

County Hunter News OnLine

November 2024
Volume 20 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. 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 Solar Activity – Lots of it. Sometimes too much. The sun is very active with frequent X class flares at this point. We may have reached or approached sun spot max, but won't know for a year or two after it happening. We could plateau for months or a year. The decline is a lot less gradual so conditions should stay good for years and years. There have been some major propagation anomalies – geomagnetic storms – even during convention time this year.

2) QRZ Awards - QRZ offers a bunch of different awards – did you know that one of the is the Counties Award? From their web site:

“United States Counties Award

The United States Counties Award is available to any QRZ member whose Logbook on QRZ.com contains at least one confirmed contact from each of 100 US Counties. Endorsements are also available for 250, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500 and 3000 counties.

Each parish in Louisiana and each borough in Alaska shall be considered one “county” for the purposes of the United States Counties Award

All contacts should preferably originate within a 50 mile radius of a given geographic point”

Never knew anyone who got or was interested in perusing this award. Few if any

county hunters upload logs to QRZ. The process of setting up 'different locations' for each county is painful. Maybe some logging programs help out the process. I've never heard anyone say "I've got 1000 counties on QRZ". Likely some do, but without mobiles and county expeditions uploading to QRZ, who knows?

3) USA-CA Award – Big, big news coming.....stay tuned.....

4) Fall has Arrived - The days are noticeably shorter. Sunrise here in TX is 7:40am now. Daylight savings time, if you are on it, ends Nov 3. Then the long evenings disappear and the sun is down at dinner time. Snow is flying at the higher elevations. Soon it will be 'winter'. Mobiles are still out and running with many good trips planned, so keep a watch on the planned trip page.

On the Road with N4CD I

The Annual MARAC County Hunter Convention was scheduled for Oct 9 to 13 in Bridgeport WV at the Best Western Plus Hotel. That's 1170 miles from Plano TX to there so I'd leave plenty of time to get there, run some parks along the way, take a few detours, and not over do it. As I get older, my ability to sit and drive, drive, drive has gone down, plus my enthusiasm runs out after about 8-9 hours a day, so I'd just wander up the road, stop at various parks. Stop after 4pm or so and grab a good dinner, then rest up. Take a week to get there. Its 1170 miles of so if you don't take any detours off the interstate – and, if so inclined, once you get 5 miles from my house, there is not a stop light until the exit for the motel – assuming you can get off and get gas, a motel, without a stop light. However, with park detours, they're be lots of small towns, back roads, even gravel roads to get to the 'parks' including 'wildlife management areas'. Some of them are well attended – good parking lots. Others really in boonies with one lane dirt road in.

The 2016 Chevy Malibu with 165,000 miles was ready to go. Oil just changed. Tires good. IC-7100 transceiver and 4 magnet mag mount on roof of car. I would stop to run most of the time, often at parks. I like the IC-7100. Good audio (with external speaker), good DSP) and no flakies. Probably has 1000 hours on it already. Took lots of 'Percy Pics' of the parks – didn't get all. One missing a sign, several others missed due to traffic. Couldn't stop and take pic. Got most.

Oct 2 - Wednesday - Day 1 – time to make some tracks – headed out after nuking a breakfast egg biscuit with a cup of coffee. Put the suitcase in the car. The car was already pre-loaded with the maps, route plans, planned stops. Headed out over the George Bush turnpike to I-30.....then hours and hours to Little Rock (5 hours) to I-40 west. Trucks....lots of trucks. Two cars, one truck – all the way up I-30 and across I-40 to Nashville. Thousands of trucks. One delay in East TX for 20 minute delay. Made good time. Stopped just after Little Rock for gas at 270 miles.

Would get one park in today - newly added to the system. Just north of I-40.

University of Arkansas Pine Tree Wildlife Management Area – US-7330

The largest station in acreage, it encompasses 11,850 acres in St. Francis County located north of Interstate 40 on State Highway 306

Approximately 3500 acres are tillable and the remaining 8000 acres are in the hardwood forest and layout acres

Forestry research is conducted on about 200 acres by faculty with the Arkansas Forest Resources Center located at University of Arkansas Monticello

Cooperates with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to demonstrate improved wildlife management practices

Soils are silt loam in texture with the Calloway, Calhoun, Henry, and Loring soil series being the predominant series

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The main road – 306, is also on the Civil War Trail and the Trail of Tears.

After the park – it was getting late in the day, so stopped not far after in West Memphis at a Days Inn. 486.5 miles driven today. Cracker Barrel restaurant not far away so enjoyed a ham dinner there. Weather good. One third the way to WV. Have run just about all the parks along this route on previous trips other than this new one run today. One or two were 'missed', newly added, or further off the route to get to.

Day 2 – October 3 Thursday

From West Memphis, the route was I-40 to Nashville then up the Interstate 65 to Cave City, KY today.

I'd run the majority of parks along this route before from many times headed this way on various trips, Dayton hamvention, MI mini, etc. I'd have to go further off route to hit some new to me parks. Some had been added so I'd try to get those. Some days I run out of time and have to skip some.

Middle Fork Bottoms State Park US-11858



This was newly added state park. . Only 10 activations so far! Only 289 QSOs and only 10 on cw!

Added in 44 CW contacts.

From the web

“ Nestled in the heart of West Tennessee, Middle Fork Bottoms State Park offers a unique blend of rich history and natural beauty. Spanning approximately 860 acres, this park transformed from a floodplain restoration project in 2018 into a thriving habitat. Originally managed by the West Tennessee River Basin Authority, the park boasts

250,000 newly planted hardwood trees, over 200 acres of restored wetlands, and two miles of revitalized streams.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the park's diverse landscapes, which include fishing areas, paddle craft access on Middle Fork Lake, and four miles of scenic walking trails. The park features multiple wetland areas, five lakes (four of which are fishable), and native grassland habitat. Visitors will also find a newly planted bald cypress grove covering five acres, various waterfowl habitats, and vast areas of sycamore and cottonwood trees.”

de N4CD – there are several other pending TN parks – and some newly added ones.

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Big Traffic Jam on I-40. Crept along for an hour! 10 mph - Groan!

Next up-

Tennessee National WMA US-0539 in Benton County

from the state site:

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The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge contains more than 50,000 acres of diverse habitats that support an equally diverse array of wildlife. Habitat types found on the refuge include rivers and streams, freshwater marshes, water impoundments, agricultural lands, bottomland hardwoods and oak-hickory forests. The refuge's diversity of habitats also supports breeding, wintering, and migration habitat for over 300 bird species, as

well as habitat for 51 mammals, 89 reptiles and amphibians, and 144 species of fish. Large populations of white-tailed deer can be found throughout the area, along with smaller animals such as raccoons, squirrels, beavers, rabbits, and turkeys.”

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Put a couple dozen in log and headed to Cave City for motel there. Could run one more today. Did.

The Green National wild and Scenic River US- 10105

This is actually in Mammoth Cave National Park and just outside – and you can run it at several spots. I chose the Green River Ferry location – which is a 2 car ferry across the Green river. There's a parking lot that is well within 100 feet of the river. There's no cell service at that location wither Verizon or AT&T, so it might be tough to get spotted I hadn't alerted the POTA 'activations site' so it was tough to get 10 from scratch. No one came back on County Hunter Net frequencies. Late in the day. Hunt around for contacts – other parks, special events. Did get my 10 for an activation. Barely. Whew!

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On the way back out, made a quick run at US-0050 Mammoth Cave. Had Internet so could spot Just a dozen in log then skedaddle to dinner and back to motel. Cracker Barrel turkey dinner (on every Thursday menu) . Days Inn. I'm 60% of the way to WV Convention after 2 days and still lots of days before things start. Need to run more parks and slow down!

Friday October 4 - 3rd day of trip.

Nolin Lake State Park - 1268 Edmonson County



from the web:

“Nolin Lake State Park opened to the public in 1996. The 5,795-acre lake created from the impoundment of the Nolin River in 1963 and the 333-acre park are located along the northern edge of Mammoth Cave National Park in Edmonson County.

Approximately 9.2 miles of single-track trails for mountain biking and hiking, trailhead is located across from State Park campground, partnership with Southwest KyMBA, Corps of Engineers, Friends of Nolin Lake, and Kentucky State Parks.”

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You must really, really want to go there to get there. From Cave City, it's through Mammoth Cave National Park at 25 mph max, often 15 mph., across the Green River Ferry (two cars at a time – runs continuously)., and a good hour of twisty, curvy roads. No fun. There have been 23 successful activations from there with 1100 QSOs and not many on cw.

Getting out of there is no fun either – over an hour to get back on the interstates headed northeast – small twisty two lane (barely) roads – one actually a few miles of one lane road! Oh well, I built in lots of time for such things. I bypassed it on previous trips as 'too far out of the way'. I reach Elizabeth town and turn east on the Bluegrass Parkway headed toward Lexington KY.

Hall-Hill / Vernon Douglas State Nature Preserve US-7957 in Hardin County KY



from the web:

Dedicated August 12, 1992, Vernon-Douglas State Nature Preserve is located within a rugged, steep, forested section of Hardin County. This 730-acre preserve protects one of the most mature second-growth forests in the Knobs physiographic region. Hall Hollow, a north-facing valley in the preserve, supports a rich array of spring wildflowers. A trail system passes through the valley bottom to the dry ridges above Hall Hollow. A spur trail takes hikers onto a narrow point locally known as "the pinnacle," which provides a bird's-eye view of the Younger Creek valley.

Features - stands of sugar maple, beech and tulip poplar; spring wildflower display

Hiking - 4.5 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate to strenuous

Hazards - venomous snakes (rare), steep slopes

Activities - hiking, nature study, birding, etc.

Put 47 in the log here.

Waveland State Historic Site US-3786 in Fayette County KY



from the web:

Waveland State Historic Site is a state park located in southern Lexington. Waveland is known historically as the Joseph Bryan Estate and includes the original 1848 Greek Revival mansion and three outbuildings - slave quarters, a smokehouse, and an ice house.

As did many planters, who essentially had to operate self-sufficient villages, Bryan had developed minor industries on his plantation. A gunsmith shop employed twenty-five men at one time; he manufactured saltpeter and gunpowder. Both a gristmill and paper mill (which also processed lumber) were operated on the plantation, as were a blacksmith shop, and a distillery. (Kentucky was known for its bourbon.) He was able to manage all of these successfully.

Bryan also allowed space on the plantation for a Baptist church and a private female seminary. There was no public education in Kentucky until it was established during the Reconstruction era.

As was typical of many large plantations with in-house industries, Bryan drew from his own products for construction of the house. The lumber was harvested and trimmed at Waveland, the wrought iron was made at his blacksmith, the bricks used in the buildings were made from clay gathered on the land, and fired in a kiln on site.

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Bryan supported the Confederacy as a slave holder. He supplied food and ammo and

guns. The Union sought to arrest him during the war and he fled to Canada. After the Civil War ended, the slaves were emancipated and many chose to stay on.

Late in day so headed to Super 8 in Lexington KY. Cracker Barrel dinner - Roast Beef. Now 1022 miles from home.

Saturday October 5 2024

Kentucky Horse Park 10173

from the web: “Dedicated to man's relationship with the horse, the Kentucky Horse Park is unlike any other park in the world -- a showcase of museums, galleries, theaters, and working farm exhibits. Nearly 50 breeds of horses graze upon its 1,200 acres of lush pastures. A campground offers 260 spacious sites with grocery store/gift shop, two bathhouses, tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts and a swimming pool. A variety of facilities can be rented for events.”

41 contacts between 20 and 40m, including one JA.

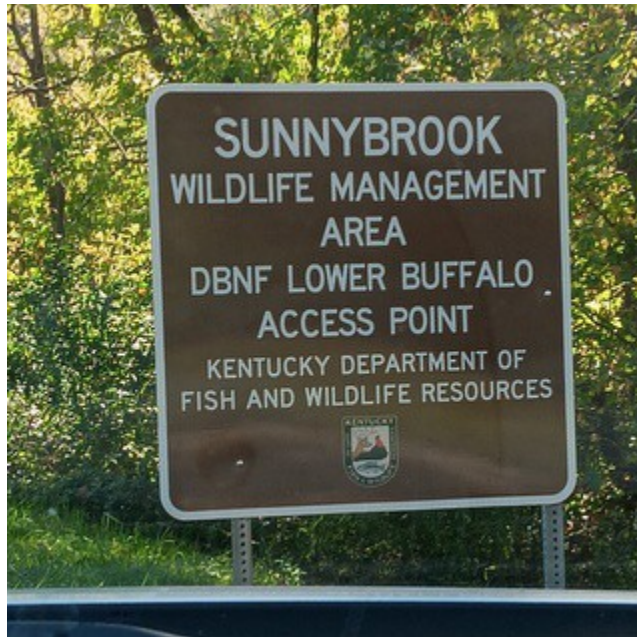
Veterans Memorial Wildlife Management Area US 3836 Scott County



from the web: “Veterans Memorial WMA is owned by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. The property has a variety of important habitat types for game species and declining migratory birds, reptiles and amphibians, including hardwood forests, shrublands, grasslands, and pond. KDFWR used 3.25 million from KY’s Wetlands and Streams Mitigation fund that is managed by the USCOE, USFWS, and US EPA, and KY Division of Water. The dept added \$3 million in federal grant money specifically designated for fish and wildlife land acquisition. No state tax revenues or Fish and Game Fund dollars were used.”

Lots of activations here, but I'd add in a few more. When possible, I'd spot the county on W6RK to give out the county for the county hunters. 27 IN LOG.

Sunny Brook WMA Rowan County US 10168



Only 15 activations here with 800 QSOs made. Fairly new in the system. Not one Q made on CW so I'd be the first! Caught KL7AC portable in a park somewhere in AK. Added 53 QSO from there. It's only 149 acres – small. But there!

Old Trace Creek WMA – US-10153 Lewis County

from the web:

Located in Lewis County, Old Trace Creek Wildlife Management Area was purchased with Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation (FILO) Fund for stream restoration. The property is about 95% forested with the remaining open land being creek drainages and a couple of small fields.

