

County Hunter News OnLine

January 2026
Volume 22 Issue 1

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 SSB 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 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 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. We're on the down slope but bands are still good. Some days 10M is great, some days not. Even 15M has been 'fair' some of the time. We've had some bad geo storms that spiked the indexes up to K-5. The good news is fewer geo storms at sunspot minima. There is a fair amount of POTA activity by Technician Class activators. Works OK for coast stations working across the country. Occasional EU contacts if you have a good beam or location other than some large contest stations.

2) Winter Solstice - the winter solstice occurred on December 21. From now till the

summer solstice, there will be increasing daylight per day. If you are in Pruhoe Bay AK, about now, there is no sun. Two months of zero sun until you get to see the sun again. In summer, the sun never sets there in June. The further north you are, the higher the 'swings' between hours of sunlight and dark.

For most of the US,, we are at the mid point. Sun all winter long but short daylight days. Summer lots of sun. Up north, more than 12 hours of daylight in MN, New England, etc.

So hang in there. The daylight is returning, a few minutes more each day.

On Dec 30, it's officially 20 below zero in Prudhoe Bay, AK. Wind chill 47 below zero. Glad I'm not there. Anyone for a trip to Second District? Nome AK? Now at 9F but Thursday will be 20 below zero there. High of minus 14. Yuck.

State QSO Parties

As Year 2025 ends, we can look back to one of the great county hunter activities of the year. Besides the great mobile runs – zipping all over the country – putting out well over a thousand counties plus on CW and SSB, the other main activity that many enjoy is participating in State QSO Parties.

You can do this several ways – as a 'hunter' from home, or as a mobile giving out the counties for the State QSO party. Every one of the 50 states is 'on the air' and probably 2500 counties make it on the air each year. You can also do both – maybe mobile one day, home later or the next day as some Parties are two day affairs. Also, while mobile you can be hunting for other counties in other SQP if they are occurring at same time.

Now, not every State QSO Party (SQP) is a barn burner. States like North Dakota and South Dakota are usually sparse for contacts. Lots of counties and not much in the way of population or mobiles or interest from outsiders to head there.

Other SQP like the New England one, with all the states in New England participating, and California, have all the counties on for the event. Depending where you are in the country, and propagation, you might get all of them.

Participating

Mobile

County Hunters like to go mobile. Yeah! SQP are a good excuse to get out and run some counties. Maybe a lot of them!

The first thing you need to do is READ THE RULES. Every SQP rules are different – from both the 'exchange' needed, the time period, and whether county lines are acceptable.

For some SQP, the exchange is signal report and your county(counties), or your name and serial number, or other combination. So you need to check the rules FIRST. OK?

Now, some SQP allow 'county lines'. Often that definition is flakey. For example, in Arkansas, you can be 'within a mile' of a county line and run it. There is one multi-county line there, where the multi-way county line is in the middle of a lake, and you can be a mile away and run it. Duh! In Texas, to allow 'safe operation', you need to be able to 'see the county line to be able to run it'. There have been operations in IL on 3 and 4 way county lines that don't occur -impossible. So you have to use some common sense.

County Hunters have often had discussions on how to run a county line. Ideally, the the county line crosses the highway, with wide wide shoulder you can pull off on safely, with no power line within sight, and it is easy to run right at the sign. . That's not the case always. For example, in west Texas, the power lines follow the main roads. And the secondary roads. And other roads. Sometimes there are nice shoulders. Other places there are signs warning 'deep sand' - do not pull off pavement. Hi Hi. Or no shoulder at all. Some places have 'county line roads'. OK – that's good – but the next question is – if you are a nit picker – you must stop in the middle of the road to put it out. Maybe – check map carefully. Google Map it. In some cases, the road is actually all in one county at the border. Well, enough for 'details'. How close is 'close enough'?

It helps to run county lines if allowed. You get a lot of 'contacts' quickly. Run up your score. If you only run while stopped, it sure helps. If you are running counties 'on the run' by yourself, logging via recorder, you only get one county at a time.

