

County Hunter News OnLine

November 2022
Volume 18 Issue 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Sunspots – We got them. Some days great with 17, 15 and above active. Lots of DX from fixed stations, especially FT-8 being worked world wide, on upper bands.

2) COVID - still with us. Get your boosters. Only a small percent of population has (under 20%). New variants are around (and protected if boosted) but likely to re-infect those who 'had it before' again. Flu going around big time again this fall/winter. Free Senior flu shots. Kids getting RSV and many out sick.

3) What a month! Loads of QSO reports to report on – from the mobiles and portables mostly, but some fixed stations who report WHICH mobiles they work. I can't always dig that up and it's very helpful if fixed stations report on what mobiles were out there! Many CH folks participate, some put their score on the 3830 scores page – but alas, almost all have no comments.

4) Really a LOT of mobile activity this month with the convention. 40 descended upon Bozeman – nearly all driving – and some on the road for more than 3 weeks – some five or six weeks on extended trips running a lot of the northwest USA and places like UT, NV, CA, MT, ID, WA, OR filling in tons of counties.

5) Gas Prices - leaving TX with \$3.20/gal , I headed north. Not much more in OK

and KS, then started heading toward just under \$4 a gallon for the rest of the trip over to MT – dropped a bit in WY and CO but higher until I got back to TX. Now \$3.13 at the Walmart and likely \$2.99 at the Costco. Nationwide, gas still about \$3.75+ and about \$5/gal out in CA and the Pacific Northwest.

6) winter arrives - As we head to November, the upper Peninsula of MI already received six inches of snow in mid October. Soon the freezing temps, snow and ice will descent upon the northern states slowing activity there. All the QSO parties are over and now into Contest season with Sweepstakes, 10M contest, 160M contest coming up. DX contests as well. Those western interstates and mountain passes will have shut downs and requirements for chains, so if you are contemplating running northern counties – plan ahead, leave time for delays – and hopefully no weather events on your trip. ! We switch back to regular time from Daylight Saving time in early November.

Forecast for winter - La Nina presence will be felt. Warmer in southern part of country. Less rain. More drought in CA. Northern tier colder and wetter than normal. Midwest – especially OH – colder and wetter. East coast warmer winter other than ME, VT, NH, NY upstate. But who knows?

New USACA Awards

From NX0X, Awards Custodian, CQ Magazine:

Congratulations go out to both OM2VL and W6OAT for finishing the whole ball of wax.

Awards are as follows:

OM2VL award number 1270 dated Aug 7th, 2022 a

W6OAT award number 1271 dated Aug 19th, 2022. 7

3' Brian - NX0X USA-CA Award Custodian

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Brian reported overall, the number of ALL USACAs issued per decade issued is falling but there is a steady stream of USACA-500 counties worked. Much of it is via eQSL confirmations (which CQ Mag accepts). Many, many DX stations get 500 counties there on CW/FT-8 and stop at that point, wanting the colorful large USACA Award for their walls. Few go on beyond that point. You can track that in the CQ Awards page every month or two when it is updated.

Mobile Activity in October

Several mobiles were seriously working on their 'USACA All Counties Transmitted'. Lots of fun for the chasers and they did large parts of the north and northwest USA on long trips.

Starting about Sept 25

N8HAM was busy running counties in MT. All over the state.

N9JF was spotted in parks/counties in Maine, into NH,

KA4RRU was noted returning from CT through PA, NY back to VA

N5MLP noted in Island, Wa then into more WA counties into MT – Still going strong at mid month with more counties in WY.

W4SIG was waiting for a tow-truck in NV. Spent some time getting car repaired. Soon running all over NV. Into OR, ID, WA, all over MT,

K3IMC spotted in IL headed west on his trip. Into IA, MO, west to MT.

N4CD spotted in KS, NE, SD, ND, moving north then west to Bozeman through MT.

N8MD spotted mobile in MN

W8OP and WB8III spotted in IN headed to convention (same car) , out in WY, MT,

NF0N spotted in SD moving west into ND,

WQ7A noted moving east from WA into MT,

AB7NK/K7SEN noted in UT headed to MT, via ID, Then UT,

K6YEK spotted in MT

W7FLZ spotted out in MT

Then it was quiet for a day or two around the 3rd and 4th at the convention. Mobiles were back on the road.

N4CD headed home via MT, WY, CO, OK, TX in 3 days. Just ran a park or two the whole way home.

W4SIG headed to ID to run more there. Then down into NV

K3IMC headed west to ID then into WY , to CO, to NM,

AB7NK/K7SEN headed west to ID then south.

N5MLP was running more MT counties , into ID, OR, UT and still going strong two and three weeks after the convention putting them out. Winter weather as he came through CO on 10/24 there – slight delay. Snow in the higher elevations and mountain passes.

W8OP/WB8III headed east quickly through MN,

K6YEK headed west to ID

N8HAM spotted in MT counties. Into IA,

K8ZZ left home in MN and headed east through WI, down through KY, to WV, VA, NC to SC. Ran lots of SC. Into GA, AL, MS and still going strong mid October in NC and VA. .

KB6UF headed north from LA – spotted in IL, IA, NE, SD, ND,

K5GE popped up in VA, ran counties there then into NC, SC , GA, AL circling back

into AR headed home not longer after that. Was he tag teaming K8ZZ? On the road for over a week. Lots of counties.

WY0A noted out on a big trip west though CO, into UT, into CA, NV running dozens there. Returned through CO mid month.

Rick, AI5P, out and about – parks in many states including NE.

Bill, K2HVN mobile in NJ counties around the 22nd.

Comment de N4CD – Who is going to be the next to finish running all 3077 Counties? Many mobiles were doing entire sections of the country will out 'west' on very long trips with hundreds of counties run! So far 18 county hunters have done it with the latest being K3IMC in 2016, N4JT(ex-KB4XK) in 2015, AB4YZ(SK) in 2013, AF3X in 2013, AI5P in 2012.

The first was KB7QO (SK) in 1988 (all SSB). Second was W1TEE(SK) in 1991 - all CW. Third was WA0SBR (SK) in 1998. Fourth was N4CD in 2002. Fifth K0GO* (Nell) (SK) in 2002. Next was N4AAT (SK) in 2006, N7ID*(SK) in 2006, KK0L in 2007, followed by N8KIE/N8RLJ 2009. KL1V in 2010, AA9JJ/N9QPQ in 2011.

Of the list, only half a dozen are still active in 2022.

KALAWAO !!!

K4YT Kalawao/Maui Trip Nov 10-15

Flying to Maui on the 10th so on the 11th early morning I will be on Molokai. After I get settled I will drive over to the park to run the CL. Two days of operation in case we don't have good props. I will have coils 80-10M and use my IC 7300 and keyer. If bad condx then I will do only CW or maybe FT8. I will post myself so watch the spots. Relay stations will be appreciated.

Posted by K4YT 10/16/2022 on County Hunter Forum

On the Road with N4CD I

The trip was scheduled to depart on Monday, Sept 17, headed to Bozeman MT for the Annual County Hunter Convention/MARAC meeting. I'd take over a week to get there via North Dakota.

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The following 'objectives' would be sought.

A) Run lots of parks and counties on the way up and back..

B) Put out a park in ND. There is a parks on the air award from transmitting one park or more in each of the 50 states. No one had really done it. N9VER received the first award for doing it – except POTA allows you to use Washington DC as a 'wild card' so he only actually made it to 49 state (missed HI) and used DC as one state. Hmm....Not exactly fair in my book. I'd try to be the first to do it 'the right way'. I was missing parks in ND, ME, RI, CT and DE.

There are no National Parks or National Historic Sites in RI and CT. I was close to them already on the 2016 trip – but no need to get there. In 2016, I made it to 38 states as part of National Parks on the Air, plus already had put out parks in the majority of states. Fortunately, both HI (Kilawao – Kalauppapa SHS) and Volcanoes National Park in HI, and the Iditarod Trail in AK at Nome AK (the end point – and Safety Road House is one site along the trail where I made a run) were done. The hard ones for most people were done, and I had run parks (mostly state forests or national forests) in many more states. I'd been to NP in Washington and other places, and of course, had been to all 50 states for Transmitted All Counties MARAC Award. Never was concerned though with 'parks'. Had been at a dozen more NP a long long time ago when the family made trips out west - camping, but no radio logs. Wasn't even a ham as a kid until age 17.

Spent many weeks here searching through logs and QSLs trying to find places where I'd somehow been in park. When I first got licensed, did a lot of 6M AM hilltopping.

Found enough QSL cards from one day to assemble logs for Sunrise MT NJ, Mt Greylock MA, and two other parks. Had fun 'hilltopping' back then – with a Lafayette HE-45B 6M AM rig, Saturn Six Mobile Halo antenna or Hilltopper portable 6M beam. I would go up to the local hilltops and sit for hours making contacts. Luckily sent out and got back lots of QSL cards. Those I kept. Logs from before 1990 don't exist here – lost or discarded in many moves along the time line. I'd probably made 5000 more QSOs operating W2SZ/1 in half a dozen or more VHF contests in the 70s and 80s from MT Greylock MA (a park). 6M was my favorite band. No logs from then.

Only had a handful of states to do now. ND was on the list. Otherwise, the short route to Bozeman comes nowhere near ND- Hi Hi .

No one is ever going to do 'all Parks'. There are over 9700 of them now! They keep adding a couple hundred a year. Dozens are in the boonies in AK too – think float plane air trips to get to some. Another dozen or more in HI. Some have worked over 4000 different parks now! Some you've got to hike in 20 miles or more to get to them!

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So, the adventure starts. Before the trip, had 'medical issues' – basically clogged up plumbing. Seems it's easy for me to become constipated. Older age and Post Polio Syndrome problems rearing their ugly head. Got cleaned out Saturday night, so hoped I was ready to go. Crossed fingers and left on Monday.

Monday Sept 26 2022

Plano, TX to McPherson, KS 416 miles

I was thinking of heading to KS for the QP, but the state was well covered and not worth a \$150 or more trip just for it. Skipped it. I'd run most of the first day route this time which hit several new parks there. (No need to do repeats)

Headed on up through OK on I-35. Then would take 81 up through Salina KS and further north through NE.

First up Black Kettle State Fishing Lake K- 7412 McPherson County KS

This is a 5 acre lake – max depth 9 ft. Not bad fishing for smaller fish.

Only needed 10 QSOs and put 79 more to the total there. Easy to run site not far off

Interstate/Highway 81.

McPherson Valley Wetlands State Wildlife Area K-7937



McPherson Valley Wetlands are a disconnected chain of marshes, wetlands, and shallow lakes in McPherson County, Kansas. Once covering a much larger area, 4,455 acres of the wetlands and surrounding prairie was protected by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism as of 2011

from the state site:

Currently the area holds 51 independently managed wetland pools, two refuges that include approximately 650 total acres and approximately 350 acres of water when full, and provides a total of approximately 1,750 surface acres of water when full for migrating waterfowl. The area is managed intensively for waterfowl, but also provides

good opportunity for pheasant, quail, and dove hunting. The spring migration is a spectacular sight for viewing migratory birds in full plumage. Many species common to the central flyway can be found at the wetlands during this time. Most notably, for the first time in 100 years, whooping cranes visited the area in 1995. In the spring of 2016, 17 whooping cranes were observed in the Big Basin marshes.

Put 58 QSO in the log from here.

Headed to the motel – Holiday Inn Express. No Wyndham properties nearby. Nice hotel chain – a bit more, but motels this trip were mostly just over \$100 each night by the time they added tax. Some were more. This about \$105 plus tax– but includes nice hot breakfast with eggs, sausage, etc. fruit, cereal, biscuits and gravy, and more.

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Tuesday 9/27/2022

McPherson, KS to York NE 180 miles

After nice breakfast, headed to the fist park. 25 miles off the main route.

Kanopolis Lake State Park k-2342 Ellsworth County KS



There had been 37 previous activations – just about all on SSB from here. No shortage of activity if you chased them on SSB. When you can camp, lots of activity it seems as folks stay a few days or a weekend and 'set up' portable.

From the state site:

“The first state park in Kansas, Kanopolis State Park is situated in the rolling hills, bluffs and woods of the scenic Smoky Hills region of the state. From the towering Dakota

sandstone bluffs to the caves and crevices of Horsethief Canyon, the park and surrounding area offer rugged beauty and stunning vistas. The park is split into two areas north and south of the dam and there are two federal parks, as well.

Kanopolis offers more than 30 miles of trails open to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, 15 of which are on the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area. The 3,500-acre lake and 12,500-acre wildlife area provide anglers and hunters abundant fish and game. Nestled near the Smoky Hill River toward the northwest portion of the wildlife area is Faris Caves, which were carved by early pioneers and served as milk house, school house, and living quarters.

Wildlife viewing and photography opportunities are plentiful. In the winter, bald eagles and ospreys fish the river. Songbirds and wildflowers brighten the landscape throughout the area.”

Added in 47 cw QSOs to the log here. Nice state park if you're nearby or camping. Sadly, there's no TV hookups or wi-fi in the campgrounds – guaranteed to not be popular with teenagers these days!

Mushroom Rock State Park KFF/ k- 2346 Ellsworth KS





from the state web;

One of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Geography, Mushroom Rock is the smallest, but one of the most unique, state parks in Kansas. The park is only 5 acres but boasts some of the most unusual rock formations anywhere. The rocks served as meeting places and landmarks for Native Americans and early pioneers such as John C. Fremont and Kit Carson.

Resembling giant mushrooms rising above the horizon, the Dakota formations of Mushroom Rock State Park are the remains of beach sands and sediments of the Cretaceous Period, the interval of geologic time from about 144 to 66 million years ago. Sandstone and sedimentary rock is held together by natural cement. The concretions that make up Mushroom Rocks are cemented calcium carbonate. The largest rock measures 27 feet in diameter.

. Sandstone and sedimentary rock is held together by natural cement. The concretions

that make up Mushroom Rocks are cemented calcium carbonate.] There are two mushrooms and a giant shoe rock, as well as numerous other rock formations in the 5-acre park.”

Not much else there – no camping facilities. Only a few hundred feet of gravel road in the park – you've got to walk to see the best mushrooms on one of two trails. Five miles or more on gravel roads to get there from most directions. Barely internet there. Out in boonies with no one living nearby.

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There had been 10 activations from there with 314 previous Qs. I added in 37 More. Same county as previous park so no pile of county hunters showed up. Cellular signals weak – this is the boonies of KS.

Nearby is **Smoky Hills State Wildlife Area k-7944 in Ellsworth KS**

After talking to ranger at Knopolis, found out it was short distance to this SWA – gave me directions on how to get to a parking spot for it. So I went!

From the web:

“Centrally located on Kanopolis Reservoir and managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), Smoky Hill Wildlife Area consists of 4180 acres of land and 885 acres of water. Kanopolis Reservoir covers approximately 3000 acres. The entire US Army Corps of Engineers property extends along the Smoky Hill River for over 15,000 acres.”

