

# County Hunter News

July 2021  
Volume 17 Issue 7

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 when sunspots better). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB . (21.336 and 28.336)

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://ch.W6RK.com)

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### N4CD Rumblings

1 ) **Sunspots** – We got them...but we also have lots of 'solar wind' – negating the effects of sunspots for a while. One day the flux was in the mid -80s with good conditions on 17 and 15m. Then back to lower flux toward the end of the month.

2 ) **KB6UF – Oops** - from the K3IMC forum:

“ My GPS took me into Canada. They took my gun, 700.00 worth, seized my car. Had to pay 1000.00 to get it back. I am in no mood to run counties. Heading to the house.

KB6UF 5/29/2021”

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Ron's trip plan including running many in VT, then crossing into St Lawrence, NY. The shortest route to his next – Monroe, MI, was through Canada. Unfortunately, you do NOT want to cross the border with a firearm or ammo without reams of paperwork in advance and the necessary precautions such as having it unloaded, locked away. You do not want to 'transit' Canada. About the only thing you can bring, with paperwork is a hunting rifle/shotgun for a hunting vacation. Really do not want to do go through

Canada without thinking long and hard about having a weapon. Long standing policy. Even going from the NW USA to Alaska via Canada is a no-no with a firearm. (ship them to AK and same on return trip).

The other problem is that Canada restricts access to non-Canadian citizens due to COVID. Even Canadians have to 'self quarantine' for 14 days after a trip to the USA or returning from 'wintering' in FL. Vax or no vax.

From the web:

“Canada has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to bringing a gun into the country.

The biggest problem Americans have is forgetting about a handgun they have with them. People from states such as Texas, which allow concealed weapons, get snagged quite often. If you fail to declare your weapon it will be destroyed, you will pay a fine, and jail time is a real possibility. Don't make a mistake. The official Canadian website says that border officers can exercise discretion, but it appears far more likely that they will take a hard line if you violate their rules.”

Worse, crossing the border with a loaded weapon ups the ante. Even worse is one with a magazine larger than 10 shots – which is prohibited everywhere in Canada.

If you cross into Canada, it helps also to have a copy of your purchase for your ham radio, and it is expected that often they WILL often check when you leave to be sure you didn't 'import' a ham radio 'for a friend' and avoid the Canadian GST taxes – that you still have said radio. I've been there a few times with radio – and had no hassles but you can run into a stickler. The crossing guards often have nothing to do these days other than watch the weather. There are no tourists.

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On the second item – attention all – currently, to cross the border as a non-Canadian, you must have 'relatives' in Canada that you plan to visit for at least 15 days. Or one of several 'exempt' reasons such as a 'sports team' or 'family crisis/death' situation.

From the Canadian website:

“You must also have a quarantine plan that shows how you'll quarantine for 14 days when you arrive in Canada. This plan is mandatory.”

So.....you do not want to travel to Canada, or through it right now. It's not the USA. Then again, getting into the US is restricted from many countries, and you need an in advance COVID test no more than 3 days before you travel to the US, and five days after you arrive here. Likely have to repeat the process to get back into your home country. Crossing international borders anywhere now is still a nightmare in most cases.

Even going to HI requires COVID test before and upon arrival a few days later.

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the travel ban for US citizens goes at least till end of July. Might be extended again. They are rushing to get their folks inoculated

**3 ) N4CD activity.** Ran into a few health issues this month and doc and I are working on it. No trips at the current time. Back to sleep insomnia after trying new medicine (groan) and not getting much sleep. Maybe 2-3 hours a night at best. Hope this ends soon. Meantime N4CD will just be around the QTH at a few parks here and there.

## On the Road with N4CD I

The trip to Missouri continues:

**Monday May 24, 2021**

Breakfast at the motel, then an early start before 7am headed to the first of ten parks today. I'm on a mission to hit over 1000 parks and this trip will do it.

You'll do many miles on gravel and roads like this getting to some of the SCAs.



Not recommended heading to many of these after days of downpours as some are flooded over, others likely have very slippery spots in low lying areas – which, even in dry weather, have water both sides of roads and a few spots where you can see the road was recently flooded out.

**Bethel Prairie State Conservation Area (SCA) K-8238 Barton County MO – 260 acres**

from the web:

Bethel Prairie is mostly native prairie and can be very showy with wildflowers from late spring through summer. Conservation Grazing is implemented on the area during some summers to enhance the habitat structure to benefit many prairie nesting bird species such as quail and grasshopper sparrows.

Have a good run with two dozen in the log this early in the morning.

**Shawnee Trail SCA – K-6521**

from the web:

The 3,635-acre area takes its name from a trail through the area that played a major role in the history of this country. This trail, sometimes called the Texas Road, was at various times followed by Native Americans, traders heading toward Santa Fe, settlers moving to Texas, and Texas cattlemen heading to Sedalia, Quincy, and Chicago. Between 1845 and 1858, the Shawnee Trail became an important cattle route for moving Texas beef to eastern markets and later to Independence, Kansas City, and Westport, where settlers moving to California and Oregon bought provisions before starting their long trips. As many as 50,000 head per year made the trip from Austin and Waco to the northern markets.

