

# County Hunter News OnLine

November 2023  
Volume 19 Issue 11

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

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

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

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

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://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](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

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

## Notes from the Editor

### **N4CD Rumblings**

**1 ) Sunspots** – We got them. The count dropped toward the end of the month, allowing 'good' propagation on 20M. Worked out well for the QSO parties but not a lot of contacts made on 10M toward the end of the month. Some days good.

The hopes for great 10M propagation aren't reached for most county hunters. Good from east coast to EU many days but not so good from rest of country. Lots of FT-8. You can always hear the FT-8 signals day and night it seems.

### **2 ) Daylight Saving Time**

For most Americans, Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5th at 2 a.m. as we adjust our clocks back one hour to Standard Time. States like Arizona and Hawaii don't have to adjust their clocks each year since the federal government doesn't require states and territories to observe Daylight Saving Time and those states don't.

**3 ) End of QSO Party Time** till Spring 2024. Now into contest season for the rest of the year.

**4 ) QSO Party reports** - lots this month. We focus primarily on mobiles (and

portables) to note their operating efforts to help put out the counties! Most very busy with activity and reporting. Most had good mobile activity. Added in are a few fixed stations who mention the mobiles they worked! (not all mobiles send in reports).

## Texas QSO Party – Late Report

### **AD4EB mobile - 2918 CW QSO**

This was the 5th TXQP for the Jim AD4EB and Melody KI4HVY team. Melody drove 709 miles thru 43 counties, while Jim worked the pileups for our new TXQP record. We ended up with 131 more QSOs, and 19 more multipliers, than in 2021 which was our last TXQP. The weather was perfect, participation was good, and propagation was overall very good.

In planning for the contest, I figured our best strategy for improving our score was to modify the route to include more county line operations. The 2023 route had 2 additional county line stops, for a total of 8. Each day we started on a country line, and ended on a county line. Also, one additional county was added to the route. In the past we always got hung up in traffic going thru Dallas/Ft. Worth, so we changed the route to stay to the south via Hwy I-20W.

This year 20m was the money band, with twice as many QSOs than on 40m. In 2021 we had twice the number of 40m QSOs as this year, and no QSOs on 15m or 10m. There were CMEs a few days earlier which caused auroral disturbances most notable with the DX stations. There were times when the DX stations were loud but completely uncopyable because of multipath. They were just a constant tone with no discernable dits or dahs. Eventually I would be able to pick out just enough to figure out who it was. Never heard anything like it before, very strange. Domestically the short skip was often excellent and worked some stations via backscatter.

Our plans to avoid traffic issues around Dallas/Ft. Worth did not pan out at all. There were traffic accidents all over the place, and our GPS luckily re-routed us into the heart of Dallas/Ft. Worth, but we still lost over 30 minutes. To gain this time back I decided to forgo putting up the 80m antenna, which may not have hurt us too much as the upper bands stayed open well past dark.

Sunday (TX panhandle) proved to be much more productive than Saturday. For the 12 hours on Saturday 1,656 QSOs were made (138/hr), and for the 6 hours on Sunday 1,262 QSOs were made (210/hr). Saturday sure was a workout as the pileups were so big. Additional multipliers were found by operating SO2V when the rates slowed down. We probably would have had many more multipliers if some time had been spent on 80m.

Here are stations that worked us 30 or more times:

DL3DXX (73) - Congratulations Dietmar!  
KA6BIM (72) - Dave, you were loud and easy to copy as always  
OM2VL (59) - Loud and quick as always Laci  
NS2N (54)  
WA6KHK (40)  
N8II (36)  
W9DC (36)  
K4AMC (33)

We ended the contest on the Hock/Lubb/Lamb county line. After arriving at that prime location, Marvin KI5MM showed up and operated SSB there as well. After the contest we had a nice chat about the contest and Texas. We then started making the journey to Colorado for a 1 week vacation in the mountains. We stopped at a rest area to take down the antennas and take a break, and a gentleman and his wife parked next to us and said "I know what you are doing". Most people think we are storm chasers or something else, but not them. It was fellow contester Rich N5ZC and his wife J'Nette on their way back from a bowling tournament. Melody and I really enjoyed visiting with them for a while, we all have much in common.

Many thanks to the TQP committee and to Chuck NO5W for his help. And as always, thank you Melody for all the driving and navigating, you are amazing!

73 – Jim – AD4EB and Melody – KI4HVY

**On the Road with N4CD I**

The Belton Hamfest was coming up. Held twice a year (April and October), it's mainly a big swap meet. No programs but off site VE testing. The Bell County Exposition Arena is the location. You've got both outdoor and indoor tables for the flea market. A few vendors show up each year. It's a couple hours drive down I-35.

So I headed out Friday morning after rush hour. Still massive congestion in downtown Dallas - creep and crawl for 5 miles until you get passed downtown. Then up to 70 and later 75 mph speed limits. Too many folks moving the Dallas area! My suburb of Plano has doubled in population in the 33 years I've lived here – and now 300,000 folks. New subdivisions are 30 miles north - halfway to OK, too.

On the way down, I stopped at the Waco Mammoth National Monument. Just created in 2016 at the beginning of the year, it was a popular site for NPOTA, then into WWFF and POTA. McLennan County TX. Set up the 20m hamstick on the roof and went to work. Lots of county hunters, then park chasers. Switched to 17, then 15 with dozen of contacts. Just got one on 12M, and 5 on 10M. Two DX, one VA3, and two county hunters using remote station to work me there. Tried 10m SSB but no takers. Have to swap out antennas for the different bands.

After a bit headed back down I-35 to Temple TX and the Super 8 Motel there. Been there many times. Prices are up, up up. Nearby is a Golden Corral, one of the survivors. My local one shut down, the one on 121 shut down. Hard to find one these days. Many of the buffet chains are gone or just a dozen or two of them left. (There's still a Golden Corral in Dayton OH).

On Saturday, headed over the Bell County Exposition Center. Chilly morning! Packed the long pants and long sleeve shirts – 52F in the morning. It's been 85-90 here for the past week. Definitely 'cool'. Only got up to 72 on Saturday, too.

The 'hamfest' is basically a giant swap meet. 80% of the population of TX lives within 200 miles of there. Stayed two hours – got totally worn out. Don't do walking too well these days. Saw a few interesting things – and lots of boat anchors – but none of them came home with me. Been selling a few things here and there thinning out the collection. You could buy used IC-706s, IC-7000s, Yaesu 891s, and dozens of 10-30 year old transceivers – Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, etc. A couple linear amps.

After, headed back up I-35. You can easily run the Bell/Falls county line going north. Sat on side of access road on shoulder for 30 minutes working 20, 17, 15cw. Nil on 12M so skipped 10M.

After that, headed to Mother Neff State Park. No real reason to go there other than it's a park and is located in Coryell County – 10 or 15 miles to the west. Took a while to get there. My state park pass expired, but it's only \$2 to get in so paid that. The TX state park pass is \$70 for a year. This was the first state park in TX. This year, Texas celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park system.

Found a nice parking lot and got on 20m. Worked a bunch of county hunters, then chased some CA QSO Party stations. They were not strong on 20m but put a dozen plus in log. Went to 17M and put couple dozen in log between county hunters and park chasers. Went to 15 meters and it was wall to wall CQP. Put couple dozen in log including park chasers and county hunters. Went to 10M for another 18 Qs- mostly CQP with many loud signals. Nice to hear 10m 'wide open'.

While there, K5MEC dropped by. He operated 20M SSB for a couple dozen while I was on 17m. Never heard him. He runs portable on a picnic table there. He's been there a eight times before, too. After 2 hours, headed home to Plano TX.

## MICHIGAN MINI

April 25-27, 2024  
Springhill Suites Midland, MI

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

## Mobile Activity in October

Now for the section for active mobiles. Is your call in here?

Starting 9/26

KE4UP mobile was in WA – running counties and will be headed east. Into ID. Only mobile out there for days and days. On SSB only. Most active mobile this month.

Starting in OCTOBER

K0DEQ out in IL then into MO

KE4UP running in MT for more days, Then into NE and CO. Next in IL

KB6UF headed to MO- spotted there - ran some then headed back to LA via AR and MS. Trip likely to continue at later date.

KA2LHO spotted in FL.

K3IMC put out a county line in TN then some others there.

W0GXQ noted in WI along with K8ZZ running both counties tag team.

WY0A ran a few in IA then in MN for a lot of counties. Then in KS

K6YEK noted in OR in several counties.