Old Trace Creek has moderate to steep terrain with several forested ridges and benches. There is abundant opportunity for game species as most of the tract is upland oak forest. Old Trace Creek is under statewide regulations for hunting season and bag limits. “

Just 7 activations from here. Relatively new park. Worked a bunch of CH and others. One QSO on 10m in CA QP.

Carter Caves State Park 1275 Carter County KY

Lots of activations from here (67) since been in system for 7 years. Both a state park and state resort – hotel, cabins, camping, etc.

Experience a tour of the scenic Cascade Cave.

- Grasp the unique geology of the area while seeing 5 natural bridges in the park.
- Pan for gems and find other exciting goodies at our Gift Shop.
- Explore the adventure of the Self-Guided Horn Hollow Cave System.
- Relax and recharge in the Caveland Lodge or Carter Caves Campground, year-round!

Birding

Winter is a time for northern sparrows, finches, wrens, juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, purple finches, pine siskins, and occasionally evening grosbeaks and brown creepers. Spring is alive with warbler migrations, waterfowl & thrushes. Interesting birds to look for are Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Double-breasted Cormorants, and cedar waxwings. In the summer, nesting warblers include redstarts, ceruleans, pines, Blue wings, Parulas, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Red-tailed Hawks. Excellent birding opportunities abound throughout the park, but of special note is in the mature forests around the campgrounds, cottage area (red-headed Woodpeckers), the Box Canyon Trail, and the short trail to Carter Caves Natural Bridge.

Cave Tours

The Carter County region has the highest concentration of caves in Kentucky. Enjoy a subterranean adventure, created by nature over millions of years.

Quick run here. 15 in log. Getting late afternoon. One more today

Tygarts State Forest US-4693 Carter County

Next to Carter Caves SP...head thru park to get to it. Late in day so quick 12 Qs. Same county.

Time for the Super 8 in Huntington WV. Longhorn Steak House for dinner. Great restaurant. Nice salad with meal, mini loaf bread. Good portions. I'm now 1238.7 miles from home.

Time for a break....back later

Maine QSO Party

Held last weekend in September. You can work anyone anywhere for QSO points so it's a grab bag on trying to figure out scores and how many counties were actually worked.

Looks like 4 or 5 ME stations made it on for the event.

Mobile Activity in October

This was a good month for mobile activity. Lots of mobiles on the way to Bridgeport WV for the Annual MARAC County Hunter Convention. Not quite like the old days with 50 mobiles, but maybe a dozen. Lots of CW activity with W0GXQ/NF0N, W4SIG, N4CD, K8ZZ, AI5P, K3IMC, KA2LHO, AB7RW, W8OP, K8II, putting them out. On SSB, WA9DLB, N8HAM, W4SIG, KE4UP, K3IMC, K5GE.

AT the beginning of the month, N8HAM was busy putting out lots of counties in WV and VA. Busy for a few days there. Then some MD and DE winding up in WV at the

convention.

KA2LHO busy coming up from south, stopping in SC. Then up to PA. Winding up in WV for the convention

K0AP noted in AR counties. Lots of them.

WA9DLB noted in OH and IN headed into KY for many there. Then up to WV.

K8ZZ out running counties in NC. Many days spent in NC. Made quick run up to the Convention in WV.

KC5P noted mobile in LA

K5GE hit the road headed to WV

N4CD left home and spotted in TN and further up to WV over the next week.

AB7RW departed home and headed east to WV over next couple days.

W4SIG flew from UT to NY area and started running counties for the next week. Hit the NYC boroughs (tough) and a lot lot more. Really busy for half dozen days. NJ, PA, NY, WV. Flew home after the convention.

After the Convention, mobiles headed home – usually quickly.

K5GE headed to SC. He's working on Double Diamond Counties. Then down to GA. Both he and K8ZZ in same counties. Then they headed to FL. Next day after running a dozen in FL, would up in LA. Then into MS. K8ZZ winds up in Northeast TX.

N4CD on way home hit Trousdale TN – last county WBOW 3rd time for AJ5ZX. Next morning hit Houston TN – last county in TN for KC3X, who has just a few remaining to finish up. He's operating mobile – home antennas are down. N4CD Ran most of the counties on the way home, but few spotted. If you don't spot yourself, you only get a few contacts per county. Ran 35 counties. Less than 6 spotted.

N8OYY noted running WV counties.

Mid month, AB7RW still headed cross country back to WA. Snowed in WY went to UT, NV on way home.

W0GXQ arrived home in Evergreen, CO. Snowed one hour later.

K8ZZ was in OK...TX then headed north to MN via OK, IA, .Ran a lot of MN counties.

W8OP was in NC running counties there.

K4YT very busy putting out VA counties.

KE4UP noted running counties in ME

W4SIG busy in OR putting them out.

K8ZZ busy again in WI running counties.

End date 10/25

California QSO Party

A good one, as usual, with hundreds of CA stations and many high power 'county expeditions to the rarer counties. One mobile I think – K6AQL.

From the 3830 contest reflector.

K6M County Expedition - MODOC 1523 cw 1169 SSB

weather and conditions were good.

10 guys, 2 k3s/kpa500, two tribanders, 40m dipole and gp, 80m dipole.

thanks for the QSOs.

73, Dick

NS6T County Expedition TULARE 1259 CW 746 ssb

Tom/NS6T arrived one day earlier and get all the tower/cable/tribander/filers set up. So on Friday practice run, things are all good, the only concern is how the sun flare may impact us as we plan to be on low power.

Soon after the contest start, we can hear Europe stations calling in on 10m and 15m, loud and clear as it is local. We know it will be a fun event this time.

We keep the operation simple, each of us take one radio, single band a time (no SO2R this time), Tom is doing SSB, Nian is doing CW. After 45mins to 1 hour and half, we do a band switch. We also use a simple protocol on band change ... we both stop, do the cable switch, and back on in 1 minute.

The rate kept roughly constant through out the event ... 20m CW sometimes is challenging, signals have echo in and we have to ask QRS one time. 15m SSB is also facing its challenges.

Propagation turns out great, we even have one JP station calls in, we do not know how he did that, as our antenna is pointing 90 degree of him and running low power. He must have good ears, and we appreciate that DX contact.

One highlight of the event, is a local ham, Will/KN6RZK drive from Visalia pay us a visit during the contest. He is definitely a rising contester, and he manages more than 200 QSOs at home before the contest end. Great to see more hams into contesting.

The Diet Coke Tom brings also definitely helps. Unlimited Coke and Unlimited ICE supply is always an efficient morale booster for any party.

We are having a lot of fun on this event. Last but not least, we would like to thank USTower again for their offers and hospitality. Thanks Dean for too many things (do we mention we borrow his triplexer, filers, cables ...?).

And above all, thanks for all the QSOs that you helped us.

Hope to see everyone again on CQP 2025.

73

Nian WU6P

N6J County Line Expedition 329 cw 181 SSB

The CQP 2024 N6J county-line expedition was a success with 329 CW contacts and 181 SSB contacts! All logs have also been submitted to POTA for US-1151 as well as LoTW and QRZ.com.

K6TOR and NN6U set up in adjacent campsites at Fremont Peak State Park. The heat was a bit of a challenge (the Jeep claimed it was 108, but that was stagnant air under the

hood - it was probably just in the 90s), but shade and hydration made it manageable and we had a great time.

We got 55 mults, including NB, NS, and YT. The only US states we missed were RI, VT, and NV. It was great handling out SBEN and MONT counties; several ops said one or the other was the last one they needed for a full sweep. DX included 13 EU entities, Japan, Australia, and Norfolk Island!

Pictures will be posted on <https://www.qrz.com/db/N6J> soon. Thanks to everyone for the contacts!

SSB operation notes from NN6U:

I setup Friday night in time for CQP practice and had planned to stay up for the start of Oceania DX SSB at 11pm local time, but was exhausted from the heat and fell asleep early. On Saturday, started on 10m, which was open to the Eastern US and to EU. Several of the EU stations were aware of CQP even if they weren't actively participating, and it was nice to hear without even asking "oh, you're in California, I'll give you #5". Only one station was doing its own thing so fast I didn't get a chance to do a CQP exchange, so I X-QSO'd it instead of unfairly claiming 001. I could hear OM2VL chasing stations, and a couple of times I tried camping out just up from someone he had worked and called CQ, but never got a hit. 15m was open to the middle distances in NA and a few EU, 20m was Okish, and 40m in the evening let me pick up some CA counties. I was hoping to get NV, but only heard them faintly once and they couldn't hear my 100W signal. In general, I had much better luck S&Ping than calling CQ, but did get a few short runs. Maybe I got spotted a few times, but I haven't checked.

I also tried to pick up whatever Oceania contacts I could during the overlap with OCDX SSB, but only got Hawaii (1@15m), Australia (2@10m), and Norfolk Island (10m). Norfolk Island was interesting - the Australia stations at the time all had big pileups that I had to work to get through, but VK9 was calling CQ without many takers and I got through on the first call. My guess is the propagation took the Australia signals all the way across the US, but VK9 was only making it to the West Coast, so I didn't have much competition. I was surprised not to hear more KH6 stations on.

Saturday's antennas were a Buddipole for 10m and 15m and a vertical 17' whip with an adjustable coil for 20m and 40m. Since we were doing an Expedition entry this year vs. Mobile, I could extend the 17' whip fully as well as using the Buddipole on a tall mast supported by a trailer hitch mount. We used bandpass filters courtesy of SFARC (thanks, Bruce!) to avoid interstation interference between the SSB and CW stations.

On Sunday, I setup a new 40m EFHW on a 22' fiberglass mast, sloping down to the NE and tied off to a rock on the other side. It took more than twice as long to setup (my Buddipole never gets tangled hihi) but it was nice to be able to switch bands instantly vs it taking 15 minutes, so I think that more than made up for the setup time for a Sunday "mop up" operation across the bands. I did more CQing on Sunday since the bands were less crowded and got several thanks for giving out the last county needed for a sweep.

CW operation notes from K6TOR:

To be added - check back on <https://www.qrz.com/db/N6J> .

W6IA County Line expedition 327 cw 181 SSB

Our operation was from a campsite in the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (POTA US-3558) as a one-day expedition. We worked 48 of 50 states (missed RI, DE) and we were happy to work two of the new Canadian multipliers in CQP (NB, NS). Band conditions seemed very good throughout most of the day. It was very hot, the bugs and the birds were out in full force, but we still had a great time. Thanks for the Qs! 73, Mark W6IA & Tim W7EEE.

N6AN QRP county line 260 CW 5 SSB

Another portable operation from Mt Pinos, SOTA W6/CC-002, 8848' in the Los Padres National Forest. KX3 at 5 watts, a 10 meter wire half square, a 66' CAT5e doublet for 40/20/15. Two 20' collapsible fishing poles suspended the half square and a 30' Spiderbeam pole held up the doublet. I stood in the shade of a tree with the radio perched on a branch. Exchanges were sent and logged by hand on paper, a wrist watch handy for noting the time.

My counties did not seem to be rare.

Conditions were excellent! Sadly, most CQs went unanswered. My RBN spot number was more than three times my QSO total. Still, OM2VL called on four bands (thanks!), I logged eighteen EU QSOs, and made five SOTA summit-to-summit contacts with JA stations.

I packed up after the sun disappeared. Various times I would look up from my work to

witness yet another fabulous color on the horizon. What a glorious sunset!

I had planned to hike up Sunday for another go, but back at the trailhead my head was pounding. And I couldn't stay asleep in the car, so at 2 AM I drove home. There were several star gazers set up for the evening. The Milky Way was easily visible and I got to see Saturn through a telescope. Orion was blazing as I drove out of the parking lot.

VY1JA was heard calling a station on 20 who didn't respond, as was a VE4 completing an exchange. Too bad I couldn't poach either mult.

AK, CT, DE, ID, ME, ND, SC, SD, VT, WY, and several VEs were never heard.

I must have been incredibly weak on 20 SSB when K5TR, with a crushing (and clean) signal, struggled to pull my exchange out of the noise. Thanks for both modes, George! Ironically, I had dozens of RBN SNRs of 30 dB or greater on 10 including a 36 from G4IRN and a 35 from DF2CK.

Thank you for the QSOs.

72, David N6AN

W6ML County Expedition Mono County 1328 CW 307 SSB

This year's CQP was another great experience, resulting in my personal best score to date with 1,328 CW and 307 SSB for a total of 1,635 QSOs. I used all wire antennas launched at around 50 ft high in the surrounding pine trees. In addition to dipoles for 20 & 40 meters and an 80M inverted vee, I used a rectangular wire loop antenna for 10M and a three-element wire beam for 15M. All of my antennas worked very well. Starting on 10 and 15M I kept a 100/hr. rate for the first four hours. I ended up with just 56 mults having missed ND, VE4 and NT which I usually get. I also missed PE, NL, NU and YT.

Sunday morning, I had to deal with RFI issues that locked up N1MM. After an hour of lost radio time trouble shooting, I finally solved the problem by installing a second toroid on the USB cable from the K4 to my PC. I already had one toroid on the K4 end, but adding a second toroid at the PC end fixed the problem. The great radio conditions were really enjoyable, particularly since there was a serious CME in the forecast. And thanks to the dedicated efforts of N6DE and the NCCC in organizing another excellent CQP.

Rig: K4, KPA-1500

73, Jim W6ML/W6KC

Mammoth Lakes CA, Mono County

N6K, opr N6WR 876 cw 266 ssb

I won't go into the details of the setup, other than to say it was over 100 degrees at the Eagle Feather Trading Post at Reef Station on Highways 33 and 46. I was in the AC of the motor home, so it was reasonably comfortable.

Contest day: I was watching the solar forecast, and there were some disturbances predicted. Nothing to bad until Sunday.