While this is officially closed, you can go to the designated parking areas but not enter further into the WMA during Sept 1 to Jan 2023.. That per the ranger. OK with me!

Just added 17 – needed 10. Same county. Didn't stick around long – in and out in 15 minutes.

Saline State Fishing Lake - Saline County KS K-7422

There had been 7 activations and 204 QSO from here to date. I'd add a few. Only need 10 for a POTA only park. Most fishing lakes are not in the WWFF /KFF system where

you need 44 qso for a full activation.

From the state site:

“During low water levels over the last several years, the lake has been closed to vehicle access and fishing. When full, Saline State Fishing Lake has 39 acres of water surrounded by 39 acres of land. Facilities include a boat ramp, fishing piers, a vault toilet and several fishing access points.”

Luckily it was open. So I put it out.

Bruning Dam WMA NE K-4024

“Fillmore County, Nebraska; two (2) miles east, one (1) mile north, and one (1) mile east of Bruning, Nebraska.”

Well, that's a nice description but it won't get you there. Headed east on the main road. Luckily there was road repair person there who could clarify the route. Two miles east on gravel road. Turn north one mile on gravel road , turn east half mile on gravel road and it will be on the left. Found it.

A State Recreation Area and wildlife viewing around a large size lake was there.

To date, 4 activations and 104 QSOs made from here. Added 71 to the stats.

Headed to motel – Days Inn in York NE. Not many miles but a bunch of parks today taking an hour plus each.

China Buffet for dinner. Gas \$3.47/gal.

Day 3 – York NE to Chamberlain SD - 300 miles

Headed at out 7:30 am. 46F outside

Neligh Mill State Historic Site K-3374 Antelope NE 9/28 TEMP: 44F



picture from the state site

To date, there had been 3 activations and just 41 QSOs from here. It's sort of in the boonies.

From the web;

“Sift through the story of milling in Nebraska and tour a mill with its original 1880s equipment still intact! The Neligh Mill is a surviving reminder of the grist mills that once dotted Nebraska's landscape. Explore the mill, restored mill office, reconstructed flume and penstock, and the remains of the mill dam. Museum displays explain the history of the Neligh Mill and provide information about other water-powered mills once located throughout Nebraska and the Midwest.

The Neligh Mill was erected by the founder of Neligh, John Neligh in the mid to late 1800's. John D. Neligh, founder of the Nebraska town of Neligh, began building the brick mill on the Elkhorn River in 1873. Another Neligh businessman, W. C. Gallaway, took over the mill and completed construction, including damming the Elkhorn River. A water turbine, which was positioned horizontally, powered the gear in the mill's basement. On August 29, 1874, the mill began operation, grinding wheat, corn, and buckwheat.

In 1886 the mill converted from stone mill burrs to modern steel rollers. It provided flour and meal for customers across Nebraska, as well as the War Department and Indian

Bureau. Improvements in the mill's turbines allowed it to generate electrical power for the town, supplying it until 1925.”

Note: Many of these sites close for the winter on Oct 1 or have limited hours. Or no hours - Many state parks in MT and other northern states close for the season, too!

Radio conditions not the greatest many of the trip days with K=3 type numbers. A bit flakey but CW worked OK for the most part. Power line overhead gave two S units of noise. Seldom went to SSB. My ears are not good enough to decipher pileups on SSB. Lots of pileups on CW when first at the park until I work half of them.

Randall Creek K-8187 Gregory SD

To date – 5 activations 92 QSOs

from the web:

“Randall Creek Recreation Area is located on the banks of the Missouri River, downstream from Fort Randall Dam. Spend hours peacefully watching the water flow, observing the animals and birds that frequent the area, and enjoying the breathtaking beauty of the surrounding shoreline.

The US Army Corps of Engineers began building the dam in 1946 and started generating electricity in 1954.

Located on the banks of the Missouri River downstream from Fort Randall Dam, the recreation area offers a wide view of the Missouri River with great boating and kayaking opportunities.

Recreational Opportunities include wildlife viewing, boating, fishing, paddling (canoeing/kayaking), camping, basketball, disc golf, golf, horseshoes, volleyball, and viewing sites of historical interest. “

Added in 37 QSOs to the total. Many of these parks are not frequently run! If you operate SSB you could probably work 200+ in an hour from here in a hour. Nice park.

When you get to Chamberlain, you'll find a nice Lewis And Clark Interpretive Center And Keelboat Museum right off the Interstate.

From the web: “The Lewis and Clark Information Center in Chamberlain is situated on the site of a Corps of Discovery encampment.

At the center, visitors are able to climb aboard a re-creation of the expedition’s 55-foot keelboat, which sits both inside and outside the center and appears to traverse a 30-foot wall of windows overlooking the Missouri River. Exhibits inside the center depict items the explorers brought on their journey and show examples of the wildlife the Corps encountered.” “The center commemorates the Lewis & Clark 1803-1806 expedition as they voyaged through South Dakota”

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail K-4572 in Brule SD

Found myself at a point where the river boat they used to start the expedition headed up the river right next to the motel for the night. Found a spot within 50 feet of the water and ran the park for a 'quickie'. Thousands of QSOs have been made from along the trail and the spots they stopped at. Did a quick 25 Qs.

At the Interpretative Center, you're on a high bluff overlooking the river, but can't run it there. You've got to get near the river itself as it's a 'water route'. Or at one of the spots they camped at if possible to get there by car.

Motel that night – Super 8 Chamberlain SD.

Stop by emergency room. Total constipation. Problem taken care of. Couple hours spent there.

September 29 Thursday - chilly outside

Chamberlain SD to Sturgis SD 235 miles

Made another quickie run at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail K-4572 then got moving again headed west and a bit north.

Buffalo Gap National Grasslands K-7487

from the web:

“The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is one of 20 National Grasslands. For visitors that

enjoy getting away from it all, Buffalo Gap National Grassland hosts an array of unique opportunities to do just that. The National Grasslands contains a surprising diversity of plants and animals and are one of the most extensive, productive ecosystems in the United States. The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is administered by the USDA and encompasses nearly 600,000 acres located in scattered tracts within southwestern South Dakota.

The National Grasslands Visitor Center is located in Wall, South Dakota. “

It is also the second largest National Grassland, after Little Missouri National Grassland in North Dakota. Characteristics of the grasslands include mixed prairie and chalky badlands. The grassland is managed by the U.S. Forest Service”

Put 73 QSO in the log from here. Apparently a KFF park as many DX worked me! I'll have to track down the number in that system.

Wall SD? If you've driven the Interstate – you've seen signs saying stop by – same on secondary roads. At least 200 miles away on the back roads – STOP AT WALL! Giant tourist trap but good break if you need one.

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I'm running counties along the route. Not many parks in this neck of the woods.

Arrive at Sturgis SD – parks nearby

Bear Butte State Park – K/KFF- 2916 in Meade County SD

“Mato Paha or “Bear Mountain” is the Lakota name given to Bear Butte State Park. This geological formation is one of several intrusions of igneous rock in the Black Hills that formed millions of years ago. From the 4,426 foot summit, you can view four states.

The mountain is sacred to many American Indian tribes who come here to hold religious ceremonies. Artifacts dating back 10,000 years have been found near Bear Butte. In more recent times, however, the Cheyenne and Lakota people have maintained a spiritual tie to this mountain. Notable leaders including Red Cloud, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull have all visited Bear Butte. These visits culminated with an 1857 gathering of many Indian nations to discuss the advancement of white settlers into the Black Hills. George A. Custer, who led an expedition of 1,000 men into the region, camped near the mountain. Custer verified the rumors of gold in the Black Hills. Bear Butte then served

as a landmark that helped guide the rush of invading prospectors and settlers into the region.

Afternoon thunderstorms in the summer may bring lightning, hail, strong winds and heavy rains. Snow may fall as early as September and may last until mid-May.”

I see Rick, AI5P was here previously. Many QSOs made on SSB from here – about 1000 but not many on cw. 18 previous activations.

George Mickelson State Trail K- 8164

Starts right near Sturgis in Lead SD going north from there. I stopped at trailhead in the national forest for a two-fer. Spot just before as you descend into the woods with no internet at the trail site there. Little cell service in the NF itself.

from the state website:

“Imagine a path where the ghosts of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane still roam; where bicyclists, hikers and horseback riders can explore spruce and ponderosa pine forests; and the very young, the very old and people of all abilities can enjoy.

The George S. Mickelson Trail, in the heart of the beautiful Black Hills, was completed in September of 1998. Its gentle slopes and easy access allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills. Much of the trail passes through National Forest Land, but there are parts of the trail that pass through privately owned land, where the trail use is restricted to the trail only.

The trail is 109 miles long and contains more than 100 converted railroad bridges and 4 rock tunnels. The trail surface is primarily crushed limestone and gravel. There are 15 trailheads, all of which offer parking, self-sale trail pass stations, vault toilets, and tables.

Note: Poor to non-existent cell phone coverage on the trail. (Good at trailhead in Lead SD – right downtown) and along the road to the interstate.

Black Hills National Forest K-4524

from the state web:

The Black Hills, in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming, consists of 1.2 million acres of forested hills and mountains, approximately 110 miles long and 70

miles wide.

The name "Black Hills" comes from the Lakota words Paha Sapa, which mean "hills that are black." Seen from a distance, these pine-covered hills, rising several thousand feet above the surrounding prairie, appear black.

Millions of visitors come to the Black Hills each year to experience the rich and diverse heritage

President Grover Cleveland established the Black Hills National Forest in 1897 as the Black Hills Forest Reserve. Now in its second century, the USDA Forest Service manages these 1.2 million acres of public lands for a diversity of wildlife and fish, recreation, water production, livestock grazing, timber harvesting, wilderness, and other uses.

The timbered mountains of the Black Hills National Forest continue 10 to 40 miles beyond the South Dakota border, west into Wyoming and covers an area that is about 125 miles long and 65 miles wide. Visitors will find rugged rock formations, canyons, grasslands, streams, lakes, and unique caves. Recreational opportunities for visitors include 11 reservoirs, multiple swimming beaches, 30 campgrounds, two scenic byways, 1,300 miles of streams, 13,605 acres of wilderness, over 450 miles of hiking trails, and much more.

Exploration of the Black Hills by fur traders and trappers occurred in the 1840s. In 1874, General George A. Custer led an Army exploration into the area and discovered gold along French Creek in the Southern Hills. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills caused an excitement across the country and gold seekers and settlers soon followed. When word got out of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, settlers soon followed.”

Just a short run of 15 here. Tired out. Stopped early. Sought medical attention – again. Sitting in car 8-10 hours a day with just some short breaks is not 'healthy' for me it seems these days.

Motel: Super 8 Sturgis. You don't want to be looking for a room during the big annual get together of 10,000+ motorcycle fans who converge on this town for a week! Most of them camp nearby in temp campgrounds set up each year. A few years back, we had a National Convention nearby in Deadwood, SD. Many attended.

A visit to the emergency room here. Same problem after a couple days. Not good.

September 30 Friday 60F outside.

Sturgis SD to Medora ND 210 miles straight north

Little Missouri National Grasslands ND K-7485 Slope ND

from the state site:

“Little Missouri National Grassland is a National Grassland located in western North Dakota, USA. At 1,028,051 acres it is the largest grassland in the country. Enclaved within its borders is Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which is managed by the National Park Service (and therefore not included in the preceding statistics). The Little Missouri National Grassland was once a part of the Custer National Forest, but is now a part of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, a National Forest unit consisting entirely of National Grasslands. A predominant feature of the grassland is colorful and beautiful badlands, a rugged terrain extensively eroded by wind and water. It is a mixed grass prairie, meaning it has both long and short grass.

Within the boundaries of the national grassland are significant portions of state-owned and privately owned land, much of it leased by cattle ranchers for grazing. Overall, in descending order of land area, it is located in parts of McKenzie, Billings, Slope, and Golden Valley counties.

The Little Missouri River meanders through the grassland and White Butte, North Dakota's highest point, is located in the extreme southeast corner, south of the town of Amidon.”

Several short detours if you want to get to a 'forest access point'.

Had a quick run of 23 here – nearly all county hunters. Didn't spot the park.

Arrived Medora ND area.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park K/KFF-0065 Billings County

This was one of the National Parks I didn't make it to in 2016. Just too far out of the way on trips and it's the only one in ND and far from others. It was in one of a few states needed if I hoped to get at least one park in each state.

From the NP site:

“Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the colorful North Dakota badlands is a great place for hiking, camping, and sightseeing. Theodore Roosevelt first fell in love with the rugged landscape of the American West while hunting bison in North Dakota in 1883. Over the next few years, Roosevelt invested in and developed cattle ranches throughout the region, increasingly interested in conservation. After becoming president in 1901, Roosevelt used his authority to protect approximately 230 million acres of public land. On April 25, 1947, President Truman established the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.

Long before a young Roosevelt came to the area, a variety of cultures inhabited the badlands region for thousands of years, filling the vibrant landscape with legends, lore, and sacred places. Prehistoric people considered the buttes the homes of many animal spirits, visiting the badlands on vision quests or other rituals, in addition to their hunting and gathering. Today, the park offers visitors the opportunity to connect with the land’s rich cultural history that captured the imagination of Roosevelt and inspired a legacy of conservation in our public lands.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park lies in western North Dakota, where the Great Plains meet the rugged Badlands. A habitat for bison, elk and prairie dogs, the sprawling park has 3 sections linked by the Little Missouri River. The park is known for the South Unit’s colorful Painted Canyon and the Maltese Cross Cabin, where President Roosevelt once lived”

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I note AI5P , Rick had made it here along with other's 28 activations and 773 QSOs – mostly SSB. I added in 63 cw QSOs from here.

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Chateau de Mores State Historic Site K-8532 Billings County

from the state site:

“Located southwest of Medora, this site memorializes the life and activities in North Dakota of Antoine de Vallombrosa, the Marquis de Mores, who arrived in 1883. Among his enterprises were a beef packing plant, a stagecoach line, a freighting company, refrigerated railway cars, cattle and sheep raising, land ownership, and a new town

which he called Medora, in honor of his wife.

Chateau de Mores - This 26-room, two-story frame building was built in 1883 as the summer residence of the Marquis's family. The Chateau is now a historic house museum and contains many of the original furnishings and personal effects of the de Mores family. Visits through the house are available during the summer months, and there is an admission charge. “ There's 128 acres of ground including some other buildings.

Didn't need to tour the mansion – just sat in the parking lot putting out some Qs. Only 4 previous activations and 126Q made from here. Added in 27 more. Bands have been squirrerly on the trip with K=3 many days and A well over 10.

Headed to the motel in Medora. Big ouch at \$140/night. It was here or miles and miles out of the way going east to find a cheaper place. It's a 'resort' and they sock it to you. AmericInn (a Wyndham property). Well over \$160 with taxes and fees. Other places shut down for the winter around Oct 1. Just as expensive, too – and not many rooms either. There are some smaller places but hard to find a room on the web. Most of the visitors to the National Park - CAMP! Lots of campgrounds – but nearly all shut down for the winter around Oct 1. Had a bit more time, so.....