W0FLZ noted in San Juan, WA

Busy weekend with NYQP and IL QP toward end of month. NU0Q/m out. N9JF in park for duration on C/L. WA9LEY was in five parks roving during the QP.

NU0Q headed home via MO running counties after IL QP.

K2HVN noted in DE park or two.

NF0N noted headed east in IA – running around for several days .

End date: 10/25/23

# California QSO Party

Another good one with likely all the counties on the air. Usually just one or two mobiles – with one getting some of the rarer counties not spoken for. Lots of big signals from most counties. Reports this month from mostly County Expedition stations that often go out with big beams, high power, or operate at guest stations (or possible remote at them). There are 58 counties in California. Quite a few got 'clean sweep' of all.

## **K6M - county expedition - Modoc 1506 1040**

ops : AA5TL K4XU K7PTC KI7IOC N7GND WB7WHG

This was our 25th consecutive trip to the fire lookout in the Modoc NF. It is a 200 mile trip from our home in Bend. The lookout tower was all locked up but the toilet was open ;-).

Two trailers provided shelter for the CW and SSB stations, with three ops each. The weather was very nice but windy. There was no interstation interference even when running on the same band. 10m was HOT. K7PTC ran 28400 for the last 4 hours.

The SSB station used a TH3 on the 45' tower trailer and a 80m OCF at 60', the CW station used a TH3jr on a 35' falling derrick tower and a 40m GP - also loaded up on 80m with the tuner (and 130' of RG8X). Both stations used K3s/kpa500/kat500.

It was windy - SWR on the 40m GP suddenly went high and we discovered that some of the fiberglass sections had collapsed. No big deal to fix but in the dark. The OCF (Palomar KW) developed an arc in the balun and was replaced in the dark with a huskier 80m OCF.

## **W6E - county Expedition VENTURA 1168 1045**

ops N6MI N7DA W6PN

Operated FD style from Frazier Mountain in the Los Padres NF, Venture County, CA at 8,000 ft.

Entered new M/2 (HP) category with the N6MI "TV van" as the CW station and W6PNG's Jeep as the phone station.



Three ops this year; N6MI CW, W6PNG Phone and N7DA CW/Phone.

Conditions both terrestrial and space were favorable.

Mixture of Yaesu, Elecraft and Accom gear and N6MI has a 10/15/20 tribander at 60ft and W6PNG has a 10/15/20 HexBeam at 30 ft. A 40m vertical was used for phone and 40/80m monobander dipoles for CW.

### **K6A county Expedition - AMADOR 1231 240**

Excellent conditions for the 30 hrs. We had a number for problems, first being the power was off all day Saturday,so used the generator and ran to the amps a 1/2 power. S7 noise on many of the higher bands made for tough copy. And my other operator had family duties so ended up being a old guy running two rigs. We missed NT and NU.

Can't wait till next year. Thanks Dean for your hard work, we had a great time.

Thanks for all the QSO's 73, Brian K6IJ, Fred KH7Y

### **NT6V - county expedition NAPA 1050 CW**

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Thanks for all the QSO's 73, Brian K6IJ, Fred KH7Y

### **W6IA - county expedition HUMBOLDT 304 166 SSB**

This was a "fly-in" expedition to Humboldt County with all antennas and gear checked on a commercial airplane. Our operating location in the beautiful redwood forests of far northern California could not have been more spectacular with amazing ocean views just steps from our campsite. We had a simple rotatable trapped dipole on a fiberglass mast for 10-15-20 and a low dipole for 40 meters and tall redwood trees all around us with terrain to the east. Even though band conditions were excellent, and we had zero noise, rates were much slower for us than in previous years due to a limited station and a less-than-ideal location from a propagation standpoint. We still had a great time and hope we helped some to get HUMB in the log! Thanks for the Qs and we'll see you next year. 73, Mark W6IA & Tim W7EEE.

**NS6T county expedition TULARE 1201 1095**  
ops K6KM KE6AYK N6SPP NS6T

This year, we made our annual trek to Woodlake to activate Tulare county. As in past years, US Tower graciously provided us with terrific rooms to operate from, rooms to sleep in, and two 107 foot portable towers to place antennas on. Sadly, the hot weather returned for CQP, and it got to 97°F pretty much every day.

**Towers:**

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

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

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

**3 Antennas:**

JK Antennas C3S-JK Triband Yagi at 60 feet

80m Inverted-Vee at 100 feet

40m Inverted-Vee at 90 feet

**3 Stations:**

10/80m: Elecraft K3 + Elecraft KPA500/KAT500

15/40m: Elecraft K3S + Elecraft KP500/KAT500

20m: Elecraft K4D + Elecraft KP500

**VA6AM High Power Triplexer and High Power Bandpass Filters**

Thanks to N6DE for loaning us the antennas and the triplexer and bandpass filters plus around 800 feet of coax! Thanks also to W6TCP and NA6O for loaning us two Elecraft transceivers, two KPA500 amplifiers, and a KAT500.

All the major equipment performed faultlessly; although, we had trouble with a number of small (but annoying) things. For example, one of our keyboards was deactivated several times apparently from RFI. This took time at the beginning of the contest but was eventually resolved through application of ferrites. During station setup, we had trouble with a USB to serial port having the wrong form factor. Making the CAT cable connection required breaking off the case and bending some parts out of the way.

This time we brought enough equipment to make a wired LAN for all the ham computers, and this allowed us to use N1MM+'s network capabilities. The LAN was bridged to the internet via a WIFI/ethernet bridge that we kept away from the radio equipment. As best as I could tell, we never lost our connection to the internet. In past years, we would temporarily lose our WIFI connections due to RFI.

Overall, propagation was terrific, and we worked significantly more DX than I can remember from past years. For example, we worked South Africa on 10m phone. 10m and 15m seemed to be open from dawn until dusk. On the flip side, it seemed that there were fewer US/Canadian stations to work. It was cool to see individual multipliers for the Canadian maritime provinces.

Jeff KE6AYK joined us on Friday and Saturday to get some contest experience. He operated 10m, 15m and 20m phone and watched us in action before leaving midday.

**K6QK - county expedition IMPERIAL 1294 931**  
ops K6ZH N6CW N6EEG N6ERD N7CW

Spectacular conditions both days - it's so much fun to have 10 M! We got very lucky - there was a power outage around us for about 6 hours on Saturday. Fortunately, our host at the Desert View Tower has a large solar array which powers much of the facility (except our building). He was able to switch the array to power us and it lasted until the power came back (including the amp and the air conditioner). Thanks for all the QSOs and especially those folks who worked with us to get your calls correct.

73, Bud N7CW

**W6T county expedition - Trinity/Shasta C/L 648 SSB qso**  
ops K6KS KM6BDN

This was the first time that either one of us had participated in CQP as a team or as a county-line expedition. We had a blast. Thanks for the contacts.

## **N6A county expedition ALPINE 378 SSB**

ops KO6M W6JF

his has become our yearly off-roading and radioing adventure. We head out Highway 4 and find ourselves on top of Mt. Reba. In the past couple of years we have been playing, learning, and just getting out. In the previous years we never really found our footing.

Fast forward to this year. It starts a couple of months ago when W6JFA found out about an antenna that no one knew anything about but it was free if we took it down. We trekked to go get it with the intention of using it for CA QSO Party. Turns out it was a C4S-XL, rotator, and small tower and the whole kit and kaboodle was smooth as butter on the air. Props to W6JFA for insisting we get it. He made it portable worthy by drilling out rivets, adding cotter pins, and new bolts as needed. He even got a rotator controller for it.

We planned on M2 but in the end went MS for various reasons and are extremely happy with that choice. Since it meant no getting in each others way. We shared the airtime almost perfectly. 10 and 15 were our sweet spots where we could always find a run frequency. Conditions were great on those, DX galore, US galore. 20 was always tough for us to get traction in and thus we concentrated on it less. 40 was even worse (probably because we went to 40 late). 80 and 160 were skipped in favor of getting out of the cold wind that was relentless. Plus our battery levels were low and N1MM was giving us errors left and right.

Sunday was a brief time on the air but since it was still brutally windy and N1MM was not cooperating we cut the time short. It seemed that 20M conditions hadn't quite opened up when we were on. 10 and 15 of course were wonderful. (I think 10 and 15 are my favorite right now, they were just so lively and lovely.)

We went with expectations and they were crushed. We had a blast, the kids had a blast even if we couldn't get them on the air, and we look forward to the next time.