Shawnee Trail Conservation Area offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, and nature photography. During your visit to the area you may observe wildlife management, research and soil conservation projects in progress. Sharecrop agreements with local farmers help provide food and cover for wildlife. Discing and controlled burning are used regularly to manipulate vegetation in the fields to improve habitat for wildlife. Shrub plantings provide woody cover for quail, rabbits, and other wildlife species. The grasslands, marshes, and old fields provide opportunities to view unique bird species such as shorteared owls, marsh wrens, Henslow's sparrows, northern harriers, merlins, and various migrant shorebirds. Lakes on the area are often used by shorebirds and waterfowl.”

**Redwing Conservation Area – K-8261 - 160 acres**



from the web:

“Redwing Prairie Conservation Area was named for the large concentration of redwing blackbirds that were observed around the pond area. This 160-acre area was purchased in 1987 by the Department. Redwing Prairie is made up of native prairie, old field, and prairie reconstruction and can be very showy with wildflowers from late spring through summer.”

### **Mo-No-I Conservation Area K-8255**



“Mo-No-I Prairie Conservation Area is named after the Osage Indian name for prairie chicken. This 302-acre prairie was purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1990, and then purchased by the Department later that same year. This native prairie has many showy wildflowers during late spring/early summer and provides good viewing opportunities of migratory grassland birds during the summer. “

### **Buffalo Wallow SCA K-8242**

“Buffalo Wallow Prairie Conservation Area is in Barton County, 8.5 miles north of Lamar. This area, now totaling 1,113 acres, combines the original 320-acre Buffalo Wallow Prairie Conservation Area (to the west), land purchases in 1993 and 1997 (central) and the previously named Catlin Prairie Conservation Area (to the east). The name originates from what appears to be the remains of a buffalo wallow on the area. The entire area, except for the wooded creeks and drainages was once prairie. Before it became public land, much of the area was plowed for cropland. However, more than 400 acres of native prairie still exist and are managed for their rich plant and animal diversity. Approximately 250 acres of cropland are farmed by local farmers following conservation practices, and 200 acres of former cropland have been converted to native warm-season and cool-season grasses to provide food and cover for wildlife. This combination of native prairie, cropland, old fields and wooded drainages makes this area rich in wildlife. Grassland birds, deer, rabbit, quail and turkeys are frequently found across the area. The area's wildlife habitat is restored and improved with a combination of farming, prairie reconstruction, prescribed burns, haying, tree removal, disking, and shrub plantings. “

**Risch SCA K-8274 162 acres**



The Edward B. and Marie O. Risch Conservation Area was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1986. The area is mostly native prairie and reconstructed prairie with some woodland along the intermittent stream that traverses the area

**Clear Creek SCA - K-8245      750 acres**



This area is mostly prairie, but also contains more than 250 acres of woodland. Five ponds (5.20 acres total) and a stream (Clear Creek) provide fishing opportunities. This area also has good deer and turkey hunting opportunities.

**Bushwhacker Lake K-7503**



“During the Civil War, Kansas Jayhawkers ambushed local residents believed to be Confederate sympathizers. In retaliation, those men, known as bushwhackers, banded together and started their own guerilla war against the Union. The guerilla warfare soon spilled over into Missouri, and some fierce fighting took place along Little Dry Wood Creek. Bushwhacker is an appropriate name for the conservation area that now covers 4,790 acres along the Vernon and Barton county lines. Little Dry Wood Creek runs through the eastern side of the area. Historically, nearly the whole area was prairie, with timber only along Little Dry Wood Creek and its drainages. Before it became public land, much of the original prairie had been plowed and put into crops, or disced and seeded to fescue. The more than 1,400 acres of prairie remaining today are being restored through controlled grazing, herbicide treatment, and burning. About 120 acres of native hay meadows also remain and harbor the same plant communities that buffalo once grazed. Other wildlife, such as quail, rabbits, and deer, are common. Each fall and spring, hundreds of waterfowl use the area's lakes and ponds. One of the drainages was dammed in 1982 to make 157-acre Bushwhacker Lake. This lake, along with a smaller lake and numerous ponds on the area, has been renovated and stocked with bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. During your visit to Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area, you may observe various wildlife management, research, and soil conservation activities. Sharecrop agreements with local farmers help provide food for wildlife. Trees and shrubs are planted along the boundaries, and clumps of shrubs will be planted in the open fields to provide cover for quail and other wildlife. Native warm-season grasses and prairie forbs, wheat and lespedeza are being planted in strips. “

Osage Prairie SCA K-8257 Vernon County 1545 acres

Osage Prairie is a remnant of the prairie ecosystem that once covered more than a quarter of Missouri. It is also home to plants and animals that are specially adapted for life on the open prairie. Less than one-half of one percent of original prairie remains in Missouri making some of these species increasingly rare.

Managers use prescribed burning, grazing, and other tools to simulate historic disturbances that maintain healthy grasslands and limit the negative impacts of invasive plants, including trees, which were historically uncommon here.

Management priorities include providing nesting and brood-rearing habitat for Greater prairie-chickens, bobwhite quail, and grassland birds, such as Henslow's sparrow and upland sandpiper.

