closed here! I had nice SSB run on 20/40m! Thanks for the QSOs/QSYs!

Missed counties: (8) CLI, HAM, JEF, LEW, OSW, ROC, STL, WAY

Most QSOs with:

N2MG/M 27/20

K2UA/M 24/19

N2CU/M 21/7

KV2X/M 2/5

NS2N - fixed NY 427 SSB 59 CW

Power failure ! Always exciting, especially rebooting all the USB stuff.

Did work a last county for 6th time. Seemed to be a lot of activity. Too bad more stations weren't listening to 15m.

Thanks for your participation

NS2N

Natural Bingo

This is one of the toughest MARAC awards to earn. So far, no one has succeeded in finishing up this award. I remember once about 20 years ago speaking with a 7 lander who, ahead of the official Natural Bingo award, told me he had over 3,000 counties with just the suffixes and no wildcards.

In the past, there were more county hunter mobiles (maybe 250 of them) and, for the most part, had nice long calls – most 1x3s and 2x3s. That was before the proliferation of 2x1 calls, 2x2 calls, which came later. Calls like N4CD and K8ZZ contribute some to NB, but there are only a handful of 'Z' counties. Maybe a 100 or so C and D counties. You've got a better chance with longer suffixes like K5KDG or K7SEN. Better yet are teams with different letters. Like: KA9JAC/KB9YVT. They are good in six letters of the alphabet.

For NB, only the suffix counts. So calls like AI5P only counts for "P" counties, where the call counts for regular bingo in A, I, and P, plus if you have worked all counties, you're good everywhere for regular bingo. You also have the 'x' wildcard in regular bingo. So hundreds and hundreds have gotten 'bingo'. No wildcards in NB. No credit for self operation in the county even if you have the right letter in your call.

The current rules for Natural Bingo were promoted by Bill, K2NJ. It's a challenge.

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Here's the official rules

Bingo - Natural Bingo

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which the stations are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of their amateur Call Sign.

SPECIAL RULES: For counties with two or more words in the name, the first letter of any word may be used to coincide with the letters in the suffix of the Call Sign (ex: West Baton Rouge or Jim Hogg).

For Alaskan judicial districts use First Judicial District – South East; Second Judicial District – North West; Third Judicial District - South Central; and Fourth Judicial District – Central.

The special rules that apply to Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award for short call signs, repeated letters in call signs, stars, and wild cards do not apply to Natural Bingo. Only the actual letters in the suffix of the Call Sign may be used.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. Natural Bingo is awarded for making Valid Contacts with All USA Counties.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

- -

With FT-8 more popular, there's a chance you could snag some of the needed counties. The state QSO Parties are also a good place to hunt – often 1x1x with the suffix the county letter like a N6A in Alameda, CA. Some of the rarer ones are being run for Parks on the Air – often by newer hams with 2x3 call signs.

Who is going to be first to finish up this award? Is anyone going to do it? We've seen challenges for Master Platinum.....now a bunch have it. Then on to Mobile Diamond. A handful received that award. Now folks are working on Double Diamond (which requires working the few folks that have earned the Mobile Diamond award already). For those awards, self credit counts if you work another MD holder, etc. You can get the ones you need yourself on trips.

Natural Bingo takes someone else with the right letters in the suffix to wander through all 3077 counties. (AK has been done – by at least two mobiles – N4CD and W6TMD). HI? G4KHG has put out Kauai many times. Also N8KIE has done Kauai and Kalawao. Likely the other HI have been gotten. However, that leaves a lot of the west and places like KY, GA, for the challenge.

Illinois QSO Party

Likely nearly all the IL counties were on the air – many 40 and 80m only but there for the taking. Lots of mobiles and rovers, some portables and lots of fixed stations joined in. Not much happening on 15 or 10m. High scorers from out of state seemed to have worked in the 80s for counties – there are 102 in IL. Can't tell if any in state folks worked more.

AD4EB mobile 1313 CW

This was the 7th time we operated mobile in the ILQP, and we ended up with our highest number of contacts and total score. Melody drove the same route as last year, covering all the planned 23 counties (307 miles), and stayed on schedule for just about the entire time.

Activity was much higher than any of the previous years, and the pileups were just massive towards the end of the contest. I had a difficult time keeping up rate during the last 2 hours for two reasons. First, propagation was superb for both short and long skip causing everybody to be super loud making call hard to decipher. And second, it seemed most everyone was tuned right on my frequency and not spread out hardly at all. It was the toughest and most exhausting pileup conditions I've ever experienced as mobile in these QSO parties. Guess this is actually a compliment for the WIARC and all the Illinois CW operators, you guys put on an incredibly popular QSO party this year! Ended up working 279 unique calls (was 253 last year, and 209 the year before).