Just southwest of town is **Sully Creek State Park – K-2767**

Rick, AI5P, was one of two activators here – 2 activations and 32 total QSOs! Wow. I added in 68 more on cw. Folks just kept coming.

From the state site:

Located in the heart of the North Dakota badlands, Sully Creek State Park is just minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This park offers a quiet escape from these popular tourist destinations.

Sully Creek is the perfect spot for visitors seeking adventure. In the early spring, canoeing and kayaking the Little Missouri River is a popular activity. Traversing the 274-mile long Little Missouri River offers a unique perspective of the badlands from North Dakota's only State Scenic River. Horseback riding, hiking, and biking are also popular activities. The park gives visitors access to the 144-mile Maah Daah Hey Trail”

- -

Pulled in late in the day. Ranger came by and I explained what I was doing, and just

stopping by for 20 minutes to make a few radio contacts. . Let me slide on the park admission fee. Wound up taking 35 minutes or so.

Had dinner 'downtown' at the Farmhouse Saloon. Only a few choices here. The population of Medora is 121. It's right next to the National Park so that's where it gets any visitors and some restaurant visits. It's the only town in Billings County. Business is seasonal. Just about everything around here shuts down for the winter months.

October 1 2022 Saturday

Medora ND to Billings MT - 282 miles

Mobile have been running all over the country on cw and SSB. W4SIG very busy on CW and SSB. N5MLP running all over. A dozen mobiles putting out counties. NF0N busy. K6YEK on SSB. AB7NK/K7SEN hitting needed counties on SSB. All converging on Bozeman MT in a day or two. Convention starts Oct 2.

Makoshika State Park K-2586

from the state site:

“Today, as Montana's largest state park, the badlands of Makoshika are set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine and juniper studded badland formations, the park also houses many fossil remains.

Our visitor center (with a gift shop) at the park entrance, houses a Triceratops and Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil along with other fossil remains and badland interpretive displays. Find out more about Montana paleontology exhibits and activities at Montana Dinosaur Trail.

Included within the park are scenic drives, hiking trails, 28 camping sites, a group picnic area, and an outdoor amphitheater.

The park offers special events throughout the year, including Montana Shakespeare in the Park, Friday night campfire programs and youth programs in summer, and the famous Buzzard Day festival, the second Saturday in June, featuring 10k & 5k races, a fun run, jumping house, food, disc golf tournament, hikes and more! “

“In Makoshika State Park, visitors will see the K-T boundary line. For those unfamiliar with the line, 'K' is the abbreviation for the Cretaceous period, while 'T' is the abbreviation for the Tertiary period. This line marks the physical boundary in time between the two periods dating back 65.5 million years ago. What is the K-T boundary? K is actually the traditional abbreviation for the Cretaceous period, and T is the abbreviation for the Tertiary period. So the K-T boundary is the point in between the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods. Geologists have dated this period to about 65.5 million years ago.'

There have been 5 activations and 160Qs from here. I'll add in a few. Not feeling great. Going to get medical attention in Billings in a few hours. Groan. Added 15 in 15 minutes – in and out. Skipped 2 others and headed Billings MT – ran the counties. All along the interstate are 'chain up areas' and gates with flashing lights that tell you if the highway is snowed in ahead and you must exit.

Half the parks in MT close around OCT 1 for the season – so beware – check ahead. Some were already closed.

Pictograph Cave State Park K-2591

from the web:

“Pictograph Cave State Park is a place to contemplate the origins of human habitation in Montana. The Pictograph Cave site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964, because of its archeological significance. Today's visitors can enjoy a unique opportunity to explore the mystery of this extraordinary site and tour the new visitor center.

Prehistoric hunters who camped in Pictograph Cave left behind artifacts and over 100 pictographs, or rock paintings. The oldest rock art in the cave is over 2,000 years old.

Their interpretations are still subject to debate. The images of animals, warriors and even rifles tell a story that has lasted thousands of years.

The park's three main caves - Pictograph, Middle, and Ghost cave - were home to generations of prehistoric hunters. The caves were carved from the Eagle sandstone cliff by the forces of water and wind. The first recorded discovery of artifacts and paintings in the caves was made in 1936.

Approximately 30,000 artifacts, ranging from stone tools, weapons, paintings and the instruments used, were excavated from the site. The pigments used in the rock art provide researchers to date when people inhabited the region and give insights into their lifestyle. The artifacts discovered allow researchers to pinpoint which native peoples used the caves and when they inhabited the region.

The park has a pleasant 3/4 loop trail to the caves, with interpretative displays along the route identifying and explaining the natural features, the prehistoric paintings and vegetation found in the area. Pictograph Cave is the deepest of the three main caves, at approximately 160 feet wide and 45 feet deep. Visitors are advised to bring binoculars to get a better view of the rock art. Allow at least an hour to enjoy the park, it's visitor center and trail. Also an excellent site for bird watching. There are picnic facilities available for day use only, but no camping is permitted.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the new Visitor Center's interpretive displays and gift shop. The park is 23 acres in size and 3,500 feet in elevation.”

Lake Elmo State Park K-2578

near Billings MT - 25 previous activations and 900+ Qs. Many on CW, too.

From the state site:

“This 64-acre Reservoir inside the city limits of Billings is a great place to swim, boat, paddleboard, fish, picnic, birdwatch or stroll on the 1.4 mile hiking/nature trail.

You can stretch your legs on a walk around the lake or stop by the south shore to fish from Roger's Pier. Non-motorized boating only is allowed. Alcohol is prohibited in the park. There is a playground, two shelters - one shelter is reservable for social events.

A special feature of Lake Elmo is its Dog Park. The 200-square-foot fenced in area includes a water area and is located on the west side of the lake. Each visitor is allowed a maximum of two dogs in this special area. Dogs must be 4 months or older. Dogs must be on a leash in all other areas of Lake Elmo State Park.

The park is 123 acres in size and at an elevation of 3,199 feet.”

It's late in the day. Motel Baymont is waiting but first a quick run. The CA QSO Party is raging. Work 15 of them in 10 minutes, search and pounce, and that's it. Same county as previous park.

Stop by the hospital emergency room in the morning. Total constipation. Feel run down. Blood sodium way low says the blood test. Take sodium pills.

October 2 – Sunday – last leg from Billings to Bozeman. 141 miles

Feeling real pooped out. Get going. Will run one park.

GreyCliff Prairie Dog State ark k-2576 Sweetgrass County
from the state site:

“Interpretive displays tell the story of these small, entertaining prairie dogs and their role in the prairie ecosystem. These creatures have great ecological significance because they create patches of habitat that provide prey, shelter, and forage for a diverse number of animals, including burrowing owls, black-footed ferrets, and mountain plovers.

Enjoy the prairie dogs with your binoculars and cameras, but please do not feed them. The digestive tracts of wild animals are specifically adapted to natural foods; human foods can compromise their health and survival.

The site is 98 acres in size and is situated at 3,600 feet in elevation.”

Rick, AI5P was here. 6 activations, 318 QSOs so far. Just a mile off the interstate.

After, headed on into the convention hotel in Bozeman. Good hotel but only one elevator for the entire building. Other entrances other than the main one had stairs. Lots of antennas in the lot when I arrived early afternoon. Seems most had already gotten there. W4SIG would show up next day.

Note on internet – I have both AT&T (wi-fi in the car with ONSTAR) which uses the little 'fin' on top of the car for good connectivity on AT&T, and my cellphone is on Verizon. Best often is the car wi-fi with the outside antenna, but sometimes there is only Verizon signal - and sometimes only if I get out of the car. Sometimes in parks, especially Wildlife Areas miles from anywhere – there is NONE! Neither! Zippo.

Didn't spot much this other than a few times in parks – as KC3X and others were spotting my county runs very well. That's good for 'convention periods' before and after the convention, but not always there with spotters at other times. I only can spot when I'm stopped – not even going to try it while moving.

I appreciate the spotters – especially on CW. They also help in case there are two mobiles, who don't hear each other, to avoid collisions on runs.

At the Convention

Lots of meet and greet

The following attended the convention per Donna, AG6V, Convention Host:

- . AG6OW Linda and AG6V Donna
Island Co, WA
- AB7NK Mary and K7SEN Neil
Yavapai Co., AZ
- AC0B Cliff and Kathy
St. Louis Co., MN
- K3IMC Don and KJ4NIT Jean
Troup Co., GA
- K6YEK Bill and Theresa
Kootenai Co., ID
- KJ8F Sharon
Allen Co., OH
- N0XYL Sandra and KB0BA Lowell
Scott Co., IA
- N4CD Bob
Collin Co., TX
- N5MLP Ron and Evelyn
Montgomery Co., TX

- N8HAM Jim
Oakland Co., MI
- N8WTQ Dorie
Midland Co., MI
- NF0N Mike and Dianne
Dakota Co., NE
- NX0X Brian and KB0MHH Shari
St. Louis Co., MN
- W0FLZ Paige and Cherylanne
Snohomish Co., WA
- W0JKT Paul
Maricopa Co., AZ
- W4SIG Kerry
Shelby Co., TN
- W7EEC Paul
Clackamas Co., OR
- W8OP Alan
Marion Co., WV
- WB8III Steven
Marion Co., WV
- WQ7A Terry and Boni
Thurston Co., WA

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We missed several big time county hunters attending this year. Health issues or others kept them home. For some, it's a long, long drive to MT – especially from the east coast. Hope they are all well enough soon to give out more counties and chase them. Or active on the bands.

WB8III and W8OP came together from WV. K3IMC headed here from GA. W4SIG from TN. N4CD from TX and many from WA, AZ. Quite a few from the midwest.

With gas near \$4/gal and higher in CA, NV, and motels now pushing 90 and 100 bucks a night, that's also a consideration for some. Inflation, higher utility costs, are eating at budgets. Heating bills this winter will be sky high once again.

Conventions have been held all around the country from FL, to WI to MI, TN, AZ, CA, ID, NY, VA, NC, IN, TX, KS, and many others. Minis have been held in KS, OK, TX, TN, MI, NV, and other places. For years, there was a mini in Murfreesboro TN year after year, and in Harlingen TX every winter for a decade or more. Lately there have been yearly Minis in MI. It takes interested people willing to put in some work to arrange it all, but many others are willing to help get the ball rolling if interested. Where will the next ones be?

This one was in Bozeman, MT with host AG6V, Donna.

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Donna AG6V



Crossword Puzzle Folks



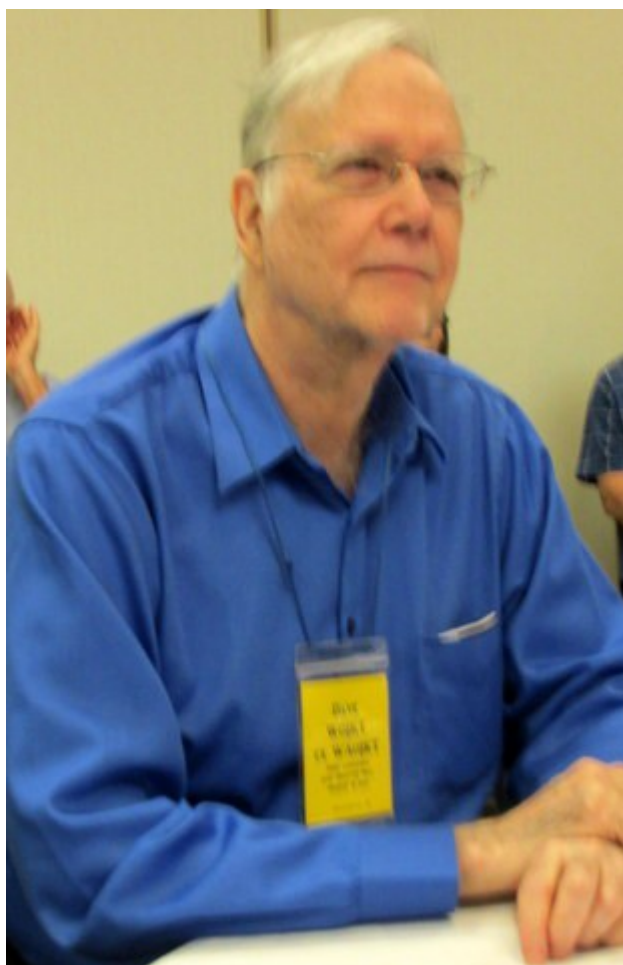
Quilts



Bill K6YEK
First time Attendee



Lowell KB0BA
USA-CA #1154



Dave W0JKT (ex WA0JKT)
Active since 1971 or before

W9OO commented on the forum: “

Wow, Mike! WA0 "Just Killing Time." My last QSO with him was in 1971. He was also a member of the original county hunters club, CHC--Certificate Hunters Club (K6BX)--”



Kerry W4SIG
USA-CA #1205



Mike NFON
USA-CA #53 (1971)



W0FLZ Paige
YL Mobile #137



Sharon KJ8F
USACA #1043
YL Mobile #182

Thanks to Jim, N8HAM for the following 4 photos.



Picture – All Those Present at Bozeman 2022
(N8HAM pic)



USA CA Holders – Bozeman 2022
(N8HAM Pic)



YL s at Bozeman 2022
(N8HAM pic)



CW Ops at Bozeman 2022
(N8HAM Pic)

MARAC ANNUAL AWARDS

The annual Awards were announced at the MARAC meeting held here:

Mobile of the Year SSB - WY0A
runner up W4SIG N8OYY

Mobile of the Year – CW K8ZZ
runner up W4SIG W0GXQ

Mobile Team of the Year - AB7NK/K7SEN
runner up KA9JAC/KB9YVT and AB4WL/NN4JM

Mobile Assist SSB WY0A
runner up K0DEQ K8EMS

Mobile Assist CW K0DEQ
runner up K8MFO KC3X

As to N4CD, I arrived Sunday 10/2 . Not feeling great. On Monday rode the Hotel Courtesy bus over to Bozeman Hospital. They checked me out – sky high 'lactic acid' indicative of massive infection. Was admitted. Pumped me full of full spectrum antibiotics, took x-rays, blood work. 'Lactic acid' came down. Took care of the clogged poop problem. Excellent doc there – Dr Newman. Gave me solid advice how to minimize clogged pipes - yes, Miralax every day when traveling , Ducolax as needed to get things moving OK. First doc in years that understood Post Polio Syndrome. Will try his recs on the way home.

Was told Miralax every day OK..... (even though bottle of stuff says use no more than

few days as needed – apparently with my weak polio digestive system muscles, I need it more often – hi hi!). Released on Tuesday to rejoin the activities. Hotel nicely sent shuttle bus to pick me up.

No trips/events were planned at the convention but lots to do if you wander outside the hotel. Mostly there for the rest of the convention and the banquet. Ate breakfast and dinner at the restaurant at the hotel most days. High prices but lots of good food. Other places nearby and Subway about mile away for lunch.