## **N6A County Expedition - SISKIYOU 1009 316**

About a month before the CQP - noticed Siskiyou county didn't have anyone signed up for any CW QSOs, so decided to rent a VRBO and head there for the weekend. I guess AA6MU signed up just at the last minute and joined me. We had a pretty good horse race going on.

Station was a K3 and Ameritron AL-800 which is good for about 500-600 watts out - but also acts as a nice antenna tuner. I had a C3 antenna mounted up about 13 feet mounted on the back of my pickup - and a 40 meter inverted vee about 20 feet high. One thing I am going to check on in the future is if the rental QTH has solar panels. I literally tied one end of the 40M wire to the solar panel structure. Luckily - at night, it doesn't make any noise. It was tough on 20 meters however, and my best times were early morning or just after sunset on that band. 80m QSOs were made with the 40M dipole - and it seems I was very weak. Maybe next year, I will come up with some traps or something to enable a bit better signal on that band. Missed PE, NT and NU. Last mult worked was a VE4, but worked two others later. I think Idaho was only WJ9B - but managed three QSOs with Will.

Not good enough to beat my "cousin's" record however. Maybe next time.

Great to work Europe on 4 bands. It was tough to do much on SSB - not like the good old days from Ventura County and a big signal.

Thanks for all of the QSOs! The activity level was fantastic. Had to QRT with about 4 hours left to head back home.

### **N6J mobile 183 SSB qso**

Had a great time camping out and operating from some great spots in my Jeep, and it was nice to give out some counties people needed. I was only single-op this time, so I did not make any contacts while in motion (XYL appreciates this). I pulled over at a few interesting spots for a few contacts, but operations were mostly while parked at my campsite at Fremont Peak State Park, Pigeon Point Lighthouse (where I stayed overnight at the hostel), or Candlestick Park. I was surprised not to hear more Hawaii stations, especially since this overlapped with OCDX.

### **W6AQ QRP County Line Ventura/Kern 281 CW 23 SSB op N6AN**

This guy operated QRP on a county line...what was he thinking?

I set up on Mt Pinos (SOTA W6/CC-002, Kern/Ventura county line) at 8800'. A 90 minute drive to the trailhead and 45 minutes of hiking got me to the summit. My KX3 ran 5 watts feeding a 66' doublet fed with twisted pair on a 30' Spriderbeam pole. I used a paddle from AME bolted to a clipboard for sending/logging on paper. Now it may be clear why I didn't answer as quickly as one expects these days. At that elevation if I didn't get things written down immediately they tended to escape memory, especially while sending KERN/VENT multiple times. CW messages were awkward to start so I only the CQ message.

It was a beautiful cool day up there, 60ish in the shade, low 70s in the sun, at least 30 degrees cooler than temps in the SoCal heatwave.

Conditions were quite good. I managed to hold a frequency for much of the time. Nine EU QSOs were logged, three with OM2VL, who called me on 10, 15 and 40! I had a funny exchange with HA5JI (thank you for the QSO!). He sent #62. When I sent 72, the QRP 73, he corrected me. A few exchanges and I finally got it and sent 73. All is good!

Sending KERN/VENT by hand was tough. I forgot it can be a challenge to log so often got silence after sending the exchange. It could also be that I was pw and QSB had wiped away my signal. W8MJ was happy to get VENT, but I wasn't sure he understood KERN, too. That took a few overs to sort out. Again, TU for the Q! A couple stations in the Maritimes were heard working others, as were SC stations. KV0I, sadly, could not dig me out on 20 SSB, but thanks for trying! I had a great run on 20 during the 01Z hour, my last. It was a real challenge to take pictures of the incredible sunset behind me while people kept calling in. VT, SD and ME showed up in the last 15 minutes.

Everything came down and got packed away after the sun went down. The hike down in the dark was uneventful yet exciting. It was hard to not imagine being stalked by something so I barked out my presence from time to time. I was dog tired driving home. Twelve hours at that elevation was hard on this 68 year old body and mind. One goal was to set a new Ventura county QRP record. Mission accomplished. Thanks to the CQP team and all the participants for another epic event.

72,  
David N6AN

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David N6AN

### **NQ6X County Expedition Kern/Ventura 330 SSB**

First time trying CQP from Mt. Pinos Campground at 7800 ft and it was a blast. I had a barefoot K3/P3 using a 40/20/15 sloper at 80 ft (angled to the north) and a Chameleon vertical. The sloper was the better antenna this time. Really nice noise floor. Power was a 1000W inverter off the starting battery of my RAV4 Prime (kept in READY mode to recharge automatically as needed). Camp 19 was a nice location for operating and I enjoyed explaining the hobby to interested campers.

### **NU6T county expedition - San Joaquin 144 SSB**

Solo Expedition, one day. 20m only. Running practice.

**NS2N - fixed NY - 237      97      Mults 58      Clean Sweep!**

nice condx - plenty of activity

very good CA turnout

## **Miyaki Events**

**Gigantic radiation storms have been pummeling Earth for at least 10,000 years and could strike again, tree ring analysis reveals**

One of the events was 80 times more powerful than the strongest solar flare ever recorded.

A series of sudden and colossal spikes in radiation levels across Earth's history could have come from a series of unknown, unpredictable and potentially catastrophic cosmic events, a new study has revealed.

Named Miyake events after the lead author of the first study to describe them, the spikes occur roughly once every 1,000 years or so and are recorded as sudden increases in the radiocarbon levels of ancient tree rings.

The exact cause of the sudden deluges of radiation, which periodically transform an extra chunk of the atmosphere's nitrogen into carbon sucked up by trees, remains unknown. The leading theory among scientists is that Miyake events are solar flares that are 80 times more powerful than the strongest flare ever recorded. But a new study, published Oct. 26 in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences*, suggests that the origin of the radiation bursts could be even more mysterious than first thought.

"These huge bursts of cosmic radiation, known as Miyake Events, have occurred approximately once every thousand years but what causes them is unclear," lead author Benjamin Pope, an astrophysicist at the University of Queensland, Australia, said in a statement. **"We need to know more, because if one of these happened today, it would destroy technology including satellites, internet cables, long-distance power lines and transformers. The effect on global infrastructure would be unimaginable."**

Each year, temperate tree species develop a new concentric ring around their trunks that, added up, indicates their age. Because trees suck up carbon from the atmosphere, scientists can study the amount of radiation in the atmosphere during Earth's recent history by measuring tree rings for quantities of the radioactive isotope carbon-14 — produced when energetic cosmic rays collide with atmospheric nitrogen.

Scientists have spotted six Miyake events in tree rings so far, indicated by sudden, single-year leaps in the concentrations of carbon-14 and other isotopes; these occurred in the years 7176 B.C., 5410 B.C., 5259 B.C., 660 B.C., A.D. 774 and A.D. 993; alongside a number of other, smaller events spotted at other times.

To investigate if the sudden carbon-14 spikes were caused by incredibly powerful solar flares, the researchers created a simplified model of the global carbon cycle; inputting the tree ring data to demonstrate how carbon was produced by solar radiation and absorbed into Earth's atmosphere, oceans, land and organisms. By comparing their timeline of atmospheric carbon with the known 11-year solar cycle, the researchers

expected to find that the years of the Miyake events corresponded to moments of peak solar activity.

But instead they discovered that the Miyake events did not line up with peak solar activity, and some of the events, unlike the brief flashes we recognize as solar flares, lasted for one or two years.

"Rather than a single, instantaneous explosion or flare, what we may be looking at is a kind of astrophysical 'storm' or outburst," first author Qingyuan Zhang, a mathematician at the University of Queensland, said in the statement.

The intensity of these unexplained cosmic barrages is hard to understate. The largest solar storm ever recorded is the 1859 Carrington Event, which, after slamming into Earth, sent powerful streams of solar particles that fried telegraph systems all over the world and caused auroras brighter than the light of the full moon to appear as far south as the Caribbean. The storm released roughly the same energy as 10 billion 1-megaton atomic bombs. If an equally powerful flare were to hit Earth now, it would cause an 'internet apocalypse,' blackouts, and trillions of dollars' worth of damage, according to scientists. But the Carrington Event was 80 times less powerful than the A.D. 774 Miyake event.

Having cast doubt on the spikes coming from conventionally understood solar flares, the researchers considered whether the Miyake events were generated by supernovas or a type of solar superflare. But these alternate theories have holes too: Supernovas sometimes produce radiocarbon spikes in Earth's atmosphere, but sometimes they don't; and stars like ours are not known to produce solar flares energetic enough to cause the Miyake events. Evidence for a solar superflare is also missing in recovered ice core nitrate records for the events in A.D. 774 AD and A.D. 993.

