

County Hunter News OnLine

December 2024
Volume 20 Issue 12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

1) Sunspots – Lots of them Hope you're enjoying the sunspot peak this year. We may be at or close to max, but that won't be known for years after it occurs. Park activators have been having a ball on 10 meters – working tons of DX.

2) Feedback QRZ counties. Last month I posted an article about counties 'worked' on QRZ.com. Two folks wrote in with comments:

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1185 Counties confirmed on QRZ. Probably 98% are with fixed stations.

73, Chuck NM1G

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My QRZ, county's award is for 2000 + (2293) most Digital ..

And as a point of interest I am down to 271 counties for all Digital.. !!

Dennis N6PDB

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For QRZ, you're contacts have to be from the same location (+/- 50 miles). For regular county hunting, it matters not where you are anywhere in the country – home, mobile, portable somewhere, etc. Some county hunters work all counties from home. Many work all counties using mobile contacts made from all over.

A Visit to the Museum

The Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV
by Rick, AI5P

I took the opportunity to visit this outstanding museum on the way back home from the County Hunting Convention. I'm certainly glad I did. It is Amazing! If you enjoy antique radios this is a great place to visit. It has limited visiting hours so make sure you check out their website for operating hours.

Per Wikipedia: The collection includes: Cathedral radios, console radios, table-top radios, transistor radios, old radios, antique radios, collectible radios, ham equipment, vintage amateur receivers and transmitters, broadcast collectibles, military communications equipment, test equipment, vintage computers, vintage hi-fi, and an awesome vinyl record collection. There is also a technical library.

There is a radio station DJ mock-up and a television station studio exhibit. Amateur radio station WV8MRT has their own room.

What I found to be particularly nice is that each item is labeled with the make, model name/number and dates of manufacture.

The vintage ham radio equipment exhibit alone is worth the visit! I hope you take the opportunity to visit this unique museum.



1920s Typical radio Store Display

New Radios – Batteries to run the radios, tubes, spare parts, kits to make your own radio, crystal detectors and holders, spare galena crystals, etc



Ham Radio Station WV8MRT



Ham Radio Equipment – Transmitters, Receivers



Radio/Hifi



Collins Equipment



RME, National, Hallicrafters Equipment/Misc



Portable Station in the 1930s



More Nice Ham Gear – Hallicrafters, Heathkits

Mobile Activity in November

At the beginning of the month:

WY0A busy running counties in SD, ND – putting them out to help finish up running all counties. Buy for over a week running them all. Then into NE

KE4UP noted in ME

W8MP ran a few in DE and MD then SC, GA

W4SIG flew to MS and was running a dozen counties there. Busy on multiple bands for most counties – from 80 to 10m .

KE4UP then popped up in DE and MD around the 8th

Around the 10th – it was quiet for a few days....no mobiles.....

Then W8MP noted in FL putting out counties again.

W4SIG resumed putting out counties for a couple more days

On the 17th, W0GXQ teamed up with N0KV for a county putting out trip. Started in KS, to MO, back to KS, then to AR for a few days, then to MS for 2. then back to AR for even more. Then into AL (with one or two in FL) for lots there. Running bands up to 12M each stop. Across MS to LA for one then back to MS for a bunch more there. Then back to LA for a dozen there. Then zipped across TX on route 287 up to panhandle to a few in NM the home in CO. Ten plus day trip. Then it got real quiet for rest of month.

On the Road with N4CD

A quick trip north was planned for 'turkey day' this year. It had been years and years since I headed north to MD to my sister's house in Gaithersburg – outside Washington DC. Often the weather doesn't cooperate but this year was very nice weather up and back. I'd hit a few new parks – but had run most along the way. A few new ones were added.

I headed out Saturday November 24 – and a DX CW contest was raging. Bands full on 20, 15 and 10m with contest stations well above 14.100, and 28.200 on 10m! Not a good day for running counties or parks on cw – but I could 'activate' a few parks on the way there using DX contacts. Anything counts.

First night in West Memphis at the Days Inn. No parks on Saturday. 461 miles driven on the way to MD. Dinner at the Cracker Barrel nearby.

Sunday

It was the usual Route 30 to Little Rock, AR (Pulaski County) – then I 40 all the way to Knoxville TN and then up I-81 to I-66 to DC area. Once I get 5 miles from the house in TX, the next traffic light is in MD near my sister's house. Of course, you need to get off occasionally for gas, put stops and motels....so you hit a few lights then.

First park stop on the trip (Sunday) was **Sellars Farm State Archaeology Area** in TN – newly added to the system. From the state site:

“The Sellars Farm site represents a relatively small, fortified Mississippian Period (AD 1000-1450) mound center located three miles southeast of the city of Lebanon in Wilson County, Tennessee. The site sits in a prominent bend of Spring Creek and consists of a large platform mound and village area surrounded by a roughly oval palisade embankment and ditch complex. The palisade complex encloses an area of 10.2 acres, and consists of two embankments separated by a shallow ditch.

The platform mound faces eastward across a plaza and is about 4.5 meters tall and slightly trapezoidal in shape, with the wider and slightly lower end to the east. The mound base measures 37 meters long, with widths of 36 and 29 meters on the east and west ends, respectively. About 90 ft. southeast of the platform mound, along the southern edge of the plaza, was a smaller mound where around 60 stone box graves were found during the 1877 excavations by Frederic Ward Putnam with the Peabody Museum.

