

# County Hunter News OnLine

April 2024  
Volume 20 Issue 4

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](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 Rumbings**

**1 ) Sunspots** – Many days sunspot number over 100. Ten meters very good FT-8 but many days no joy on CW and SSB on 10M. Some days good, many days not. Solar flares this month wiped out a few days. Flux is up to over 200 and sunspot numbers often above 100. Some days are great. Lower bands, as usual, suffer in high sunspot years during the day.

### **2 ) Parks on the Air**

Program **is** growing by leaps and bounds with 33,000 participating. Tons of activity and counties!

Big news this month is that all US parks are converting from K-xxxx numbers to US-xxxx numbers to meet ISO standards. When you go up upload logs, you must use the US-xxxx number for the park. You'll still have credit for the previously run K number parks and credit for activations/parks work will automatically update

WWFF will stay the same using KFF-xxxx numbers.

There are now over 10,300 US parks. And growing. 30,000 worldwide.

### **3 ) Telsa CyberTruck**

Well, folks, it's happened. Since the mid 50s, cars have come with 12v batteries and accessories. The Tesla Cybertruck is the first production vehicle with a 48v system of accessories, lights, radio, etc.

Even EV's have a 12v system. The Ionic 5 has a history of failed 12v batteries and other EV's have had issues, but all the regular IC and EV cars have 12v lights, 12v radios, 12v door openers, etc. There is a whole production chain and hundreds of suppliers of 12v system components from computer modules, brake sensors, anti-collision devices, blind spot indicators, etc

Tesla is the first to do away with 12v components. Will it come down the Tesla chain to other Tesla models?

My 20007 Prius hybrid has a tiny gel-cell 12v 5 amp hour battery in the rear of the car to start up the computers (takes 4amps) which then start the car engine off the 200v NiMH battery. Once started, there is a 100 amp DC to DC inverter than runs all the car accessories, lights, radio, etc. You won't run a ham radio off that gel-cell and you won't run a ham radio with the engine running due to S9 QRN from the hybrid components. (Newer versions are supposedly quieter).

Most of the EV models have a standard 12v 50+ amp hour battery under the hood at the moment.

However, if things go to 24 or 48v systems, you'll need to buy some sort of DC to DC converter to run your ham radio, or invest in a decent 50-60 amp hour LiONiPO4 battery to run it and either charge at night or have a DC to DC converter to charge it on the run – so you can stop and run a county line with the engine off.

### **4 ) CQ Magazine**

Well, haven't seen an issue of CQ Magazine in about six months. Anyone get an issue?

It could likely be that CQ Magazine has gone the way of the dinosaur.

### **5 ) Michigan MINI - time to sign up**

The 2024 Michigan Mini will be Hosted by Dorie, N8WTQ • April 25 – 27

It will be held at the SpringHill Suites • Midland, Michigan 48642 (989) 837-2700  
Room rates of: \$129.00 plus tax per night if reserved by Monday, March 22, 2024

Register and pay online

Who's coming?? As of mid March

**2024 MI Mini Attendees:**

N8WTQ Dori, Midland, MI  
N0XYL Sandra, Blue Grass, IA and Friend  
NM1G Chuck, North Kingstown, RI  
W9OP Mark, Neenah, WI  
W9PIP Joan, Neenah, WI  
W8OP Alan, Fairmont, WV  
N8HAM Jim, South Lyon, MI  
K8OOK Mike, Grand Rapids, MI  
N8IPG Nancy, Grand Rapids, MI  
K8II Steve, Fairmont, WV  
K3IMC Don, LaGrange, GA  
KJ4NIT Jean, LaGrange, GA  
KA9JAC Bob, Hortonville, WI  
KB9YVT Ann, Hortonville, WI  
W4SIG Kerry, Springdale, UT  
AB7RW Phil, Vancouver, WA  
AC7UH Barbara, Vancouver, WA  
NN9K Pete, Colona, IL  
N9DQS Nancy, Colona, IL  
N8KIE Bob, Clarkston, MI  
N8RLJ Jaci, Clarkston, MI  
KJ8F Sharon, Elida, OH  
WA9DLB Tony, Barrington, IL  
WA9DLB-XYL Helen, Barrington, IL  
N4CD B0b Plano TX

Mobiles will be traveling to and from the event. N4CD expects to hit a dozen or more parks on the way there. AB7RW is coming from WA. Dunno W4SIG route at this time. K8II from WV, K3IMC from GA.

**6) Solar Eclipse 2024**

The big, big event of 2024 is the upcoming solar eclipse - a total eclipse that will last for minutes if you happen to be in the track of it. Luckily, my QTH is dead center on the track path! Many will be traveling (10s of millions) to get to a location with the path. More later on the event and the 'solar eclipse' QSO Party that day.

7) **QSO Parties** – lots to report on this month for March QSO Parties and a couple more coming in April. Then we have a dry spell until August when fall season starts again.

## Late Mobile Reports

### North Carolina QSO Party

#### N4CW mobile 1132 CW 7 SSB

First of all, thanks to Jim, W4TMO, for planning and executing/driving the trip that put 26 counties out there for the world to work. Conditions Were generally better than the previous day, from our perspective. Maximum rates were pretty good. Average for 1132 valid Q's was 2/minute. Overall, our signal was down from other forays in the past. I just couldn't get a run going on SSB, and didn't waste my time there!

Many thanks to those who endeavored to follow us. The ten (or so) most-worked stations were: DL3DXX (39), OM2VL (31), K0PC (30), K9CW (25), W5TM (24), VE9VIC (22)W8PI and N1CGP (20), WB9HFK (19), WX4G and VE3AQ (17), and W4NZ (16). Apologies if I left somebody out, I counted those by hand from the log. Many thanks to all those who weren't in the "top ten" but were frequent contacts! Line noise levels were down throughout our route and our antenna system generally worked okay...Murphy struck:the Lil Tarheel II got jammed and stuck, yet leaving operation from 10 to 20 meters. So for 80 we were using the Bug Catcher and a 40M heliwhip.. Rig used was a K3, Dell laptop, N1MM Logger+, and antennas were a Tarheel II, some heliwhips, and a homebrew fixed with a Bugcatcher coil.

Lastly, I want all y'all to know I really appreciated the good operating skills

and manners you showed throughout the weekend. That made for a lot more fun and Q's for everybody. My stress level was wayyyyy down because I didn't have to deal with an undisciplined/rude bunch. Thanks again!!! 73, Bert N4CW

## **South Carolina QSO Party**

### **N4CW 794 CW 28 SSB**

First of all, thanks to Jim, W4TMO, for planning and executing/driving the trip that put 18 counties out there for the world to work. Conditions didn't appear to be as good as expected; there were some voids in our runs. However, we persisted.

Many thanks to those who endeavored to follow us, and especially to DL3DXX who was following us on APRS and gave us a correction when our GPS crapped out! The five most-worked stations were: OM2VL (33), DL3DXX (32), K0PC (22), KV8Q (19), and WA5SOG (14). Apologies if I left somebody out, I counted those by hand from the log. Many thanks to all those who weren't in the "top five", but were frequent contacts! Maximum rates: 1 min = 8/min, 10 min = 4.4/min, 1 hr = 2.2/min. Average for 9.8 hrs was 1.6/min. Some hours were more productive than others!!!

Line noise levels were down throughout our route and our antenna system generally worked okay...Murphy was to strike later. Rig used was a K3, Dell laptop, N1MM Logger+, and antennas were a Tarheel II, some helihips, and a homebrew fixed with a Bugcatcher coil.

## **New England QSO Party Changes**

from N1API forwarded:

Greetings –

There will be a couple of rules changes for the New England QSO Party this year and we wanted you to be the first to know the details.

We will allow self-spotting. On CW (and RTTY) this is already happening with the Reverse Beacon Network so there will be little need for it. But with low power and

especially QRP entrants this may help to boost their scores. On SSB the change should make a difference and generate a lot more opportunity for QSOs.

As it is, CW QSOs outnumber SSB by about three to one, so we expect an increase in SSB activity.

There is a new multi-multi category. Now that we regularly have 500-1000 entrants, there have been requests for multi-multi entries. Most of the time, QSO parties tend to stick to 20 and 40 meters but with many more sunspots these days, action is expected on 15 and 10m.

Change county abbreviations from county-state to state-county . This aligns the NEQP with other state QSO parties. MIDMA changes to MAMID, and ROCNH to NHROC, as examples. As always, logs using the reverse format are still accepted.

**Change in CT county names. There are now 9 instead of 8 multipliers in CT. Counties are now called planning regions, based on a US Census change in 2022. It's a long story - see the attached file for details. This is complicated because there was really little public announcement followed by the local media, so most state residents really still think in terms of county boundaries even though county government hasn't existed for 64 years, except on maps!**

Major logging software authors have been notified – new N1MM+ versions of the NEWE module (for W1 stations) and IN7QNE module (for non-W1s) should be released this week.

If you're planning to be active in the 2024 NEQP from New England, please let us know. We're trying to make sure all counties are active again. Send an email to [info@neqp.org](mailto:info@neqp.org) with the callsign you plan to use and which county/counties you plan to be active from.

- Tom/K1KI

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Here is a little list of CT Planning Regions

1. CAPITOL PLANNING REGION - contains most of HARTFORD and TOLLAND counties
2. GREATER BRIDGEPORT PLANNING REGION - contains the "Metro" area of

FAIRFIELD county

3. LOWER CT RIVER VALLEY PLANNING REGION - contains all of MIDDLESEX and parts of NEW LONDON counties

4. NAUGATUCK VALLEY VALLEY PLANNING REGION - contains parts of FAIRFIELD, HARTFORD, LITCHFIELD and NEW HAVEN counties

5. NORTHEASTERN CT PLANNING REGION - contains most of WINDHAM and parts of NEW LONDON and TOLLAND counties

6. NORTHWEST HILLS PLANNING REGION - contains parts of LITCHFIELD and HARTFORD counties

7. SOUTH CENTRAL CT PLANNING REGION - contains parts of NEW HAVEN county

8. SOUTHEASTERN CT PLANNING REGION - contains most of NEW LONDON and parts of WINDHAM counties

9. WESTERN CT PLANNING REGION - contains parts of FAIRFIELD and LITCHFIELD counties

Yeah, they didn't make it very easy!