Conditions were good on Saturday when the contest started. I started on 15 m. First in the log was K5TIA on CW. I was watching 10 m. I decided to switch about 15 minutes in. I had a good run on 10m. About an hour and a half, a few DX stations calling. I switched back to 15m when things slowed down on 10. I had about a 2 hour run there. I tried 15 SSB but it was slow going. I tried 20m for about an hour, it was not as good as 10 and 15, but I stuck it out for a bit. I went back to 10 and 15. 20m seemed to come in a bit later, I had a good run there in the afternoon. So much for the play by play. I had great runs.

If I was spotted on SSB I would work many stations. The surprise was OM2VL on 20m SSB. He broke the pile up with a huge signal in the afternoon.

The evening and the next morning was ok on the dipole. Only about 150 contacts between 40 and 80 meters. I went to bed about 10:30 p.m. I did work OM2VL on 40m.

The next day went well until I hit about 1050 contacts. I guess a CME hit about that time and things slowed way down. I wanted to make 1100 Q's so I kept going. At one point I thought I would quit with about 3 hours to go. I am glad I kept going. I got my last mult at 20:47. It was not for the sweep but I got 57. It was KC8NFN in ND on 10m SSB. I missed RI, DE, NL, NT, NU and PE. Where were they all?? .

Last in the log was KI6J from NH @ 20:55z.

I quit about an hour early as my brain was fried. I took the antennas down and packed up the motor home, and hit the road about 3:30 p. m.

Of note, I worked 67 DX stations. OM2VL was the most with 6 contacts on all bands except 80m. Not my best score, but not bad for a LP Expedition setup!

Photo Link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gKQM9LMHaQd1x6jr7>

On the Road with N4CD II

Resuming the trip on Sunday Oct 6 from Huntington WV. Skipped the museum here- seen it before. It's a great radio and TV museum. Rick AI5P plans to visit on way home from convention. The planned trip just before convention was canceled due to lack of interest.

Switched to long pants a day ago. It is still 90F in Plano TX but definitely cooler up north. Been using the swimming pool until I left home.

Today lots of parks and not many miles to getting to Bridgeport. AB7RW is on the road headed east. Soon K3IMC, W0GXQ/NFON will be running the counties. K8ZZ has been busy putting them out on the east coast around NC. Might have been some SSB mobiles put not listening there. Full report under 'mobile activity' section. W4SIG has arrived and running counties with his 'fly, rent, and operate' station

Sunday October 6 2024

Beech Fork State Park US-1800 Cabell County WV

Popular place with hundreds of activations. Not rare but not many Qs on CW .

From web: “Located in the hills of southwestern West Virginia, this 3,144-acre park offers hundreds of campsites, miles of hiking trails and plenty of exciting lake activities for the whole family to enjoy until the sun goes down. The sprawling 720-acre lake has 31 miles of shoreline where you can cast a line and catch some of West Virginia's most popular sport fish. Thinking about a long weekend? Beech Fork is only 12 miles from Huntington and Barboursville, “

Put 67 Q in the log between 40,30 and 20m cw. W4SIG now in NY, NY – a tough one to run mobile. Well, all the boroughs are not fun to get to and run!

Beech Fork Wildlife Management Area – same county – US-7046



Beech Fork Wildlife Management Area is over 7,000 acres of land for wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. It surrounds the state park, but usually the WMA is separate and the park is not part of it. You have to run separately (although many probably do it as a two-fer)

Fishing:

For those who enjoy fishing, Beech fork Lake and Millers Fork pond are both great options. Game fish commonly caught here include spotted and largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, tiger muskellunge, crappie, and more.

Hunting:

The wildlife area features both big and small game for hunting. Big game includes deer and turkey, and small game includes waterfowl, squirrel, grouse, rabbits, and more. There is also a shooting range on the grounds.

Wildlife Viewing:

Birdwatching and wildlife viewing are also very popular. From forest dwelling birds and deer in the wooded area, to heron and other animals at the lake, there are plenty of

creatures around.

Mill Creek Wildlife Management Area – US – 7053 still Cabell County WV

from web; “The 1,470-acre Mill Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across a forest of oak, pine, and hickory on and near the left fork of Mill Creek, a tributary of the lower Mud River. Game traditionally hunted in the management area includes deer, fox, grouse, squirrel, rabbit, and raccoon. Camping is prohibited in the management area.”

Hope you like twisty turny WV roads. Two lanes, zero shoulder but good pavement no potholes. Getting to WMAs in the boonies takes miles and miles of 30 mph type roads – up, down, around, never straight. You'll use the brake pedal, be downshifting to lower gear often - Hi hi

Caught a few CA stations on 15M. The CQP was going on full blast. Then 20m for more. Not many CW QSOs made from this location.

One more today -

Kanawha State Forest US-5587 in Kanawha County WV



from web: “Located seven miles from Charleston, Kanawha State Forest is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The forest has more than 60 miles of hiking and

biking trails, picnic areas and diverse wildflower, tree and bird populations. Amenities include picnic shelters, playgrounds and camp sites. In-season hunting is permitted in specified areas for hunters with a valid license.”

Yeah....but expect to take 25 to 35 minutes of windy road to get there! Popular place for day trippers. Could be an hour depending where you start from, too! Not 'far' but slow roads (30 mph) and twisty turny ones.

Headed toward the Super 8 in Charleston/Dunbar for two nights. Lots of parks to run around here. Dinner at the Longhorn Steak House.

Monday October 7

Now have day to run around parks from Charleston/Dunbar area

First up – Woodrum Lake WMA in Jackson, WV US-7068



From here- 24 activations and just over 1000 Qs so far. Just 25 on cw. You can tell the SSB ops outnumber the CW ops by more than 10:1. Added in 27 CW QSO early in morning, mostly 40m CW – and mostly county hunters!

From the web: “Woodrum Lake Wildlife Management Area is located about 3 miles

east of Romance, WV in Jackson County. The 1,696-acre Woodrum Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across a region of farms and hilly forests of oak, pine, and hickory surrounding Woodrum Lake, an impoundment of the Middle Fork of Pocatalico Creek, a tributary of the Pocatalico River.

Built in 1988 by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to protect Middle Fork Creek, the 240 acre lake was drained in order to repair the dam and correct a lock mechanism jammed by a sunken log in 2005. Repaired, refilled, and restocked, it is now again popular with bass and muskellunge as well as panfish (bluegill, crappie, and catfish) anglers. Trout are not stocked.

The WMA is equipped with a boat ramp. Trolling boats are permitted, with a maximum of 10 horsepower. The lake is divided into three principal forks—Middle Fork, Laurel Fork, and Second Creek. Because of the large number of submerged trees in the upper ends of the lake, boaters should use care in navigation.

Game traditionally hunted in the management area includes deer, grouse, squirrel, rabbit, turkey, and waterfowl. Camping is prohibited in the management area.”

Cedar Lakes State Recreation Area US -9915 Jackson County

This is a large conference center and surrounding grounds. Includes an old covered bridge as well.

Made a few dozen Qs then off to the next. Conditions ROUGH today. A=16, K=6. Severe geo storm! Yuck

Rollins Lake WMA US-7063 still Jackson County WV



The 80-acre Rollins Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across a lake and an adjacent meadow in the valley of Mill Creek. Rollins Lake is equipped with a boat launch ramp. The lake accommodates fishing for bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and trout (in winter).

Struggled to get 17 QSOs. No other parks heard either! Hmmm....X flares...CMEs. No fun!

Subway lunch.

Got new key fob for the Malibu. One button – the unlock button broke and quit working. Could lock the car with the fob, but to get back in, had to use the key in door lock. As soon as you opened the car, the horn would start honking until you put the key in ignition switch and started it – then it would detect fob. Put up with it for 2 days = had some spare time. Found locksmith with new fob.... \$160.

Back to Super 8 in Charleston/Dunbar. Salmon dinner at Longhorn Steak House. Hope conditions better tomorrow but lots of major X class flares and following CME's headed to Earth ruining bands! If I wasn't out a thousand miles from home, I'd stay home on a day like this!

Tuesday October 9

Walbach Wildlife Management Area US-7933 Roane County WV



From the web: “The 11,758- acre Wallback Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across hilly forests and brushlands north of the Elk River. Game traditionally hunted in the management area includes deer and turkey, and access for Class-Q hunting is accommodated. The Elk River, Laurel Creek, and 15-acre Walback Lake accommodate fishing for trout, bluegill, walleye, largemouth bass, muskellunge, and channel catfish. The Elk River and Wallback Lake are stocked with trout from February until May, and the lake is equipped with a boat ramp. A 100-yard shooting range has been developed near the lake.”

Started on 40M as early in day. Went to 30M then 20M. Worked a bunch of county hunters. 63 In the log!

Elk River WMA US-7024 Braxton County WV



This is near Sutton WV along the interstate 79. Years and years ago.....maybe 40 or more, long before the internet and even cellphones, N4CD was headed northbound in late December to MD to visit the relatives for the holidays. 1980's era? N4CD figured he's stay on the north side of Charleston to avoid the rush hour traffic in the morning. It was late in the day – after dark.

Well, that turned out to be a horrible mistake. Once you turn off I-64 – headed to Clarksville.....there are NO motels on the north side of Charleston. None. Zero. It was snowing – heavy. You find the interstate climbs and climbs out of Charleston. Visibility was 30 feet and traffic moving in one lane on the interstate at 20 mph on one lane filled with 4 inches of slush. Trucks on the highway. Well, there has to be a motel soon. After all, Charleston is a big city. Surely at the next exit there will be a nice warm motel. Nope. You go miles and there are rinky dink exits with no signs for gas or motels or food! None. You have to go all the way to Sutton (66 miles) at 20 mph in heavy snow wondering if you are going to get stuck on the hills of WV. Finally after 3 hours! - you find and exit with a sign for a tiny motel in Sutton. Another 5 miles or so to get there. Separate cabin type deals. I didn't argue – it was cheap. Heat was from a central furnace in the floor.. It worked. You go another 8 miles on interstate and there are some name brand motels. (By the way, there is now one new motel about 10 miles north of Charleston – a Sleep Inn – but only one for the next 66 miles!)that was one of the worst county hunter trip adventures. After, I started going north for Thanksgiving,

skipping late December (or later flying).

Well, no problem with weather in October. Clear skies, no rain the entire trip.

From the web: “Elk River Wildlife Management Area in Braxton County is beautiful, peaceful and secluded. It has mature forests full of old growth timber, partially timbered areas and well-maintained hunting trails. With varied cover like that, the wildlife love Elk River WMA, and so will you.

If you think public hunting land like Elk River WMA isn't worth checking out, then you're missing out. One of the biggest misconceptions about West Virginia's wildlife management areas is that they're crowded or completely hunted out. With more than 19,000 acres to explore, Elk River WMA has plenty of space for hunters and game alike. For hunting info licenses and stamps visit www.wvhunt.com. View the interactive DNR hunting map for access to all locations and features of the Elk River WMA.

When hunting season isn't in, the Elk River Wildlife Management Area is a perfect place to hike and enjoy the scenic beauty of West Virginia. Keep your eyes peeled for Bigfoot! Reportedly, he has been seen around the Sutton Lake and surrounding stream”

Didn't see Bigfoot, but busy using the ham radio and not looking out the window. Who knows? RAN 20/30/40 and put 25 in log quickly with nearly all contacts with county hunters. There had been 24 previous activations with 900 QSO. On to next. Some stops you make 60Q. Others anything more than 10 is 'good' for POTA.

Burnsville Lake WMA US-7023 still Braxton County

from the web: “The Burnsville Wildlife Management Area features hilly and steep terrain, with some gently sloping upland areas and fairly flat creek bottoms. There is a mixture of young timber, brush and old fields creating good hunting conditions for deer, turkey, raccoon, rabbit and grouse. Populations of largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass, crappie, muskellunge, channel catfish and bluegill will give anglers plenty of action in 968-acre Burnsville Lake. Boat ramps at Riffle Run and the Bulltown Day Use Area provide year-round access for general public use. Burnsville Lake Marina, , is generally open from early April until mid-October. Rental boats, gasoline, snacks and bait are available. Camping is allowed in Corps of Engineers campgrounds only. Managed by WVDNR. “

39 previous activations here with several thousand Qs. Not rare. In any way. MADE 10Q and left.

Stonewall Jackson WMA – US-7030 Lewis County WV

This is close to the Stonewall Jackson State Park/Resort – a very popular destination with nice facilities for conferences, etc.

from web: “The 18,289-acre Stonewall Jackson Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across hardwood forests, rolling hills, and farmland reverting to woodland. The centerpiece of the management area, Stonewall Jackson Lake, at 2,650 acres, accommodates fishing for trout, carp, bluegill, crappie, walleye, largemouth bass, muskellunge, channel catfish, and catch-and-release black bass. Its tailwaters on the West Fork River are stocked with trout from February until May. The lake is shared with Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park. Five boat ramps and a wheelchair accessible fishing area have been developed on the lake. The management area permits Class-Q hunting for deer, turkey, and waterfowl. Camping is prohibited in the management area, but campgrounds are available at the state park. A 300-yard rifle range has also been developed in the management area.”

Watters Smith Memorial State Park US-1828 Harrison County WV



Some of these 'state parks' take 15 miles of twisty back roads to get to them! Wow....two lane small roads, no shoulders (drop off), and even school buses and trucks. Makes life interesting. If you don't like twisty turny 30 mph roads, don't head to WV to run parks! Even if you go there, you'll get lots of arm exercise – left, right, downshift, upshift,

brakes.....WMAs, state parks, state historic sites – all miles of back roads to get to them!

Later in day and we had a few days of bad propagation due to giant X flare and CME.s. Short run here.

From web: “The heritage of early West Virginia is preserved in the pioneer homestead restoration at Watters Smith State Park. The late 1700s farm of Watters Smith includes a log cabin, similar to the original farm that was moved and reconstructed on the park, the Smith family home (c.1876) has been restored as a museum, and an additional museum houses many early farm artifacts. “

Headed in to Bridgeport. I'm a day early – stayed at Days Inn just a thousand feet west of the Best Western Plus hotel for the conference. Dinner at the Longhorn Steak House down the street. Made it to Bridgeport. Now to run parks around here for next couple days, plus head to the Best Western tomorrow night for 4 nights. Lots of mobiles still on the road. I could run nearby parks for a few days – and take it easy.