Venturing into the historical records brought up only two tantalizing references. One made in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (a ninth century collection of annals recounting Anglo-Saxon history) refers to a possible aurora in the form of a "red crucifix, after sunset" being spotted in the sky in A.D. 774, but the researchers think it may also have been an optical illusion known as a moon ring. Another account, made in A.D. 775 in the Chinese chronicle Jitangshu, describes what also could have been an aurora, but its existence is so far not backed up by other records.

The researchers' next step is to gather more tree ring and ice core data to further pin down the timing of the events and the mixtures of isotopes produced by them. But the scientists' uncertainty as to what the events are, or how to predict when they occur, is

"very disturbing," Pope said.

"Based on available data, there's roughly a one percent chance of seeing another one within the next decade. But we don't know how to predict it or what harms it may cause," Pope added. "These odds are quite alarming, and lay the foundation for further research."

Source: <https://www.livescience.com/miyake-events-mystery-deepens>

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From Wiki:

A Miyake event is a very fast enhancement of the production of cosmogenic isotopes by cosmic rays. They are caused by extreme solar particle events. The outbreaks are marked by the increase in the radioactive carbon isotope  $^{14}\text{C}$  in tree rings,  $\text{Be-10}$  and  $\text{Cl-36}$  in ice cores, which are all independently dated. At present, five events are known (7176 BCE, 5259 BCE, 660 BCE, 774 CE, 993 CE) and four (12300 BCE, 5410 BCE, 1052 CE, 1279 CE) need further independent confirmation. This yields the average rate of extreme solar particle events occurrence of roughly one event per 1-2 millennia. These events are likely related to super-flares discovered on solar-like stars.

Although some events might have taken seemingly longer than one year they are still consistent with the solar origin.

A Miyake event occurring in modern conditions might have significant impacts on global technological infrastructure such as satellites, telecommunications, and power grids.

The events are named after the Japanese physicist Fusa Miyake, whose team was the first one to identify these annual radiocarbon spikes and published the results in 2012 in the journal Nature. The investigation at that time found a strong  $^{14}\text{C}$  increase in the annual rings of Japanese cedars for the years 774/775. The event of 775 was independently discovered, using the low-resolution IntCal data, also by the Finnish team. In 2013, the same team published the discovery of another, similar radiocarbon spike in the years 993/994.

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de N4CD

A similar event today could essentially take us back to the stone age. Imagine power systems so damaged it could take months to years to restore power. Imagine most computers fried, electronics fried, internet gone. Perhaps 96%+ percent of transportation dead.

No one has figured out exactly what the mechanism for this is – other than it has repeatedly occurred. New things in science are being discovered all the time.

## Arizona QSO Party

There are 15 counties in Arizona. A good number, if not all, were on the air.

**K7L - fixed Yuma AZ** 234 cw 1194 ssb  
Operator(s): K6LL

Conditions were pretty good, but absorption was high, and there were periods when signals were weak. Every now and then, the curtain would lift, and there would be a great run with loud signals. My noise level was fairly low for this location. The neighbor's loud noise generator was off the air all weekend.

Thanks for all the QSO's!

**K7A bonus station - K6WSC opr** 316 cw 506 ssb

K7A was the 2023 Arizona QSO Party Bonus Station.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the AZQP, especially mobiles and expeditions.

I hope everyone had great ham radio fun in the AZQP!

73,  
Bill Clark / K6WSC  
Arizona QSO Party Chairman

**W0BH - fixed - KS** 27 CW 8 ssb

Lots of fun working 4 QSO parties plus the Solar Eclipse party, all in one weekend. Band conditions were amazing!

73, Bob, w0bh

## USA SSB Award

There was some discussion of this award on the County Hunter site. Just to update some folks. There is a CW award. There was no 'SSB only' award. So one was created.

1 ) The USA SSB award has a start date of Feb 5, 2015. Only contacts after than can be counted. (otherwise, likely 100 people would instantly qualify for it).

2 ) The award was created to reward SSB mobiles to keep running counties, Sometimes new ops often good for nothing, sometimes a bingo contact if their letters match the county, or for Nth time, for going out and running counties. Thus, folks with 'no stars' can count for something on SSB. It was created to encourage operations If you have stars, even better. There is lots of 'empty time' on the net these days with not many mobiles venturing out.

3 ) You can count both mobiles and portables. These days, there are tons of Parks on the Air stations, most running portable with small verticals, some big verticals, and lots of end fed long wires. Often 20w, sometimes more. Some county hunter mobiles hit parks including N4CD, N9JF, KA9JAC, KA2LHO, etc.

4 ) You can claim self credit after 2/15/2017 if you run the county and work another operator on SSB.

5 ) so far the following people have earned USA-SSB including

Nr	call	date
9	W4SIG	6/24/2023

8	WA9DLB	9/28/2022
7	KB6UF	5/13/2023
6	N8KIE	7/9/2022
5	AB7NK	10/20/2022
4	K8ZZ	10/12/2022
3	K7SEN	5/16/2022
2	K4YT	6/8/2021

Who is going to be next?

- - -

For the USA-CW award, there is no start date. All contacts on CW from when you got your license count.

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There is also the No Star Award – start date Jan 1 , 2010. You can work both mobiles and portables. Nearly all Parks on the Air stations count – as portables – for this award. Nearly all have no clue to 'county hunting' or even know what county they are in half the time. A few run 'mobile' but unless they post pictures on Facebook, or you ask them via email, it's best to assume they are portable. 98% are. You can cross reference parks to counties using the link on countyhunter dot com. If you open in spreadsheet program, you can search for the “K” number, ie, K-4423 to find the county. Caution – some 'trails' pass through a dozen states so you need to contact the station to find out where they were. Example – the Appalachian Trail goes from GA to Maine though dozens of counties. Also 'two fers' with parks like High Point, NJ as well where the trail passes through.

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If you work portables, be sure to indicate so in Logger. It will affect some awards such as mobile to mobile, etc. Or YL mobile. The default for Logger is always 'mobile'. So fixed and portable stations need to have that noted when you log them.

## Pennsylvania QSO Party

Several mobiles were out – N2CU, K3ATO - as well as a few rovers like K3AR and K8RYU. They have their own spotting site, but it had problems this weekend – maybe too many trying to access it at once. Lots of 40 and 80M activity as PA stations try to work each other for mults and a clean sweep. Some never get to 20m and up – just stay on 40m/80m. Makes it hard for those not in 40m range to get a good score and work the mobiles/rovers.

**N2CU mobile** 757 CW 320 ssb

Another fun PQP in the books and a new personal best. Things started out slowly in the first three counties but picked up later and on the second day. High bands were open but calling CQ there didn't produce many takers. **Do stations out West chose not to participate because the PQP is mostly a 40m contest?** Thanks to those who called me. Big hitters were OM2VL (29), WN4AFP (16), AA3B KC3M WB9HFK (14), AA3LX (12), K3PP NS2N W9QL W3MA (11), N3AD N3XH N3XLS (10) plus many others.

K3/100

Tarheel M75A on roof of Toyota RAV4

73, Tom N2CU

**K8RYU rover** 272 cw 398 ssb

All but 10 or so QSO's on 40M.

**N3XF County Line** 766 CW 742 ssb

Thanks to the rovers and mobiles for their efforts.

**N3GJ Portable** PA-VEN 517 CW 419 ssb

Tnx to K3ARL and K8RYU for roving to the last few I needed for the sweep. Great condx this year!



**K4BAI - fixed - GA** 152 CW 46 SSB Mults 54

Pretty good conditions on the HF bands. No 160M ant. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

**NS2N - fixed NY** 78 cw 86 SSB Mults 59

good activity ... thanks

**OM2VL fixed DX** 286 cw 218 ssb Mults 64

I would like thanks Bud for organizing this excellent QP (as usually every year) with FB activity! Big thanks for the so many QSO's / QSY's and back to my CQ on SSB. Special thanks to

- N3KCR who QSY from 40m to 20m to give me multiplier
- Tom N2CU/M who was also QRV on high bands during daytime, when 40m was closed here and give me RARE multipliers
- K3TO/M who back to my CQ on SSB

Bonus station:

KA3EEO 7 QSO KW3A 4 QSO N3AAA 3 QSO

Unfortunately no SWEEP this year. I missed CLI, CMB, JUN.