You do your best to 'run the county line' by the definition of the SQP rules and your good judgment. But check the rules. Some SQP don't allow county lines.

That's the first step. Next is figuring out what category you can participate in. Some

SQP's have half a dozen entry classes. For example, high and low power mobile, assisted or non-assisted, QRP, etc, Assisted means having a driver usually so the op can focus on the radio. Oh, and there is mult-op category, too.

Or 'rover' where you set up portable in each location. (With increasing POTA activity, there are often 'activators' that put out parks in different counties – usually portable). Some SQP have a rover category. Some lump both mobile and portable together – jst one category.

For most of us, we'll be out running low power (100w) class. If you can find a driver, great, that helps rack up the contacts. Some also allow use of spotting – some allow you to spot yourself. Some not. In some cases, if you watch the spots, you move yourself into 'assisted' category. Check rules.

SSB operation is a challenge these days. Between weekend 'nets', POTA activities, and a full band on 20M, getting and keeping a frequency is tough. You need a really good setup. An ATAS shorty screwdriver on a mag mount isn't going to hack it.

Next is logging. You can use a paper log or use a PC to log contacts. Better yet if your PC is connected to the radio so all you have to do is type to make contacts. Same for home operations. Otherwise, hand sent code will wear you out. If you're really into it, get CQ-X from NO5W. There, you can enter your entire route ahead of time. Using GPS, it tracks your location and gives you all sorts of information on time to next county, plus logging contacts, sending correct exchange, recording band/mode, etc. Or you can use other logging software like N1NM or others. Use the GPS Lady with planned 'check points' or destinations along the route – step by step.

For some SQP, if you run a C/L, you can do so with one contact. Others require making a separate contact for each county. Again, read the rules.

Of course, for county hunters, check the needs page first. Let folks know your route so they can show up and snag their needed counties.

Some SQP have a planned trip page where you can enter your route, mode planned, etc. Some like KS also let you chose your CW frequency to mobiles don't wind up on top of each other. Some QSO Parties reserve a 'mobile window', while others merely suggest operation around 14050 or so. Others show coverage maps – so you can see what is covered by 'fixed' stations and mobiles. That allows you to decide to go to the needed counties to fill in.

So after all that – you gas up the car – get set – and go out mobile! Maps, snacks, logging - old school or new – and have some fun.

When you get back home, the next step is getting the log ready to send in to the SQP coordinator. You might have to delete a few contacts as double if you work other SQP participants in the same state but different counties. For example, if you're in the Texas Party and work K4YT in 3 VA counties, from the same TX county, that only counts as K4YT 599 VA. Many logging programs will flag it – some not – as a dupe right away. That's where having a pen and paper nearby helps while mobile. Maybe you needed those VA counties! You enter in Logger or your paper records.

So, after you have your log ready to go – usually you send off a Cabrillo file to the state – and wait for results. Often this will take months. Some verify all the contacts using other submitted logs. Others not. Some SQPs have nice awards. Wood Plaques. Some just paper certificates. Some just bragging rights.

However, you can check the 3830 scores page. Hundreds file their claimed scores' there shortly after the contest.

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At home

First, check rules - exchange - and hours and county line definitions if allowed. Then have fun

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Recollections

2025 was a good year. We had a lot of great SQP's. For example, all the counties in AZ, CA, KS, CT, VT, MA, RI, FL, WA, OR, were represented. 2/3rds of Texas. Many in NJ, VA, NC, SC, GA, MO, WI, MI, OH, PA, etc. For some, you had to chase both on CW and SSB to round them up.

In states like ND, SD, NE, mobile activity filled in many missing counties. K4YT, W4SIG, WY0A put out loads of counties. NF0N did multiple trips. W0GXQ ran many with others – from N0KV to NF0N.

K0AP did KS and MO. NU0Q ran mobile in several SQP.