As usual, had the MARAC meeting Wed. Annual awards announced. Then later picture time of the entire group, USA-CA holders, the cw ops, and the YLs in separate pics.

Banquet meal was very good Wed night. As custom, he had the prize table where folks got called up one by one to pick one of the remaining items. There was enough to go around. Bottles of wine were popular items.

Then it was over on Thursday October 6. Mobiles departed for home or to run more counties! Several were out for another two or three weeks running counties.

Weather cooperated nicely for most folks. Some rainy days, but nothing worse. Later in the month (23rd on) snow began to fly in the high Rockies, with predicted shut downs of many interstates for snow/blizzards way north. The beginning of 'winter' is hitting some of the northern states now. Snow in MT, WY, parts of CO in the Rockies.

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On the Road with N4CD II

I was dragging but up to driving home. Three days – 21 hours of driving and 1462 miles, no detours. 80% of it on interstate, the rest on good 4 lane road all the way to Collin County TX. 80 mph and 70 mph speed limits for the most part. Just one park on the way home for a good run– drove by a dozen others or more – but wanted to get home. It had been a long, not so great health-wise trip. Still, got to lots of parks and counties. I don't travel well these days it seems. Still, I've made it to Dayton and now Bozeman and a few other trips this year.

Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument K/KFF-0947

Whoa – if you don't have a National Park Pass, Senior Pass, it's 25 bucks to get in here! Dug out the Senior National Parks Pass which works fine here. Lots to see here – big museum – auto tour route – major points of interest. (If you're over 65, you can get a senior National Park pass – think now about \$100 good for life. Many National Parks charge \$25 to \$40 just to get in – so it's a great saver if you travel a bit and want to see the National Parks and Monuments). They're all Parks on the Air and WWFF sites so you can log a lot of contacts if that is your goal. Some of the callers are in small counties, too, which you don't normally work.

From the web:

“This area memorializes the US Army's 7th Cavalry and the Lakotas and Cheyennes in one of the Indian's last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. Here on June 25 and 26 of 1876, 263 soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer and attached personnel of the US Army, died fighting several thousand Lakota and Cheyenne warriors.

It also serves as a memorial to those who fought in the battle: George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry and a combined Lakota-Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho force.

The Battle of the Little Bighorn, known to the Lakota and other Plains Indians as the Battle of the Greasy Grass, and also commonly referred to as Custer's Last Stand, was an armed engagement between combined forces of the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes and the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. The battle, which resulted in the defeat of U.S. forces, was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. It took place on June 25–26, 1876, along the Little Bighorn River in the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana Territory.

The Battle of the Little Bighorn like most battles in the Great Sioux War "were on lands those Indians had taken from other tribes since 1851". The Lakotas were there without consent from the local Crow tribe, which had treaty on the area. Already in 1873, Crow chief Blackfoot had called for U.S. military actions against the Indian intruders. The steady Lakota invasion (a reaction to encroachment in the Black Hills) into treaty areas belonging to the smaller tribes ensured the United States a firm Indian alliance with the Arikaras and the Crows during the Lakota Wars.

The fight was an overwhelming victory for the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, who were led by several major war leaders, including Crazy Horse and Chief

Gall, and had been inspired by the visions of Sitting Bull . The U.S. 7th Cavalry, a force of 700 men, suffered a major defeat while commanded by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer (formerly a brevetted major general during the American Civil War). Five of the 7th Cavalry's twelve companies were wiped out and Custer was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew, and a brother-in-law. The total U.S. casualty count included 268 dead and 55 severely wounded (six died later from their wounds), 244 including four Crow Indian scouts and at least two Arikara Indian scouts.

Public response to the Great Sioux War varied in the immediate aftermath of the battle. Libbie Custer, Custer's widow, soon worked to burnish her husband's memory, and during the following decades Custer and his troops came to be considered heroic figures in American history. The battle, and Custer's actions in particular, have been studied extensively by historians. Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument honors those who fought on both sides.”

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Custer and troops failed to realize there were thousands of Indian warriors present. He had assumed just a small camp of several hundred and didn't do the reconnaissance to determine enemy strength before engaging in battle. He was impulsive and fell into a trap. Worse, his reserve troops failed to show up – another snafu and he went ahead not knowing where they were.

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Within five years, though, the Native Americans were forced back onto their reservations essentially ending the Indian Wars. With the US losing this battle, sentiment was strong to 'end' the wars and get things settled.

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Amazingly - There had been 7 activations and just 200 QSOs from here. AI5P Rick was here. I added in 100 more Qs. Some 20 and 17m action. If you went to SSB, you probably would be busy for 2 hours with 300+ in the log. For CW, 100 QSO is a very good run.

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I left the park after 75 minutes, figuring I was headed to Casper, WY for the night. 417 miles and 5 ½ hours of driving from Bozeman. All at 80 mph. Will be there by 3pm.

Good.

Then checked the route sheets again and oops, I had reserved a room in CHEYENNE WY. That's another 187 miles and 2 ½ hour of driving. Oh well. Head to Cheyenne. Got there 5:30. Had to skip another park or two run on the way – some close to the Interstate – no time! Dang.

Motel: Days Inn. Dinner – Family Restaurant across the street. Had to drive by a dozen parks today. No time. Just put out counties. Used Wyndham reward points for this over \$100/night motel. A 'freebie'.

Way back when, I used to 'travel cheap' and stay in Motel 6. They are now close to Super 8 and Days Inn prices and you get no breakfast there. You save \$10 maybe but spend money for breakfast at McD for \$7 or \$8 now. Not a great deal any longer. There are budget motels around, but they are up and down on quality and usually no breakfast either.

October 7 – headed home

Cheyenne WY to Dumas TX 470 miles 7.7 hours non-stop

Run no parks today. Just counties as I zip along. Down the highway through CO headed east then south past Larimer and points south on 287. Through OK into the TX panhandle. Start looking for motel and find Super 8 in Dumas, TX. Lost an hour going from Mountain time zone to Central time. Pull in 5:30 local time to Dumas, TX. Dinner at a BBQ across the road. Lots of gray skies and rain today. Didn't get out of 40s most of day. Rain in Dumas flooding things – and the main street is blocked off to one lane each direction and takes 20 minutes to go 1 mile on 287 – the main drag. Was rush hour which didn't help either!

Not so great Super 8. Tons of feed lots in this town and motel is infested with flies. Spent 2 hour whacking them and they just seem to keep coming. Fortunately, once the lights are out, they stop. Avoid this motel! Your room comes with a fly swatter as standard issue. All rooms have the same problem.

October 8 – final trip day

Dumas TX to Plano TX 408 miles

Sun doesn't show up till 7:40 am this far west in the time zone! 40F in the morn.

Zip along at the speed limit – should be home by 3pm with no stops. Grab lunch at a Subway and continue. Short stop at parking lot for a park – right off road 287 – work 11 – then back on quick route to home.

Playa Lake WMA - Taylor Unit

“The Taylor Lakes Unit is located in the rolling plains of the Panhandle in north Texas, Donley County, near Clarendon. Clarendon was one of the first settlements in the area. The WMA was part of a family farm and purchased by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1993 to preserve and provide the playa lakes wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

The existing low level lakes provide good conditions for plant growth. Habitat conditions at this WMA provide a place for waterfowl as well as upland game. Throughout the year the Area is an excellent location for observing North American birds in a rich native environment. “

11 Qs in a few minutes then gone. Nice little designated parking lot. Didn't spot the park – just ran the county.

Worked mobiles and give out counties rest of way . Home by 4 pm. 82F at home – get to defrost!

Now to do logs for the parks, track new counties in my various paper records, etc. Only thing I track are transmitted counties, and tenth time CW. Done enough on Mobile Diamond (done) and the rest of the awards. Can't get excited about “Double Diamond” and if anything comes after someone gets that award. Enough! K5GE, N8KIE, WQ7A working on it though. Hi Hi.

Hope you caught me in a bunch. Flood of MRCs coming in. In the old days it might be 20-30 different folks. Now it's about half a dozen county hunters– hi hi. Of course, many county hunters working on stars, Nth time, CW, Bingo, prefixes, call combos, and don't need written confirmation. Upload most logs to LoTW as well as KFF/WFF and POTA.

The convention was nice and it was great to see for the first time some county hunters.

California QSO Party

Great contest this year with many county expeditions. They do things BIG in CA. Hundreds of fixed stations. Hundreds calling them from around the country. K6AQL was out mobile I believe. Didn't see report on him.

from the 3830 contest reflector:

County Expedition - Tulare 1322 cw 1625 ssb qso

Call: NS6T

Operator(s): K6KM N6DE N6SPP NS6T

Pictures, videos, articles and stories about this expedition will be shared later on cqg.org, in the NCCC newsletter, on the NCCC email list and perhaps in the NCJ.

Towers:

High band tower: US Tower 107 foot tower trailer cranked up to 60 feet

Low band tower: US Tower 107 foot tower trailer cranked up to 107 feet

<https://ustower.com/towerproducts/mtu3107mdpl/>

3 Antennas:

JK Antennas JK401 40m Dipole at 107 feet

JK Antennas C3S-JK Triband Yagi at 60 feet

80m Inverted-Vee at 90 feet

4 Stations:

10m/80m: Elecraft K3S + Elecraft KPA500/KAT500

15m: Elecraft K3 + Elecraft KPA500

20m: Elecraft K3 + ACOM 1500

40m: Elecraft K3 + ACOM 1010

VA6AM High Power Triplexer and High Power Bandpass Filters

K6M County Expedition - MODOC CA 1550 cw 700 ssb

opr AE7EU K4XU K7PTC N7GND W6RA W7YAQ

This was our 24th consecutive expedition to Modoc County, a 200 mile trek from Bend Oregon. Just a crew of six to set up two stations: SSB in K7PTC's trailer and CW in N7GND's trailer. Both used K3S/KPA500/KAT500 rigs. Our trailer tower put a TH3 at 45' and a falling derrick put the CW TH3jr at 35 ft. The CW station had a 40m GP and 80m inV. The SSB station used the TH3 and an OCF with one end at 80ft the other at 40'.

K4XU W6RA and W&YAQ did CW with 2 hr shifts but 3hr shifts over night. The SSB gang did the same shifts but had no midnight to 6am shifts - not that it mattered because the 75m noise on the OCF was S9+10db. Some new piece of USFS equipment installed in the shed under the OCF. The 80 and 75m antennas were too close to consider same band operation anyway but on 40m and above it was as if the other station wasn't there.

Condition early were not the best but on Sunday 10 and 15m were hot. 21 DX countries in 90 QSOs. When the SSB gang discovered 10m they had a ball logging 2x3 calls with serial numbers under 10. "What's a contest?". Even with the explanatory overhead, 10m was their best band. Two of our SSB ops have been licensed for less than 3 years. The third, AE7EU, was our cook and he had to leave on Sunday after breakfast.

The weather was ideal, the location was all ours for the weekend except for the occasional party of hunters scouting deer for the start of hunting season on Monday.

We filled in our mults quickly, the last being ID when we went to 40m at 2013Z. But there was no NT. Our two beams were 280 feet apart and kept pointed due east for minimum coupling, but if a NT would appear we should have caught it. As one might expect, of our 2250 QSOs, only 182 were S&P.

Another successful CQP. We were packed up and back home in Bend by 9:30PM.

73, Dick K4XU

W6E County Expedition Ventura CA 1131 cw 949 ssb
opr N6MI N7DA W6PN

We camped 3 nights at 8,000 ft in the Los Padres Forest just north of Los Angeles in Ventura County.

I operated from my Jeep using a K3s/KAT500/KPA500 package along with a HexBeam for 10/15/20 and a Buckmaster OCF for 80/40. Many improvements to my station versus 2020 but still struggled with a few things. Biggest mistake was not installing a DVR in

the K3s and hence calling CQ for 12 hours.

Scott's station is well documented and has a 60ft mast with a 10/15/20 multi element antenna.

Having Drew N7DA as a third operator working between the two stations was key to making the almost 2,100 Qs.

10m was an eye opener and thrilled we nabbed 368 10m voice Qs and 600 overall.

Paul
W6PNG
www.nomadic.blog

NZ6Q County Expedition - Youth Group - Mariposa CA 531 cw 450 ssb
Opr: K5SML K6CMM K6QBQ N6ACL NZ6Q W6SXA

This group was made up young, old, and yls. Our youngest operator was 8, we also had a 13 year old, 2 female operators and 2 seasoned hams. It was great weekend.

KS6T County Expedition Sierra 191 SSB QSO

Thanks to operators: K6ST AE6WT N6MED NG6Z WB6CZG

County Expedition operated from stampede reservoir Sierra County, CA

W6IA County Expedition 640 cw 484 ssb

We operated from 2,700 feet on the MONT/SBEN county line. We had heat, and flies all over the place, on the first day and a socked-in foggy morning on the second day where we could not even see our antennas from our operating positions. The views, and the sunsets, over Monterey Bay were amazing and the near zero noise levels on all of the bands on which we operated really make all of the work that goes into expeditions worth it. We could hear well and could pull out the weak ones most of the time. Having 10 and 15 meters open was a huge bonus and really added to the overall enjoyment of the contest.

If you are a phone station from New Mexico, and you get a NIL from us, my apologies. We worked and I blew it on the log and accidentally erased your callsign. Sorry about that!!

Thanks to all of the great ops with special mention to all of the VE stations; Canada really turned out this year on all bands and modes! We missed ND, NT and (please, don't laugh) Utah. Utah? How is that possible? Normally Utah is in the log in the first 10 minutes of the contest on 40 meters.

See you next year!

73, Mark W6IA and Tim W7EEE

N6T County Expedition - Tehama CA 1316 cw 779 ssb
Opr AA1ON KØBEE K6TLR W1RH W1SRD W6QA

Another fun operation from the off grid location in TEHA we have been to several times. Welcome new team member Tony, W6QA. Great fun was had by all. Was shooting to break all time M/S Expedition record but came up a few points short. Conditions were great so can't blame that. Everything worked great. Thanks for the QSO's and hope everyone had as much fun as we did.

County Expedition 685 ssb
Opr: AI6JB AI6US

Low power portable expedition in the beautiful Sierra Nevadas at 6,900 ft (Zero Noise land).

80m Doublet in the trees at 100 ft + Hex Beam at 42 ft with 12v WiFi controlled rotor. All battery power running 100 watts. Used 133.8 Ah of 200 Ah LiPO4 battery!! No generator noise (Zero Noise operation)!

Had a blast. Great seeing 10m wide open!!

N6J mobile 147 SSB qso

Opr: KN6REX N6JSO

We operated "Jeep mobile" from stationary locations in LAKE/MEND, SONO, MARN/SFRA, SMAT, and SCLA/SCRU. We drove over 380 miles but did not end up making any contacts while in motion; it was too noisy to really try, so we only had 7 actual hours operating. Maybe next time we'll try with the non-driving op wearing a headset.