Domestic structures also occur inside the palisade. An 1877 map of the site defined some 100 low circular ridges of earth. Nineteen ridges were excavated in 1877 by Putnam and were correctly identified as houses. Modern investigations by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology also exposed domestic structures within the palisade.

The palisade itself runs approximately 900 ft. (274 m) north-south and 650 ft. east-west (198 m). The majority of the surface evidence of the palisade has been destroyed by years of cultivation; however, a small segment roughly 45 m long is still visible on the western edge of the site. The inner embankment is approximately 5 m across and 30 cm above the ground surface. A ditch separates the inner embankment from the outer embankment, which is roughly 5.5 m wide and 20 cm tall.

Archaeological investigations and radiocarbon dates suggest the site was first occupied by Mississippian peoples around AD 1100 (Regional Period II- AD 1100-1200) and eventually abandoned sometime before AD 1400 (Regional Period IV- AD 1325-1425). The establishment of Sellars Farm during Regional Period II follows behind the rise of other mound centers in the Middle Cumberland region during Regional Period I (AD 1000-1100), such as the state-owned Mound Bottom site (40CH8). Sellars' position within the Spring Creek drainage and on the edge of the Nashville Basin suggests it may have served as an important frontier or border town as the drainage represents a strategic and direct overland route from the Cumberland River southward to the Eastern Highland Rim. The abandonment of the Sellars Farm site by AD 1400 corresponds to a larger

period of political destabilization (Regional Period IV) throughout Middle Tennessee and parts of the Southeast US that ultimately resulted in wide-scale abandonment of these areas.

The Sellars site was part of a 1786 Revolutionary War land grant to Nathaniel Lawrence, whose heirs, the Lindsley family, eventually took over ownership of the property and established the Greenwood Seminary. It was the Lindsley family, specifically Mrs. N. Lawrence Lindsley, who invited the first archaeologist, Fredric Ward Putnam with Harvard's Peabody Museum, to the property in 1877.

The land passed through several owners eventually ending up in the hands of James W. Sellars in 1909. The Sellars family was known to have extensively cultivated the site, which resulted in the reduction and, in some cases, complete loss of archaeological deposits such as parts of the palisade and most of the low mounds identified by Putnam. The State of Tennessee acquired the land in 1974 and began the process of turning it into an archaeological area in 2004. Sellars Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Notably, Sellars Farm is the location where two pairs of Tennessee-Cumberland style stone statues were found between 1922 and 1939. These statues were first found as a result of the cultivation of the property by James Sellars, but were later hunted for by local farmers. The most famous of these is the State Artifact of Tennessee, which is displayed in the permanent exhibit "Archaeology and the Native Peoples of Tennessee" at the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture."

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Quick run there of 12 DX stations then back on the quick trip north.

Next stop – **Ozone Falls State Natural Area US-6259** . From the state site:

“Ozone Falls is a 43-acre natural area in Cumberland County and is one of Tennessee's most heavily-visited state natural areas, because of its close proximity to Interstate 40. Ozone Falls plunges 110 feet over a sandstone cap rock into a deep, rock-strewn pool. Fall Creek then disappears underground, re-emerging several yards downstream. An impressive rock house “amphitheater” that was created over geologic time by wind, water, freeze/thaw, and erosion provides the backdrop for the falls. Because of its picturesque beauty and easy access, Ozone Falls was selected for filming scenes for the movie “Jungle Book.”

Small open sandstone glades that support native grasses and prairie plants occur on the bluffs and the caprock at the top of the falls. The surrounding upland vegetation is dominated by oaks and Virginia pine. An infestation of southern pine beetles killed many of the pines between 1999 and 2001. A remnant old-growth mixed mesophytic forest community is found beneath the waterfall. It is comprised of eastern hemlock, white pine, magnolia, yellow birch, sugar maple, tulip poplar, and red oak and with rosebay rhododendron in the shrub layer. The stream contains many huge boulders, some the size of houses, and many small placid pools. A rugged ¾-mile trail begins along the bluff near the falls and then descends into the gorge passing a small rock house called Gamblers Den. The trail follows Fall Creek to the confluence with Renfro Creek where hikers must backtrack to return to the trailhead.

Ozone Falls is situated on the eastern edge of the Crab Orchard Mountains on the Cumberland Plateau. Legend has it that the area was named “Ozone” because of the “stimulating quality of the air” created by the mist that is generated after the long plunge of the water. In the 1800s, grist and sawmills were built above the falls. The last one was washed over the falls during a spring flood in 1900.”

Again, quick run just working DX stations. Regular POTA frequencies clobbered by loud US and DX stations working the contest. From the state site:

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Mt Roosevelt Wildlife Management Area US7605 - from the state site:

“The Roosevelt Mountain WMA is approximately 11,000 acres and virtually surrounds the town of Rockwood, Tennessee. However, the best and the easiest access point is the Overlook. The overlook (believed to be one of the highest in the Cumberlands) is a celebrated site for witnessing the fall migration of not only raptors but also songbirds and butterflies. The overlook possesses a small parking area, picnic tables, and observation platforms. Also, a spur trail leading to Walden Ridge Trail is located at the overlook adjacent to the fire tower. Bring a scope for better-viewing birds from the viewing area atop the mountain. “

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Made a dozen QSO with DX stations on 15m from here. Quick run. 6 minutes.