Monitoring and management for a number of lesser known species is also important. Some species may include: Mead's milkweed, prairie mole crickets, Regal fritillary butterflies, northern crawfish frog, slender glass lizard, blacknose shiner, grasshopper sparrow, Loggerhead shrike, short-eared owl, and Northern harrier.

Bristow SCA K-8241



Bristow Conservation Area was once part of a vast prairie ecosystem that covered more than one-quarter of Missouri. The majority of the native prairie here was plowed or converted in the past to make way for other land uses. Bristow still has three native prairie remnants in the northwest portion of the area.

Management practices include prescribed burning, haying, and other tools to simulate historic disturbances that maintain healthy grasslands and limit the negative impacts of invasive plants, including trees, which were historically uncommon here.

Management priorities include providing nesting and brood-rearing habitat for bobwhite quail and grassland birds along with providing early successional habitat through cropping.

Averaging about 20-30 contacts per park – and so far, only two counties run.

Whew...after that number of State Conservation Areas – I headed on into the Super 8

Motel in Nevada, MS. I headed to a Chinese Buffet place – but when I got there discovered it was 'take out' only despite web saying open. Most of the Pizza Huts and other fast food restaurants along the way were also 'take out' only. Part of it due to remaining concern for COVID, part of it because they can't hire help to be able to open the insides of the restaurants! Getting \$1000/month between regular unemployment of a couple hundred and Biden's gift of another \$300 on top of state pay – means many lower wage workers are making as much by staying home and will until their benefits run out someday. Add on top of that \$300 or more in child 'credit' per month. Some families raking in \$25,000 or \$40,000 for sitting around enjoying themselves.

Fortunately there was a Mexican restaurant next door and it was full of cars. Headed on in.

Slept well.

## **Tuesday May 25, 2021**

Up early at 6am. No breakfast at the motel. Headed to Cafe 54 for nice omelet, toast, coffee for \$8. On the road by 6:45am.

Douglas Branch SCA K-7661

This 511-acre area contains good examples of wet-mesic bottomland woodland and wet prairie, both declining habitats. The complex of seasonal wetland habitat provides birding opportunities for species of marsh and shorebirds, as well as species such as the sedge wren, associated with the prairie community.

This area has been designated by Audubon Missouri as an Important Bird Area (IBA). IBAs are sites that have been identified by Audubon as those that are the most crucial for bird populations, due to their abundance and/or diversity of birds present

**Flight Lake Conservation SCA K-7658 - Vernon County**



This 159 acre area was once a local duck club and provides good waterfowl hunting opportunity at times.

### **August A Busch Jr SCA K-7502 - Vernon County**

“The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area was purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1947 from the federal government. Mrs. August A. Busch Sr. donated a portion (\$70,000) of the cost toward the purchase of the area as a memorial to her late husband. In the early 1940s, the area was used by the Department of Army as a TNT munitions plant to support the World War II effort. There are still 100 of the old TNT storage bunkers that exist on the area. The Department encourages recreational use of the area by the public, while furnishing fish and wildlife with the resources necessary to be healthy and abundant. We encourage you to walk the hiking trails, drive the auto tour, photograph the wildlife, or simply sit under a tree and enjoy the sights and sounds of the outdoors.

Hunting for a variety of wildlife species is allowed on the area. Special regulations exist for most of the hunting activities, please check the Area Regulations section or with the office for current regulations. Portions of the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area were used by the Department of Army in the 1940s for TNT and DNT production and by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1960s for uranium ore processing. The affected portions were all part of a federal environmental cleanup project and required to meet certain environmental health and safety standards. The area is now considered to

be safe for all recreational pursuits allowed on the area, as well as the wildlife found within the area.

### **Harmony Mission Lake SCA K-6481 – Bates County MO**



The Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area (1,080 acres) and Peabody Conservation Area (299 acres) are managed as one area. Although separated by name, the areas adjoin and are managed primarily for early-succession, upland habitat suitable for Northern Bobwhite and other grassland nesting birds. The areas provide recreational opportunities to the public including hunting, trapping and camping. The areas also provide good fishing opportunity in a 96-acre lake and six water-filled strip-pits totaling 23 acres. Harmony Mission, named for the first Indian mission in Missouri, was church-funded and started in 1821. The mission was located about 12 miles east of the present conservation area next to the "Great Village" of the Osage Indians on the Marais Des Cygnes River. The Osage Indians left Missouri around 1825, but remnants of the Mission can still be found. This landscape was virgin prairie until the mid 1960's, when it was sold and cleared. At that point the land was primarily farmland until 1984, when the Department bought the area from four landowners. Now, small crop fields are mixed with old fields and native grasses.

The 300-acre Peabody Conservation Area was once mined for coal and was donated to the Department around 1960. Peabody lands are largely strip mine spoil mounds that have grown up in woods. Work on the area began when Conservation Department personnel, Future Farmers of America and Vocational Agriculture school groups from Rich Hill, Butler and Adrian planted cover strips, spread lime and seeded food plots. They also started windbreaks to stop soil erosion.