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The County Hunter News covered this in detail in a recent issue. See August 2023 issue for maps.

<https://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20August%202023.pdf>

Well, it's happened.....no more counties in CT for the QSO Party. What will happen with county hunter 'counties'? Will there be 3078 total counties? Who will be first to run all 9 of them? Maybe some mobile in the NEQP? For county hunters, no way to log them yet, if the 'counties' get deleted and the 'planning areas' added. Otherwise, if others start using the Planning Areas, no one will know what 'county' there were actually in when contact made.

## On the Road with N4CD I

The OK QSO Party was coming up. Time to plan a couple day trip to get a few new POTA parks and put out some counties for the QSO Party.



Plan A was going up through TX to Childress then north to the town of Canadian by Hemphill County TX. I'd get 2 new parks in TX. That was 2 weeks before the QP. Nope! Giant wildfires in the north panhandle burning over a million acres, houses around the town of Canadian, much of Hutchinson County on fire. A million acres is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island! Not one but five fires at one time and it will take nearly a month to get all of them under control. Nope! Nope! Nope. That would have put me in panhandle of OK for a start. Even if you didn't hit the wildfire area, the air was full of smoke, highways closed or congested with emergency vehicles, likely there were no motel rooms left with 100 miles, and some of the fires were spreading into OK, with more possibilities of OK fires spreading northeast.

So it was on to Plan B. Head up through OK to Lawton OK in Comanche County in SW Oklahoma for the night. Then start the QP from there. I could still get some new parks in OK. I'd be single op, stopping to run (no driver). Just going with hamsticks on a 4 magnet mount on the rooftop of the 2016 Chevy Malibu LTD with 157,000 miles on it.

### **Friday March 8 2024**

I headed out Friday 10am – destination Lawton OK in Comanche County for the night. It was 60F and sunny in Plano TX. I could run two new parks on the route. Seems I've driven by Grady County WMA a few times – last time in the OK QSO Party a few years ago but rushed for time then. This time, I'd be sure to get it. I crossed into OK on US 75/69 and the temp dropped. Soon it was 45F and cloudy. Then it started to rain. You head north another 75 miles and turn NW to get to Grady County.



A couple hours after leaving, you arrive in Rush Springs OK and head a few miles east. One of the challenges with 'finding' WMAs is the directions are “from Rush Springs head east 4.5 miles”. Well, when you get to Rush Springs, all the streets are 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> ave, etc. You study the map a bit before hand and figure you need to find Cox City road. That still not marked but it likely to be a bigger street or one with traffic light. Did find east/west road with traffic light and it turned out to be right road. Sign about half a mile later at the city limits for Cox City Road. Found the parking area for the WMA – several parking/entry areas on map. This is in two pieces with several spots to stop. Few WMA's in the Garmin GPS.

**The Grady County Wildlife Management Area** encompasses 1,036 acres located about 4 ½ miles east of Rush Springs, Oklahoma in Grady County. This WMA is about equally divided between two non-contiguous tracts with an additional 33 acre non-contiguous tract located between the other two. The area is characterized by open uplands bisected by wooded draws and creeks typical of the interspersed post oak-blackjack oak and tall grass prairie habitat types.

Wildlife includes

Quail: Present but in low numbers

Turkey: Rio Grande turkey are transient through the area.

Deer: White-tailed deer inhabit the area.

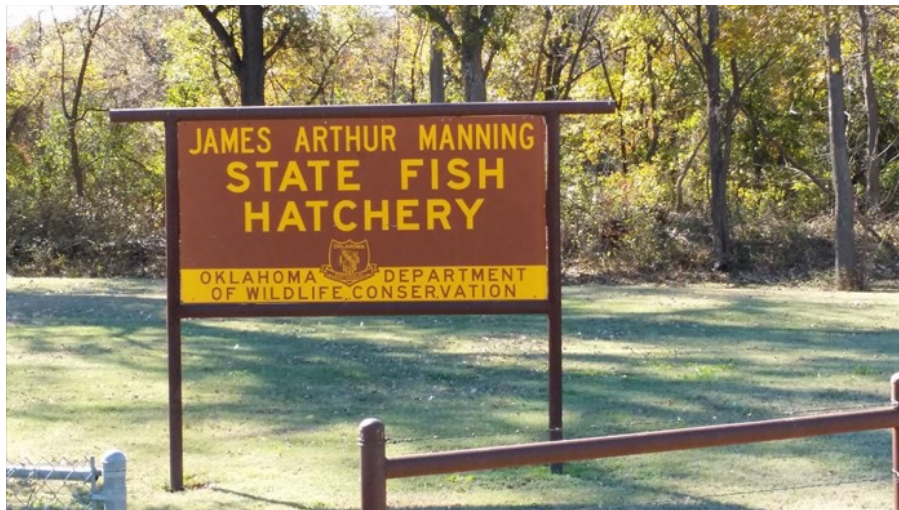
Rabbit: Cottontail rabbits inhabit the area.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat, raccoon and other common furbearers inhabit the area.  
Dove: Some local doves are occasionally present.  
Waterfowl: Various species of waterfowl may occasionally utilize the small ponds located on the wma.

There have been 13 prior 'activations with 350 Qs. Still pretty 'rare'. Added in 32 more.

Then headed to Lawton 50 miles west for another park. Hmmmm.....heavy rain. Downpours. Free 'car wash' type rains. Wind. Temp dropped to 38F. Then giant slush balls came raining down. Driving at 10mph and barely able to see road. Now to be concerned about 'hard hail'. Sides of road had piles of 'white stuff'. Not fun! Lasted 15 minutes. No place to pull over either. Wind 50 mph it seems Heavy rain finally stopped – just 'rain now'. Luckily almost no traffic.

Nearby to Lawton is the **James A Manning Fish Hatchery K-11182** in Comanche County. It's 38F and windy. So far, there has been only ONE previous activation with 24 Qs! Wow. 'virgin territory'. Some of these parks recently added (numbers over K-10,000so that is why. There are a lot of hams in this neck of the woods.



From the web: “The James Arthur Manning State Fish Hatchery is located in southwest Oklahoma near the historic vacation city of Medicine Park. It has 17 separate ponds. It borders the northern edge of Fort Sill.”

Pulled in and made 61 qso here on 20 cw. Late in the day so the east coast folks off from work. Plus 'new' park for many. 38F and nasty weather here with good steady wind and rain.

Then headed to the Days Inn in Lawton. Interesting first day. Hope weather better tomorrow! Nearby was a Golden Corral! My favorite place. You can start out with small salad.....have a nice 'dinner plate' and then get a bit of desert. Piggied out at dinner after a busy day. 202 miles driven. I'll rest up for the OK QP tomorrow - which starts at 9am here.

## Saturday March 9

Breakfast at the motel – NOT. All you got was coffee and a granola bar. Well, for \$46 plus tax, you can't complain too much. Dropped by the Jack in the Box for a 'ultimate breakfast sandwich'. \$5/ Wow.....540 calories, enough sodium and grease and fat included. Full.

First up is **Quartz Mountain SP in Greer County – K-10203**. It's an hour and 20 min from my hotel so I'm off early after quick breakfast (raisin bran, ½ waffle, cup OJ, 2 cups coffee) headed west. Sun up at 7:20am. Want to arrive by 9am start of QSO Party. Only 7 activations from here with under 500Q total. What's interesting is all is within the last six months. You can camp here so I suspect more will be coming with travel season if you missed it. Just added to the system a short while ago.



From the web:

With a maximum elevation of 1,887 feet above sea level at the peak of Quartz Mountain,

the Quartz Mountains are a small range located in southwestern Oklahoma in Greer County, thirteen miles east of Mangum and twenty miles north of Altus. Composed of pink and gray granites, the mountains are part of the Wichita range, which formed 550 million years ago as a failed continental rift system and was then uplifted 300 million years ago. They eroded to form the present mountain range.

In the mid-nineteenth century the Quartz Mountains lay within southern part of the Leased District, a region that in the late nineteenth century became the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Reservation and Old Greer County. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the Comanche, Kiowa, and Wichita maintained tribal headquarters in the region (Lawton, Carnegie, and Anadarko, respectively). In addition to the large American Indian population, the area was also controlled by Spain, France, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas before becoming Indian Territory, then Oklahoma Territory.

By the twentieth century intensive hunting had exterminated many of the area's native animals, including bison (buffalo), elk, wolves, mountain lions, and many others. Gen. Philip Sheridan supported the elimination of the Indians' food sources, claiming that "[hunters] have done more in the last two years and will do more in the next year to settle the vexed Indian question than the entire regular army has done in the last thirty years." After pleading with Pres. Theodore Roosevelt in 1907, Comanche leader Quanah Parker and his tribe welcomed the return of the buffalo to the region. This marked the beginning efforts to repopulate traditionally native animals. Flora in the area includes riparian forests, mesquite woodlands, and a diverse assortment of grasslands.

In 1927 Lake Altus was created at the base of Quartz Mountain. In 1935 the area became Quartz Mountain State Park, now called Quartz Mountain Nature Park. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the park covered 4,284 acres of land and more than 6,000 surface acres of water and contained a diversity of wildlife. Topography, flora and fauna, and the rich historic background makes the area attractive for fishing, hiking, rock climbing, and picnicking.

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Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of FDR's New Deal, Quartz Mountain was completed in 1937, joining six other projects across the state to form the original seven Oklahoma State Parks. Nice lodge, lots of facilities for camping, swimming, hiking trails, etc.

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Put 36Qs in the log then moved on. Didn't see too many spots on W6RK spotting page for counties in OK QP but there was a separate OK QP spot page more in use. 20M skip fairly long this hour of morning.

**Next up was Altus Lugert WMA K-8652 .** It's in both Greer and Kiowa Counties so took extra time to get to Kiowa part of it. This is the only new WWFF park run – all the others were 'too small' to qualify for WWFF. So far this has had only 289Qs with 51 of them on CW. Compared to many other parks with dozens and dozens (sometimes thousands of qsos) this is relatively 'rare'.