Stopped for the night in Knoxville at a Days Inn. There were a dozen parks along the route, but I'd run all of them before No sense on repeats. I see the signs for this or that State Park.....and think, yep, I've been there before ! Better to make time and miles toward MD.

Nothing in the way of restaurants nearby the Days Inn, so had 'dinner' at the Waffle House.. Adequate but not great. There are a few new parks around Knoxville but too many miles out of the way this trip

Monday Nov 25

I've made it to VA – first up to run is **Marion State Fish Hatchery**. From the state site:



“The Marion Fish Hatchery was built in the 1930s. The hatchery is located in Smyth County Virginia, 1.5 miles from the town of Marion on Highway 16. Marion Fish Hatchery is a cold water hatchery owned and operated by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Marion Fish Hatchery annually produces Rainbow, Brown, and Brook Trout. Most of the eggs are collected at the facility and approximately thirty percent are received from other fish hatcheries. Three million eggs are annually incubated at Marion Fish Hatchery. Seventy five percent of our eggs are diploids with the other twenty five percent being triploids. Trout fingerlings are raised in concrete raceways inside a hatchery building, until they reach a specific size, and then the fish are moved outside to production raceways. The total production of trout is around Four hundred thousand per year. Annually, the Marion Fish Hatchery stocks thirty three rivers and five lakes throughout southwest Virginia. The stocking covers ten counties in southwest Virginia. These stocking include seven kids’ fish day events throughout the stocking season.

The water supply for the Marion Fish Hatchery consists of water gravity fed through 12” cast iron pipes from four different springs and a diversion dam on Staley’s Creek. The hatchery building for the fingerlings is completely spring water that is aerated on six aluminum towers outside of the building. The gravity fed water from Staley’s Creek

mixes with the spring water once leaving the hatchery building to supply the production raceways outside. This gives the hatchery a total water volume of approximately one thousand five hundred gallons every minute. The spring water temperature ranges from 50F in the winter to 56F in the summer. The creek water temperature ranges from 38F in the winter to 70F in the summer.

he hatchery building consists of fourteen vertical egg incubation towers and twenty three concrete rearing raceways. The outside production consists of fifty four (50'L x 10'W) rearing raceways and six (150'L x 30'W) large raceways.

Marion Fish Hatchery employs six full time employees.”

Did a regular POTA run from here. Next up – same thing – **Wytheville State Fish Hatchery US-9973** . From the state site:



The Hatchery was built and placed into service in 1964 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and operation of the facility passed to the Virginia Department of Wildlife

Resources (DWR) in 1983. DWR has continuously operated the Hatchery since that time with a full-time staff of six employees. Ownership of the facility, surrounding property and residences were transferred to DWR. Source water for the facility is supplied by two deep underground upwelling aquifers, both of which are located on the 100 acre DWR property surrounding the Hatchery complex. Both water sources are high-quality, high-flow limestone spring water with an almost constant temperature of 55 degrees F year-round. Flows to the facility remain fairly consistent over the long term at an average of 2,400 gallons per minute.

Long years of experience by both USFWS and DWR employees have indicated that the almost constant 55–56 degree water temperatures and other water chemistry features such as a relatively high pH and high nitrogen content make conditions at Wytheville Hatchery less than ideal for rearing brook trout. The temperature and chemistry of the facility source water are almost perfect however for spawning and rearing both rainbow and brown trout. In a typical year over 150,000 trout (75% rainbow, 25% brown) are stocked from the facility at an average length of 12–14 inches and an average weight of just under a pound each. These fish are released into almost 40 different bodies of water including streams, lakes, and rivers across ten counties in Southwest Virginia. The Hatchery also releases close to 100,000 brown and rainbow fingerlings into Special Regulation and other waters in several area counties in a typical year.

The Wytheville Hatchery is also operated as a spawning and brood stock station, taking over 3 million eggs per year from facility-reared brood fish and rearing all life stages of rainbow and brown trout. The facility serves as a major transfer station as well, supplying other DWR trout hatcheries with hundreds of thousands of young rainbow and brown trout each year. A recent development at the Hatchery is the production of sterile triploid brown and rainbow trout for stocking into select waters where Fisheries managers wish to avoid reproduction or competition with existing wild trout populations. The facility typically hosts several student interns per year who complete both short and long term internships in basic trout culture and hatchery operations, some of which result in academic credits for the experience.

Good run with POTA folks then on to next – **Frontier Culture Museum State Historic Site US-9931**. This is a bit hard to find. You've got to wander to back of shopping area to find the road that goes to the Museum site. Google gets you close but leaves you at the front of the shopping center. From the web:



The Frontier Culture Museum is the biggest open-air living history museum in the Shenandoah Valley, as well as one of the highest rated family-friendly attractions and one of the top tourist destinations in Virginia. Costumed historical interpreters show the life and customs of the indigenous Native American tribes in Virginia, the arrival of the German, English and Irish settlers along the Great Wagon Road, and the painful journey of the enslaved Africans to the first permanent British colony in North America. Visitors may also interact with a blacksmith at an Irish Forge, woodworkers, tailors, and yarn spinners, and learn how the early settlers of America cooked and worked the land.