I knew 15m was open because Laci OM2VL moved me there for my only 15m QSO. But I was so busy on 20m and 40m that I never found the time to try and get something going there. Best rate for 1 hour was 195.

The 12 most worked stations include:

K9RS (35)
AC4G (29)
K9CT (28)
OM2VL (23)
K9NW (22)
W8PI (22)
KA6BIM (21)
DL3DXX (20)
K9RN (19)
NS2N (19)
K8MR (18)
W6OAT (18)

Congratulations to these stations, and thanks to everyone who took the time to work us in the contest. I

apologize to those stations I could hear calling, but had to move in to the next county to stay on schedule. Sure wish we had had more time.

Thanks to those that helped put together this excellent QSO Party. And thanks again to Melody for driving and navigating me down thru Illinois for the 2021 ILQP.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

WA9LEY mobile 111 CW 95 SSB

Operated mobile from 3 counties, Grundy, Will and Cook. FT891 to ATAS120A antenna on a mag mount. In Grundy and Will, I operated from Parks On The Air parks and gave out my POTA park# and Illinois County. My antenna works pretty well on 20 but has an elevated SWR on 40. I need to work on that for future mobile outings.

K9WX mobile 573 SSB

Made no comment

N9G (N9JF) mobile 782 CW 7 SSB

The usual "zipping around the state, trying to activate the counties where nobody else goes". Great job of driving by KB9CES as always. Thanks for all the fun

N9EP portable (KU9Z N9BRZ N9EP WA9JS) 435 CW 181 SSB

Portable from ILLINI STATE PARK in Marseilles (LaSalle County)

W9JWC 142 CW 146 SSB

Operator(s): AC9YC KD9LSV KD9TNZ KD9WHO

Thanks for all that worked for us. It was so much fun to be out in the field operating ILQP. For all of those that operated on CW thanks for your patience with my not the greatest sending. It was a lot of fun operating till the end of the test. 80m CW was just so loud and awesome to work till the end of the contest.

These logs will be sent to the POTA group very shortly as we were at K-4093.

KK9U portable QRP - 250 CW QSO

Wow what a lot of fun! I got out a little bit later and the county line pavilion at Rend Lake (POTA K-1029 Wayne Fitzgerald State Park) was closed to vehicle traffic so I had to carry everything in from a nearby boat ramp. It was only about half a mile and I was able to fit most of the station and food in my back pack. That little bit put me behind on time though. I was QRP with an 84' random wire in sort of an inverted-v configuration. It was smooth sailing until the sun starting going down and the temp dropped below 60. I packed up an hour early. I think this was my most QSO's in a single day ever. Much better than the 34 Q's I made in the MO QSO Party over two days. Not bad for just starting learning CW in April! I can't wait to try and beat my own score next year.

N0AC Rover 697 CW QSO

Thanks go to all those operators that got on the air and QSOed the Illinois stations. This would not be any fun without you.

Thanks to the WIARC for organizing and sponsoring the QSO Party.

A big thank you goes to my non-ham wife for piloting the truck though many Illinois back roads safely.

As usual I am in awe of Jim's, AD4EB, operation. He and Melody are a team to be admired.

I thought the activity was lower contrary to AD4EB's post. Our band totals are reversed so what does that tell me? I always tried to spend 1/2 of my county time on 20 and 40m. A few times I tried 15m but as you can see that wasn't productive. Should I have spent more time on 40 than 20m? So the QSO party is in the books now and can't be changed.

I have a new mobile shack this year retiring the Dodge Ram and replacing it with a Nissan Titan, new computer and K1EL keying interface. I only ran one antenna as the truck is still a works in progress. There is much more to iron out.

We activated 11 total counties and took almost 1 1/4 hours off getting my wife back to the motel before I activated my last three counties solo.

Those with 10 or more QSOs were (in no order):

DL3DXX, 10
K9CT, 13
K9NW, 11
K9RS, 17
KA6BIM, 13
N9NM, 11
NU7J, 11
OM2VL, 10
W6OAT, 11

and many many 1's, 2's, and 3's. Thank you all!

Bill, N0AC/m

AA0Z Rover 14 CW 357 SSB

40M was on fire for in state contacts. 2 POTA locations helped with the run rate. Hit 123 SSB Q's during hour #3. Spent 2.5 hours at each park operating.

Some Special Needs

Selected from the K3IMC needs page. Some DX – now that 20M is somewhat better – and a few others closing in (and not needing Kalawao/AK). There are many needs for Kalawao and the AK districts. Lots of needs posted for everything from first time to 8th or 9th time, Bingo, MP, MD, prefixes, call combos, etc. See what you can help out with.