From the web:

Altus Lugert WMA covers 3,600 acres of Greer and Kiowa counties in southwest Oklahoma. The area lies adjacent to and north of Lake Altus and primarily north of Hwy 9 between Lone Wolf and Granite. Altus Lugert WMA consists mainly of river bottom and slough areas with dense vegetation. Slough areas are dominated by cattail and other aquatic species. Bottomland areas are heavily wooded with cottonwood, American elm, willow, Kentucky coffee, honey locust, cedar and saltcedar. A limited amount of mixed/tallgrass prairie interspersed with sandplum lies in the northeast portion of the area. Average annual precipitation is 26 inches.

The north fork of the Red River flows through the area. Water levels in the river and sloughs can vary between heavily flooded and dry. Occasional high lake levels back



water into the WMA and create areas of flooded timber, resulting in excellent wetland habitat for waterfowl.

#### Game wildlife:

Quail: Bobwhite quail occupy some of the upland sites and less dense wooded areas.

Deer: White-tailed deer are present throughout.

Turkey: Rio Grande wild turkeys are present in fair numbers.

Rabbit: Cottontail rabbits are found over most of the area.

Squirrel: Fox squirrels are abundant.

Furbearers: Coyote, bobcat beaver and raccoon are available.

Dove: Fair numbers can usually be found since the area lies within a major migration corridor.

Waterfowl: When water levels are high, goose and duck hunting can be good in the sloughs and river. Lake Altus offers a large body of water nearby with generally good waterfowl numbers.

Put 80 Qs in log and headed to next.

**Lake Vanderwork State Fishing Lake K-7682 in Washita County** was next. So far there have been just 12 'activations' here in the 'boonies' of OK. Only 23 prior Qs on CW!



Easy to find – for once. From the web:

Vanderwork Lake is located 7 miles north of Gotebo on State HWY 54, 2 miles east on county road 1280.

#### Lake Details

Shoreline Length: 5.60 mi.

Volume: 1578.00 ac. ft.

Max. Depth: 30.00 ft.

Surface Area: 135.00 ac.

There's a boat ramp. Not much else. Not many traveling in these parts of OK .

Next up – Washita County WMA K-8661 – not to be confused with Washita WMA elsewhere. K-8661 in, of course, Washita County OK. I'd already run this county so I went to 15m to run it in the OK QP otherwise would be lots of dupes for the same county.



There have been 9 prior activations with only 25 on CW and a total of 355Q. (NG5E has been all over OK on CW ). I only needed 10 for an activation but I'd work the pile up on 15m to the end. Added in 25 quick QSOs.

No more new parks. I headed up to I-40 then would go east to OK City for the night.



Along the way could hit one 'repeat park' and a half dozen county stops. Taking the time to get to the parks takes time out of the day. If you want to score big in the QP, you run 2 and 3 way county lines. Then each Q counts 2 or 3 times. There weren't too many opportunities running parks to do that. A big score was not my priority. New parks not run yet were too far off the route by the time I was done with the ones already run. So...

If you travel along I-40, there are many 'route 66' attractions to get to you to stop. The route 66 ran along I-40 out through NM before the interstate was built on top of it most of the way. The highway did go through various towns that you now have to take a detour to see if you want to stay 'on route 66' through the various towns it went through. About 90% of the route 66 corridor is along the I-40 interstate in OK. Nearly 100% if you get off the interstate in the various towns.

One of them is the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton OK – Custer County . Five minute detour if you're traveling I-40. K-8644 I've seen it before.

From the web:

“For the ultimate Route 66 experience, visit the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. The museum offers visitors a personal journey through the history of the nation’s most revered highway. Encounter the iconic ideas, images, and myths of the Mother Road. Learn about the dreams and the labor needed to make the road a reality. Experience the Dust Bowl as thousands streamed along the road, away from drought and despair, and towards the “land of promise.” Listen to the sounds of the Big Band era, when the roar of the big trucks and the welcome home cries to returning soldiers dominated the road. Sit at the counter or a booth in the 1950s diner and feel the open road as America’s families vacationed along the length of Route 66. You just might overhear the family’s chatter as they eat their lunch. The museum also offers changing special exhibits focusing on the Route 66 experience.

Admission fees and gift shop proceeds aid in the daily operations and programs of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. The museum is located off of I-40 at Exit 65.”



pic from web

There's also a Route 66 museum in MO near St Louis off the interstate.

At this site, only 19 activations and 435Q, of which 40 were by N4CD on a previous trip in 2017. Fairly rare for an 'interstate park' along a major route! AI5P, Rick, stopped by here, too. Added in 50 more then headed east

Next up was the C/L of Blaine and Caddo OK just off the interstate. Put 30+ in log then headed east to Canadian County. Stopped to run it for 40 more. Getting late so headed east again on I-40 to Oklahoma County.

Stopped to get a Super 8 motel near the fairgrounds. Serendipitously, there was a Golden Corral on the way there....so after check in, it was another treat at my favorite buffet chain! After dinner ran OKL on 40m cw, finishing up at 0025z. Busy day. Put 9.8 gal of gas in tank to be ready for tomorrow. The QSO Party went on till 9pm local but I don't drive at night these days other than my local roads, and not much of that.

This would be the nigh to change to Daylight Saving Time. Spring forward. Lose an hour. The OK QSO party doesn't start till 10am Sunday (which is 9 am CST). Good breakfast at this Super 8. Bowl of Raisin Bran, half waffle, 2 cups coffee, one of OJ. Had toast and muffins in you wanted them. Sun up late of course this morning.

Around 8:30 headed to a new park in the OK City area - 32F outside but clear sky.

Newly added park **K-13302 Stinchcomb WMA** is in an urban area.



From the web:

“Nestled in the northwest corner of Oklahoma City is the 1,000-acre Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge, a serene haven perfect for bird watching, hiking, biking and fishing. The wildlife refuge is surrounded by a hardwood forest of oak and sycamore trees, many swamps and marshes, and brush perfect for concealing wildlife.

Bring a bicycle and ride through the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge's trails or explore the area on foot to see more of the beautiful surroundings. The area is also popular for kayaks and canoes, which travel on the North Canadian River/Oklahoma River through the entire wildlife refuge. The Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge is bordered on the south by Lake Overholser.”

KE5RLP came by to say high. He was going to be setting up an antenna and portable station for an 'activation'. I was done before he was ready to go. He was the first to activate this on Feb 25, 2024 – just a few weeks ago. It had five previous activations. Now it's up to 8.

Added 33 CW qsos. Too early for the OK QSO Party.

Headed back to the interstate toward TX. Only 6 hours of QSO Party on Sunday – so I could hit a few counties/parks on the way home. Nothing exciting – down through McClain, Garvin, Murray, to Carter. Stopped to run most of them.

Sitting on a county line and the paddle wouldn't work. Turns out a small wire on bottom

disconnected itself from solder lug. Now to find a fix. Need a short piece of wire. Nope. Finally found a 3 inch piece of hookup wire. Managed to make short bridge wire and get it working. Lost 20 minutes fiddling with it. Piece of black electrical tape to tape over things. Dang MFJ paddles. My regular Schurr paddles are 'dead' at the moment. Haven't figured out why. Oh well, frustration. Had an emergency teeny paddle but discovered they had old ¼ plug on it! IC-7100 takes 1/8 inch plug! Finally got to run C/L. Headed south afterwards along I-35.

Turned east on route 70 to get to Lake Murray State Park. Saw sign for 'Trail of Tears' Memorial highway and signs saying designated 'trail of tears route'. Well, quick stop on side of road for 20Q in K-3791, Carter County. Another activation of an extremely well run park with 123,000 QSOs! Of course, it spans many states with many points you can activate it. From GA to OK. Then south into park where you can run a C/L.

Hit the C/L of Carter/Love on first on 20 working just WI QP Stations, then on 15M to avoid repeats for the OK QP. Had already run Carter on 20M. In Lake Murray SP. That too well 'put out' with 6600 QSOs. You can camp here, stay in the lodge, stay in motels nearby. Lots to do and see – on nice lake with boating, fishing, swimming.

Then headed south to Love County – exit 1 for the Love Valley WMA k-6358 and KFF-4815. Ran on 20cw. ( 3800 QSOs previously from this park. Half dozen stops by N4CD – just 3-4 miles of the interstate. )

It seems Love County was well put out by portables and a mobile or two in the OK QP. Probably near 1,000 QSOs from here. . Still added in more on 20m cw. It was getting to be 3:30, with the QP ending at 4pm so I just headed on down the Interstate another 2 hours to home. Home by 5:40.

Total trip 769 miles in 3 days. Thanks for riding along.

## Oklahoma QSO Party

There are 77 counties in OK. Looks like top scorer worked 70 (OM2VL) , many worked in high 60s.

From the 3830 reflector:

**K5CM assisted Mobile 2051 cw 1018 SSB**

Conditions were good both days, but working the other mobiles was more difficult this year and my multipliers suffered because of that. As usual it was great fun working the pileups.

Special thanks to all the Mobiles. With out the mobiles State QSO Parties are not much fun.

73, Connie / K5CM

**N5KW mobile assisted 364 ssb qso**

Rides along with/drives for K5CM mobile

Connie (K5CM) finally let me have the rig for a couple of hours! hi hi

it was good to hear the voice of all the CW qso's we normally work. great time, We should have added a few chinese fire drills on Saturday to keep us nimble.:)

73 Pam

**N5OT unlimited Rover 1822 CW qso  
ops N5OT, K2UA**



N5OT mobile

Wow. Just. Wow.

My driver Mrs. N5OT bailed on me on short notice because she messed up and double booked herself. I guess the ham radio item was less desirable than the other thing go figure. This gave me the opportunity to complain loudly to anyone who would listen, and really good friend Rus K2UA asked if he could help by flying down from New York.

Are you kidding me?

Still scratching my head on that one as it can't have been "clean living." Actually Rus told me a story about getting invited to contest from Oklahoma by the late and great Ken Adams, K5KA, and having it not work out before Ken lost his heroic fight against lung cancer, Rus has been quick to jump on subsequent opportunities. I am one lucky dude. THANK YOU RUS!! I bet you Ken got a grin out of this one!