Most QSOs:

N2CU/M 29/8

K3TS/M 2/2

K8RYU/R 1/1

73, Laci

Note de N4CD - he made over 135 contacts on 40 and 80m from Europe to PA.

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From Facebook:

**NZ3K:** PAQSO this year, was by far the best year team N3ZK had ever had from a setup, operating and tear down perspective. Despite the weather during the contest, the weather was absolutely beautiful during setup.

We came to ELK county to concur the county record, make the clean sweep, and beat personal records we set as a team. **\*\*Unconfirmed\*\*** we doubled the county record and had the clean sweep. We are looking forward to the final results.

Band conditions were much better than the weather, the food was fantastic as always, and it was absolutely amazing to hear everyone on the air again. We love this contest and we hope everyone has as much fun as we do each year. Our teams motto is "We put the Party in QSO Party" and it shows!!

Special thanks to the mobile and rover stations that help make clean sweeps possible, this year and every year. We cannot be as successful as we are without your dedication, support and willingness to go above and beyond to make it happen.

((This year's operators were as follows:)) N3ZK N3FB N3KFD KD2ZKR

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**N3FR:** Had an absolutely great time operating from my "portable" location in Warren County! Loved the multiple Bonus Stations! Loved the Friday night pre-contest net! I still believe this is the best Party going!

Antennas: Decided to simplify the antenna config from 5 dipoles in the past to one OCF Windom. I received quite a few compliments on my signal, so I guess the antenna was working!

Radio: Took my Icom 7610, and it didn't disappoint. This radio is a true pleasure to operate. Filtering is absolutely extraordinary, making operating on crowded bands a breeze!

Portable location: I rented a cottage in Warren County that provided a really comfortable operating environment. We arrived Thursday and came back home today. Wow, did I get reminded that doing a portable operation is a ton of work! My truck was

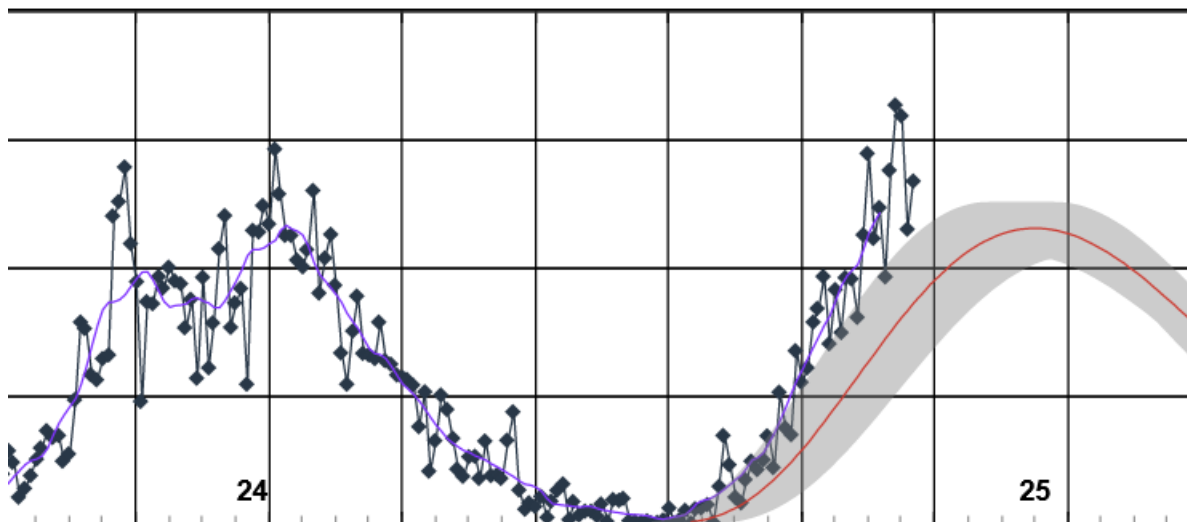
packed to the gills!

Bottom line: My goal of beating my current WAR record score didn't happen, and I'm still trying to figure out why. Propagation? Less activity? Not managing band/mode changes properly?

Already looking forward to next year's event!  
73's! Bob, N3FR

## Sunspot Cycle 25

We are ahead of forecasts for number of sunspots and early progress toward a peak



Source: <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>

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In case you missed it, Solar Cycle 25 has ramped up much faster than scientists

predicted producing more sunspots and eruptions than experts had forecast. Tracking and predicting the Sun's solar cycles gives a rough idea of the frequency of space weather storms of all types – from radio blackouts to geomagnetic storms and solar radiation storms – and it's used by many industries to gauge the potential impact of space weather on Earth. Though we are seeing increased activity on the Sun, we expect this solar cycle to be average compared to solar cycles in the past century.

Source: <https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/news/time-lapse-of-solar-cycle-25-displays-increasing-activity-the-sun>

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Models are now showing the peak will occur in 2024, but don't worry. The 'tail' will be long and into 2027 with decent numbers, with the long tail extending to 2030.

<https://helioforecast.space/solarcycle>

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We've had many articles in the County Hunter News on sunspots. And solar dynamics. Lots of theories, and prediction models, some close to right on, some not so accurate at the current time.

## South Dakota QSO Party

Looks like top op claimed working 8 counties – but most had a small handful of less than 6 counties worked of all the SD counties. There are 66 counties in South Dakota! Now imagine a dozen mobiles, with AD4EB in the lead, headed there next year! That would be fun! Not this year. No mobiles out.

from the 3830 reflector:

**W0OJY - club call - fixed SD Yankton K0EJ op 212 CW**

no comments

**K9CW - fixed IL** 5 CW 3 counties

Not much in-state activity this year. Pretty sad.

**K8MR - fixed - OH** 4 CW 3 counties

A few SD guys found while chasing Pennsylvania. I did work the bonus station which quadrupled my score :-)

73 - Jim K8MR

**AC2YD QRP NJ** 6 CW 6 counties

Thanks gud ears/antenna copying my 5-watt QRP CW sig from New Jersey! Always fun to work SD!!

**K4BAI fixed GA** 7 CW 10 SSB 6 counties

Thanks for the Qs

## Nevada QSO Party

Most folks had a couple contacts with hams in NV. Stations in NV put out a lot of contacts but there weren't too many NV stations on for this. Many more participants in 7QP.

From 3830 scores message board:

**WB2AWQ/7 fixed NV** 134 CW

Good contest! But bands pretty much crapped out by late morning. I REALLY wish all state QSO parties used the SAME format, doesn't matter much which format, as long as they are the same!!!

**K9CW - fixed IL 6 CW**

Where were all of the NV stations?

**K4BAI - Fixed GA 6 CW 5 SSB**

Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI

**W7TR - fixed NVWAS - K6ST opr 7cw 82 SSB**

fun from NVWAS Reno, NV

**W7RD - Washoe NV (K6ST Op) 1356 SSB**

no comments

## Outbacker Antennas

The Outbacker series of antennas is made in Australia by Terry Lynch, VK6LTC. Several county hunters have used them over the years. They've been in business for over 30 years. Products include marine versions, antennas for the government, and a large following of ham radio operators.

The Outbacker antennas are unique (other than cheapie ripoffs today from China) in that they use a 'wander lead' to select the band you wish to operate on. Changing bands is a five second exercise. Other than 80m, there is a small radiating section below the 'tuned circuits', and a whip on top. For 80m, it's basically a base loaded short vertical.

It's also sturdy. If you have a strong mount, it's not going anywhere during travel. They are made out of fiberglass and tough.

There are several models

**Classic Original OB8** 80-40-20-15-10m (1 piece) \$329.00 (aud) “The Original Outbacker” a 150cm Long with a 20cm (1/8” / 3.18mm) adjustable tuning spike/stinger , and the NEW! field replaceable 4 jaw vice, stinger grip assembly. Max 200w pep.. This classic model can be bulbar mounted or mounted with a fabricated bracket (not supplied) to the body. The classics series are not suitable for tow hitch mounting. Your perfect mate for all modern HF transceivers. Just "Plug N Play". A good performer at a reasonable price.

This antenna is available in 4 IARU frequency profiles. Peaked for center of band.

Select yours at checkout: Australia, IARU 1, IARU 2, IARU 3.

**Classic OB88:** 80-75-60-40-30-20-17-15-12-10-6m (2 piece) \$369.00 (aud)

Std Color Black - Std International antenna thread 3/8"x24tpi UNF.

Stinger Diameter 1/8" / 3.18mm - Length 100cm / 39.5"

All prices are in (AUD) Australian Dollars.

This antenna is available in 4 IARU frequency profiles.

