

County Hunter News OnLine

August 2026
Volume 22 Issue 8

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. There is CW activity now occasionally on 7188, 14336., 18136, 21336, 28336 . 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 CW runs usually after the run on 20M CW . (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 was sponsored by CQ Magazine, which unfortunately has gone the way of the dinosaurs. However, like other CQ Awards, they are still available. CQ awards require confirmation of all claimed contacts.

Rules and information are here:

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

MARAC sponsors the US Counties Award which can be earned in increments of 500 counties. The rules for this award are at:

<http://marac.org/documents/usa-ca-rules.pdf>

This award requires log data only to earn.

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

1) Sunspots – Still have them by the hundreds at times but often under 100 now. Peak was 270 back two years ago, but still up to or near 100 to 120 most days. The tail end of a sunspot cycle slowly drops. In a few years, we'll be back in the doldrums with 20, 30, and 40M the prime bands again. It's time for 6M e-skip season if that's your thing. Possibilities of band-counties there, and many mobile rigs now cover 6M.

2) Activity Lots of mobiles out this month running lots of counties. Some long trips. Let's hope it continues for the rest of the summer.

Mobile Activity in July

At the beginning of July

KB6UF was in MA, headed south to PA. To MD, DE, CT, NC, to TN

KO1U spotted in SC counties

AB7NK/K7SEN spotted in NM into KS.....into NE...running lots of counties there..... into SD.....to ND.....many days on the road.....back to SD for more.....through KS....to panhandle of TX....then back into KS thru OK county. TO NM....then to home.....

W4SIG headed to ID.....to MT.....for a dozen there.....

W0GXQ noted in IA counties.....met up with....NF0N.....running bunch of IA counties....

NF0N noted in IA counties.....same as GXQ.... for 2 days...

then it got quiet at end of month.....

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Really hot everywhere other than New England...over 100F all the way up to ND these days! East coast New England better..... 110F in NM, AZ in places....130F at Death Valley..100+ in Dallas TX day after day.

Alabama QSO Party

There are 67 counties in AL Most were not there radio wise.....top scorers had 10 on cw, 10 on SSB.....and they may have been the same.....

there were some storms in AL....but, hey!

Wow....AL is home to several mobile ops....and several nearby.....but all seemed to stay home. A few POTA stations...but many didn't show up for this one. No mobiles noted....not a one...no rovers.....

From 3830 scores

KA6BIM fixed OR 30 cw 11 SSB CW Mults 11 Ph Mults 9

Looks like there were only about 1/4 of the counties activated, none of the 10 I still need for Alabama. No rovers found either, Conditions were fair i the morning, but qso's dried up after about 4 hours, so I knocked off, but came back for the last hours and found a little activity on 40. Please get some rovers active in this QP Many of the AL counties I still need have 20 or fewer hams (as listed in QRZ) Thanks for the qso's

Dave ka6bim

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Several fixed stations racked up 300-400 QSOs.....and some others 100+ , but that was all the big activity.

MARAC Convention

Welcome to Utah where we will be having the MARAC National Convention!!!! Ogden, Utah to be exact.

Here is a preliminary outline of the convention. I hope to have everything finalized by the end of February with bios, presentation summaries, websites, etc.. There may be some changes as I work through everything. The convention will be the weekend of September Friday 18th and Saturday 19th, 2026.

Friday:

Breakfast- everyone on their own.

Presentation 9:30-10:30 by Don K3IMC

Presentation 11:00-12:00 by Ron KF7ZN. A Visit to the Sun and the Ionosphere

Lunch 12:30-1:30

Field Trip to Hill Air Museum 2:00-4:00PM They have guided tours. Hill Aerospace Museum is a military aviation museum located at Hill Air Force Base, one of our nation's biggest and best aviation museums.

Dinner 6:00 pm

Slide show with slides of members and their activities during the year.
Along with dinner we will have a historical club present that has some very interesting presentations on history of the West.

Saturday:

Breakfast everyone on their own

Presentation 9:30 to 10:30 Bob Carter WR7Q History of CW and how to improve your skills

Presentation 11-12:00 Jed Petrovich AD7KG Mobile and Portable antennas

Lunch 12:30 to 1:30

MARAC Board meeting 1:30-2:30

Harvest Moon Celebration In the afternoon people can attend the Harvest Moon celebration- Live music, fall-themed photo stations, and sometimes rock climbing and axe throwing., etc.

Dinner 6:30 pm, speaker from Rio Grande Railroad club on History of Railroads in the West

Prizes

see the MARAC.ORG site or the Road Runner for lots more detail now!

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there are some fantastic National Parks and other sites in Utah and nearby. Plan your trip to visit a few of them if you're driving out tht way!

Mobile Trip Planning II

There's always one more thing to add.

As noted last month, some plan their trips to that around 2pm or so, they look at where they will likely arrive and then make reservations for that town/city. Works usually but not all the time.

There are a few gotchas

1) Gotcha #1. Sometimes when your headed somewhere that should have lots of motels along the interstate, or the mail city in a county.....when you call at 2pm, you discover every motel is busy. Out west, it can be when the rodeo is in town, or the 'town days' celebrating something. Don't head to Laramie Wyoming when the rodeo is there – everything within 100 miles is taken, including the Motel 6. I've seen whole towns occupied by 'race day' or 'classic car shows'....10,000 visitors show up.....and fill up all 30 motels/hotels in town and within 50 miles. I've also seen entire small towns with motels 'no rooms left' for weddings and family reunions....