Wednesday October 9 2024

Prunytown State Farm WMA US-7006 (to the east from Bridgeport) Taylor County



21 activations from here. Nice site to run at. From the web:

“The 1,764-acre Pruntytown State Farm Wildlife Management Area (WMA) ranges across hay fields, pastures, and scattered woodlands with moderate slopes and gently rolling hills. Part of the management area is beef cattle farm managed by the W.Va. Department of Agriculture. Game traditionally hunted in the management area includes deer, grouse, rabbit, turkey, coyote, and mourning dove. A safety zone is maintained around the farm area. Camping is prohibited in the management area but is accommodated nearby at Tygart Lake State Park and in the Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area.”

Put 73Q in the log from there.

Next I headed to Tygart State Park. Typed that into Google Maps. It's been very good finding the WMAs and other entities, but screwed up big time. Didn't take me to Tygart State Park, Took me to Pleasant Valley WMA – more than 10 miles away airline and after 20 miles of twisty winding WV roads. Had to backtrack at least 20 miles to get there. Oh, but a new one I hadn't planned to run. Well, since I'm there – I'll run it. Beside, part of it is in Barbour County and that's the part I found first. Tygart Lake and the State Park is within the WMA, but usually the State Parks are not included in the WMA although many park activators probably run it as a 'two-fer'. Not me.

Pleasant Creek WMA US-7005 Barbour County



“Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area is located near Philippi, West Virginia in Barbour and Taylor counties. Located on 3,030 acres land that varies from wetlands to

steeply forested woodlands, the Pleasant Creek WMA rises to an elevation of 1,600 feet”

Only 15 activations from here. I added one more. Quick run for county hunters on 20 and 30m, then off to the real Tygart State Park!

Used the GPS lady who knows most of the state parks and few of the WMAs. Took me right to Tygart State Park. 40 minutes later!

Tygart State Park – US-1825 - Taylor County

from the web: “Located in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains in scenic north-central West Virginia, Tygart Lake State Park provides guests with a quiet vacation spot and breathtaking views. Just four miles south of Grafton, Tygart Lake State Park is known for its 10-mile long, 1,750-acre lake, which offers water activities like boating, water skiing, scuba diving, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and fishing. The park is surrounded by beautiful mountain views and provides lakeside lodging perfect for relaxation and unwinding after a full day of play. “

Put a couple dozen in the log. Moved on. Back to Bridgeport and then to west for the next one. Easy to get to. Head west on US 50, get off at Wolf Summit and must north of US-50 you see the start of the 'trail'

North Bend Rail Trail US-9741 Harrison County WV



North Bend Rail Trail stretches 72 miles across north-central and western West Virginia. This wilderness path takes travelers across 36 bridges and through 10 tunnels and is part of the 5,500-mile American Discovery Trail, which spans the length of the United States. The trail has become one of the most renowned recreational trails through the Appalachians, and is known for its mountainous scenery and varied views of shaded tree canopies, rock cuts and farmland. Highlights include a 2,297-foot tunnel and the “haunted” Silver Run Tunnel.

The railroad that now makes up the North Bend Rail Trail was built by the Northwestern Virginia Railroad before the Civil War. The line was later sold to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and over the years, the line changed ownership and eventually was railbanked. In the 1980s, CSX Transportation sold the line to the state of West Virginia, which began converting it into a recreation trail for the state park system. Initial trail segments opened in 1991, with additional portions added over the next several years.”

The North Bend Rail Trail runs parallel to U.S. Route 50, extending for 72 miles from the community of Wolf Summit west of Clarksburg at its eastern end to I-77 near Parkersburg at its western end. Visitors may access the trail at numerous points along the way.”

Only 12 activations from here. Hmmm.. I'd add one more. 47 Qs on cw. Back to the Best Western Plus. Discovered there's a Bob Evans restaurant here! Turkey dinner! Yum. Added in salad. Hospitality suite open and going strong. County Hunters arriving. Jigsaw puzzle folks busy at work on 1000 piece one.

To be continued next part

Arizona QSO Party

There were many fixed and 'county expedition' stations on. One mobile I think. Not many mobiles typically – too far between counties! Looks like many had clean sweep. Hard to tell way the multipliers worked.

From the 3830 reflector:

K7E County Expedition - La Paz 41 CW 180 SSB

Operator(s): K7AZM K7VZ KK7MGL N7ELL W7STS

For the 2nd year, the K7E team setup in the Multi-Op Expedition Single County category in La Paz LPZ county. For the SSB station, we setup an Icom IC-7300 connected to a Buddipole and EF40 antennas. The CW station was a Yaesu FT-991 on a homebrew vertical antenna. The team consisted of Virgil K7VZ, Evan KK7MGL, Marcia K7AZM, James N7ELL, Rick W7STS, and Rick's grandson Emerson.

KN7Y County Expedition 311 CW 66 ssb

My wife Barbara and I have been planning for an Expedition in the AZ QP ever since the 2023 event, and so far this year I have worked all state QSO parties in the State QP Challenge. Thanks to AD4EB and K5CM for their suggestions and encouragement as I built a portable station that is fully operational from a 2017 Toyota Tacoma. Friends in the AZ POTA group on FaceBook likewise were helpful as we tested multiple portable vertical antennas. Barb and I gave it two test runs, once for the 7QP in May operating in Payson, Gila County, Arizona, and then on June 10th from the Rim on the Gila / Coconino county line.

Operating the 2024 AZQP, my rig is a Yaesu FT-450(AT) running 100 watts from 2 12V 100aH lithium batteries. A smaller 30aH battery with an inverter kept my laptop charged, and ran a small light as the Arizona fall sun began to hide itself behind the tall Rim Country pines. The cooler temps at about 7500 ft elevation was a welcome change.

My antennas were (a) a Wolf River Coils Shorty 40 coil with their 17' telescoping whip mounted on top of a tripod set on top of the Tacoma's bed cover - with 4 home-brew radials, this combination works well on 40-meters, both CW and SSB. (b) A 20-meter hamstick style antenna was mounted on a permanent NMO mount with 3/8-24 adapter. (c) A second backpacking tripod held a second mount to hold 2 other telescoping whips, one for 10 meters and a second that I modified for 15, and both were in combination with a second set of 8 home-brew radials. This second tripod is very close to the ground, and I consider this a ground mounted configuration.

I had started the assembly at the Rim Vista Overlook right on the county line at 1400Z, and my first QSO in the log was at 15:33 Z just 33 minutes shy of the inception of the contest. At 20:46 activity had slowed down and I packed the county line portion of my expedition in - and then started sending CQ now from only Coconino County - 2 hours later after some dinner and setting up the 40-meter antenna a second time. I operated from the end of the drive near our rented cabin to add 71 more QSO's on 20 CW, and 40

CW and SSB.

Planning and inspiration from a number of friends, including fellow AOCC members, proved to be very important factors. Everything worked as planned except the 30aH battery was not fully charged before the weekend. It ran out of juice and the small lamp turned off near the end of the operation.

Thanks very much for all the QSO's.

73 Jack KN7Y

N7T County Expedition 0 CW 8 SSB

Wow! This was a 'Murphy Madness' contest, Never had this much Murphy.....

Started with last minute scheduling conflict which significantly delayed actually starting. Followed with if something (everything) could break - it did! Followed with resetting & replacing literally everything didn't help. Glad to have gotten it out of my system this year with no real need for a repeat in future. Had a good time listening to everyone else work it!

AzQP is always a great contest - just not so much of it for me this year!

Tnx es 73 to all.

John, N7NWL

KK6MC mobile 269 cw 58 ssb

There aren't many mobiles in the AZ QSO Party, probably because there aren't many counties, only 15; they are large, and it takes a lot of time to get from one to another, especially for a single operator who doesn't operate while driving. I operated from 3 county lines, resulting in 6 counties. I drove over from NM in the morning, so that was another 3.5 hours of driving.

N6MU was my first QSO on 40M. It was good to see John operating again. I continued to work him from the rest of my stops.

There wasn't much activity to start with and some signals were notably affected by geomagnetic activity. OM2VL was weak and watery over the pole, but he cleared up later in the contest. Activity picked up late in the afternoon though. Although there wasn't much activity in the morning, those that were on seemed to have good signals.

Overall activity was slow, I guess in large part because there were 3 other QSO parties on and AZ, with only 15 counties doesn't offer much in the way of targets of opportunity. In the AZ QSO Party, multipliers count once per mode, so that effectively doubles the number of mults available, although still far short of some states. Also, there is significant participation from AZ stations in the 7QP, so it is a bit like asking people to operate twice in a county centric contest.

Leaving planning to the last minute I did screw up county abbreviations. I corrected it, but I hope that I didn't cost too many people mults.

Overall, a lot of fun, but I need to rethink my route for next year so I can hit more counties.

At the Convention

The convention was planned and run well by K8II, W8OP and N8OYY. Great hotel, great price per night, restaurants all around, nearby shopping centers, touristy planes, etc. Lots of nearby history, too. Easy to get to right off the Interstates and Highway 50.

The planned trip to the Radio Museum in Huntington WV had to be canceled. Not enough folk showed interest. Several had been there before, and AI5P was planning to hit it on the way back instead. There were no other outings planned, but lots of shopping, touristy activity, nearby parks and counties to run. Mobiles were zipping all over WV and nearby states running the counties by the dozens and dozens. There were several parks nearby to run, too, for the POTA folks.

Planned attendees include:

2024 National registrations received:

W8OP Alan, Fairmont, WV – Co Host

K8II Steve, Fairmont, WV – Co Host

N8OYY Ed, Fairmont, WV – Co Host

N8HAM Jim, Oakland, MI

W0GXQ Jerry, Jefferson, CO

W9DC Don, Oconee, SC

XYL W9DC Diana Oconee, SC

W5VS Tom Fauquier, VA

XYL W5VS Shirley Fauquier, VA

KA2LHO Kraig Pritts Marion FL

XYL KA2LHO Deborah Marion FL

NA8W Darl Deeds Hancock OH

KA8JQP Pam Deeds Hancock OH

AB7RW Phil Yasson Clark WA

AC7UH Barbara Yasson Clark WA

NF0N Mike Nickolaus Dakota NE

W4SIG Kerry Long Washington, UT

K8ZZ Ed Eklin Itasca, MN

N4CD Bob Voss Collin, TX

K3IMC Don Flynn Troup, GA

KJ4NIT Jean Flynn Troup, GA

WA9DLB Tony Mazzocco Cook, IL

XYL WA9DLB Helen Cook, IL

K5GE Gene Barnes Guadalupe, TX

K8OOK Mike Eilers Kent, MI

N8IPG Nancy Eilers Kent, MI

KJ8F Sharon Martarello Allen OH

K8WV Dan Ringer Monongalia, WV Thu & Sat evening

AI5P Rick Harris Garland, AR

K8AFI Jenna Carpenter Marion WV

N8BGF John Sebastian Butler, OH

KC8WRP Joan Sebastian Butler, OH

KE4UP John Howe Ind. City of Chesapeake, VA

KI4JZW Valerie Ind. City of Chesapeake, VA

K4YT Karl Renz Fairfax, VA (did not make it)

Group pictures courtesy of N8HAM – thanks -



POTA Meeting - K8II host



CW Meeting K8II host



USACA Holders



The YL's



The Entire Group



K8II



N8OYY



WA9DLB and XYK Helen

NASA Solar Cycle 25 News



The Finished Second 1000 piece Jigsaw Puzzle



W9DC



NFON



W4SIG



K8ZZ

Solar Cycle 25 News

In a teleconference with reporters on Tuesday, representatives from NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel announced that the Sun has reached its solar maximum period, which could continue for the next year.

The solar cycle is a natural cycle the Sun goes through as it transitions between low and high magnetic activity. Roughly every 11 years, at the height of NASA and NOAA track sunspots to determine and predict the progress of the solar cycle — and ultimately, solar activity. Sunspots are cooler regions on the Sun caused by a concentration of magnetic field lines. Sunspots are the visible component of active regions, areas of intense and complex magnetic fields on the Sun that are the source of solar eruptions.

“During solar maximum, the number of sunspots, and therefore, the amount of solar activity, increases,” said Jamie Favors, director, Space Weather Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington. “This increase in activity provides an exciting opportunity to learn about our closest star — but also causes real effects at Earth and throughout our solar system.”

the solar cycle, the Sun’s magnetic poles flip — on Earth, that’d be like the North and South poles swapping places every decade — and the Sun transitions from being calm to an active and stormy state.

Solar activity strongly influences conditions in space known as space weather. This can affect satellites and astronauts in space, as well as communications and navigation systems — such as radio and GPS — and power grids on Earth. When the Sun is most active, space weather events become more frequent. Solar activity has led to increased aurora visibility and impacts on satellites and infrastructure in recent months.

During May 2024, a barrage of large solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) launched clouds of charged particles and magnetic fields toward Earth, creating the strongest geomagnetic storm at Earth in two decades — and possibly among the strongest displays of auroras on record in the past 500 years.

“This announcement doesn’t mean that this is the peak of solar activity we’ll see this solar cycle,” said Elsayed Talaat, director of space weather operations at NOAA. “While the Sun has reached the solar maximum period, the month that solar activity peaks on the Sun will not be identified for months or years.”

Scientists will not be able to determine the exact peak of this solar maximum period for many months because it's only identifiable after they've tracked a consistent decline in solar activity after that peak. However, scientists have identified that the last two years on the Sun have been part of this active phase of the solar cycle, due to the consistently high number of sunspots during this period. Scientists anticipate that the maximum phase will last another year or so before the Sun enters the declining phase, which leads back to solar minimum. Since 1989, the Solar Cycle Prediction Panel — an international panel of experts sponsored by NASA and NOAA — has worked together to make their prediction for the next solar cycle.