Select yours at checkout: Australia, IARU 1, IARU 2, IARU 3.

**OUTREACH :-** Bands, 80 thru 6m (depending on IARU profile selected) Exceptional performance. This Outreach has 2 x 100cm section main shafts, with a 95cm (1/8”/ 3.18mm) adjustable tuning spike/stinger, (3.2m or 10'5" when installed on the OBASBSS spring mount) , and the NEW! field replaceable 4 jaw vice, stinger grip assembly. This antenna breaks down to a (105cm) packed length for easy portability. The Outreach can also be used as a portable antenna system provided enough ground system or counterpoise is used. Utilizing the time proven Outbacker band tap system.

**PERTH :-** Bands, 80,75,60,40,30,20,17,12,10,m (depending on IARU profile selected)  
The Perth mobile antenna has a (39.5"/100cm) long mainshaft with a (37.5"/95cm) long (1/8"/ 3.18mm) adjustable tuning spike/stinger , and the NEW! field replaceable 4 jaw vice, stinger grip assembly. Max 200w pep. The PERTH is ideally suited to fender, gutter or trunk mounting applications, It is easily transported, packing down to 1.0m long.

Std Color Black - Std International antenna thread 3/8"x24tpi UNF.

Stinger Diameter 1/8" / 3.18mm - Length 100cm / 39.5"

All prices are in (AUD) Australian Dollars.

This antenna is available in 4 IARU frequency profiles, select yours at checkout:  
Australia, IARU 1, IARU 2, IARU 3.





**ATTACH'e** :-Bands 80 thru 10m (depending on IARU profile selected) with a (47"/120cm) 3-section Mainshaft. Each section is the standard military backpack length of (42cm /17") long, manufactured for quick deployment and easy breakdown yet strong enough to be used as a vehicle mobile. The Attaché is fitted with a 20cm 1/8"/3.18mm) adjustable tuning spike/stinger. Max 100w pep.. It has all the same

electrical specifications as its brothers, other than its length. Ideal for mounting on tall vehicles, such as RVs and for QRP.



## **JOEY/STEALTH**

Bands 80-40-30-20-15-10-6m The stealth is a (80cm) 1 piece antenna, fitted with a 24cm (1/8" 3.18mm) adjustable tuning spike/stinger, and the NEW! field replaceable 4 jaw vice, stinger grip assembly, Max 100w pep.. It has all the same specifications as its brothers other than its length. Ideal for mounting on large vehicles, such as RVs, or QRP.

This antenna comes in 4 IARU frequency profiles, select your profile at checkout:

Australia, IARU 1, IARU 2, IARU 3.

<https://www.outbackerantenna.com/shop-1>

Note de N4CD - Outbacker sells world wide. Select the appropriate region for the antenna peaked in center of US bands.

Prices on site are in Australian dollars.

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One review from

[http://www.radiomanual.info/schemi/ACC\\_antenna/Outbacker\\_review\\_1991.pdf](http://www.radiomanual.info/schemi/ACC_antenna/Outbacker_review_1991.pdf)

“The Out backer is a hollow fiberglass covered with a black epoxy resin and a final protective coating (if you're willing to wait several weeks, you can order an Out backer direct from Outbacker Antenna Sales in almost any color you want). There's a 6-foot version, a a-toot version, and a 2-piece version. (and a 3 piece attache case version)

The main antenna is a helical copper coil. Each antenna is handmade by Terlin.

After the antenna is manufactured, each is hand-tuned for accuracy and field tested for each band of operation.

The unique way the Out backer provides all-band performance is something they call the "wander lead." The wander lead is coiled around the outside of the antenna, and one end is inserted via a banana plug into a jack near the base of the antenna. The antenna has a series of silver-coated brass jacks recessed into the fiberglass, each jack corresponding to a different band of

operation . To change bands, you simply wind the wander lead around the antenna and insert the plug into the appropriate jack.

There is also a short whip at the top, which allows for fine tuning the SWR . The whip has a mark scored on the side . setting the whip gives you a good SWR from 40-10 meters . If you want to operate 75 meters or the high end of 10 meters , it's a good idea to put an SWR meter in line and reset the whip .

You can purchase a heavy duty spring mount from your Outbacker dealer. This is one of the sturdiest mobile mounts I have ever seen , and if you have the type of vehicle that can accommodate this, it would probably survive long after the vehicle crumbled to dust.

For those of us who do n't want to permanently alter our plastic bumpered cars , Outbacker suggests the 4-1001 Outbacker Jr , model with a Diamond K400-318 , 24 lip mount. This grips your trunk or hatchback with only a couple of puckers on the internal side (which helps ground the mount to the car body) and holds up fine to highway speeds. Mounting the antenna at trunk or hatchback level also gets the majority of the radiating surface above the car body. This arrangement is only for the 4-foot Outbacker, and you need to put a heavy duty spring between the mount and the antenna .”

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Note de N4CD – MFJ and on line web sites sell a \$100 knockoff shorty version for \$100. Reports are the contacts for the wander lead quickly corrode. It's a low power 100w SSB antenna, probably 40w CW and 30w digital antenna. Don't waste your money. It also takes a hex key (like the hamsticks) to tweak the frequency as you change bands if needed. That adjustment quickly wears out the hex nut. Outbacker uses a knurled knob. Don't waste your money!

# New York QSO Party

Looks like half dozen mobiles out and decent fixed activity – although much on 40m and below. There are 62 counties in NY state. Not all were on the air this year it seems.

**N2CU mobile 1121 423**

WOW! WOW! WOW! Thank you to all who showed up to play in our party. Excellent participation, even with poor solar numbers. I activated 11 of 12 planned counties; I got disoriented on my last stop and couldn't find the Chemung/Tompkins line so had to settle for just Tompkins (time was running out). QSO rates were fantastic throughout and pileups were, uh, sometimes a bit unruly, but I kept calm and ran on. Here are some stats:

Miles driven: 411

Hours to drive back home: 3 (1 AM return)

Worked 36 NY counties, 47 states (missed MT, SD, WY) and 5 provinces.

County lines:

ALL/LIV 294 QSOs

CAT/CHA 178 QSOs

ERI/WYO 218 QSOs

ONT/STE 398 QSOs

SCU/YAT 332 QSOs

TOM 124 QSOs

Most worked state was PA (112) followed by IL (83) and OH (66).

Biggest hitters:

NS2N 44 (thanks for the spots Paul)

N8II 34 (nice job Jeff)

OM2VL 29 (always a pleasure Laci)

K1RO 24 (Mark called off freq and got thru right away)

WN4AFP 22 (faster than I could type Dave)

W2TB 21 (big signal Mike)

W5TM 21 (always count on Ed being there)

Plus lots of others with 10 or more. Thank you to every station that called!

This NYQP was a personal best and should be a new record. I look forward to doing it again next year.

K3/100

Tarheel M75A on roof of Toyota RAV4

73, Tom N2CU

**K2QO mobile** 1023 cw 10 ssb

Operator(s): K2QO KC2EHT

no comments

**W2LC mobile** 532 CW qso

I was going to operate from home but my neighbors were having their wedding reception at their house across and down the street, about 400 feet away. I envisioned an angry mob coming over to complain about RFI into the sound system. So, I decided to go mobile and avoid any possible RFI issues even if RFI wasn't that likely. I didn't want to be that ham guy blowing away the sound system at their reception.

It was a choice between the north country or more local counties. The local county route won. The north country is a really nice scenic drive but so many miles if you go all the way to Clinton County. Maybe next year!

I soon found out that the county lines are not marked all that well especially on the back roads. Also, not many places to park that actually put you on the county line. Not ones that are easy to find anyway. More planning was required no doubt. So, it was mostly one county at a time.

I found some good high clear spots with a low noise level to operate from. I operated mostly around the Montezuma swamp area where there are plenty of parking areas for viewing the Montezuma swamp wildlife refuge. I was also operated near the northern end of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. I operated from ONO, OSW, WAY, SEN, CAY. I planned on SCU, STE and TOM but I decided not to loop around Seneca Lake.. Sure gets cold and windy around here!

TS-590 works nice mobile

Manual band switching

Hustler KW mobile resonators for 20, 15, 10. These work well and are fairly broad band

Hamsticks for 40 and 80, the 80 one is modified to reach the CW band

Mag mount with 4 short radials taped to the car

Thanks for all the QSOs. 73 Scott W2LC

**VE9VIC** - fixed Canada 170 CW 43 counties

It was an amazing contest, special thanks to mobiles N2CU, K2QO, W2LC, K2UA

**WN4AFP** - fixed - SC 223 0 0 Mults 49

That was another fun QP! Special thanks to all the mobile operators for helping me make many a ton of Qs and Mults.... K2QO, K2UA, N2CU, N2MG and W2LC.