2) Gotcha #2..... you're zipping along on rural routes...and the next town is 'over the river' and another 50 miles where you think you'll stop for the night after another 3 hours of county putting out. You get to the bridge and....duh....it is closed....totally. You check the map. The next nearest bridge is 40 miles to the north or south. Hmm....you're

plan just went out the window. (with Google Maps, if you enter the route bit by bit – you'll discover this when you do your initial plan if you take the time.). Before Google, you had only maps to work with, and not everyone plans with Google Maps even now. Along major rivers, like the Mississippi, Snake, Colorado, etc, there may be only a bridge every 50 miles across the river. You can count on the interstate ones to be open...as well as main routes, but when you're running counties in less populated areas.....it helps to check ahead of time. A 100 mile detour is no fun to add to your daily drive. You might even miss a county here and there (County Check List)....

In some cases, the route you are on has a small bridge ahead. Oops....last heavy rain flooded it out. Closed for construction. Can also be road you wanted to take – and now a 40 mile detour to get around the closed road bridge. Can happen anywhere in the country. Usually Google Maps is current on this.

3) Gotcha #3 Weather. Not so much of a problem other than risk of very hot temps, but can lead to tornado warnings and several thunderstorms. In winter, snow.... but fall and spring can bring surprises. Head west from Denver....and maybe it is snowing in October at the Eisenhower Tunnel/Pass. Same at Donner Pass in CA on your way to central California. I've had so not so fun experiences in WV....snow in November....so be flexible.

Awards Issued

USA-CA Award: UT1KW/RIVNE DX Club attained Level 500. They were awarded #3932

Single Band Award:

AA8R attained level 2000 on 80 meters, He received #7

AA8R attained level 2000 on 30 meters, He received #9

K4YT attained Level 1000 on 6 Meters. He is assigned #2

AA8R reached Level 1000 on 10 Meters. He received #9

AA8R reached Level 1000 on 12 meters. He received #7

AA8R reached Level 2000 on 15 meters. He received #8

AA8R reached Level 1000 on 6 meters. He received #1

K4YT reached Level 2000 on 10 meters. He received #2

K4YT reached Level 2000 on 12 meters. He received #1

USA-SSB Award:

K4YT completed all 3077 counties on sideband. He received #5

Single Band Award:

DL3DXX attained level 2000 on 15 meters. He received #9

Roadrunner Award:

W4SIG attained 1575 last counties. He received #6

KB6UF attained 2600 last counties. He received #2

USA-PA Award:

KA9JAC completed all 3077 "K" Prefixes. He received #40

AA8R completed all "K" prefixes and received #41

Roadrunner Award:

AB7NK Attained 1700 last counties. She received #7

AB7NK Attained 1725 last counties. She received #5

K7SEN Attained 525 last counties. He received #40

W4SIG Attained 1550 last counties. He received #7

USA-CW Award:

K8ZZ completed all 3077 counties using CW. He was awarded #40

Awards presented at the Annual Meeting July 13.

Message: SSB Operator of the year: N0KV - Barry Mitchell

CW operator of the year: AB7NK - Mary Vince

Mobile of the year CW: W4SIG -Kerry Long

Mobile of the year SSB: AB7NK - Mary Vince

Mobile team of the year: AB7NK/K7SEN - Mary and Neil Vince

Mobile assist of the year SSB: N0KV - Barry Mitchell

Mobile assist of the year CW: K0DEQ - Bill Morgan

ALL USA-CA/Levels AWARDS:

EA5RD 500 #3929

EA5RD 1000 #2005

EA5RD 1500 #1641

JA9CWJ 1500 #1642

YE9BJM 500 #3930

YE9BJM 1000 #2006

YE9BLM 1500 #1643

WO4O 500 #3931

WO4O 1000 2007

WO4O 1500 1644

WO4O 2000 #1501

WO4O 2500 #1410

WO4O 3000 #1308

Events for County Hunters

Several good ones this month. Usually lots of rovers in OK. Most MDC counties on air with fixed stations and a few rovers. HI will have most islands but Kalawao is always scarce...only on air every 10 years with QSO PARTY. Ohio is toss up. Will mobiles show up?

July 8 1400z to 8 2200z

3.5-28 **Kentucky State Parks on the Air** CW Ph Dig

KY park abbr or SP or "DX"

k4msu.com/kypota

July 8 1400z to 9 0400z

1.8-28

Maryland-DC QSO Party CW Ph

MDC county/city or SPC

www.w3vpr.org

July 22 1600z to 23 0400z

1.8-28

Ohio QSO Party CW Ph

RS(T), OH county or SPC

www.ohqp.org

July 22 1600z to 24 0200z

1.8-28

Hawaii QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS(T),

HI district or SP

<http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>

July 29 1400z to 30 2000z

3.5-28,50

Kansas QSO Party CW Ph Dig

RS(T), KS county or SPC

ksqsoparty.org

That's all folks