We beat my (N6JSO's) last year #3 mobile score, but we didn't beat last year's #2 mobile, so I'm guessing we didn't make #2 mobile this year. Maybe next year if we can work out operating in motion.

County expedition - Colusa AF6GA 1146 cw

Last year's trip to Goat Mnt, COLUSA was so much fun I decided to do a repeat trip and see if there was room for improvement. All the technical difficulties were fixed: remembering to keep the generator gassed, using a different laptop to fix keying issues, and finally spending more time operating and less time enjoying the scenery - well almost.

This was an all-out effort, although not sacrificing too much sleep (5hrs) and having to "cook" MREs myself. There is still a lot of room for improvement in the head/skill department as I'm sure many callers were wondering what was going on sometimes - they weren't the only ones!

Conditions were great and really enjoyed working EU - it brings back childhood memories of working DL on 2m from England.

73,
Phil

N6YEU - county Expedition - Glenn CA 815 cw 271 ssb

I enjoyed REAL ham radio having to "decode" the signals both CW and phone. I was portable in Glenn county " field day style" camping in the wilds of Mendocino National Forest . Good fun!

KD6HOF County Expedition 528 ssb

Once again, I participated in the contest as a "County Expedition" & "California County-line" station. This required traveling to a temporary location, setting up antennas and operating all within 150 meters of a Triple-county location - and sending all such counties in a single exchange. I was running all battery as Single Operator – Low Power – Non Assisted. Even though I made good contacts, I couldn't yell BINGO! as I didn't get all counties or states.

N3KA county expedition 254 ssb

Drove a total of 982 miles during the contest touching as many counties as I could. Absolutely fantastic time, summary on my QRZ page.

Adin (modoc), Bieber (lassen), Mcarthur (Shasta), mccloud (siskiyou), Redding (Shasta), Red Bluff (Tehama), Orland (Glenn) Chico (Butte), Oroville (Butte), Goodyears Bar (Sierra)

Birchville (Nevada), Meridian (Sutter), Williams (Colusa), Lower Lake (Lake), Hopland (Mendocino), Santa Rosa (Sonoma), Napa (Napa), Vacaville (Solano)

Swingle (YOLO), Bullard (El Dorado), Amador City (Amador), Markleeville, (Alpine), Walker (Mono), Dardanelle (Tuolumne) -- END.

My current count is 1494.5 miles driven round trip -- 980 within the contest and 267 contacts.

W6ML County Expedition 1244 cw 287 ssb

I left my home QTH for the 300 mile drive to Mammoth Lakes in Mono county on the Monday before the CQP. To make the drive more interesting, I decided to do three Parks on the Air (POTA) activations along the way. Even though it added about 1.5 hours to the drive, it made the time go by faster. On Tuesday, the skies were blue and the temperature was in the low 70's. Perfect to launch my dipoles and an inverted V, all at about 50 ft in the pine trees. Once the contest started, it was great to see that 10 and 15 Meters were going to be productive. One highlight was, after only about one hour into the contest, getting called by VY1CO who gave me his #16 for the NT section. That gave me a good feeling about getting a sweep. As it turned out, I had at least two QSOs

from every section and completed the sweep in record time after only 4 hours. I was hoping to improve on my last year's all-time best score, but fell short by about 30 QSOs. 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. With my new K4 it was easier not to hear his signal, even when he was close by on the same band. And, many thanks to the NCCC for sponsoring another great CQP!

73, Jim W6ML (W6KC)

K6WSC - County Expedition 1041 cw 18 ssb

This was my fifth California County Expedition from the Anza Borrego Desert in eastern San Diego County, again in a rental house. When I reserved the house, I told the host what I was going to be doing, so there were no issues.

This was my second outing with my new expedition antenna system, described below. Heat and a black fly air force spawned by recent rains made set up and operation challenging.

Tons of run fun is a good CQP bet and produced my best CQP result yet.

Callers from FL & SC received a second TU from me.

Rig: Yaesu FTdx10

Amp: KPA-500

Antennas:

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

Thanks to everyone involved with running the great CA QSO Party!

73, Bill / K6WSC

W6T County Expedition K6KS 120 ssb

I rented a nice place back in March for my CQP Expedition in Trinity County. Less than 24 hours prior to my check-in time, I get an e-mail saying that the place is

now unavailable. Boy, that was a possibility that I had not considered. I made arrangements to stay at another place that I had never been to before. When I arrived, I realized that operating from there was going to be a challenge with high mountains all around, power lines nearby and the area for my antennas would not be protected from local animals or guests. I struggled to make contacts on 10, 15 and 20. Many of the stations I could hear could not hear me, even though I was running 500 watts. This was my first CQP experience in the High Power category. I didn't think that I would have trouble being heard. I love challenges but this one was more than I wanted. Thanks for those who worked extra hard to pull my signal out of the noise.

N6WT County Expedition 317 cw 102 ssb

My adventure in the CA QSO Party 2022 started a few years ago. I noticed that Kings County had not been very well represented over the years. The top score of 258,738 was set in 1986 S/O HP. And the S/O LP score of 33,966 was set in 2001. I wanted to do Kings, but I never really had a way to do it.

I recently purchased a BuddieHEX beam from BuddiePole. I am very impressed with this antenna, and it is very portable and easy to set up. This would be the antenna for this years CQP. Also, there was a new category for CQP this year, a one-day expedition. This would be perfect for trying out my setup.

Looking at Kings County, I noticed there are not a lot of high mountains. To the South West, there are some, but they are on private property. I wanted a height advantage, so doing it from the San Joaquin Valley was not going to work. I started looking at SOTA summits along Highways 33 & 41. There was one, W6/SC-268, Flattop, it is on private property owned by the Hewiston Farm and Cattle Company. I contacted them and had high hopes they would let me camp on the summit and do CQP from there. They turned me down because they thought I would interfere with the Count Sheriffs repeater that is there. I had almost given up at that point.

I had been looking along Highway 41 and decide to drive out and look. I found a fair-sized turnout but decided it would not work because of the size of my motorhome. The only other turnout was at the top of a small pass. The only problem was it was in a bowl, and I thought I would not be able to get a signal out very well. Well, that was my only choice.

During my planning, I was replacing the house batteries on the motorhome with lithium batteries. It turned into a huge rewire job. CQP was approaching, and I had a lot of work

to complete. I finished the batteries with five days to spare. Then I had to replace the chassis batteries, UGH! I got it all done and had the oil changed by the shop.

My plan was to head to the gas station at Highways 33 & 41 and spend Friday night in the parking lot. I left Friday and got about 15 miles from the house, and a check engine light came on. There were no noticeable signs of anything wrong, so I kept going. I arrived at the gas station at around 9 pm. I was the only one there. It is a noisy place with traffic going by. I did not sleep well. I woke up at about 05:30 and got moving. I parked at the turnout and started to set up. The BuddieHex and 40-meter dipole went up in about an hour. I then set up the Flex 6500 and computer in the motorhome. I finished up with about 10 mins to spare!

I am so glad I brought the motorhome, it got up to about 90 degrees, and the AC was great to have! I called the CHP and asked if I could park in the turnout. They said I could be there for 72 hours before they would tow me away. The traffic going by was loud, not to mention I was on a curve, so if someone missed the turn they would fly off the road and hit me! Thankfully that did not happen.

I started out on 20 meters CW. I had the BuddieHex pointed at about 70 degrees. It worked great! The small hills around me did not seem to have much effect. The first contact in the log was K2ZR in NY. I had a fair run on 20 with 53 Q's. I switched to 15 and did about 120 Q's in 2 hours. It was great to switch to 10 meters and hear something. 47 Q's in an hour. I kept going with a couple of breaks till about 5 pm. I stopped to eat something. I decided to go to 40 meters. I started having computer problems. My computer would stop working. It may have been RF. Then I started with one of my migraine headaches. It was very painful to listen to the radio. I slowed down, but it was no use. I could not do it. My head was ringing, and I decided to stop at about 7:20 pm. I just thought I would pack up and head home. It took me an hour and a half to take the antenna down in the dark. I hit the road and made it home by 11:30 pm.

I wish I could have made the whole 12 hours, but it just could not happen!

Thanks all for the Q's. It was fun while it lasted. I look forward to next year.

I would like to thank Dean Wood N6DE, for the encouragement and for setting up such a fun event!

K6MI County Expedition 232 cw 30 ssb

12 hour county expedition to Kern county, SO assisted QRP with wires at the N6NB.com remote site.

Nevada QSO Party

A few fixed stations - but a lot more activity in 7th area QSO party each year.

from the 3830 contest reflector:

W6US County Expedition 270 SSB

Sunday Propagation was very poor. I called about every 20 seconds for most of the time with no results, switching bands every 15minutes...I tried.

KG7D County Expedition 249 SSB NVLYO/NVCHU

Go outside and play!

NS2N fixed NY managed 16 cw and 10 ssb contacts for 14 mults.
Most others had 6 or less

Maine QSO Party

This is a weird contest in that you can work anyone in the US and Canada for points – one point per QSO and if you actually work Maine, 2 points. Not much to report on how many ME stations and counties there were on the air as impossible to figure out from reports.

For example

K4BAI - fixed - GA 119 cw 4 ssb

Maine QSO Party was a pleasant way to make QSOs on a weekend with no other CW or SSB contests. It did remind me that in most QSO parties a number of in-state stations who won't try to "run" will answer an out-of-state CQer even on CW. KR4AE has been very successful in doing this lately. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John B, K4BAI

Pennsylvania QSO Party

from the 3830 reflector:

Several rovers gave scores but no details

W3RE county Expedition 65 ssb

Operator(s): N3NCY W3RE

IC-705 and Wolf River Coil with 6 Radials.

Enjoyed operating outdoors in the cold!

K8MR mobile 1002 cw 30 ssb

Operator(s): AF8A K K8MR

Gary, AF8A, and I had another good PAQP mobile effort. We did have a late change of plans. We had hoped to do the contest on Saturday and ride our bikes on the Ghost Town Trail in Indiana and Cambria counties on Sunday. However, a forecast of 35F overnight temperature caused us to skip the ride and return to Cleveland on Saturday night.

Good conditions, including high band activity and short skip. But after good activity and conditions for the California QSO Party the previous weekend, we had only five California QSOs, single QSOs with AZ and CO, and missed ID, MT, UT, WY, NM, MS, LA, and more. Even missed GTA. OTOH managed 59 QSOs with OM2VL and 38 with NA1NA.

The only scare happened while parked for food in Huntingdon. It may have had to do with having the minivan side door opened, but a QSY to 20 froze the computer. I had to do a hard restart, at which point N1MM came up not knowing where we were. Fortunately I was able to get back to the needed database where the log existed, but I still had to reset all the radio configuration settings.

Gary did the majority of the driving, but my driving time included getting us lost on the way from Somerset to Bedford, resulting in more time in Bedford than planned. We ended up skipping Montour for time, but managed to finish the contest two miles from the Ohio line.

Anyway, it was great making lots of QSOs while watching the fall colors and a wonderful full moon.

73 - Jim K8MR

KQ3F multi op portable 988 cw 1328 ssb
Operator(s): KC3WX KQ3F N3VZ

Outstanding weekend with my brothers being the bonus station for 2022 PQP. We were portable low power near Coopersburg, PA. LEH. Murphy struck a few times but nothing insurmountable. It's a TON of work to set up and take down everything but well worth the effort. We also met our goal of "stalking" the bands to provide as many bonus points possible. Thanks for the tremendous feedback!!! 73 from Joe (KQ3F) Andy (N3VZ) Steve (KC3WX)

K0BAK mobile 522 ssb qso

Barely got on the air in a new vehicle, new amplifier, new battery, and a new antenna configuration. I was still debugging the station and planning my rove on Friday; I had not made an on-air contact with the station before I drove 3 hours to the rove start. Definitely not my personality to wing it, but my wife encouraged me to try and to just enjoy the weekend without pressuring myself into max effort. Since I hadn't even tested the station, I was astonished that everything worked, and I think I did better in-state by leaning my screwdriver antenna back and using two 50-foot "radials". Drove a little less than 500 miles and activated 10 counties. If i hadn't also activated isolated game lands for POTA, I might have stumbled into a competitive score. I'm happy i got to rove again in the PAQP with a station that surprised me in a positive way. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this great contest possible.

KB3CMT portable 633 ssb qso

Worked from PA State Game Lands 285 off of the North Country Trail National Scenic trail this year. was a stressful but fun experience

N3XF County Line Expedition

Thanks for the mobile and rover stations who really make this event exciting!

N2CU mobile 761 cw 167 ssb

Thanks to everyone who followed me through 12 counties, especially double-digit callers Laci-OM2VL(23), NA1NA(16), WN4AFP(14), AA3B(13), WA1UJU(12), NS2N and KC3M(11), AA3LX and W3KB(10). It was nice to give a few of you your last county for a sweep, especially Laci for his first PA sweep ever.

South Dakota QSO Party

from the 3830 contest reflector:

AC0W Mobile 9900 cw 58 ssb

Thanks for all the contacts and for all the stations that followed me around the state.

Weather was much nicer this year, no thunderstorms or tornadoes. Just sun, comfortable temperatures and a little wind. Saturday conditions were great to North America on 20, seems I could work almost any state. However, conditions to EU were tough, even some of the normally strong EU stations were tough to work. Result was only 3 EU stations in the log. As is typical, propagation conditions on Sunday was much different. Working close in states was challenging compared to Saturday. This can be seen in my Q count, 600 Q's on Saturday and 358 Q's on Sunday with roughly 6 hours of operating time each day. Discovered I should have tried 20 SSB sooner on Sunday. The short time on SSB

was productive. Thanks again and hope to work you in the MN QSO Party Feb 4, 2023.

73 Bill AC0W

N0AC mobile 326 cw

Forrest Gump's mother said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get."

Well I didn't know what I was going to get by going mobile in the South Dakota QSO Party. Were conditions that poor or was the activity down?

I enticed my wife into heading to South Dakota by offering her a favorite BBQ lunch in Omaha. Stopping at Porky Butts BBQ Saturday we journeyed further north to SD arriving later that afternoon. After supper I went out for about 1 1/2 hours solo to activate three counties. It is a good thing I operated since that was the best conditions I encountered this weekend. We started Sunday morning about 1330z and ran a short route of 10 counties ending at Sioux City, Ia about 1800z.

My Saturday operation amounted to about 46.6% of my total QSOs. Only 174 more went into Sunday's log. The highest QSO number goes to K8MFO and N1AIA with 10 Qs each. DX worked were F8PDR, HC2AO, KL7SB, and OM2VL.

The last time we were in South Dakota was 1999 so we enjoyed the drive through the country side. We were impressed with the cleanliness and fine highways.

Thanks for my wife driving and the Prairie Dog Amateur Radio for sponsoring the contest.

Bill, N0AC

KA6BIM - fixed OR 36 CW QSO 6 SSB

AC0W & N0AC did a great job as rovers activating many counties, some with no resident ham population. Thank you guys. And thanks also to the Other SD stations than got on and passed out qso's

Dave ka6bim

Arizona QSO Party

Lots of fixed stations on from AZ plus a few County Expeditions. Didn't see any rovers or mobiles out. Lots of other contests going on at same time with folks chasing PA QSO party in earnest.