K5CM was busy in KS, AR, OK, TX.

Probably missed a few others, too. All appreciated.

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N4CD had limited participation last year. Ran the TX QP and OK. . Skipped KS after many years – everything was committed by other mobiles there – half a dozen – some the super mobile types like AD4EB. Used to run AR, but they moved it to the weekend of the Dayton Hamfest and that has priority. Who knows in 2026?

On the Road with N4CD I

Kerry, W4SIG, sent me an email indicating he needed Rains County TX for a last county for DD(Double Diamond Award) , and could use a couple others nearby. I checked the map. It had been a while since I've been out on a county putting out trip. Hmm...not as far as I first thought. Checked my “Map Book of Texas” - a 150 large page book with fairly detailed maps. Yes, it's closer than I remember – about 75 miles out there.

You can navigate TX well using the state map – which by itself is rather large. It shows most of the roads you want to use to get around the state. The large Map Book of Texas shows additional detail that lets you plan easier. Of course, you can use on line resources as well - they'll give you distances between cities, towns, points of interest.

Rains County lies between two interstate highways that are busy, but folks coming to or through Dallas run on them a lot. (I-20, I-30) I usually put them out leaving or returning to Dallas on long trips east.

However, even though Rains isn't that far off the I-20 or I-30, it doesn't get run often other than the TX QSO party. Well, 15 miles or more. . Then there is the Bush Turnpike through northern Dallas County going west. I take it 25 miles each week to the local POTA park for 2 hours to keep it in running shape.

To get to Rains – you've got to leave the interstates.

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So, at the last minute, I sent Kerry an email asking if he'd be around on Sunday December 7. Yes. OK....went to my usual breakfast place on Sunday at 7 am for the egg white scramble, toast and coffee while reading the Sunday paper. Came home, grabbed the log book, and headed out. Total overcast – zero sun. 46F.

You'll recall the mobile is an IC-7100, a 4 large magnet mount on the roof of the 2025 Chevy Malibu. Seems to work OK – fairly quiet except for a S7 birdie on 14064. I use Hamsticks for 40,30,20, 17, and a Hustler 54”mast with resonator for 15, 12, and 10m.

I head out....7 traffic lights in the first 5 miles to get out of the neighborhood to US-75 down to the George Bush Turnpike going east. Radio off. 70-75 mph and enough traffic to make you want to focus on driving even at 8:30am Sunday morning. 8 lanes of traffic plus feeder roads of 2-3 lanes each side. The county I live in has a population of over 1.25 million people.

On the Bush toll road – It heads into Dallas County – population of 2.65 million people - You go over a bridge 20 miles later to get to I-30 going east. Five miles later, after another 2 mile long bridge/causeway, you're in Rockwall County. - one of the smallest in Texas and a population of 137,000 folks, most crowded into the very east part in the city of Rockwall. Lots of rural area to the west but new subdivisions arising in great numbers for the every increasing population of the Dallas metro area. I-30 is busy – 3 to 4 lanes of traffic each way. They are building 2 more lanes – oh, and there are 2-3 wide feeder lanes each side, so it's really about 10 -11 lanes of traffic and not the place to try and operate mobile in motion – hi hi.

You can zip on down to Route 276 headed straight east toward Rains County after 25 miles of two to 4 lane highways and about 15 traffic lights. Traffic not bad. Most lights green.

Near the Rockwall/Hunt county line, you see a Dallas area landmark

from the web:

“The "flying saucer house" near Rockwall, TX, is a Futuro House, a unique prefabricated fiberglass home, located at 9573 State Highway 276 in Royse City, just east of Rockwall, TX, serving as a roadside landmark for decades. Designed by Finnish architect Matti Suuronen as a portable ski lodge in the 1960s, this iconic spaceship-like

structure is one of only about 100 ever built, offering a retrofuturistic sight along the highway”



Sadly, this particular one was gutted long ago and there is nothing but a shell left. It was repainted a few years ago – a bright orange. You can't miss it.