#### Ripgut Prairie Natural Area K-8301



“Ripgut Prairie Natural Area is a 280 acre area located along the Bates Co. Drainage Ditch. The natural area is the one of few remaining high quality examples of wet and wet-mesic prairie along the Marais des Cygnes River (Bates Co. Drainage Ditch). It is maintained by wet soil hydrology and rotational burning and haying. The area contains a diverse assemblage of wildflowers, sedges and grasses, including the namesake of the prairie, 'Ripgut' or prairie cordgrass.”

#### **Old Town Access SCA K-8302 310 acres**

The area contains a boat ramp, primitive camping, two streams (Marais Des Cygnes

River and Bates County Drainage Ditch), “borrow pits,” and an oxbow lake. Old Town Access is managed to provide a range of recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. The area’s greatest public use attraction is the boat ramp to the Bates County Drainage Ditch. The ditch is the result of relocating and channelizing the Marais des Cygnes River, which occurred in the early 1900s.

### **Dorsett Hill Prairie SCA K-7671**



The DHPCA is located in Cass County just northwest of Everett. This area was donated to the Missouri Prairie Foundation by the Goddard family in 1977. Ownership of this area was then transferred to the MDC in 1979.

Dorsett Hill gets its name from the family that owned this area for nearly 100 years. James Dorsett originally purchased this area in 1865 and his son purchased what is now DHPCA in 1878 for \$50.00.

This area was farmed near the turn of the century but the farming efforts were unsuccessful and the prairie was allowed to return.

Approximately 14 acres of this 79 acre area are considered original prairie. The prairie, a remnant of the once-vast tall-grass prairie that spread across most of northern and

western Missouri, is characterized by tall and medium height warm season grasses such as big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, Eastern gamma, dropseeds and cordgrass. The vegetation also includes a great variety of broadleaf and herbaceous plants that provide a progression of showy colors from early spring to early fall. Pale purple coneflower, blazing star, prairie coreopsis, prairie clovers, lead plant, spiderwort and butterfly milkweed are but a few of those present on the prairie.

Management of the area focuses on maintaining and expanding this unique prairie habitat. Periodic burns eliminate invading non-prairie plants and trees increasing the vigor of the existing prairie plants. Tree cutting and clearing are used to expand the prairie in areas where prairie species are evident but have been shaded out by trees.

### **Amarugia Highlands SCA K-6477**



Amarugia Highlands Conservation Area is located in a region once known as "The Kingdom of Amarugia," where a group of people formed their own government and had their own society. A series of prominent hills in this region is still known as the Amarugia Highlands. The hills in the southern portion of the Conservation Area are part of these highlands.

The 1,081-acre area was purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation in

1983. One of its main attractions is the man-made 45-acre Amarugia Lake, which was completed in 1987. The lake was stocked in 1988 with channel catfish, largemouth bass, and bluegill. The lake was renovated recently in 2014 and restocked in 2016 with largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill, and redear sunfish. The area also has numerous small ponds and a short stretch of the South Grand River.

Terrain varies from bottom land open fields to rolling upland grasslands and woodlands. Openlands are managed for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Haying, cropping and controlled burning are used to maintain plant diversity in open areas. Habitat plantings include trees, shrubs and native grasses and forbs. Disabled accessible fishing, parking and toilets are available on the area. A boat ramp is located on the lake.

### **Dr Harry and Line Berrier Memorial SCA K-8309**



Berrier (Dr. Harry and Lina) Memorial Conservation Area is in south central Cass County, about six miles south of Freeman. The Conservation Department acquired the area in 2019 with the help of donations from the Dr. Harry and Lina Berrier Memorial Trust for preserving prairie, Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City Lena Feighner Conservation Fund, and the Missouri Prairie Foundation. The southern portion of this area is a remnant of a once vast prairie ecosystem that provides habitat for a

diverse group of plants and animals. Because less than one half of one percent of our original prairie remains, some of these species have become increasingly rare.

### **Bittern Bottoms Conservation Area – K- 7670**



Bittern Bottoms Conservation Area is in Cass County, about eight miles southeast of Harrisonville. The Conservation Department acquired this area in 1985 and manages it to preserve wetland habitat and provide the public opportunities for viewing, studying, and photographing wetland plants and animals.

The 67-acre area, named for the least bittern which sometimes nests here, is located in the Grand River bottoms. The area is 40 percent forested and includes a 20-acre man-made marsh, which was originally a private duck hunting club.

A 13-acre open sedge and grass-covered wet meadow adds to the diversity of wetland habitat on the area. Wood ducks, blue-winged teal, mallards, prothonotary warblers and tree sparrows reside at Bittern Bottoms. Muskrat, raccoon, mink, and other mammals commonly associated with Missouri wetland habitat are frequently seen here, along with a variety of reptiles and amphibians. The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Special facilities include a parking lot and a foot path to the interior of the marsh. Canoes and other small watercraft can be carried from the parking lot to the marsh.

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That was enough for the day! Ten Parks with about 20 to 30 contacts average per park. Only drove 128 miles, too! Just would up about 50 miles north of where I was last night.

After a long day, stopped at Lee's Summit Super 8 Motel. It's not far from Kansas City – a 10 minute drive. Been there before at this motel. Perkins restaurant next door and I enjoyed their turkey dinner. Always good and lots of food.