OM2VL - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/7/2021

If you can help, please send email or call/text +421 905 975 274. Thank you for looking! 73, Laci
OM2VL

AL: Conecuh
AR: Greene
CO: San Juan
KY: Clay, Elliott, Magoffin, Trimble, Wolfe
MT: Beaverhead, Big Horn
NE: Garden, Sioux
OH: Hardin
TX: Calhoun, , Goliad, Mitchell, Willacy
VA: Russell

Email to totya.om2vl@gmail.com

PA3ARM - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:10/1/2021

AL: Covington
AZ: Santa Cruz
CO: Clear Creek, Grant, Jackson, Mineral, Pitkin, Routt, Summit
HI: Kalawao
ID: Clearwater
KS: Grant, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, Stanton
KY: Green, Hancock, Knox
LA: Beauregard, East Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Washington, West Feliciana
MT: Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Treasure
NE: Box Butte, Johnson, Scotts Bluff, Sioux
OR: Benton, Columbia, Crook, Grant, Josephine, Lake, Lincoln, Tillamook, Wheeler
TX: Calhoun, Comanche, Ector, Hutchinson, Jeff Davis, Kimble, Lamb, Lampasas, Nolan,

Upton

UT: Tooele

WA: Wahkiakum

Email to PA3ARM@arrl.net

DL3DXX - 2nd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:10/20/2021

CO: Costilla Dolores Gunnison Hinsdale Mineral Montezuma Pitkin Rio Blanco Rio Grande
San Juan San Miguel

IL: Putnam

KY: Ballard Bath Carlisle Carter Crittenden Elliott Floyd Fulton Hickman Johnson Martin

Menifee Morgan Rowan Wolfe

LA: Red River Union

MI: Alger Isabella Otsego St. Joseph

MN: Koochiching Lincoln Marshall Pipestone Roseau

MO: Pemiscot

MS: Calhoun Copiah Covington George Issaquena Jefferson Davis Lawrence Marion Stone

Walthall

MT: Park Sanders

ND: Barnes Eddy Foster Stutsman

NM: Otero

NV: Nye

NY: Essex Lewis Warren

OR: Gilliam Hood River Lake

TX: Aransas Bailey Briscoe Cherokee Crosby Dimmit Hemphill Jeff Davis Jim Hogg Jim

Wells Lee Presidio Roberts San Jacinto Starr Webb Zapata Zavala

UT: Juab

VA: Amelia Botetourt

WI: Columbia Florence Juneau Marinette Menominee

WY: Lincoln Sublette

Email to dl3dxx@gmx.de

KØDEQ - Bingo Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/22/2021

GA: Evans

MO: Cedar

W9DC - Master Gold Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/22/2021

AK: Third

AL: Bibb

KY: Lauderdale

NC: Scotland

TX: Swisher

Email to don@w9dc.com

WY8I - Master Platinum Award using SSB and CW - Updated:9/22/2021

NC: Pamlico

WA: Island

Email to wy8i@comcast.net

W6OAT - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/12/2021

AR: Clark
IA: Van Buren
ID: Camas
IL: Montgomery, Stark
KY: Hickman
LA: Avoyelles
MI: Alcona
NE: Garfield
NY: Clinton, Hamilton, Lewis, Tioga
TX: Hutchinson, Roberts
WV: Mingo

Email to w6oat@sbcglobal.net

K5WAF - 1st Time Award using CW Only - Updated:10/1/2021

GA: Crawford
KY: Magoffin, Todd
NY: Greene
TX: Houston, Karnes, Nacogdoches

Email to K5WAF@ARRL.NET

K5ZE - USACA Award using SSB and CW - Updated:10/21/2021

HI: Kalawao
NC: Alexander, Ashe, Camden, Currituck, Hyde, Madison, Perquimans, Rutherford, Vance
PA: Cameron, Indiana, Sullivan
TN: Van Buren, Weakley

Email to k5zeglenn@gmail.com

DL6KVA - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:10/1/2021

I have to catch condx of course! But now we see condx improving so please let me know if you plan to activate those needed on CW. May be we can make it ;)

ID: Clearwater
NM: Sierra
WV: Mingo

Email to dl6kva@darc.de

KG5RJ - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/15/2021

Only need 17 more to finish. Counties marked with* are ones worked but not verified

AR: Franklin, Perry*
IA: Adair*
IL: Stark*
KS: Clay, Comanche, Grant, Greeley, Wichita
KY: Mclean, Pendleton*
NE: Grant*
NY: Lewis
OK: Blaine, Harmon, Tillman

SD: Campell*
TN: Lake
TX: Irion, Kent, Mcculloch, Robertson, Scurry, Throckmorton

K4YT - 1x2 Combo Award using Any Mode - Updated:10/11/2021

LA: Assumption

MS: Jefferson

Email to hs0zdg@gmail.com

K4YT - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:10/11/2021

PA: Montour

Email to hs0zdg@gmail.com

W4YDY - 2nd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:10/7/2021

ONE left for WBOW!