Just down the road is the County Line. Time to get to work – Rockwall/Hunt in the log on 20M CW. Now I can drive along and listen for some POTA stations after the run. Not too much traffic. Head east through Hunt – to Quinlan TX – to West Tawakoni – over another mile long bridge and into Rains County (population 13,300 folks) at East Tawakoni. It's the fourth smallest county in TX at 259 square miles. . Lots of lakes (11% of county area) and rural farms there.

Just over the bridge is a nice park overlooking the lake. Pull in – and put out Rains County. 20/17M CW. Still total overcast – up to 48F. OK...Kerry got his LC for DD in TX. Main mission accomplished.



Stopped on bridge quick to take pic. You can see the park there in the picture. Nice quiet spot – a few other people came and went. . Wouldn't it be nice if every county had a park just over the border to county hunters could put it out!

Kerry also asked if I could hit a few others he needed for 4th time - CW – and they were Kaufman, Van Zandt and Cherokee. Hmmm....not far to the first two of those. Cherokee is going to have to wait a bit. Too far for this trip – would add another 100 plus miles at least.

Back track to Qunlin – 12 miles back west – and down highway 751 for 10 miles to south to Van Zandt County. The county is actually on I-20 but I'm at the top end of the county. Find a spot and put out Van Zandt County. (population 60,000 folks). About the only thing that's interesting there is the First Monday Sale in Canton TX. It claims it's the largest flea market in the world – 450 acres of vendors, tail gaters, entertainment, tons of tempting food. It's actually 3 days long each month. You can walk for miles.

Way back when, I went a few times to check it out. . I didn't didn't find anything worth buying radio wise, but you never know what will show up. Saw a few old consumer type radios – too high prices - Lots of antiques, lots of furniture, tools, clothing, new stuff, old stuff, electronics stuff, garage sale type stuff. I'm not planning on going back unless I get myself a good mobility cart to get around the miles of vendors. Hi hi. There's probably some hidden treasures there but you'll be looking for a needle in 25 haystacks. Lots of 'used stuff' from clothing to toys, consumer electronics like boom boxes, old game systems, furniture, candles, homemade stuff from gifts to cookies to honey, etc. There are several buildings with a hundred stalls for vendors.

If you want, check it out at:

<https://www.firstmondaycanton.com/>

Back to County Hunting. After the run at Van Zandt, back north a bit – then down 429 to SW to Kaufman County – which also lies on I-20 further to south. (population 197,000 folks). It's abuts Dallas County-so density increases. Oh...I forgot – have to cross a few more long bridges on the way – lots of lakes out this way.

Down to Kaufman County – put it out.....now time to backtrack and head home. Still total gloom – total overcast – temp in 40s. No sun. Well, no problem.

Use maps on my phone to navigate plus the Map Book on TX. Also have the Garmin GPS Lady on the dash but not using it.

North again – at intersection of 751 and 276, I spy a Subway. Time for lunch!

Then it's back west on 276, to I-30 for a few miles – over the mile long bridge to Dallas County – to the President George Bush Toll-road – over yet another bridge.. The GW Bush Tollroad passes by my favorite POTA Park US-4423....well,, why not? Sunday – usually fair amount of activity even though it's snowing up north and freezing temps. Only mile detour. Hmmm....sparse CW action – not many out on CW. . Put 11 in log – enough for an “activation” which requires 10 QSOs. – and head home. Probably more available on SSB but I don't do much of that – ears /hearing too dad. Didn't see any other county hunter activity. If you operate SSB, probably more action. Did catch a few new parks so worth it.

It was 63 miles to get to Rains. Another 20 miles to get the other two. 150 miles or so total for the day's outing. Maybe I'll get back into running some more counties. I'll have to check the needs. Seems folks always need TX counties....but some are 300-400

miles from QTH.....and El Paso is 654 miles from my house! About the same distance to Nashville TX. Terrell County is 465 miles – and it seems to be always needed by someone. Texas is BIG. You don't just zip out to Terrell County for a days outing – hi hi.