73 Dave WN4AFP

**AD8J fixed** NC 121 CW

Wasn't enough stations to spend the whole day so I would just run the bands every hour or two to help out the NY stations. Too bad the WAG contest was the same time as EU stations were all over the bands.

**NS2N fixed** NY 320 cw 223 SSB 0 digi

thanks for the Qs

## 10-10 Fall QSO Party

Didn't see too many reports. Sunspot numbers dropped during the weekend of this event.

## Elecraft KH-1 Transceiver

Many of you are familiar with Elecraft products – from the K3 and K4 superb base station units to the portable KX-2 and KX-3. One county hunter regularly uses a KX-3 at 15w output mobile. There is a 100w amp option as well for either one. Both are lightweight and good for portable and SOTA operations where you hike your gear in.

Now – things get smaller. A full feature hand held transceiver – 40 to 15m CW you can hold in your hand easily





Elecraft announced the KH-1  
from their announcement:

We've just tackled some of the hardest problems with HF field deployment: How to get you on the air in seconds, with an internal ATU that tunes both a built-in, multi-band whip and BNC-connected random wires. Providing field logging that's truly convenient. Creating the optimal user interface for handheld CW operation – because there isn't always somewhere to sit. And making an HF rig that's light enough to use HT-style without wrist fatigue. The result of this effort is the KH1: an ultralight radio you'll never leave at home. It's ideal for SOTA, hiking, vacation and business travel, or just that carefree hour after the chores are done. With the Edgewood Package (shown installed

below), your KH1 becomes a fully integrated station, with fold-out log tray and pen, plug-in keyer paddle, battery, charger, ATU, and whip antenna. It all fits in our versatile ES20 carrying case, with room to spare. KH1 Features:

- 40-15 m ham bands; 6-22 MHz SWL
- CW mode; 5 watts, all bands
- ATU includes whip & high-Q inductor for 20/17/15 m
- 2.5 AH Li-Ion battery & internal charger
- CW decode & 32K TX log
- Scan/mini-pan feature
- Real-Time Clock
- Full remote control
- Speaker
- RIT, XIT, & VFO lock
- Light gray case stays cool even in bright sunlight

[https://elecraft.com/products/kh1-transceiver?fbclid=IwAR0IJOWiIttJNpmT8vrWC6I1-\\_jNsveOeAtZXZhfGHxYVmy\\_6\\_It8yT42SY](https://elecraft.com/products/kh1-transceiver?fbclid=IwAR0IJOWiIttJNpmT8vrWC6I1-_jNsveOeAtZXZhfGHxYVmy_6_It8yT42SY)

The basic unit is \$599 and the ATU option is \$239. Need key paddles? \$80. Log Tray? \$90. Internal/External battery charger - \$239. Buy the whole package for \$1099.

## Illinois QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. Half a dozen mobiles, half a dozen portables/rovers. County Hunters NU0Q was mobile and N9JF spent the day at a county line in a park in IL. Looked like top scorers worked in the mid 70s of IL counties. There are 102 counties in IL. W2LC from NY had 75 counties worked. Cannot tell, of course, what IL stations had since their multipliers are both IL counties and other states/provinces/DX.

From 3830 scores

**AD4EB mobile** 1445 CW qso

This was the 9th time that Melody drove, and I operated CW, in the ILQP. We ended up

with our highest score ever in this contest, beating our previous record from 2021 by 132 QSOs. Melody drove our usual 307-mile route, but in the reverse direction from Southern to Central Illinois. We stayed pretty much on schedule thru the 23 counties, except for some construction delays half way thru the route. We made up the lost time by cutting some wait times short, and not taking the time to swap antennas for 80m. The weather was perfect, and Melody enjoyed the drive thru Illinois, especially a gorgeous sunset in Macon County.

My goal was to average 180 QSOs/hour for the 8-hour contest (1,440 Qs), and work 85 multipliers. We just made the rate goal, but came up short with the multipliers. Missed 11 states which was surprising.

The pileups were very large and seemed to get even bigger and more exhilarating as the contest progressed. My best hourly rate was 214. I had the usual issue with too many callers exactly on my CQ frequency and not spreading out, but we managed. It seemed like the pileups on 40m were more difficult to handle than 20m. Several times I had to abandon big 40m pileups and QSY to smaller 20m pileups so better rates could be achieved.

Those that worked me 20 or more times include:

OM2VL (35) - Congratulations Laci, well done!  
WN4AFP (30) - Nice going Dave, your fast CW worked again  
AF5CC (30) - FB John  
NM2A (28)  
K4FT (26)  
AF5J (26)  
K9CT (24)  
W8PI (23)  
W0BH (23)  
WA0JCO (22)  
N9TTK (21)  
W9W (20)  
N8II (20)  
KN7Y (20)  
AA3R (20)

We decided not to take the time to swap antennas to get on 80m for the last hour of the contest. 20m was still in decent shape, and 40m as going gangbusters. Probably lost some Illinois multipliers though, but gained 30-35 QSOs by not being off the air.

We appreciate everyone who worked us, and hanging in there through the pileups. Hope you enjoyed the contest as much as we did. Thanks to the WIARC for pulling off another great contest. And most of all, thanks to Melody for driving and navigating me up thru Illinois for the 2023 ILQP. Hope we can do it again next year.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

**WT2P mobile** 659 CW 307 ssb

Fun time, this was my first time doing the ILQP mobile. It started out as a joke between me and WA0O at the W9DXCC convention about ILQP. Things came together about 3 weeks before and we decided why not.

We planned on this route, starting in Winnebago, heading west, then south. The goal was to get some of the rarer counties on, especially Rock, Mercer, Henderson and Warren before heading back north east.

With Joe's Scorpion antenna, band changes between 40 and 20 was easy once I got the hang of using the tuning mechanism. During the day, I tried to split my time between 40 and 20 CW to get some of the out of state and DX (OM2VL).

The pileups grew more intense as the contest went on, and really grew when we got into Rock Island county. As AD4EB said, it was difficult at times with everyone calling practically zero beat (on my end it sounded literally like a single tone). I was able to snatch some of the people who shifted slightly off quicker. SSB pileups were a bit more manageable, but people not using phonetics in a pileup (i.e. AA9XX instead of alpha alpha 9 xray xray) made it harder to actually pick you out, especially with marginal signals.

The thrill of a pileup at each new county made this a lot of fun. I never had a single moment of boredom. We started out with over 100/hr, with some lulls as the pileups waned, then getting slammed once we crossed into a new county. Talk about a rush!

We didn't get to all of the counties we wanted, I think next year We will start a little bit south and spend more time in the south western counties that are rare (Henderson/Warren).

QSO's By County -

WBGO - 61

STEP - 57

JODA - 92

CARR - 97

WTSD - 60

ROCK - 136

MRCR - 110

HNDR - 91

WARR - 76

KNOX - 92

STAR - 105

Thanks to all who were in the pileups throughout most of our counties, K9CT, W9PDS, N9TTK, AB9YC, KC9EOQ, W9W crew. Thanks to OM2VL for 9 Q's across the various counties.

It was fun, thanks to everyone chasing and following us on the live ARPS feed. Special thanks to WA0O for the driving and logistics. Hopefully next year we can get WA0O behind the mic for a bit!

Equipment:

Flex 6400 sitting in the back of the Subaru, Scorpion antenna with 102" whip, my gaming laptop on a novel shelf mounted to the back of the front passenger seat.

Looking forward to next year,

73

WT2P & WA0O

**KF9D portable** 401 CW

Set up in a state park campground in travel trailer. Two minutes before start of the QSO Party, the AC power went off to the whole campground. I tried a couple of low power inverters to continue, but they failed quickly after a couple contacts. After much anxiety, I decided to make a minimal setup in the truck, so back on the air about 3 hours later. The power didn't come back on until the next morning. Next time, bring the generator!

**AAB9YC portable** 372 cw 37 ssb

Portable in Pope County

**WY9S portable** 616 SSB

Portable 2-County lines of Alexander and Union.

First time doing a portable setup. Had a few learning curves.