### **Wednesday May 26, 2021**

There's no breakfast at the Super 8. At the peak of COVID, many Wyndham properties didn't have a free breakfast any longer – due to shared space. Seems it's about time to end that. Some had 'take a plate' with an apple and a muffin, and coffee to go. No sit down. I think it's time they got their breakfasts back. A few do have it. So I wandered over to the Perkins for a nice breakfast there at 6am when they open.

I've decided to head home. The weather forecast is ominous. The propagation forecast is ominous (Major Geo Storm with K up to 6). So I run two parks quickly in the KC area, then quickly head on down the interstate – stopping at two parks in KS then zipping the last 340 miles non-stop to home. I described the last days adventure in the June issue. Managed to escape all the bad weather that appeared late afternoon and the next day with severe t-storms and hail.

Spring time in the midwest. Later in the season it migrates further north but you can still get nasty weather. BTW, so far this year is way behind the 'normal' amount of tornadoes occurring. Hmmm.....

## **Kentucky QSO Party**

**AE8M mobile 327 cw 209 ssb**

Fun contest, many out of state stations looking for KY counties. I appreciate every QSO and love the stations that gave me multiple Q's.

K3 with hamsticks on 20 and 40, Hustlers on 80 and 75. I use a 100 A-H LiFePO4 battery to power the K3. It required 38 A-H to power the rig all day

**KM4FO mobile made 504 CW QSO**

**KM4CH mobile 421 cw qso**

First time mobile with a driver "thanks to the lovely (KC4TUC), and our Boxer mascot "HERO"

**OM2VL - fixed DX 76 cw 79 ssb 62 mults**

Thanks for the QSOs - especially to mobiles who come also on 20m and gave me chance work him!

**NS2N fixed NY 79 cw 40 ssb 59 mults**

Good running for this contest. Thanks to the mobiles and fixed stations for a fine effort. Too bad I had to lose out on 3 hrs.

**K4BAI - fixed GA 59 cw 20 ssb 43 mults**

page said score would be automatically submitted to 3830. Don't know how that would work and it isn't here yet, so I am posting my own. Thanks for all QSOs, particularly the mobiles. And special thanks to KM4CH who gave me one of the last KY counties I need all time. That was Trimble. The others I need still are: Meade, Allen, Lewis, Elliott, Lawrence. Any suggestions for skeds appreciated. This was, from my perspective at least, the best KYQP ever. 20M was too long for all but a few backscatter QSOs from GA until about dusk when 20M got very short and I worked KM4FO/M who was 599. Other KY stations had already given up on 20M, I guess. No signals on 15 and not much activity on 160M, but it was in good condition 73, John, K4BAI.

**AA4TI - fixed FL 57 cw 11 ssb 36 mults**

KYQP has gotten better in recent years due to much more mobile activity and the SQP challenge. This year 31 percent of my contacts were with mobiles when I could hear them. Conditions were not great, so I missed a lot of mobile contacts that were below my ESP floor level. I did manage to work my QSO buddy KM4FO several times. I also worked KM4CH a lot of times due his very good ears. AE8M made his usual circuit around the I275 loop near Cincinnati and I managed to snag him in most of the counties he ran. As always, this QP required a lot of BIC time waiting on mobiles to change

counties. The fixed bonus stations were a bit confusing since they were basically multi multi but in separate counties. KY4KY and K4KCG were very active and did a nice job. I never heard W4NJA and only worked K4MSU once. As expected, nothing on 10 and 15 meters and 80 meter activity was pretty sparse. When the smoke cleared I finished 70 points lower than last year.

### **DL3DXX - fixed - DX 72 cw qso 45 mults**

4 mobiles were worked AE8M (4), KM4CH (12), KM4FO (11), N4TY (9). 20m was poor in the afternoon hearing the mobiles just from time to time. When the sun went down band improved and stayed open up to the end. Thank you for all of the QSOs to fixed and especially to the mobiles. Working 4 new ones at the end by KM4CH, the last one 5 minutes before the end of the contest made my day :-)

### **N8II - Fixed WV 74 cw 54 ssb 58 mults**

I was surprised to have QSO/mult totals similar to the HP high scorers. I missed at least 10 mults that I saw spotted either too late or after back from off time. The CW mobile activity was good until near the end when KM4CH was the last mobile roving. Thanks to AE8M, N4TY, KM4FO(16 Q's), N8OYY(SSB) and KM4CH (13 Q's) for making what would have been intolerably too slow a lot more bearable. The last hour was really slow as was 20-22Z. Bonus stations K4KCG and KY4KY were worked both modes 80/40/20M (forgot to check 160) for 1200 extra points. K4MSU was SSB only and W4NJA seemed to be gone after first few hours. 20 reopened very well 2145-2400Z, but there were few active except KM4CH and KM4FO.

Thanks for the Q's. 12 hours is 2-4 hours too long considering the level activity

## **Covid Update Mid-June**

From the NY times 'daily summary':

## **‘If you’re not vaccinated ...’**

It’s time for one of this newsletter’s occasional updates on the state of the pandemic. The brief version: The situation continues to look reassuring for anybody who is vaccinated — but has become more worrisome for anybody who is not, largely because of the Delta variant.