Visitors also get to interact with a blacksmith at an Irish Forge, woodworkers, tailors, and yarn spinners, and learn how the early settlers of America cooked and worked the land. The American journey starts here, with these early pioneers that inhabited America's First Frontier, the Blue Ridge Mountains, prior to the Westward Expansion of the 19th Century. The outdoor museum is located on 200 acres of land in Staunton, Virginia,

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Last for this Monday is **Lake Shenandoah State Fishing Lake – US-4986 in Rockingham County**. As I was leaving, AJ4FF was rolling to to activate the park. It's a two-fer with the Virginia Bird and Wildlife Tail US-9935. From the state site;

Lake Shenandoah is a 36 acre impoundment owned by the Department of Wildlife Resources. The lake is located in Rockingham County near the City of Harrisonburg, providing a unique outdoor experience within an urban setting. Much of the lake is

shallow (less than 3 feet) and the maximum depth near the dam is 25 feet. Anglers have the opportunity to catch largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, common carp, channel catfish and musky from Lake Shenandoah.

Throughout its history Lake Shenandoah has had chronic fisheries problems that can be attributed directly to development within the drainage. A public golf course and expanding residential housing have introduced excessive nutrients and sediments to Lake Shenandoah. The result has been severe negative impacts on water quality and habitat.

However, despite these difficulties, the lake is a fantastic choice for introducing novice anglers to the sport of fishing. Lake Shenandoah has excellent bank fishing access, boat ramp, fishing pier, restrooms, bait hut (open seasonally), and wildlife viewing trail.

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Sadly at this time, recent rains (from the residual of the Hurricanes) damaged the spillway and the lake is 5 feet below normal. Not much 'lake' at the moment.

Had a decent POTA run. Then headed to a nearby Days Inn in Harrisonburg for the night. Dinner at Chilis. Getting colder! Was shorts and tee shirt weather in TX before I left. Now a cold front headed this way. One more day before the 'deep freeze' approaches.

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Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail

It's easy to discover Virginia's wild side with The Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail (VBWT), an organized network of outdoor sites highlighting the best places to see birds and wildlife in the Commonwealth. Walk a nature trail, paddle a river, or enjoy a scenic overlook to experience Virginia's wealth of natural diversity, ranging from brown pelicans and bottlenose dolphins along our Atlantic Coast to bald eagles and black bear in the Appalachian Mountains. With 400 species of birds, 150 species of mammals, 150 species of amphibians and reptiles, 250 species of fish, plus hundreds of butterfly, dragonfly, and other invertebrate species, you'll soon see why Virginia is a premier destination for birding and wildlife viewing.

The VBWT features 65 trail loops to help you plan your outdoor travels. Each loop contains multiple birding and wildlife viewing sites; select those that interest you most or drive from site-to-site. Each loop has a webpage with a map of the loop, descriptions of its viewing sites, and links to tourism information.

There's 20 or 30 parks that also qualify for a 'two-fer' with this trail system. The trail doesn't actually go anywhere but is loops out of each designated spot – some POTA parks, some not.

Tuesday March 26

Conway Robinson State Forest US-5510 - close to Manassas Battlefield - Prince William County

The Conway Robinson State Forest is “an urban oasis” – a beautiful forest in the midst of the most developed urban/suburban area in Virginia. In fact, the 444 acres of pine plantation, mixed pine and old-growth hardwoods that comprise the CRSF make it one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land owned by the Commonwealth in all of Northern Virginia. And with more than two million people living within 30 miles of this State Forest, its importance as a research and educational tool demonstrating the value of forests to the community is sure to increase. Many people come to walk, hike, mountain bike or ride horses on the Forest’s trails. Others come to learn about forest management or observe the birds, animals and trees that thrive here.

45Q in log. On to next

Great Falls National Park US-7804

This became a National Park Service Area in 1986. Located not far from DC (outside the beltway) it has several overlooks to the Great Falls on the Potomac River. On the other side is the C&O Canal along the river. The failed attempt at a canal by George Washington - the Potowmack Canal – ruins like on the west side and you can see some of the ruins here in the park. From the web:

“For a peaceful hike, a family outing, an exploration of the area’s rich history, or all of the above, the 800-acre Great Falls Park is a can’t miss. Great Falls Park features extraordinary views of the Potomac River and Great Falls, along with 15 miles of hiking trails, and five miles of horseback riding and biking trails. Be sure to add a trip to Great Falls Park to your itinerary as part of your vacation to Fairfax! Whether you're with family or friends, or simply a local looking to make an exciting and fun day trip, Great Falls has gorgeous scenery, rolling rapids, and miles of nature to explore.

Most visitors probably are unaware that the Potomac River was a trading place for local

Powhatan Indian tribes and colonists. It dates back nearly four centuries. Since 1966, Great Falls Park has been protected as a U.S. National Park (NPS).

“The preservation of the Patowmack Canal is part of the National Park Service’s continuing efforts to protect and preserve special resources with national significance. The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 protects the Patowmack Canal, Matildaville ruins, and any historic artifacts within Great Falls Park. This law prohibits excavation, removal, or displacement of any archaeological resources,” according to the NPS.”