So we decided to enter Unlimited Everything even though we were CW only and running only 100 watts. This would allow both of us to listen to the radio at the same time and rib each other about our shortcomings as pileup managers. We had way too much fun doing that. Somewhere in there we made some radio contacts. That was fun too. The most amazing thing is all the other operators out there who followed us around, and jumped back in every time we changed bands or crossed a county line. There were way too many of you guys to thank individually, and you totally made our day.

Anyway, Rus headed back to the airport after we were done Saturday, then Sunday he was able to listen from his home in New York while my daughter Megan drove me around Sunday after church and we activated another six counties. So I think the county total is 23 or 24 counties.

We learned so much! A huge Hat-Tip to Jim, AD4EB, who has worked hard to maximize his potential as a mobile rover in state QSO parties, then presented on his findings, then allowed all of his secrets to get published on the intertoobs for others to see. We pretty much imitated what Jim does for mobile antennas and boy did that work out fantastic. Or fantastically. Or whatever. Hustler verticals over a good ground continue to deliver the mail more than 5 decades after they were first designed and manufactured. It's not rocket science, but pay attention to grounding and bonding, just sayin'.

Thanks to Connie K5CM, for hosting such a great QSO Party that yields so much

activity! He and Pam N5KW are definitely doing something right!

Great thanks to Coy, N5OK, for allowing us to play in with his excellent Oklahoma-style callsign. That was fun, too! We hope all the QSL requests from county hunters don't overwhelm him.

This roving thing is great fun. If you haven't tried it, you should.

All the best for now, and thanks for the QSOs! See you on the air!

73 - Mark N5OT

**KC4EEL portable (Love County? )      254 SSB**

no comments

**KK6MC MOBILE 1235 CW 42 SSB**



KK6MC Ellis County Line

It was a good contest for me; everything pretty much worked fine, weather was good, and signals were great the whole weekend. 15M was down Sunday from Saturday, but there were still a few QSOs to be had there. Truth be told, I would have had a great score working 20M only! First weekend with new 100AH LiFePO battery and it was a successful experiment. There were lots of stations that followed me around and I worked

12 stations more than 16 times! Propagation was good to Europe. This is a tiring contest to work as a single op without a driver, so mistakes were made Saturday evening and late Sunday afternoon.

It was a good time, but boy was I tired Sunday evening. I have attached a photo of my mobile on the Ellis/Harper county line. -

Duffey KK6MC/m

**WR5X mobile 449 SSB QSO**

Stayed in home county putting it out. No roving.

**W0BH mobile 1836 CW 1188 ssb**

2024 Oklahoma QSO Party by Bob Harder, W0BH

I started planning on Thursday before the event which is never a good idea! Too many other things happening around home, but the OKQP was the perfect thing to start out Spring Break at Hesston College. Rather than get up really early in Kansas, Lorna/k0why and I headed out Friday evening for an overnight in Enid.

Saturday

This year, I planned a shorter route with more county-lines stops, at least on Saturday. Weather was sunny and mild both days which made the computer screen tough to see at times, but the back roads were fine even with rain the preceding day.

Once start time hit, adrenaline kicked in and the pileups began. And really never stopped! This was by far the busiest and most fun OKQP I've experienced to date. 20 and 15 were the money bands during the day. I tried 40 from time to time and heard other mobiles, but generally couldn't break the pileups which kept my mult count down.

County lines are the most fun. I log lots of dupes because I only put one log entry in the log and expand the log later. Ops who worked me on the way in to the line show up as a dupe at the line which included that county. Pileups were so intense that I often repeat the call twice before giving a report. That strategy helps avoid dead air when no one knows who I came back to. Hats off to all of you for helping me out by listening rather



than just giving your call over and over. On CW, calling me slightly off frequency really helps, too.

Driving through Kingfisher in Kingfisher county, the local constabulary pulled up next to us and motioned for Lorna to pull over. No flashing lights and we weren't speeding! We had a nice chat with Chris/KD5VJN who just wanted to say hi. He knew about the OKQP this weekend but didn't think anyone would come through his town. We couldn't log him, unfortunately, but we'll look for him again next year.

A couple of hours before dark, my cell phone rang, unknown number. It rang again a few minutes later, same number, so I answered. It was our hotel saying they were overbooked and we were being moved to a Home2 near the OKC airport about 15 minutes away. A quick check of our Sunday route showed that we were heading that way anyway, so it all worked out.

The only snag on Saturday was what I'm guessing was feedback on 80m which caused the SWR to jump. It worked fine during testing at home. I tried, but couldn't use that band. Fortunately, the pileups continued on 40 until the end.

### Sunday

The time change usually happens on OKQP weekend, but the later start time takes care of that nicely. Thanks, Con!

We had flex time heading north, so we made several unscheduled stops to work down the pileups. One place didn't work out because of the following sign which included: SAFETY FIRST, DANGER No Smoking, Surveillance Cameras May Be Present, CAUTION: Safety glasses, hard hats, FRC's and steel toed boots required beyond this point, DANGER High Voltage, CAUTION H2S poison gas may be present. Guess we know where some of our oil and gas comes from!

Honestly, I was so busy this time that I barely looked outside. I had to rely on Lorna for scenery reports, and she didn't miss a turn! No complaints. We ended up in Blackwell for a late lunch about 10 miles from the Kansas border. We're both always thankful for a safe trip.

### Stats

Operated 15.8 hours, 3235 Qs, 486 unique calls, 211 dupes, 550 OKQP miles.

States not worked : AK HI ND NV RI  
Canadian mults worked (6): AB MB ON QC SK  
OK worked (10) : BLA CLE LOG MCU MCI MUS OKM  
DX worked (11) : DL EA F G HA LA LY OM SP JA

County Breakdown (in visited order)

-----  
Saturday (371 miles)

- 01 GAR 067 Garfield
- 02 MAJ 209 Major
- 03 ALF 126 Alfalfa
- 04 WOO 096 Woods
- 05 WDW 122 Woodward
- 06 DEW 231 Dewey
- 07 BLA 175 Blaine
- 08 CUS 125 Custer
- 09 KIN 129 Kingfisher
- 10 CAN 125 Canadian
- 11 OKL 207 Oklahoma
- 12 LOG 107 Logan
- 13 CLE 129 Cleveland
- 14 GRA 156 Grady
- 16 COM 091 Comanche
- 17 GRV 053 Garvin
- 18 MCL 067 McClain

-----  
Sunday (170 miles)

- 19 POT 145 Pottawatomie
- 20 LIN 092 Lincoln
- 21 PAY 085 Payne
- 22 NOB 126 Noble
- 23 PAW 089 Pawnee
- 24 KAY 089 Kay
- 25 OSA 086 Osage

----- 3024 \*\* -----

Special thanks to my top scorers:

59: OM2VL VE3YT

55: W9DC  
48: KA6BIM  
44: K0MPH  
43: NS2N  
40: WB9HFK  
38: N8II W7GF  
37: K9PW  
34: K8MW  
33: N4OX  
32: W2TB W8PI W9QL  
31: K9CW KN7Y  
29: W0PI  
27: KK7AC N5TJ NE8P  
26: K4DR  
25: K1RO WN4AFP  
24: AC0W K4BAI  
22: WA2JQK  
21: K2QO N2ZN  
20: AC6ZM N4IJ WX4G  
19: VE5KS W5TM WA1SAY  
18: K9NW W1SSN W5VS W8BZY  
17: AA4DD AA4TI AF5J K4YT N2CU W4BR W4NZ W8WVU WA5DTK  
16: K8TE N0HJZ N1DC NU4N  
15: N5EKO W0ZQ WA9YI

OK Mobiles Worked: K5CM KK6MC  
Bonus Counties: 26

#### W0BH Award Winners

----- First Place -- Very Honorable Mention -----

Most overall Qs - OM2VL/VE3YT/59 - W9DC/55 ----- KA6BIM/48

Most CW Qs ----- OM2VL/39 ----- W7GF/38 ----- VE3YT/34

Most PH Qs ----- KK7AC/27 ----- VE3YT/25 ----- K8MW/23

Most counties --- OM2VL/W7GF/25 -- WB9HFK/KA6BIM/K0MPH/W0DC/K9CW/23

-----

#### Afterwards

Thanks to Con/K5CM (and Pam/N5KW) for getting things organized! Another personal best for me and an OKQP I'll absolutely remember.

Score includes 12,500 mobile bonus points for working at least 10 stations in each of 25 counties.

The 2024 Kansas QSO Party is scheduled for August 24-25, the last weekend in August. If the OKQP is any indication of participation, the KSQP should be really special. With 105 counties, we need all the help we can get, so mobiles, head this way (and shoot me an email)! Everyone else, thanks for the Qs in Oklahoma. See you down the log in 2024

73, Bob/w0bh and Lorna/k0why

**K0WHY mobile (rides with W0BH mobile) 37 SSB qso**

Lorna made a few contacts as ops requested. See the W0BH post for details.

73, Bob, w0bh for Lorna/k0why

**K5DB mobile 1431 CW 105 SSB qso**

no comments

**AC6ZM - fixed TN 142 CW 67 counties**

Nice mobile participation this year. Seems like Saturday propagation was better than Sunday.

**K1RO - fixed NH 152 CW 61 counties**

Great mobile activity as usual.

**OM2VL fixed DX 204 CW 82 SSB Counties 70**

Thanks for the excellent job of mobiles!

I missed only: (7) - Cimarron, Ottawa, Roger Mills, Cotton, Coal, Hughes, Pontotoc.