Solar cycles have been tracked by astronomers since Galileo first observed sunspots in the 1600s. Each solar cycle is different — some cycles peak for larger and shorter amounts of time, and others have smaller peaks that last longer.

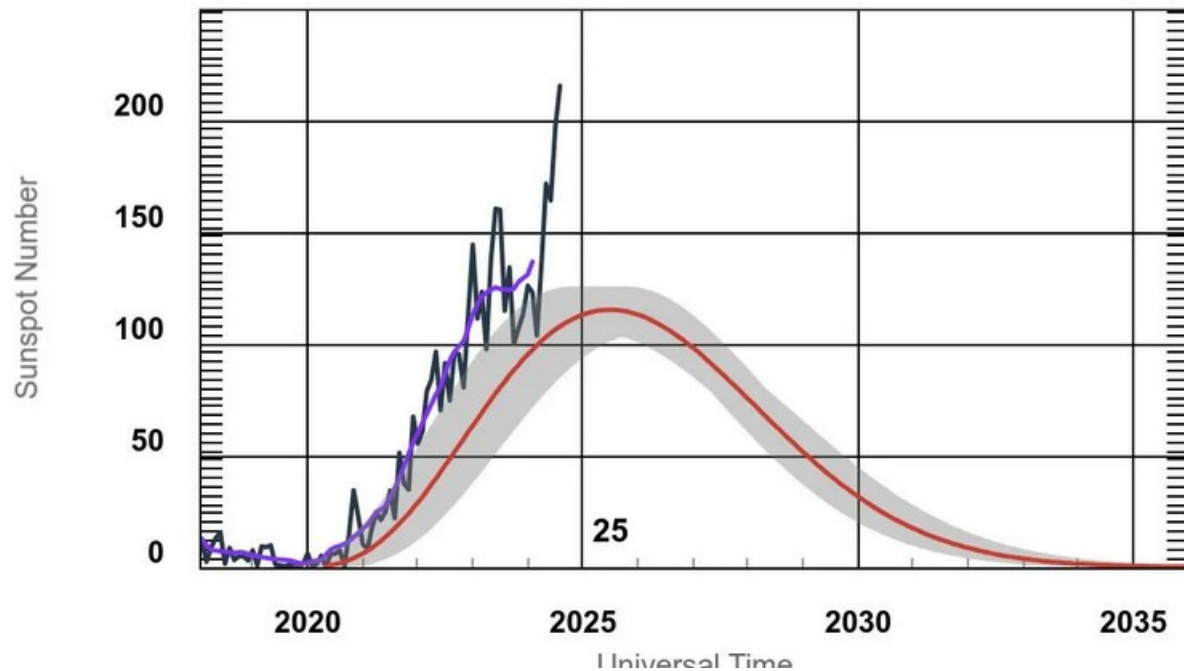
“Solar Cycle 25 sunspot activity has slightly

exceeded expectations,” said Lisa Upton, co-chair of the Solar Cycle Prediction Panel and lead scientist at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. “However, despite seeing a few large storms, they aren't larger than what we might expect during the maximum phase of the cycle.”

The most powerful flare of the solar cycle so far was an X9.0 on Oct. 3 (X-class denotes the most intense flares, while the number provides more information about its strength).

NOAA anticipates additional solar and geomagnetic storms during the current solar maximum period, leading to opportunities to spot auroras over the next several months, as well as potential technology impacts. Additionally, though less frequent, scientists often see fairly significant storms during the declining phase of the solar cycle.

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression



NASA and NOAA are preparing for the future of space weather research and prediction. In December 2024, NASA's Parker Solar Probe mission will make its closest-ever approach to the Sun, beating its own record of closest human-made object to the Sun. This will be the first of three planned approaches for Parker at this distance, helping researchers to understand space weather right at the source.

NASA is launching several missions over the next year that will help us better understand space weather and its impacts across the solar system.

Space weather predictions are critical for supporting the spacecraft and astronauts of NASA's Artemis campaign. Surveying this space environment is a vital part of understanding and mitigating astronaut exposure to space radiation.

NASA works as a research arm of the nation's space weather effort. To see how space weather can affect Earth, please visit NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center

, the U.S. government's official source for space weather forecasts, watches, warnings, and alerts.

By Abbey Interrante
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md

Source: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/heliophysics/nasa-noaa-sun-reaches-maximum-phase-in-11-year-solar-cycle/>

Nevada QSO Party

There are 16 counties in NV. Likely one or two were very rare – maybe one not even on the air.

W6US county line expedition 346 SSB QSO

15 did not open in my area. Was on Lander/Eureka county line between I-80 and the railroad... Lots of good contacts, 40 was really hot on Fri

K5CM in OK had 8 SSB 8 CW for 11 multipliers

K0RC fixed MN 9 cw 7 ssb 11 mults

It was "fun" trying to figure out whether a CQing station was participating in the AZ or NV QSO Party and then rush to open the correct log in N1MM. A few stations disappeared while my computer was opening the correct log!

I believe there is "room for improvement" to support multiple QSO Party weekends. A lot of time is lost fiddling with determining what QSO Party a station is operating. Yeah, frustrating but I still had a good time. The poor WX at my QTH allowed me to sit in front of the radio with little guilt!

N3OSI county Expedition went to NVLYO and made 10 SSB QSO

Pennsylvania QSO Party

Always a good one, but lots of the activity on 40m.....and 80m.

From the 3830 reflector:

N2CU mobile 729 cw 115 ssb

Was hoping to do better than last year, which is always the goal, but Ol' Sol just didn't cooperate. I quit 2 hours early on Saturday due to poor results on 80m. I hit all my planned counties, which in years past I usually ran out of time and would miss McKean. Not this time. Activated CLA, CRA, CRN, ELK, ERI, FOR, JEF, MCK, POT, VEN and WAR, at least 45 minutes in each. Was surprised to have some stations on Sunday asking me if I was going to CRA and VEN. I had already done those on Saturday. I guess you have to pay closer attention to the spotting networks as I was spotted multiple times in each county. Thanks, by the way, to the stations that spotted me. You can surely tell when the spot gets posted! Pileups were at times unruly with stations calling over the one I was trying to get the exchange from. Calm down and I guarantee I will work everyone. I want your QSO!

Here's a hint: In a pileup, don't call zero beat on my frequency. Use your XIT and move +/- a few dozen Hz and you'll get through much faster. Ever try to pick out a call when 5 stations are all the same signal strength and all zero beat?

Stations worked 10 or more times: KC3M, WN4AFP, OM2VL, K3WJV, W2GR, K4JKB, KR2AA, N3XF. I even got called once by the bonus station! Worked 52 PA counties and 50 sections. Thank you for all the QSOs from everyone and making this a fun weekend, conditions and weather notwithstanding.

Please look for me this Saturday when I will be mobile in the NYQP.

FTdx10, Tarheel 75A, N1MM, Toyota RAV4

73, Tom N2CU/m

K2QQ Mobile 298 CW

This was my first time as a mobile in PAQP. While fun, I had issues. I thought that going solo would be OK especially since it was a Sunday only run. But the stress of navigating, finding my operating locations and staying on schedule was tough. Then at each stop I had more callers that I could manage so the rates were initially very slow. Once it was down to 2 or 3 callers each CQ things moved right along.

Then there was SSB. I had this crazy idea that I'd run SSB while driving. Just pick a spot on 40 that was clear, hit the record button on the 7610 and go. I even reserved serial numbers from 601 and up just for this idea. Well, I was only able to work one station, maybe, and I was chased off a few times by ragchewers or nets that apparently did not hear my QRL. That was frustrating and I abandoned the whole thing and stuck with CW while parked. I tried tuning around with the mic buttons as I could not see the radio but no one heard me well enough to complete a Q. Those excursions likely put me in spots where I needed to retune the Tarheel, but again, I could not see the controls to do so. Better to focus on driving anyway.

It would be fun to say that my goal was achieved, but I actually only did 60%.

Biggest lesson learned? No more solo contest mobile operations for me.

73,

Mark K2QO/m CLA CRA ELK ERI FOR MCK VEN WAR but not in that order :-)

KQ3F multi op mobile 863 cw 425 SSB

Our (KQ3F, N3VZ, KC3WX) first crack at PQP mobile and wow, far more work than expected not only during the contest, but prepping and testing well in advance. It all certainly paid off and worth the reward. Found that ensuring a good ground bound to the vehicle chassis is but one key to reducing noise and RF issues. Many lessons learned and recorded if we choose to do this again.

We logged OM2VL 39 times!

The 3 of us really enjoyed the weekend and thanks for all the Qs and patience as we traveled in peaks and valley as did our signal!

W3GG County Expedition Operator(s): AA2AD AA3YL WA3A 568 cw 533 ss

b

A pleasant VRBO weekend in rural NW PA with two K3s, one 135' doublet and one 65' doublet, and 3 ops.

KA3VXM County Expedition Armstrong County 206 cw 305 ssb
Operator(s): K3HCR K3VX KA3VXM W3WH WA3PY

There were several times with no signals in 40 meter CW. Not like the old days.

N3FR portable Forest County 453 CW 366 SSB

Absolutely fantastic weekend on the radio! Operated PORTABLE from my cabin in FOREST and it was an absolute blast!

So many to thank! N3LL for activating the Bonus Station! I heard them everywhere, just the way the Bonus Station should perform! Great job!

Thank you goes out to the Administration crew of the PaQP! There are so many moving parts in this event and I'm sure keeping control of it all is a daunting task! Your team makes it look easy! Thank you!

And of course, a huge THANK YOU to all the operators who make this weekend so special! The Mobiles, the Rovers, the Portables, and the home stations! This is absolutely the most active, and friendliest On The Air Party of them all!

N3GJ Portable 442 cw 413 SSB

Operated portable from Blue Knob State Park in Bedford county PA. Tnx to K2QO and N2CU for their mobile operations that got me the sweep.

Tnx for all the Q's and see everyone next year.

George N3GJ

N3WR portable Carbon 142 cw 261 ssb

Thanks to all for another great contest and W3RA for showing up in Greene in the last hour! Beautiful fall weather camping with the family too during my portable operation from Mauch Chunk Lake Campground (Carbon County)

OM2VL fixed DX 233 cw 207 ssb Mults65

20m opened (as usually) later but 15/10m was excellent both days! Thanks a lot for so many callers on high bands.

I am very disappointed with 80m - 9 QSO only (last year 10 on 160m and 42!! on 80m). I don't know what happened ... I try some RUN and called stations which I heard but no luck :(

Most QSOs with:

KQ3F/M 40/20

N2CU 13/10

K0BAK 4/4

K3CY 3/3

N3XF 18/2

I was close to SWEEP, but missed FUL and SUL. (both was QRV on low bands, when no condx in EU to USA).

My big thanks to AB1A (GRE), NT3I (BRA), W3RA (INN) for QSY from 40m to my frq and give me multiplier! Of course thanks for every other QSO!

So pity that nobody QSY from FUL and SUL.

73, Laci

N8II fixed WV 140 cw 268 SSB Mults67

I can blame Huntingdon County in part for worse performance than last year, went there for a steam train ride on Friday. Saturday, I felt tired all day and neck was not stiff but feeling tense possibly from the undulating roads. I have to say that most all of the PA primary roads are excellent, well graded and not very curvy, much better than WV. I was off about 90 minutes late afternoon and quit at 0108Z Saturday; new QSO's were already getting hard to come by. Conditions Saturday afternoon were disturbed, even 40M signals were weaker than normal. 20M scatter was very weak. 20 never opened for any direct F2 to PA, but Saturday evening and Sunday scatter signals were decent. 15M scatter was always weak except for K3CT and AA3B.

I had enough noise to miss some weak signals on 20-10M. The mobile scatter signals were not easy copy at best.

There was decent activity on 75M Saturday evening, but my best running was early

around 23-24Z. My best rate hour was 23Z with 56 Q's mostly 80 CW/SSB and 19Z Sunday after some off time with 34 Q's. I still needed 4 counties starting Sunday AM. K2QO/M made a trip down from NY just to help with CRA and VEN and Ralph, K8RYU/R gave me Fulton for the sweep at 19Z. He was my only FUL QSO. 40M phone was the bread and butter band. Evening signals did go down but never out on 40, very few run Q's past 23Z. 40 CW a slow steady burn.

Thanks much to rovers/mobiles K8RYU, KQ3F, and N2CU for putting in many hours to provide rare counties and Q's. K3YTL/M came out Sunday. There were also some SSB mobiles. Fixed stations K3CT and AA3B were worked the most times amongst those from home.

Many thanks to all for an enjoyable QP. I appreciate the calls on 40/75 SSB very much.

73, Jeff

- - - -

K8RYU Rover, K3CY Rover, W9TCV Rover, K0BAK mobile had no comments or report.

On the Road with N4CD III

There's not a whole lot going on during the day at conventions at the beginning so why not head out to nearby parks? Sounds like a good idea to me. The MARAC web site listed over a dozen parks one could visit within 150 miles, many within 50 mile radius.

Oct 10 Thursday

No daytime activities planned to off to visit a park.

Pricketts Fort State Park US-1821 Marion County WV

Nice park. AI5P would make it here a few days later. From the web:

“Prickett’s Fort State Park, located five miles north of Fairmont in Marion County, features a reconstruction of the original Prickett's Fort, which served as a place of refuge during colonial times. This historical park commemorates late 18th-century life on the Virginia frontier. This day-use park is open mid-April through the end of October. Visitors may enter the park free of charge, but some attractions, such as the fort, charge admission. The Junction, located near the boat launch, also offers bike rentals. Pricketts Fort State Park Foundation manages programming aspects, tours, heritage workshops, and facility experiences.