KA9JAC was doing spots – appreciated. AB87NK, KC3X, K4XI, KE3VV, W0GXQ, N0KV, N1API, KB9YVT, W4SIG, AB7RW, W8OP and others in log. All CW. Have a microphone but seldom using it as hearing is horrible these days. CW works.

Thanks for riding along.

WY0A Trip Report

Trip Report from recent 2-day eastern Nebraska run (from K3IMC forum post):

On my recent SSB only trip, I transmitted from 38 counties and made 1,506 contacts.

Of those 1,506 contacts, 102 contacts were with DX stations.

I made contacts with 108 unique calls of which 7 were unique DX calls.

My contacts were with 37 different states and 5 different DX entities.

Of those 1,506 contacts, the band breakdown is listed below:

10 meters - 137 contacts
12 meters - 227 contacts
15 meters - 273 contacts
17 meters - 252 contacts
20 meters - 385 contacts
40 meters - 174 contacts
75 meters - 58 contacts

Thanks to everyone that rode along with me!

Mobile Activity in December

Many days there was no activity. Winter weather has hit up north, and the pacific northwest has had many major storms. Eisenhower pass on the interstate west from Denver was shut down for hours after a major storm. Flooding out in WA state on highways. Storms in CA. Snows up north.

Lots of POTA/WWFF activity on the bands. Regulars even up in MI, MN, WI, NY, RI, CT plus all along the east coast. Some spotted, most not.

At the beginning of the month:

AB7NK/K7SEN running many counties in south central Texas. A bit later to the panhandle of TX. Then through NM to AZ/home

N4CD took a short trip to a few counties to the east

N0KV spotted in CO – ran a dozen there.

K4YT popped up in NM putting them out there for several days. Got some in CO

KB6UF spotted in LA counties. Then went over to TX for dozen there. Then more in LA. Plans to finish off state soon.

AB7NK/K7SEN headed east again to TX. Ran lots of counties coming and going from TX destination.

End date 12/28/2025.

60M Band Changes

from ARRL News:

FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz

Coordination Information

12/11/2025

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) Final Acts. The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that “allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations.”

The Commission left open ARRL’s 2017 Petition for Rulemaking to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that “we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding.” ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and already has been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420 - 450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive

change to the areas covered by the power limitation.

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de N4CD

Until then

CW Operation

CW operation must take place at the center of your chosen channel. This means that your transmitting frequency must be 1.5 kHz above the suppressed carrier frequency as specified in the Report and Order (see Table 1). Operating at strict channel-center frequencies may come as a disappointment to many, but cooperating with the NTIA is key to expanded privileges in the future.

The channel center frequencies are:

Channel 1: 5332.0 kHz

Channel 2: 5348.0 kHz

Channel 3: 5358.5 kHz

Channel 4: 5373.0 kHz

Channel 5: 5405.0 kHz

With the new rules going into effect sometime in January, channel 3 disappears as is part of the 'QRP' bandwidths

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Now, you may think not much is going to happen with 10 w ERP. Let's take a look at a typical mobile. If you ran an antenna on a mag mount, that is likely 10-15 db loss at 5 MHz. So you're signal is already at 10w level before you send a dit. Use a shortened antenna, and its more watts not radiated. An ATAS screwdriver will probably radiate a few watts. A good long screwdriver maybe 10-15w.

Now, for home stations it becomes more complicated. If you have a full size dipole, you're going to have to turn down power to use the QRP allocation. You can run 100w ERP on other 4 channels.

You can still run full 60m power on the other 4 channels - 'if not in use'

OK...the question of the day. What's the new 'county hunter frequency' on 60m CW?