Most QSOs with:

W0BH 69/25  
K5CM 64/13  
N5OK 40/22  
K5DB 29/22  
KK6MC 20/16  
N4CD 13/12  
N5KW 6/6  
WR5X 6/5  
K0WHY 3/3

(6): W5CW

(4): NE5A, W5TM, WW5X, K5UV

Now need only 4 counties for my US County 2nd time :)  
Cimarron, Ellis, Hughes, Ottawa

73, Laci

**KA6BIM fixed OR - 197 CW 78 SSB qso 68 counties**

What a great contest. Lots of mobiles and fixed and portable stations. Stayed busy the whole time. Always fun to chase the rovers across the state. Thanks for the qso's

Dave ka6bim

**N8II fixed WV 131 CW 49 SSB 64 counties**

Nothing that great personally in the OKQP, as Con, K5CM says it is "just for fun" and I got sucked into more operating than I had planned. 20 was rock solid to OK through the day with a drop in signals mid day, but mobiles still good copy. I have some local noise on 40 which together with the high absorption made it impossible to hear anyone from the start until about 21Z. Very few mobiles worked on 40 and I quit just before 01Z for the day having exhausted the fun factor.

The one op I worked on 10, WD0GTY from CLE dropped from S7 to about S2-3 in a

matter of seconds. 15 was in decent shape Saturday but poorly utilized, several scans of SSB can up empty of any new Q's. The line noise was in full fury Sunday and signals down on 15, so I probably missed a few then. It was kind of tweener QP from here, too far for 40 and too close 15 at times, and 10 all the time.

The mobile activity was very good! Many thanks to mobiles K5CM/N5KW, W0BH, N5OK (great op), KK6MC, N4CD, K5DB, and WX5R (rover?) for the great majority of my Q's. Everyone as usual didn't tackle the SE counties and the hills there very well.

Congrats to Dave KA6BIM (HP) and Mark, WB9HFK (LP) for some outstanding scores! Even full time, I could not have come close to you.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

**VE3YT 151 CW 60 SSB qso 60 counties**

Thank you to all the mobiles for making this QSO party so much fun!

**KN7Y fixed AZ 123 CW 39 SSB qso 59 counties**

Thanks for a great QSO party, especially to the mobile operations. It was great to work a good number of OK counties, and I also enjoyed the challenge of 3 state QP's from Arizona. de KN7Y

**K4BAI fixed GA 115 16 61 counties**

Band conditions cooperated for once and 20M wasn't too long for OK from GA for most of the daytime operation. Didn't seem to be many fixed stations in OK in it this time. But, the mobiles made the contest fun. At least some activity on 80M this year for a change. Thanks for all QSOs, and especially for the mobiles and the drivers.

**K5CCW - portable LOVE county 330 SSB QSO**

Always fun to drive up to LOV county and operate. We used a portable hexbeam and it worked real well.

## Mobile Activity in March

At the beginning of the month:

N5MLP was running counties in TX. For several days.

AI5P spotted in AR

KB6UF noted in CA, NV, AZ, back to CA. Later he headed through CA and NV back to CA. Then on to MT for dozens there – a few days later reached MN and busy there for few days putting them out. Then into IL, and IA, to WI for a bit then back to MN. Ran 100+ counties. Then beeline home.

W4SIG noted in UT counties

K4YT noted out and about in VA counties.

Soon it was busy weekend with AR, WI, ID, QSO parties – dozen plus mobiles.

The next weekend was the VA QP – several mobiles.

Quiet for a few days, then K4YT busy again in seldom run VA from the far end to the northern border states, and K0DEQ active in MO.

End date 3 /24 /2024

With the QP's and mobile runs, several hundred counties were 'on the air' – 400+ on cw, maybe 300 on SSB. Hope you snagged some needed counties and worked the mobiles.

## WI QSO Party

There are 72 counties in WI. Top scorer worked 61 counties. Pretty good showing by fixed and mobile stations. It's still 'winter' up there.

**W0AA mobile (WA0MHJ op) 711 CW qso**

That was fun. Equipment performed flawlessly. Operator and vehicle not so much. Apparently my charging system could not keep up with battery draw, when I was stationary and idle.

As it dropped below 13.7 volts, my power out would go from 100 watts down to 50 watts, and eventually shut down the radio. I had to QRX a few times at highway speeds for 10 minutes to recharge.

Only major op error was fat-fingering the Clarifier button, so I was unknowingly operating split for a while. Ended the contest at 7 Brothers Bar & Grill in Clayton, WI joining KE0TL and NR0T for some nice cold brews.

**W0ZQ mobile 555 CW QSO**

Final score includes 1.5x for LP then 3.500 pts for seven cty's.

**WQ9F mobile 248 SSB qso**

Decided evening before to give Single Op Mobile a try. My first attempt at mobile in a QSO party, learned a few things for sure. Operated from KENosha, RACine, WAUkesha, and JEFFerson counties. Will give Mobile a try again in the ILQP in the fall.

**K9M mobile (KB9VBR and KZ9V ops 98 digital, 882 SSB qso**

no comments

**KX9RT mobile 774 dig 14 SSB qso**

no comments

**KE0TL mobile 214 SSB qso**



no comments

**KB0NES - 227 SSB qso**

no comments

**K9JK mobile 94 SSB qso**

Visited 6 counties - Dodge, Jefferson, Washington, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee.

Made more than 12 QSOs from 5 of the 6 counties visited

All contacts were S&P (Search & Pounce).

**K0RC mobile 249 cw qso**

I made a setup error in my logger which created a problem when logging each QSO. This created a long delay in completing each contact. This was so frustrating that I considered throwing in the towel and heading back home. But the conditions (WX and propagation) were so good that those overrode this rash impulse. I decided to trim my planned route down and push on at a slower pace. Later, when I compared my 2023 effort, I discovered I had made the same number of QSOs this year!

I decided to enter CW only, 20m only. After reading some of the other comments I might have missed a better opportunity on 40m. Despite my problems, and a few days to understand my software setup mistake, I do consider the Party to be enjoyable! It was a nice outing even though the original plan had to be scrubbed.

**WO9B Multi OP mobile 707 cw**

**Operator(s): AA9RK KA9FZR WO9B**

The WO9B team hit the road again with an ambitious plan to visit 16 counties in the 7 hours. And we did! We made very brief appearances in Green Lake, Green, and Jefferson counties on our grand tour of southeast Wisconsin. We drove the long way across several larger counties, which meant we made 95 QSOs in Rock County, and not many fewer in Dane, Walworth, and Fond Du Lac.

20 meters was the winner early in the contest, but 40 meters woke up around 3:00 and got even better as the afternoon went on. Some upgrades to our screwdriver antenna

system made band changes easier. Our prior Illinois QSO Party setup caused some confusion on our N1MM+ system and required a restart immediately after the start of the contest. More than once, there was also some sort of computer/radio disagreement, and the 7300 keyed down and wouldn't unkey until we pulled the power cable and rebooted. Despite the few technical difficulties, most things worked really well and it was a great time. Our usual after-contest gathering space was closed, so cheers to Hale House for accommodating us on short notice.

Mults were 40 states, 4 provinces, and 32 counties. Interesting note: we worked more Illinois stations (76) than Wisconsin stations (63).

Rig: IC-7300, 90 W  
Ant: Screwdriver  
Software: N1MM+

Route: MIL -> WAU -> WAS -> OZA -> SHE -> FON -> DOD -> GRL -> COL ->  
DOD -> COL -> DAN -> GRE -> DAN -> ROC -> WAL -> JEF -> WAL -> KEN ->  
RAC -> MIL -> WAU -> MIL. (whew)

See you next year!

**K4BAI - fixed GA 114 CW 31ssb qso 48 mults**

Enjoyable QP. Didn't hear any WI stations on 10M. Skip too long, I guess. Seemed 15M was under utilized by WI stations, but, again, maybe the skip was too long except for the northern tier of counties. Skip on 40M was too short for us in GA until late afternoon and activity on SSB seemed slim except for 20M. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI

**KA6BIM - fixed OR 67 CW 65 SSB 49 mults**

Found one of the 4 counties I still need for WI Thanks for the qso's Dave

**KX9RT mobile - 774 CW 14 SSB**

no comments

**N8II fixed WV 82 CW 84 ssb Mults 54**

Finally conditions and activity were good on 20 meters. I was able to run quite a few WI ops on 20 SSB. Plenty of mobiles were active, many thanks for your efforts.

All of the mobile ops operated very well! I didn't have such good luck on 40 phone, hard to find a clear frequency between ragchew, POTA, and WIQP ops. 7 hours is about the right length of time for most QP's, I just didn't feel like sitting in front of the radio after many hours in the other QP's.

73, Jeff

## Georgia State Parks on the Air

Lots of counties up for grabs! They will try to activate all 52 state parks in this event.

The second annual event is on April 6-7, 2024. Details and rules are at our webpage. <https://gaparks.org/>

You can copy and past this list in as a trigger - K-0636, K-2165, K-2166, K-2167, K-2168, K-2169, K-2170, K-2171, K-2172, K-2173, K-2174, K-2175, K-2176, K-2177, K-2178, K-2179, K-2180, K-2181, K-2182, K-2183, K-2184, K-2185, K-2186, K-2187, K-2188, K-2189, K-2190, K-2191, K-2192, K-2193, K-2194, K-2195, K-2196, K-2197, K-2198, K-2199, K-2200, K-2201, K-2202, K-2203, K-2204, K-2205, K-2206, K-2207, K-3726, K-3727, K-3728, K-7858, K-7861, K-7896, K-9798, K-9799

2024 Contest Period:

Start: April 6, 2024 @ 8:00am EDT (1200UTC)

End: April 7, 2024 @ 7:59pm EDT (2359UTC)

RULES HERE [https://gaparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024\\_GA-POTA\\_Rules\\_v\\_2\\_3.pdf](https://gaparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024_GA-POTA_Rules_v_2_3.pdf)

# Idaho QSO Party

There are 44 counties in Idaho. Not even half seem to have made it on the air this year. To scorer worked 18 counties. It's a BIG state and tough to run a lot of counties in in a day or two.

## **K7TQ mobile 439 CW**

A fun time running 10 of our planned 12 counties. OM2VL had the most Qs with us at 13. Other frequent customers with 9 or more Qs were K9CW with 10, and KA6BIM and WB9HFK with 9. Full story and pictures at

<https://sites.google.com/site/randyk7tq/home/2024-idaho-qso-party>

## **KK7RPS rover 214 SSB qso Operator(s): N7OOS W7IMC**

no comments

## **KV7N fixed ID at K7S**

Thanks for the ch'ers that worked me this weekend on the Idaho QSO party. I was one of the K7S operators If you received a 599 Gooding county it was me from my home QTH. There were some other fellow club members also running K7S but they were not in Gooding county. I was able to make around 350 contacts on CW and SSB during the times I was on.