Here are three more detailed points:

### **1. Cases are no longer falling**

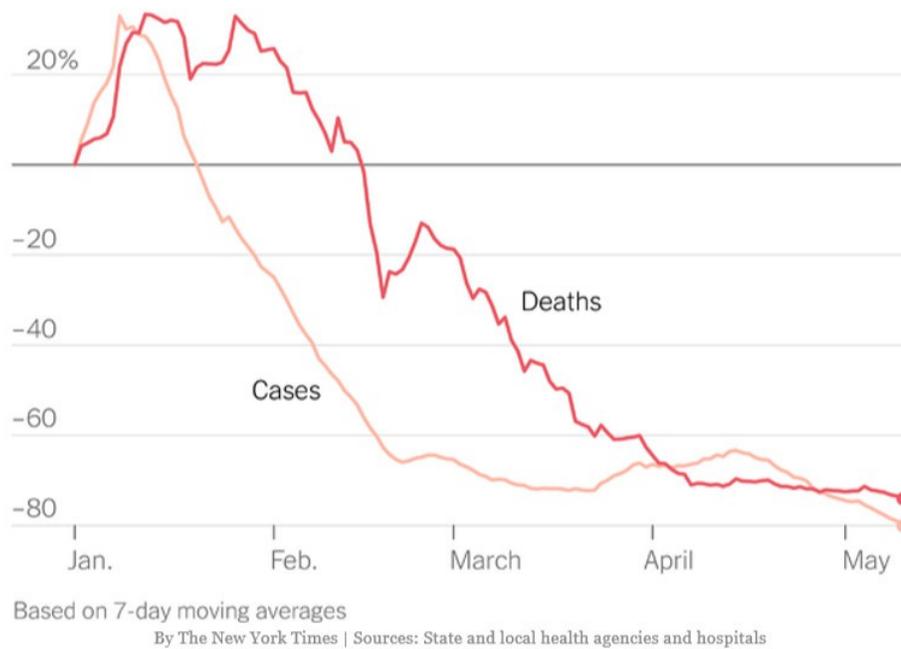
The news about Covid-19 has been mostly positive in the U.S. over recent months. The vaccines continue to work well against every variant, and the number of Americans who have gotten a shot continues to rise.

But the U.S. still faces two problems. First, the pace of vaccinations has slowed, and a substantial share of Americans — close to one third — remains hesitant about getting a shot. These unvaccinated Americans will remain vulnerable to Covid outbreaks and to serious symptoms, or even death.

Second, the Delta variant — which appears to be both more contagious and more severe than earlier versions of the virus — is spreading rapidly within the U.S., after having first been identified in India. It now accounts for about 10 percent of cases, according to Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former F.D.A. commissioner.

Together, these two forces help explain why new cases have stopped falling:

Change in New U.S. Covid-19 Cases and Deaths Since Jan. 1



Many experts are concerned that cases will eventually start to rise as Delta becomes the dominant form of the virus. “We are vulnerable,” Dr. Kavita Patel of the Brookings Institution told Yahoo News. On Twitter yesterday, Dr. Robert Wachter of the University of California, San Francisco, wrote: “I’ll now bet we’ll see significant (incl. many hospitalizations/deaths) surges this fall in low-vaccine populations due to combo of seasonality, Delta’s nastiness, & ‘back to normal’ behavior.”

## 2 But the vaccines work

In addition to being more contagious, Delta also appears to be more severe. As my colleague Keith Bradsher reports about southeastern China, where the variant has been spreading: “Patients are becoming sicker and their conditions are worsening much more quickly.” (China has more detailed data than many other countries, because it conducts rapid, widespread testing.)

But there is still one very big piece of encouraging news: The vaccines continue to work

extremely well against the variants, based on the evidence so far. The best performing vaccines vastly reduce the number of Covid cases of any kind and virtually eliminate death.

“The Delta variant is by far the most contagious variant of this virus we have seen in the entire pandemic,” Dr. Ashish Jha said yesterday. “The good news is the data suggests that, if you’ve been fully vaccinated, you remain protected, that the vaccines hold up.”

The clearest place to see this pattern is Britain, where the Delta variant has spread widely and where the vaccination rate is high. In Britain, there is “still no sign of increase in deaths, well after the strain has become dominant,” as Dr. Eric Topol of the Scripps Research Translational Institute noted

### **3 The lesson is clear**

Nothing is more important than vaccination.

Persuading more Americans to get vaccinated will save some of their lives. And a more rapid global vaccination program can save millions of lives around the world. Delta already appears to be at least partly responsible for rising case counts in several African countries, Russia, Ontario and elsewhere.

“If you’re fully vaxxed, I wouldn’t be too worried, especially if you’re in a highly vaxxed region,” Wachter wrote. “If you’re not vaccinated: I’d be afraid. Maybe even very afraid.”

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If you're wondering where to wander this summer, New England leads the country in percent vaccinated – 45-60% fully vaxxed. At the bottom of the list are GA, AL, MS, WV, AR, WY in the low 30s. 43% of the US population have been fully vaxxed. The rate at which folks are getting the vaccine have fallen off. It looks like 30% are die-hards who never want to get the risk of COVID reduced. Who knows what will happen with them? Since kids are now eligible from 12 up – that's a prime group to urge to get the shots before school starts in the fall. In most places, it will be in person learning.