The original fort was built at the confluence of Pricketts Creek and the Monongahela River in 1774, and provided a place of refuge from Native American attack for early settlers to the area. In addition to the reconstructed Fort, the state park features the Job Prickett House, built in 1859. The site is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The Visitor Center includes ticket counter, research library, museum gift shop and a gallery which features an orientation exhibit and video. “

Added in 84 QSO here running 40,30 and 20m. Nice visitor center and for \$6-8 you could tour the fort and house.

Little Indian Creek WMA US-7003 in Monongalia County WV



Another “Percy Pic”

It's nice when you can find a park in the next new county.

from the web: “1,036 acres. Terrain: gently rolling to moderately steep slopes ranging in

elevation from 900 feet to 1,330 feet. Primarily covered with mixed hardwood forests and open fields. Little Indian Creek WMA exhibits diverse habitats, including reclaimed mine areas, oak-hickory ridge tops, ponds and wetlands. These support many types of wildlife associated with recreational opportunities such as wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and trapping. Hunting prospects: deer, grouse, squirrel, and turkey. “

Well, another WMA- usually not much to see unless you stay a while and go into the WMA on foot looking for wildlife. K8II had visited here before running the park. I added in 53 more Q to the total.

Back to the hotel. Not going to overdo things. You can get worn out on the two lane, no shoulder, back roads of WV. .

Thursday evening, guest speaker Dan Roger, K8WV, ARRL Section Manager, presented info about ARRL and the state of ham radio affairs.



K8WV Dan

Friday October 11

Today we had the CW meeting, the SSB meeting and the POTA meeting in the morning. Later I would run out and get one more park. Radio conditions not great with A index at 80 and K=8 – major major geomagnetic storm. It doesn't get much worse – ever! Still able to make radio contacts. County hunters and park chasers don't give up when

things get tougher.

Valley Falls State Park US-1826 Marion County

Rick, AI5P, made it here same day and ran it on SSB . I ran it on CW.

From the web: “Once the site of a lumber and grist mill community, Valley Falls State Park is a place of scenic beauty and historical significance. A series of four picturesque falls created by the dark, rushing waters of the Tygart Valley River distinguish this 1,145-acre park. In addition to its scenic charm, Valley Falls State Park offers miles of hiking and biking trails and fishing. The day-use park gates open at 7 a.m. and close at dark. “

Back to hotel for more meet and greet. Weather great – no rain, just sun. Can't complain one bit. The space weather – horrible today. No sense fighting it. Put 21 CW QSO in log. Somewhere in here time wise I found a Super Cuts and got a haircut, too

There were half a dozen places for lunch including a Taco Bell, Wendy's and Jimmy Johns Subs.

Saturday October 12

Things were beginning to happen at the convention motel. Nice breakfast every day there with eggs, sausage, waffles, all sorts of muffins and Danishes, cereal ,oatmeal, OJ, coffee. Milk.

Just one park today in between other activities. Just about all the CH had arrived. Kerry did a presentation on 'fly, rent, and operate'. He's made several trips now from UT – hopping a plane and winding up running dozens and dozens of counties somewhere else in the country – trying to finish off all 3077.

The jigsaw puzzle folks finished the first puzzle and went on to finish another 1000 piece puzzle. Wow. Meanwhile, N4CD took some time to run another park.

After the MARC board meeting – where the new MARAC Worked All Counties Award was finalized. More in next section.

Center Branch WMA US-6997 Harrison County WV

from the web: “Center Branch Wildlife Management Area is located on 975 acres in

Harrison County near Stonewood, West Virginia. The WMA is located on a former strip mine site, and contains several flat benches and high walls. Second growth oak-hickory and mixed hardwoods forests cover much of the land”

When you get there – no sign, but after you've run dozens of WMA, you note the entrance gate – lockable – and know you are there. Google Maps gets you there. The sign is missing. Added in 38 CW QSO and back to hotel for rest of activities.

Saturday night was the big banquet. Lots of prizes,

MARAC USACA First Time Award

Big News....big news.....EXTRA....read all about it.....

At the MARAC board meeting at the Annual Convention, , it was announced that MARAC will now issue Worked All US Counties (in increments of 500,1000, 1500, 2000,2500, 3000, all) as an unconfirmed award starting Nov 1 2024. They formally accepted the rules changes and additions

Don, K3IMC, has Logger 2 ready to support the new award (and levels). A new tab will appear on the MARAC page for a quick link to the new award. All that is required is log data - listed by state, then county. If you use Logger, it will spit out the correct info. Other logging programs could be used.

If you are working on the CQ Magazine confirmed award, it will still be available but only for all 3077 counties. Brian, NX0X, has enough CQ Magazine certificates for a few years and if you want a Worked All Counties Award – confirmed – it will be still available for those closing in on first time. When those certificates are gone, that's it for CQ Mag award. No 'levels' are available from him – just all 3077.

Meanwhile, MARAC will begin to start taking applications after Nov 1 2024. The web site will be updated.

There are no endorsement stickers. A new PDF award will be issued for the next level.

If you ware wondering about 'levels' and numbers, MARAC will coordinate with CQ Mag USACA awards chairman NX0X so the numbers continue in sequence. That is, if

the last number for level 1500 was xxxx, MARAC will issue the next number in sequence for that level. There are many who just worked 500 counties to get the nice CQ certificate.

New York QSO Party

Wow....all 62 counties on the air this year! Lots of mobiles and portables!

From the 3830 contest reflector:

N2CU mobile 1126 cw 188 SSB

This contest is dedicated to good friend NS2N who became a SK in August. RIP Paul.

The goal is to always do better than last year, but that was not to be this time. Conditions were good but for some reason, I just couldn't get any traction on SSB.

I activated all 12 counties I set out to do but spent too much time trying to find a good spot to operate on a couple of the county lines. Speaking of too much time, NY counties are pretty large, and it took me 45-60 minutes to traverse each to get to the next county line. Thus, my actual operating time is just over half of the contest period. Bummer.

I worked 32 NY counties and 45 states/provinces. If someone told me I'd have more QSOs on 20m than 40m, I'd say they were nuts. But 20m just kept producing everything from backscatter, short skip, to DX.

Thank you to everyone who worked me, especially these big hitters: K1RO (30), WN4AFP, K2SSS, W0ZQ (18), KA6BIM, VE9VIC, WB9HFK, W4PM (16), K2ZR, K9CW, KR2AA (14), W9QL, N9CW, WA8ZBT, N8II, W5TM, N5KW, N5TJ (12), OM2VL, W8PI (10).

FTdx10, Tarheel 75A, N1MM+, two fat fingers typing

73, Tom N2CU

W2LC mobile 661 cw 3 ssb

That was both fun and exhausting at the same time. Doing a single-op mobile is challenging. I did only two county lines same as last year but did much better QSO wise. The two county lines really helped the score with the 2 for 1 QSOs. Maybe that's 1 for 2. CAY/WAY accounted for 344 QSOs of my total. I was able to do 20, 40 and 80 from cay/way as my last stop. 190 in OSW/JEF, 107 in LEW, and 29 more is JEF by itself. Tried SSB for 3 QSOs but that was a bust, CW only next time! I remembered my 80 and 40 antennas this time, but 40 during the day wasn't too productive for me, probably too weak. But I did far better on 40m overall, the late afternoon and evening was great on 40. 20m had some great short skip. My county total (23) is really bad, but I was calling CQ all the time going for the QSO total. 45 states and provinces, okay there. So my score suffered due to lack of mults. My travel time between operating stops was kind of long, but the places I stopped were all good. I wanted to do Tug Hill (LEW) for the view. It was a really nice day but it is windy in Lewis county on the hill! Many sight seers. A great place for the fall foilage. Try Moose River Rd in the fall between Lowville and Old Forge for some great scenery. A lot of dirt roads on Tug Hill, so I stopped on a seasonal road by the wind mills. Thanks for all the QSOs! 73 Scott W2LC

..

KY2N mobile 1308 CW

Operator(s): AG9A N5OT

A pile of NYQP enthusiasts met up in New York to coordinate a number of mobiles to go out and put some counties on the air. Mark AG9A and I headed out Saturday to put something like 21 counties on the air. Boy did we have a great time.

Thanks to everyone who worked us, and especially those who tracked us from county to county and band to band. You put it over the top for us.

Thanks to Rus, K2UA, Ken, N2ZN, Mike, N2MG, Dave, KW9A and my wonderful wife Kathy (Mrs OT) for a spectacular weekend to remember.

Driving those country roads, the scenery almost made us want to turn off the radio, but we didn't :-)

Anyway, that was great fun!

73 - Mark N5OT

K2QO mobile 772 CW

Operator(s): K2QO W2VM

Now that was FUN! W2VM and K2QO did 390 miles and 15 counties for an all CW effort. Talking W2VM into the mobile with less than a week to contest time was huge. I was not looking forward to running 12 hours solo.

SSB was attempted but met with "too weak, cannot copy" etc, etc, so it turned into a CW contest for us.

Top Q-getters were K1RO-17, K2ZR-15, WN4AFP-14, W9QL-12, K9CW-10, VE9VIC-10. Thanks to those Heavy Hitters.

K2QO got schooled in some fine points of N1MM that were missed in pre-contest prep and caused grief all 12 hours. We would have used Skookum Logger for a no PITA software experience, but my mobile partner W2VM had zero experience with the Mac software.

With all the commotion, road noise, navigation issues, etc. I didn't notice that we sent the wrong county a few times. The log checker may be angry. We'll see.

APRS.fi was attempted from my iPhone and I'm not sure how it played on the other end. I never took a look from the mobile. One NFR member commented that it was hard to see the county lines on the website. More work is needed here.

The craziest thing on the road was on Rt 86 while following a pickup with a trailer. A 6' Werner step ladder, tool box and bucket bounced out and onto the roadway. The ladder was traveling along at high speed spinning like a top as we veered onto the shoulder to miss a direct strike. There was a semi behind us and I have no idea what happened as it was too dark.

Thanks go to the NYQP.org committee for organizing this kick-ass contest.

Next road trip for K2QO/R is the January VHF contest. See you then from the road, unless we have 3' of snow and below zero temps. Then it'll be plan b.

73,

Mark K2QO and Craig W2VM

KE2X mobile 936 cw 44 SSB

Operator(s): KE2X N2RC

This was the first NYQP mobile operation of N2RC and KE2X and it was a great time! We decided on a 19 County route mainly operating CW. N2RC operated most of the contest with KE2X driving his Jeep for the whole 12 hours! We drove through ORA,SUL,DEL,BRM,COR,ONO,OSW,MAD,ONE,HER,MTG,SCH,ALB,SAR,WAR,ESS,GRE,ULs AND ROC.

Thanks to all stations who worked us including these who chased us around the bands:

Total trip was 630 miles in a Jeep with a Yaesu FT-991A, N1MM+ and a Little Tarheel.

73,
Mike N2RC

KC2PSA portable - Queens NY 75 CW QSO

Activated Queens from a local city park 1 mile walk away from home. I used a Yaesu FT-891 with 50 watts into a Chelegance MC-750 GP antenna. WX was sunny, high of 72 degrees F. I operated for a little over two hours but had to stop because I got too cold.

I am happy to have beaten not only my QSO rate and score from last year but also my own goal of 50 QSOs this year. I pushed myself to operate CW faster and used a minimalist QSO protocol. I'm grateful for everyone's patience while I worked through many exciting pileups.

I logged in a notebook, then transcribed the logs into FLEcli to create an ADIF file. I then imported that file into RumLog NG to add the exchanges, calculate my score, and export a cabrillo file.

I was able to contact 9 unique NY counties, 26 US states (including NY), and 2 Canadian provinces. They were as far west as Oregon and Arizona, south as Florida, east as Maine and New Brunswick, and north as Ontario. I had a lot of contacts from MN.

Thank you for organizing a fantastic contest! Thank you all for the QSOs!

KI2D portable 835 CW QSO

Operating Portable is fun, but even more fun is operating Portable, from a county line location that's also POTA, where you set up three separate antennas and do 12 hours of SO2R sitting inside your pickup truck.

Setup and teardown were in below freezing temperatures, but in general the weather was gorgeous all day.

I had to bushwhack for almost two hours on a field of chest-high grasses and weeds in order to setup a 20/40/80 linked dipole, a 130' EFHW and a DX Commander 10/15/20/40 vertical, with the EFHW and the dipole going across the county line between Sullivan and Delaware counties. And after the 12 hours of operating, I had to go back and take it all down, in a clear moon-lit night, with frost on the masts. And it was fun!

Did SO2R (Flex 6600 makes this oh so easy) on 20 and 40, and later 40 and 80 for most of the contest. Checked the higher bands without much success, and in general propagation was fine, but not as good as I was hoping.

Started calling interleaved CQs when rates died down and several times had to handle interleaved QSOs, which is a mental challenge on Phone, and even more so when one of those QSOs starts asking how do you log a county line QSO. Did better than I feared in this regard, and will definitely prepare better and try it more often in the future.

On average I did 72 Q/h. Got rates over 100 Q/h often, but also some slow times. Even got 60 minutes around 8pm with 216 Qs on 40 where I managed to interleave another 10 on 80, peaking above 300 for 15 minutes.

I think my self-spotting strategy (or lack thereof) was not optimal, and I'll have to work on that. DXLog might have been sending spots for calls I worked, even when running, and that might have replaced my own spots. I'll have to check on this.

It was great to hear from lots of Ham2K PoLo users during the contest!

879 QSOs for POTA US-8070 Catskills State Park.

K1RO - fixed NH 304 177 61 counties

This was my best NYQP by far. After not using my station since the New England QSO Party in early May, I spent Friday fixing my antennas and updating my computer. I got it all working, but I still have to trim back tree growth that's slowly engulfing and detuning my inverted Vs.

Conditions could not have been better from NH to NY, and I even worked 7 stations on 5 bands. With all the mobile and rover activity to augment the home stations, there was always something to do. Mobiles and rovers accounted for 169 of my QSOs. You guys have great ears!