Kent KV7N

**KA6BIM fixed OR 48 CW 77 SSB      0 dig CW Mults 19      Ph Mults 19**

Thanks for the qso's Dave ka6bim

**K4BAI - fixed GA 32 CW 10 ssb 0 dig CW Mults 17 Ph Mults 7**

Pretty good activity, but didn't find the two ID counties I need all-time, CARIBOU and LINCOLN. Thanks for all the QSOs especially K7TQ/mobile. Didn't have high power on 15M where I ran barefoot into a 40M low dipole. I listened on 10 and could have tried barefoot with the 80M inverted vee dipole, but didn't hear any ID stations on 10M with that poor antenna. Look for a lot of GA activity in the GA QSO Party the second weekend in April. 73, John, K4BAI

**N8II Fixed WV 27 CW 30 ssb CW Mults 11 Ph Mults 16**

The newbies from last year were largely absent this year. Condx were good on 10/15 M on Saturday, but sparse activity. Daytime Sunday I was listening quite a bit, only made 5 ADDITIONAL QSO'S! The 24 hour time period is way too long for the level of activity. One of the POTA teams used the wackiest phonetics I have ever heard, thought they were saying a county when they were spelling one county. B was "Boy"= BOI?? for example. We got it straightened out, and I appreciate their effort.

Thanks for the QSO's. Many thanks to K7TQ/M for many mults; he was also smart enough to operate on more than one band in same county. The bonuses for activating non-activated counties worked at the expense of other counties being skipped.

73, Jeff

## Texas State Parks on the Air

Usually they get about 20 of the nearly 100 TX state parks to be on the air. One of the problems is if you don't work at least one other state park, your score is zero. Why bother to go and operate on 20M in a park where you likely won't work anyone in state? However, the parks are in counties for county hunters to work.

Texas State Parks on the Air Activation  
Event Timing: April 20-21, 2024  
Event Address: Anywhere your radio is!

<https://www.tspota.org/home>

## HamSphere

If you're tired of regular ham radio, having equipment and antennas, and don't mind playing on the internet.....there's a whole virtual 'ham radio' on line. Duh!

For those who would rather talk on their computer over simulated ham radio, there is HamSphere.

From their website:

“ Easy to use Amateur Radio Software transceiver. Talk to Ham Radio operators all over the world. No extra hardware needed.

HamSphere® works in Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS and Android. Installation takes less than a minute. We offer a 30-day trial!

How HamSphere Works

HamSphere® is a virtual Amateur Radio Transceiver. Once installed, you will be able to communicate with thousands of Ham Radio operators and Radio Enthusiasts in over 300 DXCC entities around the world. You can even use HamSphere without a Ham Radio license by getting our special HamSphere call sign when you sign up.

HamSphere is a highly realistic shortwave simulation based on SDR (Software Defined Radio) technology. It is a modularized Amateur Radio Transceiver where operators build their own radio using plug-ins and virtual antennas. Once you download and install this software you will get a basic working transceiver for a trial period. “

“HamSphere is a unique platform, the only one of its kind in the world providing the experience of a realistic HF radio. For radio amateurs, the sun has a very special meaning. Because it is also the main cause for what can be achieved on shortwave and other bands, i.e. how well we can reach distant places by radio worldwide. We are talking about the propagation conditions.

The HamSphere propagation model takes in to account the physics of planet Earth, its surface topography like the continents, land masses, water bodies, oceans, lakes and seas. It also models hundreds of kilometers of atmosphere above the earth's surface, the ionization of gases in the upper atmosphere to realistically produce ionospheric layers.

The ionization due to the radiations from the sun based on Sunspot Numbers (SSN) and the Solar Flux Index (SFI) determine the behavior of the Ionosphere and follow the 11 year solar cycle.

When you start your HamSphere transceiver you will have the look, feel and sound of a real Amateur Radio transceiver.

HamSphere uses real modelled NEC designed antennas (Numerical Electromagnetic Code). We offer everything from wire-antennas, yagies and quads which adds to the total realism of the system. Rotatable antennas can be set between 0-359 degrees and the gain and characteristics of the antennas are very much like real HF antennas.

We provide antennas to cover all bands between 160-6m”

- - - - -

Of course, the idea is a subscription service, where you buy 'things' to enhance your virtual radio – like an amplifier, quad antenna or beam, VHF coverage, etc. You get a 'callsign' and don't even have to be a ham to get one.

It's 'free' for 30 days, then a monthly charge. Lots of plug ins at added cost each.

<https://hs50.hamsphere.com/>

## Virginia QSO Party

Mobiles were out and running and many fixed stations. For this QP, the independent cities count as separate multipliers. There are 95 counties and 38 independent cities for a total of 133 possible mults. Looked like top scorer had 98 of them this year. At least 8 mobiles out there running counties this year.

**N4CW mobile 1517 cw 154 ssb**

Jim, W4TMO, planned the route and drove for the two days; Bert, N4CW just sat in the back seat and played with the radio! We returned home in Fredericksburg after Saturday's trip out west to the mountains and back. Saturday night in Louisa County, we thought we were lost...the GPS put us on a back road that eventually narrowed then turned unpaved! We trusted Garmin to make it right, and it did...much to our relief!

Phew... On Sunday, we headed northeast, then south along coastal counties. Sunday didn't start off as planned...Jim and I somehow thought start time was 10:00 AM, EDT, but while we were discussing the upcoming day's plans, I checked the rules and quickly announced that the QSO party had started at 8! We made the best of it and executed the planned route.

I did a lot of band-hopping in the process of acquiring mults and Q's, and even went on sideband when requested and when the callers faded away I would go searching on 40M for VA counties/entities....that added to our multiplier total.

We're very thankful for our "repeat customers" – too many to mention them all, but the "top 10" (actually 11, because two were "tied") were: OM2VL (143), DL3GA (55), WB9HFK (53), K5CM (52), NE8P (50), KA6BIM (46), WX4G (44), K9CW (41), WA8ZBT (39), and finally, W5TM and LY5W (37) [DISCLAIMER: numbers were counted from the log and these old eyes may have miscounted...but close enough for giving relative credit!]. I'm delighted (again) with the courtesy and patience all of you manifested through some challenging bumps and line noise along the way.

**Statistics:**

We operated in 54 counties/independent cities

Total Time On: 22h 29m

DX worked: I, DL, LY, LZ, OM, PY, SM, and SP

W/VE: 43 out of 64 possible (according to N1MM+ Logger)

Thank you! Bert N4CW, and Jim W4TMO

**N1XI rover 155 CW 103 SSB**

no comments



## **W0MRX county expedition 291 SSB qso**

Activated Falls Church, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Loudoun

## **NE8P - fixed FL 192 CW 78 counties**

Didn't feel like flapping my gums this weekend, hence the CW only effort.

50 of the 192 contacts were with N4CW/M. These were individual QSOs, not multi-county line contacts. What an OUTSTANDING job they did!! Great signals, great operator and seemed to spend the right amount of time in each county. Having the APRS map available was nice as well..

I lowered my rotatable dipole to 25 feet, and I felt like I had a pipeline into Virginia on 20 meters. On the other hand, the vertical wasn't so hot on 80 and 40.

Thanks to all who participated!

Mike, NE8P

TS-590SG, SB-221, 20/15/10 rotatable dipole @25 feet, 80/40 vertical

## **KE4WMF Rover 436 qso (From Facebook page)**

The 2024 Virginia QSO Party is in the books! I had a good rove. All of my operating was while stationary in 15 different counties. I made 436 contacts on seven bands to 65 Virginia counties, 20 states, and 4 Canadian provinces. My farthest contacts were in Minnesota. Many of my contacts were with repeat customers, which is point of being a mobile station: Moving to a new county counts as being a new station for fixed stations; and then they count as "new" for me, too.

It's hard to see my Scorpion and caphat with the trees in the background. I made the majority of my contacts with that antenna. I traveled with only my vertical antennas. I regret that a tad since I had a few stations that I "ran the bands" with, meaning that we worked on as many bands as we could. Having at least 6m and 2m loops might have been nice. They'll come with me next year. I worked on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2m.

KE4WMF

**K4AMC 101 CW 43 counties**

Thanks for contest. N4CW did great job Mobile.

Got last 2 counties from N4CW/M to finish VA - Charlotte and Lunenburg VA for last two in VA. N4CW/M great mobile Op. Worked CH KA4RRU twice. Had 101 Qsos in 43 counties for score of 9,503 Single Op Low CW. Right now in 7th place my category on 3830. Use TS590sg 2 ele bean dipoles. N1MM+ contest software. 73 Jim K4AMC

**K1RZ fixed MD 114 cw 427 ssb Mults 98**

VAQP is one of my favorite contests. It was good to be back on after being off for over a year with tower changes. From my perspective here in MD the activity was very good, as I scored 2k points better than my score in 2022.

So appreciate the Mobile stations who caused us all to Chase them. That takes a lot of energy to do what you do. And everyone has extra fun for your efforts.

High QSO counts with the following: KM4OZH/M (15), K4M/M (11), N4CW/M (9), K4MI/M (7), KO4NMC/M (7), KN4GDX/M (6), K4HCO/M (5) and N4YXW/M (5)

Many thanks to the Sterling Radio Club for sponsoring this fine event. Dave K1RZ

**LY5W - fixed DX 133 cw 25 ssb Mults 66**

4 new counties N4CW - BRU, ESS, GVL, SUR  
And 1 from K4GM - RAP. Left only 4 to finish with Virginia.  
73, Sam

**W2LC - fixed NY 135 CW 246 ssb Mults 92**

I put up a 40m delta loop for this contest facing mostly north/south since I haven't been doing well in the QPs on 40m. I have a 40m dipole element at 72 ft facing NE/SW and

it does not work very well for north/south. The loop was 2 to 3 S-units better than the dipole at 72ft for most of VA. I worked a ton of casual VA ops who were doing S&P on 40 SSB by calling CQ!