From the 3830 contest reflector:

N7T County Expedition AZ-GLA 126 cw 220 ssb

Had a great time. Kudos to our 11-year old guest op, Evan, who did an outstanding job on SSB. We had a few glitches, but installing a replacement antenna mid-contest in the rain always helps it work better..... Thanks to all for the contacts.

73,

John, N7NWL

N7A County Expedition AZ GRA 736 cw 1322 ssb

Operator(s): AA7A K9DR KY7M N7NR NA2U

As NA2U always says, "There ain't no meters like 10 meters!" That was certainly the case today as we made 611 of our QSOs on 10m with 525 on phone. It was so nice to have many hours of propagation on the band we have missed for so long. We had great participation and appreciate all the folks who worked us on multiple bands. Our 2 stations worked with only minor glitches and the time flew by with so many callers. Thanks for all the QSOs.

K4BAI fixed GA 48 cw 22 ssb

Nice to hear activity on the high bands again. Didn't hear any AZ stations on 75M SSB, but did listen for them until the end of the contest time. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

OM2VL fixed DX 46 cw 6 ssb

I was busy in PA QP, I haven't had many times to search AZ stations. Fortunately AZ QP starts 1 hour before the PA QP and I can make some QSOs during this time. I missed so many stations which I heard, but didn't call because of big US pileup. I missed also so many multipliers on SSB.

Most QSOs with:

(6) - N7A

(4) - K7L, K7V

(3) - K7GA, WB7TJD

Thanks for the QSO's!

73, Laci OM2VL

New York QSO Party

Lots of mobiles and rovers this year

K2UA Mobile 1543 cw qso

NYQP is one of my favorite events! This year was different than any previous effort for me, which have all been two-man multiops with either N2MG or K1RO. This year I was not able to find a teammate for the trip, so I took advantage of the new county line rules (disclaimer: I co-wrote them). I didn't plan to operate using those rules this year, but I decided to give that a good try and see what I could do.

I needed to build a route that had a good number of exclusive county lines close to each other, and there's not a lot of that in NYS. But I did find six within a total of less than a 1-hour drive, so I started there, on the Broome-Cortland border. It's 2.5 hours from home, but leaving at 7 AM gave me plenty of time to get on-site. I made a C-shaped clockwise route from there, going as far west as the Steuben-Yates border, then headed north and then east, finishing on the Oswego-Onondaga line. I activated 14 counties in 8 stops.

I planned to operate one hour per stop and mapped out a driving route with the shortest drive times between stops to minimize off-air time. The shortest drive was 17 minutes

and the longest was 47 minutes. Most were in the 25-30 minute range. That resulted in a trip with 3.6 hours (166 miles) of drive time and just over 8 hours of operating time. There was, of course, some lost time with a gas stop and a quick food stop at 5:30 PM, but my itinerary held pretty well.

The station worked great and rates were high most of the day, but especially in the evening. I had the 10-minute rate meter over 500 a few times, which was super cool to see. The best three clock hours were 216, 196, and 195. I am thrilled that NYQP has reached a level of activity that these rates are possible on CW!

The station was pretty much issue-free. I run two Tarheels on a Honda Pilot. There are some photos of the setup on the NYQP Facebook page. The front is a 40A-HP that stays on 40 so I can quickly switch there anytime without retuning the back antenna (a long wait between 80 and 20!), and toggle between 40 and 20 or 40 and 80. The back antenna is a Tarheel 200A-HP, which I run on the other bands. That antenna is connected to an SGC 500 amplifier, which does 600 W on 80 (still not quite enough for good pileup control!), 500 on 20, and 400 on 15. On 10 and 40 I run barefoot with 200 W from a TS-480HX with the optional CW filter. Fantastic mobile rig--can't say enough about how good it is.

Because I was operating while parked for extended periods with the vehicle off, I ran the radio and amplifier from a pair of 200-Ah LFP batteries. Both lasted the whole trip. Other than some power line noise at two of my locations, RF noise wasn't an issue for this trip. Often when driving through towns, you have to deal with a lot of RFI--it was nice to be able to choose quiet spots to avoid that.

My compatriots N2MG and N2ZN did a similar operation to what we did last year, and that has significant advantages--no gaps in on-air time is a huge benefit. I missed that style of operating this year. But the on-air activity was great! Working so many of you in many counties is one of the best things about mobiling. A lot of people deserve callouts here, but I'll name a few--N5OT, NA1NA, K8MFO, and WN4AFP were super reliable chasers and always early in the pile-ups. But OM2VL gets special mention. Laci and I worked 17 times, including, for the first time, QSOs on 80-10 meters. We worked twice each on 10 and 80 meters, if memory serves. That's a first for me, and he was easy to work every time I heard him except for one stop on 80 meters--but I had a feeling he was in there and called him anyway, and sure enough he came right back. That's always a magic moment in mobile operating--thanks, Laci, and to all the other chasers who make mobile operating so much fun! It's like you were riding along with me in the car, cheering me on.

It's a long wait until the next NYQP, but fortunately there are others--NEQP in May is a fantastic event and I'll be mobile in New England again for that one. Meantime I'll be chasing around a lot of the ops who are QP regulars in their events. The QSO Party world is really blossoming and I think we all benefit from that. Thanks again for the Qs and look for much earlier results this year! Don't forget to submit your logs on time!

--73, Rus, K2UA

K1NZ mobile 200 ssb

This was my first attempt at a rover all by myself. Somehow, the route I planned ended up being the perfect length. I had about 6 1/2 hours of driving planned (in NY, plus 1 1/2 hours each way in and out from/to my home in MA) with the route starting at the COL/REN county line just north of the B3 exit on the Masspike connector, up route 22 to Ticonderoga, down 9N along the Lake George shoreline, then skirting west of Saratoga Springs and Albany southward to the GRE/ULS line and then east back toward the NY/CT border. I managed to hit 6 county lines and 11 counties during the trip.

All in all, it was a great day for a drive. The weather was perfect and the foliage was awesome, especially up in Washington county, near Lake George/Ticonderoga, and with the Adirondacks in the background.

I'm glad the sponsors decided to add the county line option this year as it really encouraged me to drive in and operate. I could cut my number of stops in half and focus on operating more. I also will note that a bunch of people had trouble logging the county lines. I think it was N3FJP logger that had the most trouble. People seemed to have to enter the QSO twice and ignore it marking me as a dupe. Might be worth a feature request to implement the multi-county / separator that N1MM uses.

I will have to look into a better way of using Google maps for navigation. It has this annoying quirk of trying to resolve lat/long into something that it knows... which may be miles away from where I want to be. Other than that, everything worked flawlessly. 100W from an FT-100D into an ATAS-120 got the job done.

Thanks for all the Qs everyone and I hope to be back next year!

73,

Nick K1NZ

KX2NY portable Putnam NY 594 cw 263 ssb
Operator(s): K4HA W2XL

Our 4th year to activate a rare county. We did Putnam this year. Our score is down from last year in Chenango. We did not have an ideal location this time . It was hard to find a B & B that was reasonable price and not booked. We had a 100 ft hill to the west of us and then Mt. Beacon at 1500 ft about a mile or two away to the west. The ridge that Beacon is on extends several miles south to the Hudson Highlands. We had some good runs, but it just seemed like we were not real loud.

Thanks to K2WPM who gave us Putnam Co. , the only one we worked ! Thanks to RDXA for sponsoring NYQP, always fun. 73 Bob & Bob

Equipment: 2 ea IC-7610 , 2 ea multi-band dipoles and a short 160 wire vertical with 2 radials on ground.

WW2Y portable Franklin NY 446 cw 491 ssb
Operator(s): W2KV WW2Y
Station: WW2Y

Thanks to NYQP for sponsoring this fun contest. Dsve and I had fun.
73,
Peter and Dave

N2CU mobile 1032 cw 139 ssb

Wow, that was fun! I was opposed at first to having to be right on a county line for mobiles, since it is not always safe or in a good location. However, I found it wasn't bad at all. I really enjoyed the humungous pileups! I activated 11 counties in total and 10 were county lines. The biggest issue was the amount of time it takes to go from county line to the next. One trip took nearly two hours.

I worked 40 NY counties, 43 states and 7 countries. My best 60 minute rate was 240/hour, which is a total rush for a mobile. Speaking of pileups, most were well behaved; except for 80m CW. Probably because my signal was puny weak but some people just kept calling over and over while I was replying to a station. I have a new respect for DX-pedition operators (I could never do one).

BIG thanks to everyone who called in and made this a blast, especially those who

followed me in each county. Double-digit QSOs with: OM2VL (43), NS2N and WN4AFP (22), NA1NA (17), K2SSS (14), K8MFO and WB9HFK (13), K3WJV, K4RUM, VE9VIC, W1FM and WA1UJU (12), W5TM and K2QO (11), W9QL, AC0W and K2QB (10).

I really wanted to give SSB a good try but it was impossible to find a clear frequency to run on. Tells the story about the level of activity this year.

I even took time to give a station a 30m QSO with NIA county on the drive home after the contest.

K3/100

40-10m hamsticks on roof of Toyota RAV4

KA8KIP screwdriver (80/75m)

73, Tom N2CU/m

K4BAI - fixed - GA 83 cw 13 ssb

Much more activity from NY this year. Good job. Many other distractions kept operating time low. Thanks for all QSOs especially the mobiles. 73, John K4BAI

K0BAK mobile 560 ssb qso

From his FB page:

Thanks to all who contacted me during the NY QSO Party yesterday (10/15). I did a pre-contest first-time activation in Manhattan at Riverbank SP (K-2125), but only stayed a brief time due to the contest schedule and because I was parked with only hutzpah for a permit. Then activated three POTA locations during the contest while activating the five boroughs/counties of New York City for the contest. Love combining QSO parties with POTA synergistically.

Thanks also for many P2P contacts but I was too busy getting contest contacts to copy the ids ... I'll delay my POTA upload to gather P2P ids to put in the log, but they should match anyway. 411 POTA QSOs in 7 activations (incl. 2fers & night) on this rove."

from the 3830 scores

Experienced mostly constant contacts; the main challenge of CQing being finding an available spot on 40m general sideband. I appreciate NYQP finally allowing mobiles to self-spot like most other area QPs do. "High power" was only 300-400w.

Illinois QSO Party

Lots of activity and lots of mobiles/rovers!

AD4EB Mobile 1252 cw

This was the 8th time Melody and I operated mobile in the ILQP. We ended up shy of last year's score of 1,313 QSOs and 83 mults. Melody drove the same route as last year, covering all of the planned 23 counties (307 miles), and stayed pretty much right on schedule. Weather was perfect, sunny and cool.

We finally got our new van after waiting 6 months for it to arrive, a 2023 KIA Carnival MPV (multi-purpose vehicle), guess the word "van" has some sort of stigma associated to it. Spent most of last week getting it set up for the contest. I was concerned about RFI generated by the vehicle getting into the radio, and even more so RFI from my 100W radio affecting the vehicle computers. I was very happy to find none of the above occurred, there was absolutely no interference either way. It turned out to be an incredibly effective ham radio vehicle, and most importantly Melody liked the comfort and the almost self-driving features.

Participation was a bit lower than last year, 255 unique calls vs 279 last year. Thought we could beat our 2021 score as 15m was expected to be open and popular. It was often open, but very few stations showed up to answer my CQs so pretty much gave up on 15m. OM2VL moved me there a couple of times. There was good short skip on 20m and 40m. Best rate for 1 hour was 198.

As usual, the pileups got bigger as the contest neared the end. Thought I managed pretty well, but there were times when about everyone tuned exactly on my frequency or precisely where I was spotted, making it very difficult to pick out any one station. Certain stations consistently called me above or below my frequency and got worked quickly. OM2VL, WN4AFP, and K4AMC come to mind.

APRS was used again this year accessible via a link on my QRZ.com webpage. It shows our live location, county lines, and proposed route. It was pretty obvious who was using it, as they were usually the first ones to work us when entering a new county. K3IE, OM2VL, K5ZM, W8PI, VE2FK, and W1QK seemed to have used it in this contest as they were most often the first to work me.

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.

Those that worked me 20 or more times include:

K4ZGB (30)
K5CM (27)
OM2VL (27)
W8PI (26)
WN4AFP (24)
K9CT (23)
VE2FK (23)
W1QK (22)
W5TM (22)
K3IE (21)
WA0JCO (20)

We appreciate everyone who took the time to work us in this contest. And thanks to the WIARC for making this contest happen, and especially to Jim N9JF for his coordination efforts.

Most of all, thanks to Melody for driving and navigating me down around Illinois for the 2022 ILQP. Hope we can do it again next year.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

KJ9C mobile 695 cw 41ssb

Busy busy busy! A few short sessions of dead air, mostly from making wrong turns or (once) driving past my turn three times before I found it. Phone (as usual) was nearly a bust but I should have done a bit more to find more mults.

KA9FZR mobile 249 cw

The KA9FZR team (KA9FZR, WO9B, AA9RK) left our southern WI QTH to go mobile in the Illinois QSO Party. Our four-hour drive took us through the counties of Lake, Cook, Kane, DeKalb, Ogle, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and Lake again on the way back home. The biggest pileups occurred in Boone County, with three and four stations calling after almost every QSO.

A loose connector took us off the air briefly in Ogle county, but it was a very quick repair and we were back on the air shortly. Signals were strong the entire day, and short skip meant we were able to work many Illinois counties on 40 meters.

Many thanks to those who worked us several times as we drove through the state and those who spotted us. A good time was had by all.

Rig: IC-7300
Ant: Screwdriver
Software: N1MM+

Lake: 44 QSOs
Cook: 36
Kane: 41
DeKalb: 13
Ogle: 18
Winnebago: 24
Boone: 29
McHenry: 44

OM2VL Fixed DX 161 cw 43 ssb Mults 74

FB condx on high bands! I tried several times CQ on SSB 10/15/20/40m but unfortunately only few station back.

At 23Z I had in my LOG 192 QSO so I was so happy that I can reach this year the audible award... I went to 80m and began my neverending CQs with no any answer. I heard and called several stations, but no any back to my call. K9CT I called so long, but no luck. It

happened first time that no any QSO on 80m :(
I went back to 40m but didn't find any new station.

At 23:50Z (in my LOG 197 QSO)I asked W9O move to SSB and his answer was OK! :)
We QSY on 7.198 and easy QSO with nice signal - 199 QSO!
I stayed on the freq and tried CQ. On my first CQ back W9RFU from 3 county line, so I
reached the audible award. Thanks everyone for the QSOs!