It's a National Park – you can use your senior or yearly pass to get in, otherwise a few bucks entrance fee.

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Some history from way-back. You could use boats on the Potomac River if you got past the Great Falls. You had to bypass the falls for any trade to occur up and down the river.

George Washington's life goal was to see the Potomac River navigable as far as the Ohio River Valley. Like many others during his time, Washington knew that transportation and trade were key to economic growth in this new country. He wanted as much as anyone to see a trade-heavy canal system uniting states' economies.

After the Revolutionary War, Washington feared more than ever the loose allegiances of the now sovereign states. There was also still a great desire to continue acquiring land, and finding a pathway to the western frontier. The Ohio River valley west of Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains was the goal. The Potomack Canal was one of the Founder's first attempts at an United States; to "...bind those people to us by a chain which never can be broken."

The Patowmack Company

The Potomac River is the border between Virginia and Maryland, but the river belongs to Maryland. This geographic challenge altered the course of American history. Opening the Potomac for navigation required cooperation of Virginia and Maryland. Under the Articles of Confederation each state was sovereign. This arrangement meant states couldn't make dealings without consent of the entire Continental Congress.

In 1784, Washington helped lobby the states' assemblies to establish a company to improve navigation on the Potomac. They approved construction of a canal from the Potomac headwaters, to Georgetown. The Patowmack Canal Company incorporated May 17, 1785 and had directors and subscribers from both states.

"The office of president", Washington wrote in his diary, "fell upon me." He presided over the project until he became the nation's first chief executive.

Mount Vernon Conference to Constitutional Convention

Today, the Potomac River still belongs to Maryland. Yet both Maryland and Virginia use the river for commerce, transportation, and recreation. In the spring of 1785, George Washington invited state representatives from Virginia and Maryland to meet at his plantation, Mount Vernon. They discussed developing a beneficial agreement to improve navigation on the Potomac River. The Mount Vernon Compact was later ratified by both state assemblies. This was the first free-trade agreement between states.

In 1786, the remaining 13 states were invited to send delegates to a convention in Annapolis Maryland. They were asked to "to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations may be necessary to their common interest." This was a new concept for post revolution America.

At the time most of the states could not agree on proprietary issues that concerned such challenges as shared waterways. Each state wanted to assert its sovereignty. The Annapolis Convention led to a larger general meeting in Philadelphia the following May, the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

The upriver portions of the canal system were made first. These structures were built with mixed workforces: unskilled laborers, indentured servants, and some enslaved laborers. In 1792, one year after work began at Little Falls, there were over 100 men digging the canal bypass; among them still only 10 listed as enslaved labors. On November 05, 1792 , the Patowmack Company board met to discuss the renting up to 200 enslaved laborers at a cost of \$60 a year each. By January 1794 they had only been able to rent 60 enslaved laborers for the coming year. However, it is important to understand that the majority of the ruins you see around you at Great Falls Park today were mostly constructed by enslaved laborers.

The Patwomack Company's constant financial challenges caused a slowdown of construction. When construction began at Great Falls and Little Falls, the labor problems

got worse. Indentured servants would run away, and blend into local communities. This situation would default their indenture-mortgages and compound the company's losses. This issue was the main reason company managers continued renting enslaved laborers. Local agricultural operations would often rent their enslaved field hands to the canal. The proximity of slave markets in Alexandria, Georgetown, and Baltimore heightened the demand for enslaved labor to build the infrastructure growing around the capital city.

After 26 years of operation, the Patowmack Company finally succumbed to bankruptcy. The then new Chesapeake & Ohio Canal (C&O) Company acquired the Patowmack Company's charter. The charter and knowledge of the Patowmack Canal's challenges allowed the C&O to build an improved still water canal system in Maryland.

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You can travel the C&O Canal towpath from DC over 170 miles to the end in MD. A few portions still have water – but most are dry. There are dozens of places you can drive and park next to the canal at 'lockhouses'. When I lived in Arlington, you could rent canoes (or have your own) and go up/down a few miles of canal system out from Georgetown to the beltway.

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Zippping inside the DC beltway 495 - and fighting the traffic, I got to Glen Echo Park. Years and years ago I went there quite a few times when I lived in VA for music events. Lots of activities there including music events, dances, exhibitions, etc. There's a carousel there for the kids, and stuff to see. Goes way way back. Recently added to the POTA list. As US-7975. Long ago, folks in DC could ride the street cars out to the 'end of the line' at his park. The street cars are long, long gone.

From the web

“Glen Echo Park began in 1891 as a National Chautauqua Assembly "to promote liberal and practical education." By 1911, it transformed into DC's premier amusement park until it closed in 1968. Since 1971, the National Park Service has owned and operated the site and today, with the help of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, offers year-round cultural and recreational activities. “

There's all sorts of art events, monthly or more dances, events for kids, etc, going on all the time. Put a dozen in log then headed to sister's house in Gaithersburg 20 miles away to beat rush hour traffic.

Wednesday - Nov 27.

Not much going on at sister's house so wandered out to get one more park not far away.

Strider WMA – US-7733 in Montgomery County MD

“Located adjacent to Seneca Creek State Park on Clopper Road near Gaithersburg, Strider WMA is part of an expansive greenway in Montgomery County that stretches from Damascus to the Potomac River. The 267 acre tract of mixed hardwoods and Virginia pine was dedicated to wildlife conservation in 1949.