I climbed my tower Friday afternoon to put the delta loop up and spent Friday afternoon and Saturday morning getting the VSWR down. I miss calculated the length a bit.

Not much going here on 20, 15 and 10 but NY is too close to VA for those bands. 40m was great in the morning and nice in the afternoon and early evening. 40 went pretty dead here between about 12 and 3PM. Nice to work everyone in the VAQP, very nice activity!

73 Scott W2LC

**AG4SR mobile QRP 62 SSB qso**

no comments

**WN4AFP fixed SC 52 CW 52 SSB**

After about four hours on the air today, my workhorse IC-706MK2 abruptly powered off and decided to remain in that state. We'll I'm on the IR list right now and hope to be back in the game soon. Y'all have fun! 73 Dave WN4AFP

**K4BAI - Fixed - GA 118 CW 34 SSB qso 54 counties**

Pretty good conditions from GA to VA this year. 20 was short enough that we didn't skip over. 40M was not good mid day. The skip wasn't long enough. 80 was about as good as we can expect at the top of the cycle. Fairly good activity, but it is obvious that many big VA stations in PVRC, etc. don't participate. The long contest period means that you can find some activity most of the time, but it never gets concentrated and to make a good score, you have to put in more time that you would in shorter state QSO parties. Thanks to all for the QSOs, particularly N4CW/M. Bert did a fabulous job. Hope to work you all in the GA QSO Party as K4BAI/M and with KU8E as W4AN/M in the FQP, both next month. 73, John, K4BAI

**OM2VL - fixed DX - 285 CW 158 ssb**

**98 counties**

My BIG thanks to Bert and Jim (N4CW, W4TMO) for his excellent activity on high bands when 40/80m was closed here.

Unfortunately other mobiles was only on 40/80m (except 1-1 QSO with me on high bands) I worked with 27 ICs + 71 counties. Missed mostly counties on the West side of VA.

Because this QP was for me "1 mobile QP" I had many time to try SSB RUN. I had nice RUN on 10/15/20m (over 350 QSO), but unfortunately not many from VA. I had nice RUN on 7183 at 23Z Saturday - thanks to all station who come to my frq. (as EU I cant transmit over 7.200)

Most QSOs:

N4CW/M 151/52

W0RMX/M 8/4 (thanks for the 20/15m activity)

K4MI/M 7/7

KQ4GUY/M 2/2

W5VS/M 2/2

Thanks a lot for the all QSOs!

73, Laci

**N8II fixed WV 59 CW 95 SSB qso Mults 65**

My daughter's birthday was Sunday, XYL's was Saturday. So I took my "long suffering" "contest widow" XYL on Saturday to a flower and garden show in Hagerstown, MD before a planned dinner with the family over there. We found out from the birthday daughter we were at last going to be grandparents! No excuse for low participation on Sunday other than some exhaustion, did not feel normal when I got up.

On to the VAQP, activity was lower than what it normally is on 40M. I was impressed at the high activity on 80 CW around 0200Z, very few on SSB. Conditions on 40 both days were fine. Thanks to the numerous SSB mobiles. CW mobile activity seemed sparse on

40 and 80. The long contest periods are much longer than it takes to work the activity available from here.

Backscatter and local signals on 20 here were quite weak.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

## Mobile Diamond #14

For the past year or two, Karl, K4YT has been zipping all over the country putting out counties. Often by hopping on an airplane, renting a car, setting up a temporary antenna and rig install, he's been 'here and there'. He's done AK, flying to Prudhoe Bay in Second AK.

Karl worked ALL COUNTIES in 2010 with USCA #1195. That was followed by Second Time #419 two years later, and then by 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 2016 (#249). He then went on to 4<sup>th</sup> time in 2022 with #149.

Bingo was earned in in 2010, and he worked on Master Gold, and received that in 2013. You can earn that several ways, but many get 'points' for running counties. Then it was on to Master Platinum in 2015 (#25). You've got to run 500 separate counties for that award.

Finally, Karl earned Mobile Diamond after running another 500 separate counties – on Feb 23, 2024 at 1:10 AM. That's the top of the current awards ladder for earned awards.

When not running counties or chasing them, he's often “DX” attending meetings around the world, and sometimes operating at DX locations in contests.

I suspect you'll hear him mobile here and there as he has yet to finish 'Ran All USA – having yet to get to all 3077 (now 3078 with new CT county equivalents).

There's only one more award on the top of the ladder – and no one has earned it yet – the Double Diamond Award. For that, you have to work Mobile Diamond holders, run another 500 separate counties and find a MD holder from each, operate multiple bands. Plus work a MD in each county, or transmit from that county. Several are working at it diligently.

# Solar Eclipse 2024

Solar eclipse 2024: Millions in North America will view what promises to be a blockbuster

Celestial mechanics says any one spot on the Earth's surface should experience a total solar eclipse only once every 375 years, on average.

The 2024 event, in contrast, will cover some major US urban areas, such Dallas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Buffalo.

"This is going to be the most populated eclipse in the US, with 31.5 million people able to just walk outside of their homes to experience it," Dr Kelly Korreck, the US space agency's eclipse programme manager, told BBC News.

The Moon's deep shadow, or umbra, will then race across the Earth's surface at more than 2,500km/h (1,500mph), crossing the Mexican coast at 11:07 MST (18:07 GMT) and the Rio Grande border between Mexico and the US at 13:27 CDT (18:27 GMT).

The journey continues up through 13 US states, skimming the Canadian border - with Hamilton (15:18 EDT; 19:18 GMT) and Montreal (15:26 EDT; 19:26 GMT) just inside the totality path - before sweeping out over the provinces of New Brunswick (16:32 ADT; 19:32 GMT) and Newfoundland (17:09 NDT; 19:39 GMT).

The Moon's umbra will lift off the Earth's surface in the Atlantic Ocean at 21:55 CEST (19:55 GMT), about 1,120km (700 miles) west of Normandy, France.

You might think that with all the space telescopes trained on the Sun these days that there's very little an eclipse can add to the sum of solar knowledge.

But total eclipses are special because they afford favourable conditions to study the tenuous outer atmosphere of the Sun - its corona.

It is in this magnetised, superheated "gas" of charged particles that the solar wind originates, and from which billions of tonnes of matter can occasionally burst towards the Earth to disrupt satellites, communications and even electricity grids.

The corona is outshone by the Sun's surface, its photosphere. Satellites will block out the

glare using devices called coronagraphs, but those are usually so wide that they also obstruct the view of light immediately above the edge of the star. It's in this zone where the corona's key processes are occurring.

Only during an eclipse, when the Moon's disc just matches that of the Sun, do all aspects of the corona become accessible.

Here's a good map to zoom in on - to see where the path of totality is...and where you can still get an eclipse on the fringes of it.

[http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site\\_pages/solar\\_eclipses/TSE\\_2024\\_GoogleMapFull.html](http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2024_GoogleMapFull.html)

DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT look at sun direct during this, before, after, during without 'eclipse glasses'. High 'dark' glasses providing enough 'loss' so you don't burn your retina and still see the event. Regular sunglasses will NOT work.

- - - -

As part of this event, there will be a Solar Eclipse QSO party where you are encouraged to get on the air, exchange grid squares (on CW and SSB too), and optionally send in logs. Just a fun event. You can run portable or mobile from a single location (no multiple locations). Here's the 'event rules'.

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## **Solar Eclipse QSO Party Rules**

<https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>

### **I ) Dates and Times**

8 Apr 2024 1400-2400 UTC (Partial eclipse begins ~1710 UTC in Texas and ends ~2040 UTC in Maine)

Participants are encouraged to operate before, during and after the eclipse passes over the continental US. Doing so will create baseline data (pre- and post-eclipse), and eclipse influenced data (during annularity or totality) for the research team.

### **II) Objective**

To generate observations of propagation by the Reverse Beacon Network and PSKReporter event logs before, during, and after the eclipse on the amateur bands for the purpose of ionospheric sounding.

The Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) is unique among ham radio competitions as it awards points for two-way QSOs (ham to ham contacts via radio) and bonus points for reception reports from skimmers, RBN nodes and the like.

Please be aware that the SEQP is one of many events to be held during the HamSCI Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science. You are welcome to participate in more than one event. Each event has its own 'rules' page, accessible from the 'Festival' link above.

### III) Station Requirements

All transmitting and receiving equipment used to make two-way QSOs must be located within a 500-meter diameter circle.

Remote operation is permitted for two-way QSOs if the physical location of the remote stations meets the 500-meter diameter circle rule above, all station and operator licensing requirements are met for the remote location, and all category limitations in these rules are met.

Portable operation, from a fixed location (such as POTA, SOTA, Field Day style setups, operated by individuals or groups) are welcome and encouraged

There are no provisions for mobile or rover operations. Transmitters and receivers should be fixed in one location for the duration of the SEQP.

### **Categories (to be listed separately in the results)**

Single-operator (only one transmitted signal, emitted for the purpose of making two-way QSOs, is permitted at any time)

Multi-operator (one or more transmitters) (only one transmitted signal per band and mode, emitted for the purpose of making two-way QSOs, is permitted at any time)

Checklog Checklogs will not be scored, but submissions will be eligible for an SEQP Participation Certificate.

There are no restrictions on transmitter power (please be reasonable, don't run a kilowatt on FT8!), spotting assistance, or band changes.

There are no band specific or mode specific categories. All entries will default to 'Mixed Mode' and 'All Bands'.

### **Bands, Frequencies and Modes for Two-Way QSOs**



160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meter bands, using these modes: CW, SSB, digital (all varieties)

Reminder: By international agreements, the 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands may not be used for two-way contest QSOs.

We anticipate plenty of activity. On CW and SSB, tune for stations calling 'CQ SEQP' near 'the 38s' (just a starting point - use any legal frequency) (CW +/-10kHz from 3538, 7038, 14038, etc. SSB +/-25kHz 3838, 7238, 14328, 21338, 28338). Activity on digital modes will be close to the usual activity centers but - please - spread out! With many stations active, assist the receiving decoder stations to make quick and accurate measurements by leaving some space between signals.

More stuff on the rules page.