Most QSOs:

Mobile:

AD4EB 28/23
N9JF 12/10
KJ9C 10/8
K9LY 5/2
NR0P 4/4
KY0Q 2/2
KA9ZFR 1/1

Portable:

W9O 8/2
K9ZA 6/3
W9RFU 6/3
W9D 4/2
W9WE 4/2
K9AJC 3/3
K7DZE 3/3

Resident:

(5): KX9X
(4): K9CT, KG9N, WA9AON

73, Laci OM2VL

WA9LEY portable 240 cw qso

Operated as a rover from La Salle, Grundy, Will and Cook counties. FT891 to a Wolf
River Coil on a tripod for 40 and an ATAS120A with a mag mount on my car for 20. I

didn't get much traction on phone so I stayed with CW. It was a beautiful day to be running around in the mobile

KY0Q Rover 231 cw qso

First time operating portable. Lots of driving so only 4 hours operating time but it was a heck of a lot of fun! Activated 4 counties. I'll rove again next year or go mobile for sure.

Call: N9I 461 cw

Operator(s): KKØU

Class: Portable LP QTH: jackson

Not as many mults as last year, but more Qs. Got on closer to the start time this year, but still didn't get the 2nd aerial up. Some technical difficulties at the beginning, but I eventually got them all ironed out.

As always, this was a lot of fun!

73 and thanks for the QSOs, Jim KK0U

W9O 824 cw 544 ssb

Operator(s): AAØZ KD9LSV

Class: Portable LP QTH: FRNK/JEFF

Kyle (AA0Z) and I decided to rack up as many QSOs as possible so we mostly decided to enter into the unlimited category and run for a majority of the event. Kyle handled most the of the SSB while I got to enjoy CW. You mostly saw us on 2 different bands for of the most event.

From the CW operating: Thanks for all the mobiles picking up me everytime I would call with the long exchange. 80M was a blast as always with the rate coming strong for an hour.

Thanks for the move to SSB OM2VL. Always a treat to work DX on SSB.

On the SSB side, 40M short skip was amazing during the beginning of the contest. With this also being POTA SYP weekend, activity was really busy on 20M but Kyle kept

operating.

I hope next year we get some more competition in the new unlimited category. It was a blast to have multiple signals on the air at a give time and give FRNK/JEFF to a lot of QSOs.

73 till the next contest,
Connor KD9LSV
Kyle AA0Z

Polio 2022

From the PA Polio Newsletter Oct 2022

June, 2022. Polio Reported in the United States
Marny K. Eulberg, MD

By now, the majority of you in our polio survivor community have already heard the news that a case of acute polio has recently been confirmed in Rockland County, New York. More information will likely come forward, but what we currently know is that one of the United States' newest polio survivors is an adult male who was unvaccinated, developed the first symptoms in June, and was infected with an oral polio vaccine-derived type 2 poliovirus. Reportedly he had not traveled abroad, although some reports now are saying he had traveled to Europe. The type of poliovirus that caused his paralysis is what is called "circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus" (cVDPV). That means it was imported into the U.S. from somewhere in the world where the oral polio vaccine is still used. It has become more common, although still rare, in parts of the world where the oral (Sabin) polio vaccine is used, where there are large numbers of unvaccinated or under vaccinated individuals, and especially where there is inadequate sanitation and access to clean water.

Globally, there were 1,113 children diagnosed with paralysis from polio caused by the cVDPV viruses in 2020, 689 in 2021, and 359 as of 9/28/22. These individuals, mostly children, are just as paralyzed as they would have been had they been infected with the "wild"/occurring-in-nature polioviruses. This NY case demonstrates that we, in the developed world, can still see cases of acute polio anywhere that there is inadequate

immunity to polio.

A recent report that sewage samples in London had shown presence of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (a similar type to that implicated in the NY case) stimulated concern that polio could show up in parts of the world that have not seen polio for decades.

Organizations dedicated to polio eradication such as Rotary International and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) - of which Rotary is a partner, often quote the sayings, “Any form of poliovirus anywhere is a threat to children everywhere” and “Polio is just an airplane ride away.” Most polio survivors do not need to be convinced of the value of polio vaccines because they have seen the devastating effects these nasty viruses can have.

A course of three doses of any form of polio vaccine has been demonstrated to be 99% effective in preventing polio. There are several advantages to using the oral polio vaccine. A novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) has been developed that is much less likely to mutate when out in the environment, and cause vaccine-derived disease as a result.

The United States stopped using all oral polio vaccine in 2000 and switched back to the injectable (killed) (Salk) polio vaccine. There is NO risk of cVDPV when the polio shots are used instead of oral polio vaccine drops (or remember the “sugar cubes” with the polio vaccine drops were placed on top) Some of you who have traveled to developing countries in the past few years may have been surprised to learn that an additional booster dose of polio vaccine was recommended before travel to certain countries even though you had had the disease and had been fully immunized for polio. This is an extra precaution because of the theoretical risk of exposure to wild poliovirus or the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus,

For the past five years, wild poliovirus cases (Type 1) have been confined to Pakistan and Afghanistan, but in late 2021 and in 2022 there has been one case in Malawi and 6 in Mozambique. As of 7/28/22 there have been 27 individuals paralyzed by wild polio virus. Circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (mostly Type 2) have been reported in nearly 30 countries including in many parts of Africa, Southeast Asia, Israel, Ukraine, and the Arabian Peninsula.

The bottom line is that this case in New York presents no threat to those who have been immunized but is a reminder that polio is not yet “gone”. It is unfortunate that this man now is suffering from a vaccine- preventable illness! Although this will be life-changing

for this young man and his family, the good news is that despite poliovirus being detected in the wastewater of several counties around the New York City area to date there have been no more confirmed cases of paralysis caused by polio. For up-to-date information about polio and the eradication efforts, go to www.polioeradication.org

World Polio Day – October 24, 2022 :

"The solution to stopping all polio outbreaks globally is the same whether they are caused by WPV or VDPV. Vaccinate."

"Continued support for the successful completion of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is critical to eliminating the threat of any live poliovirus."

"The absence of high vaccination coverage anywhere poses a risk everywhere."

The New England Journal of Medicine October 5, 2022. If ever there was a year to join Team Survivor, this is it. There is only one cure for this terrible disease: Vaccination. As survivors, we know that even one more child experiencing the lifelong realities of the poliovirus is too many. When we support the Rotary Foundation's efforts to eradicate polio, we are donating to one of the most highly rated charitable organizations in the world.

Every dollar you give will be turned into three by the Gates Foundation. NO amount is too small.

COVID 2022

The fall is bringing some increasing cases. My sister reports schools closing with 40% of students /staff down with covid or RSV last week. While vax is available for under 15, not many kids have gotten it. So it's still around. This year many hospitals over loaded with kids getting RSV – which gives 'nasty cold' symptoms and makes breathing difficult. Seems to be going around. There is newly developed vaccine for it but not yet approved for use.

In China, a new variant, BXX, has appeared. The latest booster for Omicron seems fairly effective against this. Meanwhile new variants are showing up in USA but latest booster shot seems to be good against it. Omicron is BA5 variant and these are modifications to that. Viruses are good at trying to evade protection and previously

infected people so it can keep spreading.

Only 50% of folks who got the first COVID shot have bothered to get any booster shot as of late September 2022.

Two county hunters on the way to Bozeman got it. Spent a week in hotel isolating – first husband, then wife picked it up. Made it to convention on time but week of missed giving out counties.

Most hotels on the way up had shields at registration desks to keep direct interaction down, but many did not. Same in restaurants. Some servers wore masks, others not, and almost no customers did.

While it's way down from a peak a year ago, it's still with us. Likely never to go away. Like the flu (new flu shots available now for this season).

COVID is the 3rd largest cause of death in the USA.

So please keep your vaccinations current for best protection. We've lost too many to it already.

There are now three vaccines available: Pfizer/Moderna and the new approved Norovax. The latter is a 'traditional vaccine' not MRNA derived if that is your objection.

Remote Operation

Ron, KB6UF, got upset with his concern on mobile operation, remote mobile operation, and remote stations in general. For some reason, he jumped to the conclusion that there could be a way to operate a remote station in AK and claim self credit for a transmitted county. Not so. The rules are very specific on this already.

Meanwhile all sorts of comments from other county hunters were spewed out on the forum, most of them not ever examining the current rules to figure out that this was mostly nonsense drivel about being able to claim all sorts of self credits in various counties for using a remote station. Or even using a remote station at all to work counties!

Note: One mobile station in the NC QSO party had a driver with a remote station, and the driver went through counties, and another operator sitting at home made all the contacts through the remote mobile. The call used was that of the driver. W4TMO mobile operated by N4CW at home. Might have been the first time done. However, even that is covered by current rules as it is the STATION location that counts. You worked that mobile, you got credit for that county. Same as if N4CW was operating in the car using W4TMO call. Needless to say there were a few places where the internet dropped out and there was silence until it was found again. This was the 'trigger' for lots of comments on K3IMC forum.

So Ron went off on a tangent saying that he could sit at home, get someone to drive through counties all over, or Alaska, and claim 'transmitted counties'. Nope, the rules are already VERY clear on this. You have to be IN the county for this.

From page 11 of the MARAC Award rules:

"Transmitted Counties are the counties where a mobile operator is located when making a Valid Contact."

Thus, you must physically be IN THE COUNTY. Not remote. It is where the operator is located. Not at home using a remote.

As to self credit, each and every award that allows self credit has a statement in the rules for that award. Every one of them

"However, self credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county."

- - -

Now, for working counties, the rules already cover that – p11 – remote operation

For working counties, remember, it matters not WHERE you are located. It only matters where the "station" you are working is located. If you work a station in Custer ND and it is a remote station there run by a remote operator in FL, it is the STATION LOCATION that counts.

Under Valid Contacts (p11 of rules) - "MARAC Awards require valid two-way radio

contacts with **other licensed amateur radio stations.** "

Thus, it is the STATION, where located, that gives you the county. If Jim in FL operates a "station" in Custer SD, it is where the 'station' is located. Under rule on p11 - "When using a remote operation for making Valid Contacts, the distant station must be located in the same country or ARRL DXCC entity as the controlling station." There are no other requirements.

Thus, under current rules, no interpretation needed, if you work Jim in Custer SD, but he is remote in FL operating that station, it counts for ALL Marac Awards for everything from USACA , USA Nth Time, Bingo, Prefixes, Call Combos. No further interpretation needed. Jim gets no credit for a transmitted county or any other MARAC awards with 'self credit'. He does get to count all the stations worked and their counties.

The rule already addresses that. And of course, if you use a remote station in NY to work counties, fine. That too is covered under CURRENT RULES. No further clarification required.

Now, a purist might have a personal issue with that. Fine, work all your counties from your home QTH or from your mobile, wherever it happens to be located. Or just from your home as some have done.

- - -

Ron also 'interpreted 'remote' as a repeater - whose contacts are not allowed. Nope – a repeater is a station that takes RF in and puts that signal out as RF out. Using the internet to operate a remote station involves NO re-transmission of RF. No RF is generated at your house to operate a remote in NY state or WA state. Thus, the rule on repeaters does not apply. In addition, remote operation is already covered under page 11 of the rules.

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Now, Ron indicated was 'waiting for the MARAC Board to respond. It won't on the K3IMC forum. I advised him:

A - this is not the MARAC board.. (K3IMC forum)

B - If you are waiting to hear back from MARAC board, I suggest you write to the

Secretary of MARAC with your concern on the issue, It will be distributed to Board members as an item of business. (Or your district director.)

C - MARAC board will meet and refer your 'concern' to the Awards Committee

D - N5MLP is the Awards Committee Chairman. He will distribute to all members of the Awards Committee. (Note N4CD is on the Awards Committee.)

E - The Awards committee members will look at your concern and discover the current rules cover both self credit for the awards (p11) where you must PHYSICALLY be in the country, and also remote operation which is allowed, and which is covered on page 11 of the rules. Has been for well over a decade.

F- The Awards committee members will vote - likely to do nothing as the rules cover it.

G - The Awards Chairman will send that to the Board who at the next meeting will vote to do nothing as the current rules are very clear on this issue, but tell the Secretary to write you a note saying your concerns are already covered by the rules. This could take several months.

de N4CD.

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Kerry, W4SIG chimed in on this. From the Forum

“ 1) The Forum is not where anyone should go for a formal question or complaint to MARAC officers about activities. The proper procedure is to call or email your District Director directly with your concern. Most issues can easily be resolved this way. If action needs to be taken by the Board, then the Director can take it to the other Board members for discussion and action, if necessary. Not all Board members monitor the Forum, and those that do, do not necessarily check it daily. No need.

2) I was referred to as the MARAC President. I am not, I am the Southeast Director.

3) “Mobile Remote”? I have never heard of such a thing. I know of no one who is setting up their mobile station as a remote for others to use to take credit for a county activation. As noted by several folks on the Forum, MARAC rules do NOT allow this as written. The ham must be physically in the county to take credit for activation for that county. Rules have never stated otherwise. If you know of someone who is setting up

their mobile station as a remote for others to use, please let the Board know. Other than telling them they are a genius for figuring this out, we would gladly tell them that this type operation would NOT allow anyone using it remotely to count it for a county activation

4) As stated many times in the threads, the MARAC rules do indeed allow remote operation. The ARRL does too, and has for many years. The scenarios specifically laid out in prior threads are correct. I will try to lay out another example that may help. If I, W4SIG, am sitting at home in Shelby County TN and utilize a remote in Dutchess County NY to work mobile KB6UF in Wise County TX then I get credit for working Ron in Wise County ty TX. Ron gets credit for working Dutchess NY. But W4SIG does NOT get credit for transmitting from Dutchess County NY.

Matter of Fact, Logger II has a provision for this already built into the program. On the main page of Logger II in the upper left corner of the screen is "Station Data". In the "OP" field one can choose "home", "portable", or "remote". Since, other than my mobile trips, I always am remote, I choose that my station op mode is "remote" and I enter Dutchess County NY as my county.

Since I chose "remote" Logger II does NOT give me credit for transmitting from Dutchess County NY. If I had chosen "home" or "portable" it would have. So, there is no way I would get credit for transmitting from Dutchess NY just by using it as my remote. The rules clearly state this and Logger II is set up accordingly.

5) I realize that remote operation is a tricky topic. Anytime new technology comes around, we all have a tendency to wonder if it is fair to utilize it. A lot of us remember when we would use the telephone to "one-ring" each other to inform of a county you need is on the air. Some didn't approve of that. I remember before the internet when spotting was not a thing. Some didn't think spotting was fair game. Some do not think that relays have ever been fair. There was a day before our radios could not show us multiple full band spectrum that showed us what frequencies are active with counties for us to work on the air. Maybe that is considered an unfair advantage. We must all remember that this is a hobby.

There are no financial rewards for amazing hobby/challenge that we all chase. There is personal satisfaction that we have accomplished a feat that is incredibly difficult. There is the grateful recognition from fellow county hunters of a job well done. Whether we choose to work them all on one band, one mode, all QRP, no remotes, no relays, etc. then that is up to us for our own goals we have set. You would be surprised at how many county hunters utilize remote operation. For most that do, it is our only option to be

active in ham radio.