Strider WMA is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The mission of the Wildlife and Heritage Service is to conserve and enhance diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats while providing for public enjoyment of the State’s wildlife resources through hunting and other wildlife-dependent recreation. Strider WMA contains limited trails available for use by hikers and hunters that are not regularly maintained and are often rough and muddy. This area provides habitat for upland and forest wildlife species including white-tailed deer, turkeys, squirrels, and songbirds. Vehicle access is via parking areas on Clopper Road and Waring Station Road.

Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition. The federal aid funds are derived from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (or Pittman-Robertson) Fund, which sportsmen and women have been contributing to since 1937. Each state receives a share of the funds, which is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these funds are used for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, including the management of the WMA system. “

Nearby is Seneca Creek State Park – US-1596. Right next to it, so stopped by and made 44 QSO. Worked a few county hunters from here in Montgomery County. Headed back to sisters's house.

Enjoyed turkey day – there are a lot of sisters grandkids (4) that kept the house busy while they were there on turkey day. Those youngsters just go, go, go – and usually at full volume.....hi hi.....then..... The chill moved in – 20s! Brrr.....

Nothing going on Friday so just chilled. Left on Saturday and drove the 1337 miles from

there to home in two days. Worked a few park stations along the way but mostly busy driving at 65, then 70 to 75 across AR and TX. Never head a peep on 14056.5 with other county hunters. Never got above 30 all across hundreds of miles of TN – temps sat in the mid to upper 20s! Really BRRR all day. Got to TX and it was 62F at 6pm Sunday eve.

Headed home quickly. 1345 miles in two days. No park stops along the way. Spent the first night at Crossville, TN. Never got out of 20s on the entire way across TN. Brrr....winter cold spell. Then home the next day. 61 in Plano at 6pm. Moving from EST to CST helped add a free hour for driving for the trip home. Bad traffic around Dallas but home before real dark. Worked a few parks while driving but mostly concentrated on the traffic on interstates. Not too bad, but a few times, interstates just came to complete stop.....and then slowly got going again. No accidents...just too many following too close, hitting brakes...and the car behind too close hitting brakes....and it just cascaded downand soon the traffic came to complete stop. Happened a few times. And Duh.....down to one lane in east TX....on a holiday weekend!....and not much reason seen. Oh well....the joys of driving. See you next month.

2016 Malibu has 171,000 miles on it.. Time for oil change. Gets 30 mpg on the highway at 65 mph, 28-29 mpg at 70-75. Zero car noise on radio. Getting old so time to think about replacing it. It won't be an EV new car! You can bet on that!

Top Tier Gas

If you want to keep your car running smoothly, with clean injectors, the best gas to use is that 'certified' as TOP TIER. This requires having the necessary 'additives' to your gas for best mileage and keeping your engine systems clean.

Citgo, Conoco, Costco, Chevron, Exxon, Gulf, Marathon, Meijer, Mobil, Phillips, QuikTrip, Shamrock, Shell, Sunoco, Texaco, and Valero.

If you buy your gas at brand Z because it's a bargain – watch out. If you buy it there all the time, not so good. Stick to the major suppliers for the best gas. As the miles accumulate on your car, you want to keep your fuel system in good order. Cheapie gas doesn't have the additives to keep it clean so it can clog up leading to expensive repairs and poor gas mileage. That 5c/gal you 'save' might cost you \$500 later to get your

injectors cleaned/replaced.

Most of the gas at Petro Truck Stops is Top Tier (Exxon, Mobil) so I often gas up there on trips. Lots of them along the interstates. Good bathrooms, too.

Wanna Buy and EV?

The news ain't great. Ford loses \$30,000 on each EV it sells. Ford has stopped production of the Lightning Truck – too much inventory just sitting around that buyers don't want. Dealers don't want them. Laid off workers by the thousands.

Jeep hit an all time 'fail' with the Jeep Plug in Hybrid. Recall after recall, Jeeps dying on the road in traffic, fire hazard with self destructing batteries. Totally unreliable. Oh...and manufacturers notice to charge OUTSIDE away from other cars and buildings! Jeep quality (from Stellantis – a foreign owned company) now worse than Fiat which was a major disaster for Stellantis when they tried to foist off the 500 series here. Sold 900 since introduced. Major fail but ICE (Gas) car. Now Jeep hurriedly produced the Jeep Plug in Hybrid- a total disaster. It's sad to see a name like Jeep now mean 'totally unreliable'. Regular Jeeps dying for strange reasons.

Seems if you buy a Chevy Bolt, you better read the notices they put out. In order not to seriously reduce battery life (of their formerly called “ULTIUM” battery), you should not charge above 90%, and should start a charge when it reaches 70 miles left. Hmm...the range is 'quote' 225 miles'. But if you can't charge above 90%, and have to charge at 70 miles left....do the math. The max range at 90% charge is 200 miles...but if you have to charge at 70, your range is just 130 miles! Now try and go on a trip! Most 'fast chargers' won't charge more than 80% unless you sit for more than an hour at the charge port. So you get even less miles. Try a 500 mile trip – you'll stop 4 times to get there. Four hours if you find a ready to go charger. More wait if you are 3rd in line – like 2 hours extra each time. Maybe only 4 times...and limp in with no miles left. Then another charge. Then have to charge up to get part way home. Four stops along the way. No thanks! With a gas car or hybrid – maybe one 10 minute stop for gas and pit-stop. Some hybrids can do over 500 miles without needing more gas, but you'll probably stop for a 'pit stop' before that time is up. 10 minutes vs 4+ hours.