- - -

Motels, hotels and campgrounds in TX (and elsewhere) are booked solid. Rates at \$400/night, too! Luckily for N4CD, I'm right in the center of the path at my QTH in Dallas. Hope for clear skies but you never know, , but will probably go over to the local POTA park for a few hours at 'eclipse time' which will last 4 minutes here! However, with all the travel expected, 50+ million Americans will get to see some/all of this event.

If nothing else, turn on your TV or view live on the internet. It will be a long time before another covers so much of the US. If you live in MT, there will be another one later this year – just covering a small area. It's a big deal.

## Interesting Trivia

Eighteen people have ran all the US counties. Fourteen people have earned Mobile Diamond Award.

How many have done both?

Lists current to 3/24/2024

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Ran All Counties

18	K3IMC	6/10/2016
17	N4JT	3/5/2015
16	AB4YZ	10/16/2013
15	AF3X	7/12/2013
14	AI5P	6/21/2012
13	N9QPQ	6/3/2011
12	AA9JJ	6/3/2011
11	KL1V	8/6/2010
10	N8RLJ	10/26/2009
9	N8KIE	10/13/2009
8	KK0L	6/19/2007
7	N7ID	4/19/2006
6	N7AKT	2/24/2006
5	K0GO	10/15/2002
4	N4CD	7/20/2002
3	WA0SBR	11/22/1998
2	W1TEE	6/29/1991
1	KB7QO	7/25/1988

Mobile Diamond Award Holders

14	K4YT	711	2/23/2024	1:01:00 AM
13	W0GXQ	1164	12/28/2023	6:16:00 PM
12	K8ZZ	1488	10/6/2023	5:07:00 PM
11	AB7NK	1728	8/7/2023	
10	W4SIG	1142	7/29/2023	
9	N5MLP	1252	4/18/2023	
8	KC3X	500	4/12/2021	9:54:00 PM
7	WQ7A	627	7/21/2015	
6	N9STL	629	6/6/2015	
1	N8KIE	862	6/27/2014	
1	N4AAT	580	6/27/2014	
1	K5GE	560	6/27/2014	

1 N4CD 507 6/27/2014  
 1 N5UZW 500 6/27/2014

The answer is 3. N4AAT/N7AKT (SK), N8KIE, and N4CD

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Now, half on the list for Ran All Counties folks are now SK and didn't have the opportunity to work on MD as it wasn't created until the 2010s. Quite a few earned RAS 20-30-40 years ago. Same for MP and MD – wasn't around for those 20-30-40 years. .

Word has it that KB6UF only needs to head to HI after epic trips to clean up northern/northwest US counties to finish Ran All USA. . (will he have to head to CT to do those?).

That's the trivia of the day on a bad propagation day.....Good SFE at 209. sunspots at 129, but A=36 and K=3. It was worse Saturday night, 3/23 , too, with A=50 and K=4.

Then Sunday

Solar-Terrestrial Data - click to add to web site						
<b>24 Mar 2024 1916 GMT</b>	Condition	K-In	A-In	Calculated Conditions		
SFI: <b>209</b> SN: <b>145</b>	Quiet	0-2	0-7	<b>Band</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Night</b>
A-Index: <b>36</b>	Unsettled	3	8-15	<b>80n-40n:</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>
K-Index: <b>8 / Plntry</b>	Active	4	16-29	<b>30n-20n:</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>
X-Ray: <b>C3.4</b>	Minor storm	5	30-49	<b>17n-15n:</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>
304A: <b>174.8 @ SEM</b>	Major storm	6	50-99	<b>12n-10n:</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>
	Severe storm	7-9	>100	<b>Sig Noise Lvl:</b>	<b>S28+</b>	
SFI>180 A<8 K<3=E-W open SFI>180 A<8 K>3=N-S open SFI>250 A>30 K>3=Aurora						
<a href="http://www.n0nbh.com">http://www.n0nbh.com</a> - Copyright Paul L Herrman 2023						

I don't ever, ever, remember seeing a K of 8. That is a 'severe' storm! Wowie! Afternoon of Sunday 3/24. I'm sure glad I'm not out trying to run counties or a park or two. Good luck to those out there.

NA8W mobile traveled during this event. Reported hearing just one station on 20m for a multi-hour trip to OH.

Meanwhile, on 6m, skip to ZL, South America and other locations on FT-8. It took a few days to fully recover from this.

# Awards Issued

## **USA-CA CW Award**

K4YFH completed all CW counties and received #19

## **USA-CA Nth Time Award**

K4YFH ran all counties for the 3rd time. He received #263

## **Mobile Diamond Award**

K4YT completed MD and received #14

## **Ran all State**

W4SIG completed Utah for 2nd time. He received #4

W4SIG completed Mississippi for 2nd time. He received #3

W4SIG completed Arkansas for 2nd time. He received #3

KB6UF completed Montana and received #31

## **Roadrunner Award**

W4SIG ran 1150 last counties. He received #9

KB6UF ran 2275 last counties. He received #2

KB6UF ran 2300 last counties, He received #2

### **USA-CA Award:**

KC3X completed all counties for 13th time. He received #3

### **Call Combo Award:**

W4SIG completed Level 3000 for combo 2X2. He received #3

### **Roadrunner Award:**

KB6UF completed 2225 last counties. He received #2

K4YT completed 775 last counties. He received #23

## **Twin Solar X Class Flares**

An S2-class solar radiation storm is underway following the twin X-flares of March 23rd. This means energetic protons from the sun are raining down on Earth. Primary effects include an Arctic blackout of shortwave radio signals and slightly elevated radiation levels for aircraft flying over the poles. Solar flare alerts: SMS Text.

**A BIG CME IS COMING:** Yesterday's X1-class solar flare (described below) hurled a bright CME toward Earth. NASA and NOAA models agree that the storm cloud should reach our planet by the early hours of March 25th (UT). A direct hit could spark strong G3-class geomagnetic storms with mid-latitude auroras in the USA and Europe.

See it here: [https://spaceweather.com/images2024/23mar24/doubleflare\\_teal.gif](https://spaceweather.com/images2024/23mar24/doubleflare_teal.gif)

**STRONG X-CLASS SOLAR FLARE:** Yesterday, the sun produced a solar flare so strong, it took two sunspots to make it. Sunspots AR3614 and AR3615 exploded in tandem on March 23rd (0130 UT), directing their fire straight at Earth.

The explosion from AR3614 (top) was so violent it seemed to rip the fabric of the sun, while AR3615 (bottom) followed very close behind with a less intense blast of its own.

The same sequence was captured in this movie from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory.

While this may seem like an incredible coincidence, it probably didn't happen by chance. Researchers have long known that widely-spaced sunspots can explode in tandem. They're called "sympathetic solar flares." Occasionally, magnetic loops in the sun's corona fasten themselves to distant pairs of sunspots, allowing explosive instabilities to travel from one to the other. This has apparently happened to AR3614 and AR3615.

Some sympathetic flares are so much alike, they are considered to be twins. Yesterday's double-blast was not a perfect twin, but close enough. It shows that the two sunspots are linked, raising the possibility of more double-flares this weekend.

## Events for County Hunters

There are LOTS of QSO parties this month! Last surge of QSO Parties for a while, plus other Parks on the Air events that will get a hundred or more counties available.

Plus of course, the MI Mini.

Michigan MINI -

The 2024 Michigan Mini will be Hosted by Dorie, N8WTQ • April 25 – 27

3

It will be held at the SpringHill Suites • Midland, Michigan 48642 (989) 837-2700

Room rates of: \$129.00 plus tax per night if reserved by Monday, March 22, 2024

For those headed to the MI Mini – a few days before are the MI QSO Party, the ND QP and the NE QP – where you might plan your route to run some counties along your way there in those states for the QP. ND could use a lot of help and not many mobiles out in NE usually.

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Mar 6 1400z to 7 0200z 1.8-28, 50,144

**Louisiana QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), LA parish or SPC

[laqp.louisianacontestclub.org](http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org)

Mar 6 1400z to 7 0200z 1.8-28, 50,144

**Mississippi QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), MS parish or SPC

[www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org)

Mar 6 1400z to 7 2000z 1.8-28, VHF/UHF

**Missouri QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), MO county or SPC

[www.w0ma.org/index.php](http://www.w0ma.org/index.php)

Mar 6 1400z to 7 2200z 3.5-28

**Florida State Parks on the Air CW Ph Dig P**

ark nbr or SP

[flspota.org/rules](http://flspota.org/rules)

Mar 6 1200z to 7 2359z No WARC

**Georgia State Parks on the Air CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), park nbr or SPC

[gaparks.org/forms-rules-register](http://gaparks.org/forms-rules-register)

Mar 8 1400z to 8 2359z 1.8-28,50

**Solar Eclipse QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), 4-char grid

[hamsci.org/seqp-rules](http://hamsci.org/seqp-rules)

Mar 13 1800z to 14 2359z 1.8-28,50

**Georgia QSO Party CW Ph**

RST, GA county or SPC

[gaqsoparty.com](http://gaqsoparty.com)

Mar 20 1100z to 21 0059z 1.8-28, VHF/UHF

**Nebraska QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

NE county or SPC (FT8: grid)

nebraskaqsoparty.com

20 1400z to 21 2000z No WARC  
**Texas State Parks on the Air CW Ph Dig**  
RST, park nbr or SPC  
[www.tspota.org](http://www.tspota.org)

Mar 20 1600z to 21 0400z 3.5-28  
**Michigan QSO Party CW Ph**  
RST, MI county or SPC  
[miqp.org/index.php/rules](http://miqp.org/index.php/rules)

Mar 20 1800z to 21 1800 1.8-28, 50,144  
**Ontario QSO Party CW Ph**  
RS(T), ON county or SPC  
[www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm](http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm)

Mar 20 1800z to 21 1800z 1.8-28, 50,144  
**North Dakota QSO Party CW Ph Dig**  
RS(T), ND county or SPC  
[www.ndarrlsection.com](http://www.ndarrlsection.com)

Mar 27 1600z to 28 2159z 7,14,21,28  
**Florida QSO Party CW Ph**  
RS(T), FL county or SPC  
<http://floridaqsoparty.org/>