Personally, if not for remote operation, I would have been out of ham radio 8 years ago. You would not have heard me active mobile in over 2000 counties on bands from 10-80 til late in the night, there would not be almost 1000 LCs that I have provided, there would currently be no RoadRunner, there would currently be no one filling in for Secretary duties, and I would not be sitting here as your MARAC Board member literally begging every month for others to volunteer for a MARAC position with zero response. Without remote operation contacts many mobiles would be hurting to get their self-credit for operation on the higher bands. The biggest topic at the National, for those that attended, was what can we do about the dwindling number of county hunters and mobiles. The Board is doing all it can to promote and recruit new hunters, but it takes all of us working on this. I think the last thing we need to do is run off existing hunters because we have a hang up with a type of operation that has been legal to the ARRL for many years.

Call: W4SIG 10/21/2022

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KB6UF Commentary

As posted on the K3IMC forum:

More Ching trivia-more

Well when I started County Hunting it was mostly 20 meter phone, no internet, no posting trips, Cherries was the logging program, sending snail mail back and forth letting folks know what needs each County Hunter needed. During those days you needed to be at the radio, if a mobile came on the air you would give some one a one ringer letting him or her there was a wanted county running. Those were the days when people looked out for each other, not so much today.

Those we're the days of net controls. Sometimes three of them east , west and middle. Some would come and go (especially the one's close to finishing up) when they got there's they were gone. Example an 8 call was running the net(not sure of call so I won't post it) he announced me that I was running an Oklahoma county, was starting my run, then net control broke in stopped my run so his buddy could run the county the net control needed. I just switched to 40 meters didn't run 20 rest of day.

This leads me to Net Controls. Had a lot of good net controls over the years. My opinion k2JG was the best, as a Mobile he was like taxes, you could tune to 14.336 and he was there, you knew that you were going to be announced, run and get relays, he ran a tight net, during the times of mini's he handled a well organized net, when (during those day 30 mobiles) he would adjust run times to Ensure that every mobile had a chance to run. He was there 10 to 12 hours a day seven days a week. He ran Net with a strict set of rules. (I always felt that anyone who was taking there time running the net) I followed their rules. Whether I agreed with them or not. I road a lot of miles with him, I listened to him try and explain to a newby the rules 3 or four times and the newby still wanted to do it his way, about that time k2JG would tell him or her to take a hike, (myself I wouldn't have lasted that long, after the second time the newby would be gone. Here comes the little click (which I believe were never or had little involvement in running the phone net. They were complying about everything thing he did, I phonetics, time limits on mobile runs etc etc. accusing him of banning them from 14.336, he didn't ban anyone, he just would not assist, run relays, basically just ignored them. Now don't get me wrong I didn't agree on all subject matter or the way he handle some individuals but the I could say that about a number Net Controls.

Paul Harvey- now the rest of the story

Message: I remember all the counties I ran and all the other mobiles he ran running as many as he could in a timely manner. All the relays he provided to the folks. A number of these folks that benefited turned on him because a small click of malcontents or should mostly do nothing malcontents kept up their kept complaining.

The day the music died, The CW cabal took over, this crew started changing rule , operating frequency, like 14.336 to some where else, that was the stupendous move ever. They took a very well established ch freq that most amateurs in the US knew was a heavily used by the CH community and pretty much stayed away.

I digress, so the Net Controls fell to the wayside, and the wave folks took over, now the folks that go mobile now have the privilege of stopping and posting themselves (unless you have a co driver that will post while driving down the road)so for me that would entail me to find a place to pull over and post myself each band change per county.

That didn't work for me, I run on the fly. I could've just one band 14.336 and be done with it but I tried to help as many folks with contacts as I could. So during my posted

trip I requested help from CH'ers to assist me in posting when they worked me off of my posted band 14.336, that way other ch'ers would know where I was at and what band.

Well didn't work out to well on my way to Pennington, SD from Louisiana. When I checked W6RK site I noted folks I worked didn't have time to post me. Typical give me the county but I don't have time to help me, which is much to typical of a number of folks. Any way that's why I posted what I did about no help(that's where this all started with N4RS smart ass remark (how did that work for you). Anyway, while in SD for three days I started hearing about remote operations and getting credit transmit county via remote, so I really got irritated. As you could tell by my posts. Little research on remotes operation i discover so folks we using remotes even before they were authorized by MARAC, but we wouldn't want to confront him because he runs counties.

It all boils down to this. Mobile operating used to be fun for me, not so much now it's become more of a job, with the CW crowd taking over and the mentally of get the county but don't give back as indicated by the inability of this cabal to fill position with in the club. Like me (as Clint Eastwood said"man's got to know his limitations ") that's why I didn't run net control, after 33 years in the pen, I operated from a point of view, "when all else fails go straight to violence". That's why I gave it to JG for his patience in dealing with the folks, I wouldn't have lasted that long. So I ran counties to make up for that. Not like a lot of folks sit at home and collect counties but don't give anything back.

I have removed all my antenna's from my vehicle, when I get back to Louisiana from California I will remove the radio. I am done with CHing

73's Ron KB6UF 10/22/2022

N4CD Commentary

It's always sad to see long time county hunters decide to hang up the mobile gear and go on to other things. As you can tell from the stats, many earn first time USACA and vanish. Up to 50% or so within a few years. Now, with fewer and fewer new folks joining the ranks, it's even more of a problem. More join the ranks of SK each year than

join MARAC.

Checked W6RK and there were 150 spots on Ron's trip from LA to SD. Spotted by K8MFO and K0DEQ on 80m cw early, very early in the morning. Then NF0N and K0DEQ on 40M CW. KA9JAC and NF0N on 30M. Later AB7RW and AG6V on 20m when band opened. N0KV, N4RS, N8KIE spotted cw runs. N1API and KJ8F spotted runs. Then NU0Q and WB8III spotted runs in IA headed north. W9OO, W5GND, W9DC, K4AMC, W6OUL, K4YT, W5VS, KA4RRU, NS2N, and KM6HB spotted some of KB6UF's runs. Most spotted were cw runs. N8KIE posted SSB runs a few times along with N8MD, but not many spotted SSB runs if Ron went there. So more than 15 different spotters and different times during the day. Did any county not get spotted?

150 spots on W6RK for not even 100 different counties. Loads of folks calling when they could hear him due to propagation.

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As to K2JG, he achieved what he set out to do. As mobile operation decreased, and after he had run off HALF of the senior activators (including KI0JD, N9STL, N8KIE, N4CD, and a dozen others) he found out there weren't enough left willing to run on 20M SSB to justify him spending hours a day looking for 'a number one mobile ' or a 'mobile ready to run'. In addition, several others curtailed their mobile operation fed up with him. Or operated alternative frequency or 40m exclusively.

In addition, he had problems keeping another net control station elsewhere in the country. Folks near K2JG in adjoining states struggled to get heard.

N5UZW and others (KM9X) handled the 40M net with great success and activity during sunspot low activity. At convention time, 90% of the runs were on 40M, with K2JG begging for mobiles to come run on 20M. As K2JG ran more off, CW activity increased 50%. Then we added 30M to the mix on cw and loads of new activity there as all counties were worked on 30M.

Yes, the days of loads of net controls was great. WA4KER, Howard, In FL and WA9QNI in south TX often handled the morning 3 hours on 20M when I started in the early 1990. Then others ran it for a few hours. In the evening several YL's including WA7IRD out in OR, W0AYL in south TX, and others chimed in. N4CD put in over 1,000 hours of net control time (earned the Net Control 1000 hours certificate (now eliminated award as no one went after it). N2TPH, Miss Ida, would help at times.

Yeah, K1ER in CO often skipped mobiles for one he needed at times. Or took the first one he heard, and didn't check for others. Maybe one or two other so-so net controls. K1ER got his USA-CA and vanished. Now in HI. Better than none though. When I first got into it – a W6 ran the net many days in the afternoons.

Way back when, you'd bring lists of needed counties to conventions and mini's and leave copies for folks to get. The RR would list some trips and needs. Folks also knew who ran what counties regularly so you'd get tips on who to ask for help. One – ringers provided help to get folks on the air for a needed county. Up to 250 folks came to the 3M in Murphreesboro, TN for that mini.

Then Don, K3IMC, came up with the County Hunter site – with Forum, needs, etc. Dennis, KK7X has the County Hunting site with loads of info for new folks.

About that time, W6RK came up with spotting.

Yeah, the world is different in 2022 than in 1980, 1990, 2000. Folks are busier and more 'connected' with work and home life. 300 channels on the TV, Instagram, YouTube, Netflix, Twitter, etc, eat up lots of times. Now, FT-8 is 1/3rd of all contacts uploaded to Logbook of the World – ARRL LoTW.

But, it is really different. This year probably over 2000 counties have been run between state QSO parties in 2022 and the probably 500 or more put out during the past six weeks for the convention. Lots of other trips in there with K8ZZ running hundreds back east and WY0A out west. Lots of cw activity. Runs on 20M SSB, 17M SSB and even higher for some mobiles. However, getting others outside the county hunting core is difficult.

Spotting is, well, other than convention time, more of an issue. There's often not enough activity for someone to sit at the radio all day long. Some don't have spotting capability in the ham shack or aren't sure of the county to spot. So if you don't self spot, you might not get a whole lot of contacts. Yeah, I don't usually spot 'on the run'. Might get spotted on 20M CW, but few on 30 and 40m when I go there. Thanks to K7SEN, KC3X, NN9K, NF0N, etc who give contacts when you are 'in range'. But.....on Ron's recent quick trip to SD, over 15 different spotters spotted his runs. Lack of spotters? Nope, not for that trip.

In addition, even if you self spot, it take take 3-4-5 minutes until the spots show up on folks computers (and alarms go off). If you spot via Logger, it goes to the MARAC spot site, which interacts every minute with W6RK, and then it shows up every 30

seconds after that. If you're zipping along, folks will be waiting for the next. If you're a bit slower, it can take minutes for folks to show up on freq – and hopefully you haven't left yet – not getting any activity.

Now, there are over 10,000 Parks on the Air enthusiasts. If you listen to 14.336 you'll often find POTA activity there as it's an 'empty frequency' most of the time (or 14335 or 337). There are typically 100 stations 'activating' on weekends, mostly SSB. The Awards system is fairly simple. You upload your logs directly now to the POTA database after an activation. A simple ADIF file is all that is required. Everyone you worked gets electronic credit for that park or parks you were in. They get awards when they reach the next level for both chasing and activating parks. There are 9800+ parks now – some states have 600 entities, for folks to run including state parks, National parks, and many wildlife areas, trails, national monuments, state historic sites, etc. No exchanging QSLs is required. All electronic. There is the spotting site, the Facebook page, Slack. Some upload to eQSL and LoTW as well.

In 2016, with National Parks on the Air, I zipped through 38 states giving out tens of thousands of contacts – from NPOTA parks – and more running the counties in between. I've slowed down since. Seems like I uploaded 80,000 Qs in 2016 to LoTW.

So, I've said my piece. Most of my trips combine park activation and putting out counties in between now. As I get a bit older, and have been doing this for 30+ years, the trips are a bit more trouble for me. Several health issues make it not so easy as 30 years ago. Having 'been everywhere' county wise, it's also interesting to see some of the 'tourist sites' like memorial parks that I've missed along the way.

That said, we've still got to work on getting more activity for county hunters and more involved – luring away some from POTA or at least knowing what counties they are in.

Many have hung up the county hunting gear as they get older and have trouble getting out. I'm not ready yet to join them, but I've slowed down. Thank goodness for younger ones and healthy ones willing to keep at it.

Now, eQSL, accepted by CQ Mag, provides folks and awards for counties. How many CH upload logs to eQSL? Not me. You? That's what the new folks use besides the POTA and WWFF sites for confirmations and awards. It's what DX uses to earn USA-CA-500. If the park chasers get 500 counties on eQSL, we should encourage them to get the USA-CA 500 level. CQ now accepts eQSL confirmations.

I'm sure dozens of people have worked 1,000 counties or more in state QSO Parties –

yet haven't caught the bug of working on a CQ Magazine Award. Didn't bother to get confirmations. Their logging program might even track that.

You get electronic awards on eQSL. Same for POTA with scads of awards for even activating 10 parks or working 10 parks and then increments going up skyward. Your award is emailed to you when you reach the next level.

I set goals of running all counties. Did that 20 years ago finishing in 2002. . Then I decided to do it again. Loads of driving but still fun putting them out. Took another 10 years. Put 700,000 miles on cars county hunting. Not going to be another time, but I still track them. Got all the awards up through Mobile Diamond, so that's not an incentive to go on. Enough. There's 10th time – all cw I'm slowly working on.

But there are still things that get me going! So I'll be out again here and there. Net control or no.

As to MARAC officers, I put in my time. Now on the Awards Committee. I hope other county hunters take 'their turn' keeping MARAC going. It's the only awards issuing entity that provides any incentive to work on new awards. What would happen if MARAC went away? Vote when it's your turn for mobile awards each quarter. Stay interested. Run some local counties or the ones on the way to grandma's house for Holidays. Maybe spend a few hours a year as a committee member, or volunteer to be an officer – doesn't take all that much time – maybe a few hours a quarter.

County Hunting is what you make it. Some hunt from home. Some like to go out and run counties. Some do both. Some use remotes. Whatever rocks your boat.

Awards Issued

Lots of awards this month with people finishing up things!

Roadrunner Awards:

N5MLP attained 275 last counties on 26 September 2022. He received #86

K8ZZ completed 1450 last counties on 20 October 2022. He received #4
N5MLP completed 325 last counties on 20 October 2022. He received #72
N4CD attained 2750 last counties on 30 September 2022. He received #1
W4SIG attained 900 last counties on 30 September 2022. He received #17
AB7NK attained 1150 last counties on 1 October 2022. She received #8
W0GXQ attained 1525 last counties on 25 September 2022. He received #3

USA-CA CW Award:

K8MFO completed CWIII on 2 October 2022. He received #17

USA-CA Nth Time Award:

K8MFO completed his 3rd time on 2 October 2022. He received #262

USA-CA All SSB Award

K8ZZ completed 3077 SSB counties on 12 October 2022. He received #4

USA-CA Single Band Award

KC3X Completed all 3077 40M band on 2 October 2022, He received #5

K2MF attained 3000 counties 30M all CW on 2 April 2022. He received #1

K0DEQ Attained Level 3000 on 40M on 23 October 2022. He received #2

K0DEQ Attained Level 1000 on 160M on 24 January 2022. He received #2

K0DEQ Attained Level 1000 on 12M on 8 October 2022. He received #1

USA-Prefixes Award K prefix

AB7NK completed all K prefixes on 20 October 2022. She received #36

Events for County Hunters

Would you believe – NONE. QSO party season is over. Only contests this month from CQ DX to Sweepstakes and a bunch of DX contests and smaller ones.

Check out the contest corral at

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2022/November%202022%20Corral.pdf>

for those.

73 de N4CD - That's all folks. That's enough!