OR: Crook

Please check needs for updates and check with the folks needing counties before planning trip. Needs change day by day. (other than Kalawao – hi hi – which takes a special trip)

<http://countyhunterweb.org/DisplayNeeds.php>

End of Month Thoughts

The fall is 'happening' for most of the country. Snow has already happened in the higher elevations. The leaves are turning/falling and in New England, is maple sap time. Soon folks will be off on ski trips or headed to the south of the US as snow birds. The last days of October see Halloween, and before you know it, it's Thanksgiving. Mobile activity has been scaled back – vacation trips are over, and soon the snow will be flying over the northern states.

The bands are improving – by bits and spurts with some days of 'blah' propagation as well. Probably time to check for 15 and 12 and 10m mobile capability. November sees a bunch of BIG contests from Sweepstakes to DX.

Prices for gas are up from \$1.74/gal average when Joe Biden took office to now \$3.50/gal average nationwide gas. Over \$4 in CA and nearby and places in CA with \$8/gal gas. The price just climbed over \$3 in TX. Fortunately cars get better mileage these days, but it still is a bit of shock to put \$40 or \$50 in gas in your 4 banger car! Those giant pickup trucks with 20-24 gallon tanks – ouch - \$60 to \$80 fillups! Got a 1960s muscle car that gets 6 or 8 mpg? Fill up the tank, drive 50 miles to the car show, head home 50 miles, and put \$50 in gas back into the tank! Ouch!

There's a shortage of parts for new cars, so it's hard to even buy a new car these days. Or get one

repaired as replacement parts from oil filters to engine parts are 'unobtainium' sitting on a ship somewhere waiting to be unloaded and/or transported. Or even made in countries with raging COVID infections.

We head into more than a year of COVID-19 and associated problems. The anti-vaxxers are keeping this going longer and longer than necessary. Booster shots are now available for those over 65 for Moderna and probably everyone for Pfizer. Got my 3rd shot this month. Hope you have, too. Also got my senior 'flumax quadrivalent' flu shot, too.

Let's hope in the months ahead, this is all 'ended' for the most part and county hunting/conventions and hamfests get back to normal. Club meetings here are still ZOOM. Smaller get togethers are happening. It could have been all over now if the 100 million lazy and anti-vaxxers had gotten in line. Oh well. It's their 'free-dumb' bit. I have no sympathy when one of them dies, and their dying breath statement is "I should have gotten the shot". You can't fix stupid. Don't be one of them. Even if you think you 'had' it, other variants can take you down. It's not politics. It's not 'Trump' vs 'anti-Trump'. It's medical science. Oh well. Stay safe.

Awards Issued

Worked All Counties: **W4YDY** completed his 8th time on 7 October 2021, He received #18

Single Band Award: **W4SIG** completed the 40 meter band on 10/3/2021. He received #4

Roadrunner Award: **W0GXQ** has attained 1400 last counties on 23 August 2021.

Roadrunner Award: **K2HVN** has attained 975 last counties on 7 October 2021. He received #14

RAS Award: **K0DEQ** completed Indiana on 10/1/2021, He received #148

For K0DEQ:

Bingo: completed 10/21/2021 - #376

USA Digital: Level 1000 on 20/22/2021 - #21

Single Band: 17 meters, Level 2000 on 10/12/2021 - #4

Single Band: 80 meters, Level 2000 on 10/22/2021 - #1

For KC3X:

RAS DE on 5/7/1988 - #77

RAS MD on 10/4/1996 - #35

RAS NC on 11/4/1987 - #25

RAS SC on 4/11/2021 - #36

Events for County Hunters

Hope you were very active for the fall QSO Party season. It's over. Nothing left for the year.

In November there are two big contests – Sweepstakes – Nov 6 for CW – Nov 20 for SSB. Join in or avoid but not good weekends to be out running counties unless on the other mode from the contesters.

A few other contests such as 10-10 digital (hello, 10M? Where are you?) and similar.

See the complete list at

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2021/November%202021%20Corral.pdf>

Don't forget to sign up for the MI Mini coming up in April 2022! Registration/Hotel now open.

Future planning – MARAC 2022 Convention next fall – stay tuned for more updates.

That's all this month. That's enough! 73 de N4CD