Special thanks to the organizers for getting all 62 counties on the air! This year I worked 61 counties, missing only NEW (New York). Least worked counties (1 QSO each) were BRX, CGO, JEF, KIN and NAS. Most worked were MON (37) and ERI (34). The last time I worked 61 of the 62 counties was 2016, when I missed SCO. Ironically, this year I had 8 SCO contacts but no NEW. In 2016, I had 4 NEW contacts but no SCO.

Thanks to everyone who got on the air to make this one of the best operating events of the year!

WN4AFP fixed SC 256 CW 56 counties worked

I was racing against VE9VIC right to the finish line. I took a couple of hours off today to clean out my gutters... I was able to work NY on 5 bands today, so that that was pretty cool. Thanks to all the mobiles that kept me on my toes and in my chair... K2QO, K2UA, KE2X, KY2N, N2BEG, N2CU, N2MG and W2LC, 73 Dave WN4AFP

On the Road with N4CD IV

The convention was ending. Breakfast started late on weekends at 7 but I was anxious to get started home. Not to many stops planned. 18 hours of driving back to Plano, TX.

I managed to get a Danish, cup of coffee and OJ at 6:30 and the N4CD mobile was moving at 6:45 before sunrise. Down I-79 to Charleston, then to I-64 across to the Bluegrass Parkway to Elizabethtown, KY...then a bee-line to Trousdale TN....a LC

WBOW for AJ5ZX.

Missed a couple parks on the way up – so just one today to run – right off the interstate.....sort of.....

Amherst/Plymouth WMA US-7045 in Putnam County WV

Got there fairly early – 10 miles off the interstate.....but...you can't get back on I-64 going west due to exit closed due to construction. Oh well, run it, then head north 10 miles out of way, then 30 mile diagonal to get back to I-64.



from web: “Amherst/Plymouth Wildlife Management Area is a 7,061-acre protected area located in Putnam County, West Virginia. The site is along the banks of the Kanawha River and is popular for hunting Canada geese in the fall.

Hunting opportunities include deer, grouse, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, and turkey. Fishing opportunities from the banks of the Guano Creek backwater and the Kanawha River include hybrid-striped bass, white bass, carp, channel and flathead catfish, freshwater drum, sauger. “

--

Sunday I had a 20m (54 inch Hustler Mast, 20m resonator on top) on the 4 magnet mount on top of the Chevy Malibu. Ran counties all the way from WV to east AR. Too tall for many WV 2 lane roads (low trees) and definitely too tall for entry into WMAs and some state parks that don't see tall 18 wheelers (typically trim the trees to 12 feet or more by driving down roads – hi hi) . Could have used strong spring at the bottom. It's been a long time since I've run 'on the run' and had to dig out the digital recorder. I log on paper at the parks now, and when I ran county lines before. Was even better when I had a logger (W0RRY – now SK) along on trips!

Ran all the counties along the way down to Trousdale, TN, east of Nashville by 30 miles. Seems quite a few needed it.

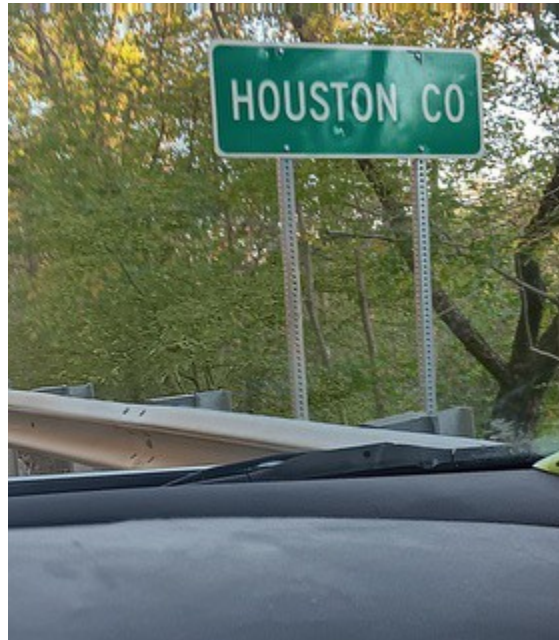


Trousdale TN – LC WBOW AJ5ZX
Genuine Percy Pic Out the Car window

Tough to get a decent pic – lots of traffic including trucks! Plus sign partially blocked by another sign. Sign reads “Metropolitan Hartsville – Trousdale Co”

It was getting late in the day, so started looking for motel. Not too many on the east side of Nashville, finally got on interstate I-65 to I-40 finally and so continued across to I-40 going west. Found a Quality Inn for the night about 20 miles further on. . Restaurant across the street.

Monday Oct 14



Houston, TN -

Next morning headed to Houston County TN. One of the last for KC3X. 18 county hunters in the log from here. Then back to interstate and across I-40 to Memphis, Little Rock. Then you take I-30 to Dallas. All 70-75 mph type roads. Getting tired so I stopped in Hope AR for the night around 4pm. I 'could' make it home but it would be 3 hours of driving directly into setting sun – exactly in front of car – no fun! I'd be home by 7pm if no traffic jams if I continued. No reason to rush home – long retired, no work to get back to....just hours and hours of park logging to do. No food at home either.

After a short break at the Hope Super 8, headed up to Historic Washington 8 miles up the road from Hope. There's a '3-fer there so ran it quickly. Historic Washington National Historic Site US-1106/KFF-1106, Southwest Trail and Trail of Tears. Quick run for Hempstead County AR, then to dinner and a good night sleep. 200 miles to home tomorrow.

Tuesday – headed on home after breakfast. Zillions of trucks – probably 2 cars, truck, 2 cars, another truck. End to end trucks both ways on I-30 to Dallas. Moved along at 75mph most of the way to 65 mph around Dallas.

Home after 3191.8 miles. Where did all those extra miles come from? Only county hunters and park chasers know....hi hi.

Parks on the Air Logging

Maybe you've been seeing a lot of POTA lately. QST is full of articles about 'activations' and POTA equipment and antennas. If you tune across 20M SSB on weekends, you'll find it full of SSB activations. POTA has gotten probably 100,000 new hams on the air and active!

So, if you want to try it, there are several steps. First you need to register with the Parks on the Air web site. Takes just a few minutes (not like LoTW) to do so.

Then, you need to head to a POTA park – using the web site which shows the over 10,000 'parks' around the country. Likely there is a park within 30 miles of your QTH.

IF you just want to 'hunt' parks....just work the stations in Parks. If you've been working N4CD since 2014, you probably have several hundred parks already credited to your call. K7SEN, NN9K, KA2LHO, N9JF, etc ae big park activators/hunters.

For activators: POTA requires an ADI file.....and the only thing needed in that log are the date, time and call. And park number. When you go to upload the file to POTA, it must be labeled “[YOURCALL@US-xxxx](#) 2024-10-07 “ You can put in the park name, too.

If you log on paper, you can use a friendly program called Fast Log Entry (FLE) for your input.....or type in calls one by one on the POTA site for logging.

Here's a typical FLE File – it goes real fast – type in your call, the park number, and start with date, time, band, mode. Update time periodically and note band changes. No need for signal reports – they are ignored.

```
. # mycall
. mycall n4cd
. mygrid
. operator
. mypota US-4423
```

```
. # Log
```

```
. date 2024-09-14
. 1322 20M CW W4ARB
```

```
10 NA9M
```

```
. W8WZ
. WI0S
. AC4BT US-10051
. AC4BT US-8098
```

```
. 1325 WW8L
. 40M CW N8CC
```

```
. KE5CW
. AA4SB
. 1339 30M CW N4NR
```

```
20 K5OGR
```

```
. 1346 20M CW KD8IE
. N1BS
. AE4LH
. W2ASX
```

```
. 1359 20M SSB K5DGR
. KJ7BES
. KF0INE
. AB2SG
```

```
30 W3JPH
```

```
. 1412 N4TRD
. 1415 20M CW K4EAK
. K8LSB
. N4NR
```

AC4BT was in a 'two fer' park so I listed both parks

One other popular program is HAMRS – available on web for download. Works on iPad, Mac and Windows computers. Folks log real time on it.

FLE can also be used realtime on laptop.

Many of the park activators who use computers or real time logging upload the ADI file after they are done at the park.

I think HRD will spit out ADI file if you use it for general logging.

Illinois QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running. K0PC, AD4EB, N9TTK.... A half dozen or more portables and rovers out. There are 102 counties in IL. Looks like top scorer snagged 82 of them. Likely not all counties made it on the air this year, but who knows? In state folks had both IL and outside mults so it is just up to operators outside IL to figure out how many got worked. Likely, though, not all made it on the air. However, loads of activity and counties to snag!

Reports follow.

AD4EB mobile 1440 CW QSO

This is the 10th time Melody and I have teamed up to enter mobile in the Illinois QP. We keep doing this contest partly because this is my home state where I grew up, but also because it is such a darn good contest. It is the last QSO party of the year, the participation is high, and the pileups and QSO rates are fantastic.

With less than 5 minutes left to go in the contest, it looked like we were not going to beat our record score from last year. We were short about a dozen QSOs, tied with 76 mults, and the QSO rate had dropped off to a trickle. And

then out of nowhere came Bill KV0I, who gave us the needed Nebraska multiplier that put us over the top. Thanks Bill, you sure made our day!

Melody did another perfect job driving (307 miles), and kept us right on schedule thru the 23 counties with no issues what so ever. It was a beautiful sunny cool day, which make for an enjoyable drive thru the Illinois farmland watching the corn harvest take place. We heard from a friend in Champaign that the corn and soybean yields were the highest ever this year, but the price/bushel was very low unfortunately. Some of you said say hello to Melody, she asks that I now say hello back to you all. She is the #1 VIP in our operation.

My goal was to try and average over 180 QSOs/hour, and we ended at 180.0 which is uncanny. Also hoped for many more multipliers than before, but that did not pan out. Perhaps going to 80m for the last hour may have helped, but I did not want lose the 10 minutes it takes to swap antennas (20, was still good). 10m and 15m were both open, but could not get many takers up there.

The pileups seemed bigger than last year. My best 1 hour rate was 223/hour. Had the same issue I had last year with too many callers exactly on my CQ frequency and not spreading out (especially on 40m). But that is the name of the game, and it sure gets the adrenalin pumping. I'm telling you, if you like pileups, you really need to throw an HF rig in your car and give it a shot. It's amazing!

We appreciate everyone that took the time to work us, especially those that hung in there thru the pileups. Ended up with 257 unique callsigns, 4 more than last year. I think the State QP Challenge is partially responsible for so many participants. A big thanks to Dave, WN4APF, for starting this excellent program.

Hope you enjoyed the contest as much as we did. Thanks to Jim N9JF and the WIARC for making this another great ILQP contest. And most of all, thanks to Melody for driving and navigating me up thru Illinois for the 2024 ILQP. Hope we can do it again next year.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

K0PC mobile 1059 CW QSO

ILQP 2024 was a lot of fun. The weather was great, the equipment all worked, but the propagation was spectacular. On 20M my mobile signal seemed to reach everywhere from Chicago to the Czech Republic all day long. Amazing.

I've got to give a big shout out to the "Minnesota Posse" that was out in force on Sunday. 247 of my 1059 QSOs were to MN. My Zero Filter got a good workout.

Thanks to the WIARC for sponsoring the ILQP. I look forward to the next time.

73, Pat KØPC

N9TTK mobile 203 CW QSO

With no preparation or solid plans I decided to take my radio gear with me to my shooting competition near the IL state line. I stopped just inside of Edgar county to install my wolf river coil with a whip on a mag mount. My shooting buddy drove my truck while I operated. I made about 20 q's before pulling into my mom's driveway where I experienced crazy RFI. After a nice visit we drove out to the country north of my hometown where I found a nice quiet spot to operate. My goal was 200 q's and I hit that just as I pulled into the parking area before crossing back out of Edgar county. I am surprised with the performance of the thrown together, never tested mobile setup, it was a lot of fun and I'm glad I was able to put Edgar county on air again.

Shooting competition (7th place)
visit with mom
Joe's pizza
Ham radio... it was a good day

73

KY0Q Rover 537 CW QSO

Wow, I've never before experienced the pile-ups and the rate that I saw this year! I never see anything like this at home with 100W and a low wire.

IC-7300 triple mag-mount hamsticks

WA9LEY Rover 203 CW 131 SSB QSO

Comments: [email] 2024-10-21 22:11:19

It was a beautiful day to be outside. LaSalle and Grundy were at POTA parks and then I detoured a bit to get to Kendall since it didn't show planned activity on the ILQP map. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay long. After dinner, I had 45 minutes left so I set up my Sporty 40 whip on a tripod on my front lawn and finished up in the car on 40 from Cook. Next year I might try a different route to make better use of my time and hopefully improve my score. It was a fun day.

LaSalle 191 Q's

Grundy 57

Kendall 21

Cook 65 334 total Q's

Lee WA9LEY

AA9RK Rover

Operator(s): AA9RK KD9NZ 172 cq QSO

In what turned out to be plan C, my son Max KD9NZB joined me for a rover operation through the northern tier of Illinois counties from about 1730 to 2230 on Sunday. This operation was planned in about one day. Max is fairly new to CW but has built his skills up on the Slow Speed Test on Sunday nights. We had a Yaesu 991, a Bioenno battery, N1MM on an ancient laptop, and a mag-mount with a 40m hamstick and a Wolf River Coils vertical for 20m.

Our first stop was on the LAKE/MCHE county line, with me on 40 meters, calling CQ on CW at about 26 WPM. When we switched to 20 meters, Max said he'd take a turn as the op and dialed the speed back to about 14 WPM. He was going to make "about 10" contacts before I took over again, but after about 8 contacts something magical happened -- there was a pileup and *he could manage it*. He was hooked. He ran for 32 QSOs before we hit the road to head for Boone County. His speed crept up and crept up through the day, and I think he ended at 20 WPM.

I didn't know Max was going to enjoy himself as much as he did, and I didn't know he'd be comfortable with running independently, so I wasn't really planning on operation while we were in motion. The WRC, with its collapsible whip, is not meant for operation while in motion, so that limited us to 40 meters. We stopped for food in Richmond and continued on to BOON. Our spot there in Caledonia was not great; there

were metal grain elevators blocking us to the north and west, and my CQs went unanswered, so we decided to try 40 meters in motion, which went a little better.