Meanwhile, Toyota and Honda are selling hybrid cars that get 40-50+) mpg by the tens of thousands. Both have been making hybrids for dozens of years. Subaru not far

behind. The EV sold by Toyota is made by Subaru.

Nissan sales have plummeted.....serious troubles. The car makers in Europe are in a 'disaster' mode. They were very involved in sales to China, but that market dried up as China manufacturers ramped up EV production to the tens of millions a year.

So if all your miles are around home, and you can charge in your driveway or garage.....and don't plan on taking trips in that car.....well, think long and hard about buying an EV. If you get enough tax credits,don't mind 50% higher insurance premiums, go ahead if you want to be 'green'. Better yet lease it and let someone else 3 years later worry about a ticking time bomb of depreciation and obsolescence. . Think of it as a throw away car. One accident and it's gone. Then 6 or 7 years later with a \$15K repair – time to junk it. Depreciates like a rock dropped from 2 miles high. Your car 'obsolete' technology in five years so even less desirable.

Stellantis announced it was going ALL EV by 2028. wow... guess they won't be selling any more Jeeps.....folks ain't buying the EV ones. The plug in hybrids a total fail. Even European folks are losing interest in EV's. Sales are falling.

National car rental is selling 1 and 2 year old Chevy Bolts for \$15,000. Yep, less than half new price. 47% depreciation on just ONE YEAR. If you bought one new, you couldn't even sell it for half what you paid for it. So much for owning something you could sell. Probably in five years, you couldn't get \$3000 for it. Of course, Chevy has told Bolt owners not to charge above 90%, and never drop below 70 miles of range. That leaves not even 130 miles of useful range, less if your up north at minus 10 degrees then you might get 50 miles out of a 90% charge! What a load of crap!

So far the US government has loaned over 5 billion to car and battery companies. Only Tesla has repaid the government loan. Others are paying interest – at least for the current time, but likely half will default....sticking it to the taxpayer. Fisker, Rivian, Ford Battery plant – closed - Chevy Battery plant - mothballed.....European car makers – trimming back plans.

Note in EU.....EV sales have peaked and are dropping 10% a year. Folks are going back to regular gas or gas hybrid cars.

Oh, and the great news about the Biden plan to have 10,000 chargers soon by 2026. Ha...as of Dec 1, they have built 108 charge points. One Hundred Eight! Yep. Total cluster flock. That's out of the 1.5 trillion dollar infrastructure bill. Your tax money at

work going to consultants for DEI, minority representation, minority ownership, 'unserved areas' like inner city areas, etc. PORKULUS.....wasted tens of billions.

On the trip to MD, actually saw one, just one, EV charge point along the interstate at a truck stop! . Saw zero signs at exits for 'charge points'. You have to use your smart phone to find one, and hopefully carefully planned a route. Then had luck finding an open one. The one I saw had 8 charging stations on 7 were open. Was a Tesla. (you won't save money, either – the cost of public charging is about the same per mile as a gas car – they sock it to you with 50c or 70c/KWH charge price.

OF course, as a county hunting car – you really don't want an EV.....

Climate Change News

from the MIT “Spark” newsletter:

Hello hello, welcome back to The Spark!

It's time for a party—the Conference of the Parties, that is. Talks kicked off this week at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Running for a couple of weeks each year, the global summit is the largest annual meeting on climate change.

The issue on the table this time around: Countries need to agree to set a new goal on how much money should go to developing countries to help them finance the fight against climate change. Complicating things? A US president-elect whose approach to climate is very different from that of the current administration (understatement of the century).

This is a big moment that could set the tone for what the next few years of the international climate world looks like. Here's what you need to know about COP29 and how Donald Trump's election is coloring things.

The UN COP meetings are an annual chance for nearly 200 nations to get together to discuss (and hopefully act on) climate change. Greatest hits from the talks include the Paris Agreement, a 2015 global accord that set a goal to limit global warming to 1.5 °C (2.7 °F) above preindustrial levels.

This year, the talks are in Azerbaijan, a petrostate if there ever was one. Oil and gas production makes up over 90% of the country's export revenue and nearly half its GDP as of 2022. A perfectly ironic spot for a global climate summit!

The biggest discussion this year centers on global climate finance—specifically, how much of it is needed to help developing countries address climate change and adapt to changing conditions. The current goal, set in 2009, is for industrialized countries to provide \$100 billion each year to developing nations. The deadline was 2020, and that target was actually met for the first time in 2022, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which keeps track of total finance via reports from contributing countries. Currently, most of that funding is in the form of public loans and grants.

The thing is, that \$100 billion number was somewhat arbitrary—in Paris in 2015, countries agreed that a new, larger target should be set in 2025 to take into account how much countries actually need.