Had a lot of fun. Thanks for all the Q's

73 WY9S

**W9KM portable** putnam/bureau IL 294 CW qso

The location was not ideal, the local RFI was very high and at times overloaded my IC-7300 with 1/4 vertical. The 40m was better, I used a low-hanging 40m delta loop and was able to hear callers more or less. Started 2 hours late and had to QRT at 6PM to dismount all the antennas and cabling before getting dark.

73 and thanks to those who was able to work me. Until the next year!

**KG9IL rover** Operator(s): KG9IL N9UM 600 SSB qso

We had a blast!! ICOM 706MKIIG with hamsticks in my 2023 GMC Sierra.

Activated:

Logan, Mason, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall, Livingston, Will, Grundy, Kankakee.

Thanks for all the Q's.

**KA9FZR mobile** 339 CW qso

Operator(s): AA9RK KA9FZR WO9B

The KA9FZR team left Wisconsin behind for the day and went mobile for about four hours through eight counties in northern Illinois. We visited LAKE, COOK, KANE, DEKA, OGLE, WBGO, BOON, MCHE, and back to LAKE before heading home. 20 meters and 40 meters both ran hot and cold, but one of the best runs we had was in a Love's parking lot in OGLE while we switched operators. Go figure.

Downsides were being unable to self-spot and having a twitchy hotspot connection that couldn't sustain two computers at once. Upsides were hearing lots of familiar calls, and getting to work lots of great ops on multiple bands and from multiple counties. We hope to put the team back together for the Wisconsin QSO Party in March, and then Illinois again next October.

**N9TTK portable** 395 cw 189 ssb

Portable from Edgar Co IL. Setup at my moms house, had great food and a nice visit thank for the q's. Chased WT9P, AD4EB and KY0Q as much as possible, thanks for many IL counties.

**W0YES portable** 11 SSB

Operating in this contest was a last minute idea, and I could have been a little more prepared for it. This was my first time operating SSB in nearly three years. I operated portable from Woodford Count in Lincoln Douglas Park in Metamora, IL using a Diamond BB7V vertical antenna and my Kenwood TS-450SAT.

I couldn't find a spot to run on 20m due to all of the POTA and net people, but I was able to have to make some contacts on 10m and 15m, and then have a short run on 40m. Right as I thought things were picking up for me, somebody asked if the frequency I was on was in use, and didn't hear any of my replies to them. I found a few other people calling CQ for the contest on both 20m and 40m, and none of them could hear me either. At this point, I decided to call it for the contest and drive back to Peoria to go to an event some friends invited me to.

Things could have gone better, I could have been more prepared, I could have been on time, and I could have tried to operate longer. That said, I'm still happy I got on the air at all. Making 11 contacts in 2.5 hours is better than making none. Thank you to the people who had some patience with me during our contacts.

**KY0Q rover** 379 CW qso

Made it to all 5 planned counties. It was a lot of fun on a beautiful fall day. Thanks for the Qs!

**WA9LEY rover** 377 CW qso

I operated from 3 POTA parks and from my home county which was not in a park. I thought I'd be mostly CW but I generated more activity on SSB. My gear is a FT891 and a combination of a Wolf River Sporty 40 on a tripod and an ATAS120A on a mag mount.

Lasalle 176 Q's  
Grundy 96 Q's  
Will 52 Q's  
Cook 53 Q's  
377 Q's total

**KX9X fixed IL** 305 CW 21 SSB

I decided at the last minute to enter and to go QRP this year. a couple commitments limited my op time a bit; still, 6 hours with 5w and an EFHW at 50' produced good results.

Worked John K4BAI on 4 bands. Always a pleasure to work that gentleman.

Thanks for the QSOs!

Sean KX9X

**W2LC - fixed NY** 157 cw 36 ssb 75 Counties

Nice QSO party! It will be nice to take a break from the QP's for awhile. It's nice to have 20m propagation to IL and 40m at the same time during the day too! Nice to work everyone! 73 Scott W2LC

**K9WA fixed IL** 454 CW qso

40 had short skip all day - amazing. AD4EB is a machine! Nice work by the mobiles AD4EB NU0Q N9EP WT9P and the portables.

CW only. Had too much to do today.

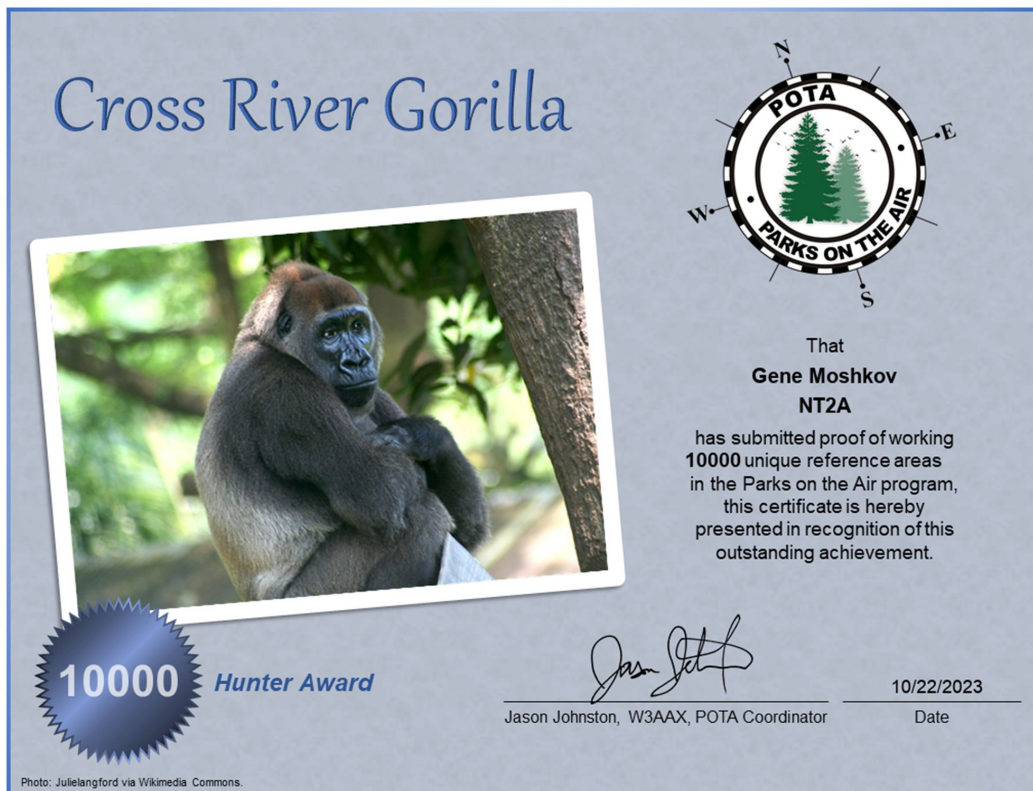


# Parks on the Air Tidbits

1 ) There are now over 10,000 USA park entities. The system has been expanded to handle five digit park numbers, ie, over 10,000 for things like K-1073. 200 new parks were quickly added to the system.

2 ) Gene, NT2A, received an award for working over 10,000 parks on the air. (there are probably 20,000 or more counting those in Canada and around the world.

The certificate reads: Gene, NT2A, has submitted proof of 10,000 unique reference areas in the Parks on the Air program. This certificate hereby is presented in recognition of this outstanding achievement.



OMG! Working ten thousand parks. Wow! Wonder how many counties he worked in the process?

# Awards Issued

## **Bingo Awards:**

K7REL completed Bingo VI and is assigned #5

## **Roadrunner Awards:**

K3IMC 650 last counties. He received #30

K8ZZ 1800 last counties. He received #3

KB6UF 2200 last counties. He received #2

KB6UF attained 2225 last counties and is awarded #2

AB7NK attained 1375 last counties and is awarded #5

KE4UP attained 350 Last counties and is awarded #67

## **Call Combo Awards:**

K7REL completed the 1X2 and is awarded #6 Combo 1X3 Award:

K7REL completed the 1X3 and is awarded #25

## **Single Band:**

K5GE completed 80 meters. He received #1

## **Five Bands:**

K5GE completed all five bands. He received #1

### **USA-CW:**

W0GXQ attained CW VIII. He received #1

### **Ran All State (RAS)**

N8KIE ran all of Arkansas. He received #29

KB6UF ran all of South Dakota. He received #37

### **Gemini Award:**

K7REL Attained 250 counties and is assigned #184

## **Upcoming Events for County Hunters**

Not one QSO Party. Lots of contests and lots of counties in Sweepstakes, 10m and 160 contests.

Don't forget the MI Mini and MARAC annual convention next year in WV.

That's all folks. That's enough!