PS: I wouldn't spend a lot of time in low rate states now. Even though fully vaxxed, you still have a 'very, very small' chance of catching it – maybe 1 in 100,000? 1 in 250,000? A few thousand 'breakthrough' cases, with the majority in immune systems patients (transplants, auto-immune diseases, those on immune system suppressors) have

been seen. Otherwise, very few cases out of 140 million vaxxed. You're odds are tiny, weeny but still better to avoid the low vaxxed states for 'vacation' and spending days.

PS #2 – nearly all deaths from COVID are among unvaccinated people. Yes, people are dying and still going to hospitals – nearly all who didn't get the vax.

## West Virginia QSO Party

**K4BAI- fixed - GA 27cw 25ssb 19 mults**

Worked all but one WV station I could hear in the contest. Took too long to get wire antenna tuned on 75 Phone and missed N4RA near the end. Thanks for all QSOs. Special thanks to the mobiles. I know it must be hard to go mobile in a mountainous state. 73, John, K4BAI

**NS2N fixed NY 10-cw 13 ssb 15 mults**

operating in a popcorn machine. Passing thunderstorms really ripped up the low bands and finally hit home in the late afternoon - I gave up -sorry. Nil prop on 20m. Fond 4 mobiles, which was nice. Thanks for being out there.

**N8II -fixed WV - 207 cw 733 ssb**

First off I have to thank the 4 mobiles who were active providing a lot of rare WV counties to those seeking them. I was surprised to not hear W6OAT, a chaser, at all. The roads in WV are absolutely no fun for mobile operators, very hilly and curvy!!! The terrain in WV is more consistently rugged than any other US state with one large hill after the other west of the Appalachians, and the roads were mostly built in the 1920's when speed was not a big issue. Even the interstates are crooked. Ed, N8OYY/M on SSB made a Herculean drive from the northern panhandle right down to SW most Mingo county and back north to central WV passing through many rare counties. Unfortunately, he was skipping over me the majority of the time on 40 and despite attempts to catch him on 75M, few succeeded. W8OP covered the eastern panhandle. Steve, WB8III (love that call, my original was WN8IJW) covered north central WV. AA4TI/M visited from FL and spent most of his time on 20, but was in there well into the evening. I would guess there were about 50 counties activated, but no one so far

reporting did very well catching the possible total due to long skip. The SFI was only 76 and without much sporadic E from 1900-0045Z, it was tough sledding for almost all ops. We still need more and larger sunspots!

Thunderstorms were forecast with an 80% chance for several evening hours. I was expecting an interruption by 21Z, but mercifully no storms ever came close enough to notice increased static crashes. I started off on 40 CW with very short skip to the NE; Ray, K9RS from DE called in and was loud only about 135 miles away. I had worked down CW Q's on 40 and 20 by 1645Z and went to town on 20 SSB. There was some intense sporadic E in nearly all directions as close as NJ, NY, CT and farther NE, KY, SC, TN, and MI. I was too busy to call CQ's on 15/10, but my rate was disappointing considering the conditions. A boatload of New England stations called, but it was a while until RI and VT went into my log. I repaid some contest friends by offering to move to 15 and 10. I worked Bob, W0BH in KS and Con, K5CM in OK on both bands/modes and worked John, K4BAI on 15. Also N4OX followed us around to both bands/modes. I did lose some steam on 20 when I QSY'ed; an inaudible WV station took my spot once or twice. I had j 328 Q's in the log the first 3 clock hours with 20 minutes off for lunch. After not being able to start much back up on 20, it was 40 phone time at 1842Z. The QRN was low and range was good, just no stations closer than about NY, NC, or western OH. I worked as far as MN, IA, MO, and KS. My 40M run dried up at 1917Z, From then until 2113Z back on 40 it was a struggle to run stations on any band or mode. I was very thankful for the automated CW and phone CQ's, a life saver. After dinner at 2215Z, I was unhappy with the mult total, so I chased DX towards EU and called some CQ's that direction on 20 SSB.

I worked TA, OD, XE(several others later), LA, RL3 and several other EU countries. My rate improved at 2230Z to the west on 20M followed by a decent rate on 40 SSB, then at 2315Z 40 CW. As I was struggling to copy weak CA ops at 2239Z, WA6QDQ/KH6 called in with a S9+10db signal for first HI and state #49! ID was #48 at 2215Z, and I more or less gave up on catching WY for WAS. I ended up with many ID Q's. Down to 80 CW at 0008Z, activity was disappointing and 75M was even worse, but I found several WV counties and N8OYY/M on 75. I had made several failed attempts to run 40 SSB earlier starting 2307Z; finally 0054Z skip had shortened to maybe 70 miles in some directions and a high rate run was under way with lots of PA, OH, 2's, and 1's going into the log. My rates were 81 00Z, 95 01Z with break, 82 02Z. I kept running on 40 SSB until 0157 then a few more on 40 CW. The QRN on 40 and 80 was fairly high; I had to dig out quite a few calls. At 0233Z, I tried 20 one last time and despite the also high S7 crashes, there were plenty of callers west of the MS river and into AL and LA.