Finally we crossed into WBGO near Rock Cut State Park, which was the perfect ending in so many ways. We found a parking spot near the Lions' Picnic Area, which was in a gorgeous lakeside setting. Max ran for another 30 contacts or so, helped by my deploying our Spark Plug EFHW, which outperformed the Hamstick considerably. We switched to 20 meters and I moved back into the op's chair. We made one more switch, to 15 meters, but then our battery gave out then and, unfortunately, we discovered that its charger was back at home in Wisconsin, bringing an abrupt end to our day.

All in all, for a last minute decision, it wound up being a fun, positive, and fruitful ham radio day.

Final count:

LAKE: 32 (14 MHz) + 7 (7 MHz) = 39 QSOs

MCHE: 32 (14 MHz) + 7 (7 MHz) = 39 QSOs

BOON: 5 (14 MHz) + 1 (7 MHz) = 6 QSOs

WBGO: 1 (21 MHz) + 54 (14 MHz) + 33 (7 MHz) = 85 QSOs

K9I multi op Bond/Fayette 1490 cw 822 ssb

Operator(s): K9UR KB5YZY KKØU KTØAA NØMII WBØSND WBØT

What a fantastic day to be out and operating radios in the field! Warm weather, sunshine, no wind, no bugs. This is what Field Day should be!

Jeff NØMII, Derek WBØTUA and I got to our site early to start setting up, and it all went pretty smoothly. We erected a full-sized 80m dipole, with the center up about 40', and each end up about 30', fed with 450 window line. This was our 20m/80m aerial. Next, we put up the 40m EFHW for -- you guessed it -- 40m (we also made this play on 15m). Joe K9UR arrived soon after to put together a 10/15m station with his car mounted vertical.

We were on the air right at the bell, which always bodes well. Our rates were good, (peak rate for the team was 265/H) and never dropped below 100/H. 20m and 40m were of course the money bands and played very well. Even 10m got into the mix, which is always nice.

We also ate well -- Jeff NØMII was the grill master and chili slinger, with

notable contributions of picked jalapenos from WB0TUA, cole slaw and chips from KB5YZY.

We had some interstation interference issues, which now that I'm cogitating upon it were probably due more the phase noise than anything else.

Big thanks to Mark KB5YZY and Tony KT0AA for doing the yeoman's work on SSB. The rest of us also took our turns on phone, even yours truly, after being told "YOU MUST DO YOUR PENANCE!" by WB0SND. I only said "please copy" twice (I think).

Thanks to all the rovers and multi county line ops out there who really kept us on our toes. We missed plenty of counties, but that's a goal for next year.

Thanks to WIARC for putting this contest on -- it's a great time, and a great time of year.

73, Jim KK0U

W9KM portable 1004 CW

Portable CW only operation from BURO/PUTN county border, which is also s POTA park. Antenna: random wire ~60ft to a nearby tree about 25 ft high, with 8 radials 16ft each + remote tuner.

Got plenty of attention from locals (ladybugs, police, park visitors) and on the bands. Constant pileups, so I've been 95% of time running. Thanks to everyone who called me, my apologies for the fills. The nearby microwave tower seems deafened my IC-7300 significantly most of the time, I totally need to add a better RX filters to my travel bag. Great event as usual, my best wishes to the organizers and participants, see you all the next year!

KF9D portable 535 cw 72 ssb

Operated from Morrison Rockwood State Park on a beautiful fall weekend.

Great band conditions, nice to have statewide coverage on 20 and 40 meters.

Thanks mobiles, rovers, and portables for all the chasing fun.

Thanks WIARC for sponsoring and providing the opportunity to get out and on the air.

W9QF Portable 690 SSB

Better than last year, operated Portable 2 County at LAKE/MCCE county line. 10 and 15 were great for DX and West Coast multipliers, was tough finding a spot on 40 to settle in, tried for a few on 80 but antenna only had like 25-30 kc of usable space around 3830khz. Battery lasted almost 5 hours before calling it quits. 73

W9RWG portable 516 SSB QSO

Operated at Silver Springs State Park

N8II - fixed - WV 172 115 Mults 82

I had already made 217 NYQP QSO's and 382 in Worked All Germany, so was not really planning on a full effort. Trying to run on 20M SSB was very disappointing at the start, and it never got much better. There was enough IL activity including portables and mobiles to keep things interesting. For the first time for me there was direct F2 prop to IL during the QP starting about 1740Z with window closing for anyone new at 1817Z. I did work a portable much later, can't understand why he never tried other bands. 40 started opening with weak signals around 1830Z but was not decent until about 20Z. I was surprised to have made 55 40M SSB Q's as running there was also difficult. 20M closed just past 23Z, pretty early. The CW activity on 80-40-20 M was good, 75M phone was disappointing and some 80M signals were weak even in the last hour. K9JHQ on a line was worked 80-15M for a total of 12 Q's!

Many thanks to the mobiles! Jim, AD4EB was worked 30 times, just a few counties on both 20 and 40, surprised no 80M Q's, and no prop at right moment on 15. Pat K0PC was worked 20 times, once on 80, the rest 40/20. As the QP progressed the mobiles were increasingly buried under the QRM of stations calling. Too much calling without listening. Once on 20 around my sunset Pat's buddies from MN were calling in a big pile up. I have to mention that Jon, W0ZQ was 50 db over S9! Don't change that antenna and thanks for all of the QP Q's over the years. I was pleased with the mult; a few rare ones did call during my infrequent CQ's on SSB.

Thanks to all of the IL ops for the QSO's. Some of the weaker signal ops ended up with the higher scores. I missed the ARQP due to daughter's wedding and AL due to carelessness, worked the rest. See you next season for more QP fun.

73, Jeff

New York QSO Party

KX2NY multi op portable 664 cw 275 ssb
Operator(s): K4HA W2XL

We missed last year due to unforeseen circumstances. We intended to do Columbia Co. So that's where we headed this year. Town of Ancram , not too far from the MA border. We thought conditions were fair, disappointed in our 80 meter totals and 20 SSB. Great to work the mobiles and other portables. Hope we helped with rare mult. 73 , The Bobs' K4HA & W2XL

Equipment: 2 ea IC-7610, 2 Home brew multi band dipoles @ 45'

N5OT mobile/rover Operator(s): AG9A N5OT 1308 CW QSO

A pile of NYQP enthusiasts met up in New York to coordinate a number of mobiles to go out and put some counties on the air. Mark AG9A and I headed out Saturday to put something like 21 counties on the air. Boy did we have a great time.

Thanks to everyone who worked us, and especially those who tracked us from county to county and band to band. You put it over the top for us.

Thanks to Rus, K2UA, Ken, N2ZN, Mike, N2MG, Dave, KW9A and my wonderful wife Kathy (Mrs OT) for a spectacular weekend to remember.

Driving those country roads, the scenery almost made us want to turn off the radio, but we didn't :-)

Anyway, that was great fun!

73 - Mark N5OT

K2QO mobile 772 CW QSO

Operator(s): K2QO W2VM

Now that was FUN! W2VM and K2QO did 390 miles and 15 counties for an all CW effort. Talking W2VM into the mobile with less than a week to contest time was huge. I was not looking forward to running 12 hours solo.

SSB was attempted but met with "too weak, cannot copy" etc, etc, so it turned into a CW contest for us.

Top Q-getters were K1RO-17, K2ZR-15, WN4AFP-14, W9QL-12, K9CW-10, VE9VIC-10. Thanks to those Heavy Hitters.

K2QO got schooled in some fine points of N1MM that were missed in pre-contest prep and caused grief all 12 hours. We would have used Skookum Logger for a no PITA software experience, but my mobile partner W2VM had zero experience with the Mac software.

With all the commotion, road noise, navigation issues, etc. I didn't notice that we sent the wrong county a few times. The log checker may be angry. We'll see.

APRS.fi was attempted from my iPhone and I'm not sure how it played on the other end. I never took a look from the mobile. One NFR member commented that it was hard to see the county lines on the website. More work is needed here.

The craziest thing on the road was on Rt 86 while following a pickup with a trailer. A 6' Werner step ladder, tool box and bucket bounced out and onto the roadway. The ladder was traveling along at high speed spinning like a top as we veered onto the shoulder to miss a direct strike. There was a semi behind us and I have no idea what happened as it was too dark.

Thanks go to the NYQP.org committee for organizing this kick-ass contest.

Next road trip for K2QO/R is the January VHF contest. See you then from the road, unless we have 3' of snow and below zero temps. Then it'll be plan b.

73,

Mark K2QO and Craig W2VM

KE2X mobile 936 cw 44 ssb
Operator(s): KE2X N2R

This was the first NYQP mobile operation of N2RC and KE2X and it was a great time! We decided on a 19 County route mainly operating CW. N2RC operated most of the contest with KE2X driving his Jeep for the whole 12 hours! We drove through ORA,SUL,DEL,BRM,COR,ONO,OSW,MAD,ONE,HER,MTG,SCH,ALB,SAR,WAR,ESS,GRE,ULs AND ROC.

Thanks to all stations who worked us including these who chased us around the bands:

Total trip was 630 miles in a Jeep with a Yaesu FT-991A, N1MM+ and a Little Tarheel.

73,
Mike N2RC

KI2D portable 835 CW QSO

Operating Portable is fun, but even more fun is operating Portable, from a county line location that's also POTA, where you set up three separate antennas and do 12 hours of SO2R sitting inside your pickup truck.

Setup and teardown were in below freezing temperatures, but in general the weather was gorgeous all day.

I had to bushwhack for almost two hours on a field of chest-high grasses and weeds in order to setup a 20/40/80 linked dipole, a 130' EFHW and a DX Commander 10/15/20/40 vertical, with the EFHW and the dipole going across the county line between Sullivan and Delaware counties. And after the 12 hours of operating, I had to go back and take it all down, in a clear moon-lit night, with frost on the masts. And it was fun!

Did SO2R (Flex 6600 makes this oh so easy) on 20 and 40, and later 40 and 80 for most of the contest. Checked the higher bands without much success, and in general propagation was fine, but not as good as I was hoping.

Started calling interleaved CQs when rates died down and several times had to handle

interleaved QSOs, which is a mental challenge on Phone, and even more so when one of those QSOs starts asking how do you log a county line QSO.

Did better than I feared in this regard, and will definitely prepare better and try it more often in the future.

On average I did 72 Q/h. Got rates over 100 Q/h often, but also some slow times. Even got 60 minutes around 8pm with 216 Qs on 40 where I managed to interleave another 10 on 80, peaking above 300 for 15 minutes.

I think my self-spotting strategy (or lack thereof) was not optimal, and I'll have to work on that. DXLog might have been sending spots for calls I worked, even when running, and that might have replaced my own spots. I'll have to check on this.

It was great to hear from lots of Ham2K PoLo users during the contest!

879 QSOs for POTA US-8070 Catskills State Park.

K1RO - fixed NH 304 177 61 counties

This was my best NYQP by far. After not using my station since the New England QSO Party in early May, I spent Friday fixing my antennas and updating my computer. I got it all working, but I still have to trim back tree growth that's slowly engulfing and detuning my inverted Vs.

Conditions could not have been better from NH to NY, and I even worked 7 stations on 5 bands. With all the mobile and rover activity to augment the home stations, there was always something to do. Mobiles and rovers accounted for 169 of my QSOs. You guys have great ears!

Special thanks to the organizers for getting all 62 counties on the air! This year I worked 61 counties, missing only NEW (New York). Least worked counties (1 QSO each) were BRX, CGO, JEF, KIN and NAS. Most worked were MON (37) and ERI (34). The last time I worked 61 of the 62 counties was 2016, when I missed SCO. Ironically, this year I had 8 SCO contacts but no NEW. In 2016, I had 4 NEW contacts but no SCO.

Thanks to everyone who got on the air to make this one of the best operating events of the year!

WN4AFP fixed SC 256 CW 56 counties worked

I was racing against VE9VIC right to the finish line. I took a couple of hours off today to clean out my gutters... I was able to work NY on 5 bands today, so that that was pretty cool. Thanks to all the mobiles that kept me on my toes and in my chair... K2QO, K2UA, KE2X, KY2N, N2BEG, N2CU, N2MG and W2LC, 73 Dave WN4AFP

Awards Issued

Single Band Award:

K0DEQ Single Band 20 Meters #40

W4SIG Single Band 17 Meters #3
W4SIG Single Band 20 Meters #41

Ran All State Award:

KE4UP ran all Wyoming. He received #31
KE4UP ran all Montana. He received #32
KE4UP ran all Oklahoma. He received #32

W4SIG Ran all New Jersey

N8HAM RAS WV (pending)

Roadrunner Awards:

W4SIG 1225 #10
W4SIG 1250 #9
N8HAM 250 #102
W0GXQ 1625 \$4
K8ZZ 1925 #3
K2HVN 1025 #15

AB7RW 325 #75

USA- SSB Awards

N8HAM #10

KA9JAC #11

WA3QNT #12

N8BGF #13

N0KV #14

AJ5ZX USA-SSB (pending on log data)

W9DC USA-SSB (pending on log data)

County Challenge:

N0KV 21000

USA-CW

KC5P USA-CW (pending – waiting on log data)

Nth-Time Awards:

AJ5ZX WAC 3rd Time (pending on log data)

Master Gold

W9DC Master Gold (pending on log data)

Note de N4CD – several awards are mentioned but not 'issued' with a number pending on receipt of log data to the MARAC Awards Custodian. Maybe a glitch did not forward the associated log file to him when the applicant submitted a request for the new award.

Events for County Hunters

QSO Party Season is over !!!! No more. Hope you had a good one.

Just regular contests through the rest of the year. DX, 160M, 10M, Sweepstakes both SSB and CW.

Check out ARRL Contest Corral or WA7BNM weekly contest page.

That's all folks. 73