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from the FCC:

"35. Allocation. For the reasons stated below, we modify footnote US23 and part 97 of the Commission's rules to implement the new international allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, retain the existing four channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz that are outside of the new allocation, and do not restrict the existing secondary allocation for the existing four channels to disaster response operations."

...

"38. Channelization and Permitted Uses. Consistent with our proposal in the WRC-15 Notice, we do not require the use of channelization or sub-bands in the new internationally harmonized amateur allocation."

...

"40. Due to the limited contiguous allocation of 15 kilohertz, we recognize that amateur radio operators will need flexibility to utilize the new allocation. Thus, we do not require the use of channelization or sub-bands in the new allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. We also carry forward the requirement of section 97.303(h) of the Commission's rules, currently applicable to the discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz, which stipulates that amateur operators shall ensure that emission bandwidth not exceed 2.8 kilohertz, which we also agree will preserve access to the limited spectrum in this secondary allocation."

...

"41. Station Class. We limit use of the existing amateur allocations at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz and the new amateur allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz to amateur radio operators holding a General Class license or higher."

...

"43. Power. For the reasons stated below, we do not allow the amateur community to utilize the new international allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz at the requested 100 W ERP limit and adopt NTIA's proposal to limit usage of this band to 15 W EIRP, or 9.15 W ERP. Operating on a secondary basis, the amateur community must protect Federal operations in this band, and we do not believe that the increased potential for harmful interference at this power limit has been fully considered at this time. Amateur access to the four discrete channels at 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz will however, continue at the same 100 W ERP limit."

ARRL 10M Contest

Things were hopping this year. 10M wide open. KA4RRU made over 1000 QSOs. Over 950 for K4BAI.

The big guns made 5000 QSOs! Many reporting stations had 2000+ and at least a hundred had 1000 QSOs. There were a hundred or more with 500+ QSOs.

N4CD was over in the park and put a many dozens quickly in the log on 10M. Fun – CW of course. Band was hopping.

160M Contest

Held December 5

You can increase your band counties if you can get on 160M. While not the best time of the sunspot cycle for the 'low bands', , there was good activity.

From 3830 contest reflector:

KA4RRU – multi op – made 879 contacts in 70 multipliers, 8 countries.

Many stations reporting 800+ QSOs!

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It helps if you live out in the boonies – but even a decent size suburban lot can work 160M. It's a whole lot tougher running 160M mobile as antenna efficiency is down the low, low single digits due to short antennas and high ground losses. Barry, W9UCW, was the expert on running 160M mobile. Typical range during daylight hours is less than 50 miles normally.

Awards Issued

Many awards are 'backlogged' due to necessary changes in the County Hunter Database structure and MARAC Logger.

USA-CA Awards:

K7SVW

Level 500 #3900

Level 1000 #1989

IK2YGZ

Level 500 #3889

HA8IB

Level 500 #3998

Level 1000 #1988

Level 1500 #1630

Level 2000 #1493

Level 2500 #1406

Level 3000 #1304

CWII #47

K8MW

Events for County Hunters

Not yet.. Watch the mobile spots on CH.W6RK.com and the POTA spot page for parks. Will be another month or two until activity resumes with QSO Parties.

The New Year starts off with Straight Key Night – designed to encourage rag-chewing by CW key – not just 599 TX contacts.

Winter will bring the January VHF contest and “Winter Field Day' for operating events.

Also the CQ 160M contest.

There's the usual Monday MST 'test' and Wednesday CWT sessions for CW ops. Monday the speeds are about 20 wpm, and Wednesday 25+ wpm (with some at 35 wpm). On Monday, the exchange is your name and QSO number. On Wednesday, it is your name and CW Ops number, or if you have none, your state abbreviation All are welcome to participate.

You can check out the smaller and DX contests at The ARRL monthly contest corral or WA7BNM page.

Otherwise, check for planned trips on the K3IMC County Hunter Page, or chase a few parks on the air for the counties. Usually 20-30 per day, more on weekends.

That's all folks. Happy New Year!