At 0240Z KA7VMA called in from WY to complete my WAS. The strange thing was, I ran 3 other WY stations on 20 SSB after that! VK2WWV called in as well for my last

mult. I worked VE1-9 except VE4 and 8. 21 WV counties were worked and 18 DXCC countries.

Summer starts today, far from the best time for a QP due to thunderstorm QRN and less activity. The pandemic, though far from over now, brought in some extra ops last year who this year were out enjoying life. It was a challenge to keep finding new Q's; maybe I should have moved more ops. With the evening QRN and some weak signals, running was far from fun at times. Several late 20M Q's took over 30 seconds to complete waiting for the signal to peak out of or even with with noise. Many thanks for the calls and persistence in some cases. The new FTDX-101D did help a bit. I may be HP next time around. It was nice hearing old friends.

73, Jeff

**WN4APF - fixed SC 22 cw ssb 35 25 mults**

I played all the games at this party and make my all time best score! Thanks to all the WV stations for the Qs and especially AA4TI/M and N8OYY/M for many of my mults. I made four Qs with W8VA. It was a two band effort for me. 73s Dave WN4AFP

## Mobile Activity in June

at the end of last month

Seth, N3MRA was running counties in the TX panhandle

Gene, WB4KZW was out in LA

Bill, K2HVN, was out and about in RI. Later he'd head on down through MD to DE

Fred, K0FG, was in MO

K1YAG was in west TX

W0GXQ, Jerry, headed out through NE

N4TY was out and about in KY

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Ron, KB6UF, headed out from ME via VT and NY. Then he had a real misadventure!

KB6UF: “Trip Aborted My GPS took me into Canada, they took my gun, 700.00 worth, seized my car and had to pay 1000.00 to get it back. I am in no mood to run counties. Heading to the house.”

de N4CD: In addition to 'no tolerance' to 'importing a firearm' (especially a loaded one or with a magazine of more than 10 shots) or one not secured with trigger lock or locked box, without necessary 'transit' paperwork which you can't get these days, the current rules on COVID entry are draconian. You must have a 'relative' or 'family' in Canada and have a 14 day quarantine plan for your 15 day or more visit. Covid test on the 8th day. Nothing allowed under 15 day visit. No 'transit' from A to B. The no entry policy has been extended to the end of July due to low vaccination rates in most of Canada.

KB6UF – more - Well folks I’m in Grand Rapids MI, visiting a friend. I’m in the process of trying to reinstall radio gear the Border Patrol made a mess going thru my car. They disconnected everything. Now to the point I want to make. I appreciate the calls regarding replacement funds being mentioned. This is teaching moment for myself and to other CHers, pay attention when mobiling next to international borders, in my case, my GPS was trying to take me the shortest route to Michigan which happens to be thru Canada. Not paying close attention, bingo I was in Canada. Was put under arrest for trying to smuggle a gun into Canada. I was detained for four hours until they understood I was not trying to enter Canada. But there laws required confiscation of my weapon, and a fine to release my car (which is a 1000.00). So with that being, funds are not required from others, my mistake, my mess. One thing I won’t make that mistake again, hopefully you have learned a lesson as I have.

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Ed, K8ZZ, headed out from MN

*Starting in June 2021*

Alan, W8OP, was putting out counties in WV

WA3QNT, Bob, noted out and about in PA

Ed, N8OYY, went down to KY and was putting them out left and right. Then into OH and wound up in MO then into NE, then TN back through more KY

Dwight KM4FO out and about in KY during the QP. N4TY also on CW in the QP

Ed, K8ZZ, hit the road and was running the upper peninsula of MI. Then over to OH into KY. Wound up in TX for a few then headed home to KS.

K4YT, Karl, was in First AK putting it out for a few days.

K7TQ, Randy, was out and about in ID and WA

Bill, NU0Q headed out to NE then into CO and UT

KA4RRU, Mike, was running counties in VA and MD

Rick, AI5P was up in WY and MT

K1YAG, Bill, was out again in west TX

Donna, AG6V, was busy in MT

Mike, NF0N, put out a few in NE

Gene, K5GE spotted in KY

Barry, N0KV, noted up in WY into ND along with N0DXE. Headed over MT. Stopped by to visit WY7ML - widow of Lightning Leo.

6/25 end date for activity.

# Awards Issued

|                              |             |              |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| USA-CW-1 #162                | N0KV, Barry | 5/21/2021    |
| County Challenge Level 10 #7 | Ed, N8OYY   | 5 June 2021. |
| RAS Kentucky #26             | Ed, N8OYY   | 5 June 2021  |
| USA-CW I #162                | Barry, N0KV | 6/7/2021     |
| USA-SSB #2                   | Karl, K4YT  | 6/8/2021.    |
| USA-CW I #163                | Bob, N8KIE  | 5/16/2021    |
| USA-CA V #120                | Ron, N5MLP  | 6/3/2021.    |
| Roadrunner 150 LC's #178     | Bill, NU0Q  | 6/14/2021    |

# Events for County Hunters

Just one this month

Jul 31140z to Aug 01 2000z  
Missouri QSO Party CW Ph Dig  
RS(T), MO county or SPC  
[www.w0ma.org](http://www.w0ma.org)

that's all folks! See you next month