It's looking as if the magic number is somewhere around \$1 trillion each year. However, it remains to be seen how this goal will end up shaking out, because there are disagreements about basically every part of this. What should the final number be? What kind of money should count—just public funds, or private investments as well? Which nations should pay? How long will this target stand? What, exactly, would this money be going toward?

Working out all those details is why nations are gathering right now. But one shadow looming over these negotiations is the impending return of Donald Trump.

As I covered last week, Trump's election will almost certainly result in less progress on cutting emissions than we might have seen under a more climate-focused administration. But arguably an even bigger deal than domestic progress (or lack thereof) will be how Trump shifts the country's climate position on the international stage.

The US has emitted more carbon pollution into the atmosphere than any other country, it currently leads the world in per capita emissions, and it's the world's richest economy. If anybody should be a leader at the table in talks about climate finance, it's the US. And yet, Trump is coming into power soon, and we've all seen this film before.

Last time Trump was in office, he pulled the US out of the Paris Agreement. He's made promises to do it again—and could go one step further by backing out of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) altogether. If leaving the Paris

Agreement is walking away from the table, withdrawing from the UNFCCC is like hopping on a rocket and blasting in a different direction. It's a more drastic action and could be tougher to reverse in the future, though experts also aren't sure if Trump could technically do this on his own.

The uncertainty of what happens next in the US is a cloud hanging over these negotiations. "This is going to be harder because we don't have a dynamic and pushy and confident US helping us on climate action," said Camilla Born, an independent climate advisor and former UK senior official at COP26, during an online event last week hosted by Carbon Brief.

Some experts are confident that others will step up to fill the gap. "There are many drivers of climate action beyond the White House," said Mohamed Adow, founding director of Power Shift Africa, at the CarbonBrief event.

If I could characterize the current vibe in the climate world, it's uncertainty. But the negotiations over the next couple of weeks could provide clues to what we can expect for the next few years. Just how much will a Trump presidency slow global climate action? Will the European Union step up? Could this cement the rise of China as a climate leader? We'll be watching it all.

Source:

https://mail.aol.com/d/folders/1/messages/AGwkVMEN8qX9ZzTbcgIDoEl7nRo?reason=invalid_cred

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de N4CD – It appears that the goal for funding from 'developed nations' like the US and most of EU would be to the tune of a TRILLION dollars a year in funding for the '3rd' world projects to reduce carbon output. Not going to happen. The target of 100 billion a year was never met (not even close) and budgets of most countries are strained. The US is borrowing trillions just to keep the country going each year! Running up debt.

We'll see what actions President Trump will take. Likely it's not going to be sending 100 billion a year to 3rd world counties to meet COP 'targets' derived from 175 'nations' demanding 'carbon reparations'.

Efficiency is a two edge sword. In the US, if you reduce the electricity 'demand' by putting in LED lighting.....most people find other ways to consume about the same electricity per month. Lights get left on more, more lights, outdoor lighting since it

'doesn't cost much', bigger TV sets, etc. Same in 3rd world developing that wants refrigerators, air conditioning, security lighting, etc.

In addition, devoting zillions of dollars to EV's and solar and wind takes current CO2 produced by making them, then takes at least 5 years for EV's to 'pay back' the carbon savings of producing them. Likely most EV's won't last 10 years. EV's are written off after minor accidents, become 'obsolete', and likely in 10 years cost more to repair than the value of the car so will be junked. Solar panels take horrendous amounts of CO2 now to mine, refine, and produce the panels. Carbon payback is 4-7 years at best. EV's? Maybe 5 years to pay off the carbon used to make them, and run them since 60% of the US power comes from fossil fuels. Will be a decade or more before it drops below 50%.

Awards Issued

Nth Time Awards

2nd time: KB9YVT Completed all counties and earned #447

3rd time: AJ5ZX Completed all counties and earned #264

Master Gold

W9DC Completed the MG award. He earned #80

Single Band Award

K7REL Completed 30 meters. He received #10

K8MW completed 20 meters, all CW and earned #42

K0DEQ Attained level 3000 on 30 meters. He received #2

WD4OIN Attained WBOW on 20 meters, He received #32

N1API Attained level 2000 on 10 meters. He received #1>BR

K0DEQ attained level 2000. He received \$#5

Mobile Diamond Award:

N0KV completed the requirements for the MD award. He earned #15

USA-CW Award:

K5GE completed all CW for the 3rd time. He received #19

Roadrunner awards:

K4YT 925 last counties for #18

K4YT 950 last counties for #17

K4YT 975 last counties for #17

WY0A 450 last counties for #51

WY0A 475 last counties for #46

WY0A 500 last counties for #44

County Challenge:

K8ZZ is at level 26000

Ran All State Award

N8HAM completed all West Virginia. He received #31

WY0A completed all Minnesota and received #31

Worked All Counties SSB Awards:

N1API #17
W9DC #18
K7REL #19
W4YDY #20
KE3VV #21
N5MLP #22
NA8W #23
K2MF #24
W0EAR #25
KJ8F #26
K3IMC #27
NM1G #28

USA-Prefix Award:

NM1G completed all Letter A prefixes. He received #11
NM1G completed all letter N prefixes. He received #28

Five Band Award

K0DEQ #5

No events for county hunters. Lots of other contests/events.....10M Contest, 160m,
Straight Key night.....

that's all folks.