

County Hunter News

July 2019
Volume 15 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.

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 Nets run on 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 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

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

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

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

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

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

Notes from the Editor

N4CD Rumblings

1) Kraig, KA2LHO, pointed out that **N3FJP logging software** does indeed track counties on your first time award.

He noted:

“One point—N3FJP does indeed track counties and provides an indicator when a county is worked if it is new and also if you still need to confirm it. Plus you can see a running list of worked and confirmed in the Awards TAB. Now it does not track other awards like Logger but most first timers like me are only chasing the big one.”

2) Last month we discussed **Parks on the Air** and how things like this are diverting newcomers to activities such as this. By the end of May, there were 3,000 registered users for that group on Facebook! 3,000! The County Hunter Facebook page barely has 100 registered users and mostly zero posts a day.

3) Looks like the **Knights Inn** in Moraine, just south of Dayton over the river, is defunct. Made a reservation back in January..... tried to cancel it in late April as I made other arrangements, but the phone number I had (which worked for 10 years) no longer

worked. It seemed to drop off the Wyndham site, too, about that time. Sent them a first class letter early in May canceling the reservation that I had made.....and after I got back from Dayton, it came back in the held mail as 'undeliverable'. Looks like it went bust...and fortunately I had made other plans, otherwise, arriving there and finding it closed would have been a very unhappy event as I scrambled to find any room in Dayton for the Hamvention. Good luck on that. [Well, I know where you might get a room for \$50 or \$55 not far away, but it is really the bottom of the barrel – usually \$25/night when not Dayton Hamvention time. I upgraded from that a 10-15 years ago. Cheap.....black and white TV.....no a/c, just a fan. Hi hi]

I just made my room reservation for 2020. (2020 Dayton Hamvention® Dates May 15-17).

4) **Arkansas QSO Party Follow up.** Looks like 65 of the 75 AR counties were on the air this year – more than at most times in the past.

5) Not much travel by N4CD this month as kept close to home. Had cataract surgery so will be able to see and navigate again down the road. Seems strange not to be traveling all over in the good weather. Lots of storms about, though, and snow (!) closed roads in Colorado in the western mountains. Tornadoes and severe storms back east.

Reader Feedback

I am just curious about one thing in your editorial. You referred to something called "Top Band" that Risto W6RK maintains. I looked all over for this and couldn't find it.

Then I thought that maybe you are referring to the County Challenge Top Lists. If that's actually what you were referring to, then Risto W6RK did indeed create and maintain it from 2006-2007. You can actually see the very first one at this link and you were on it:

<http://w6rk.com/ccatoplist2.htm>

After that, Jim ND9M maintained it from 2008 to 2015 and Dennis KK7X started hosting it at <http://countyhunter.com> at some point in time. Currently, it is maintained by me since 2016 and still hosted by Dennis KK7X. The CCA Top List has been expanded considerably since the days when Jim ND9M was maintaining it. It has also been made considerably easier to maintain because the magic of some complex array and indexing formulas have made it possible for the list to generate itself from a basic data entry sheet

which is still processed by manually pasting in monthly submissions. But gone are the days when rank changes in the Top Lists had to be altered by hand and double-checked for accuracy.

The CCA Top Lists (there are now 3 Top Lists in each modes category which include the "Traditional", Highest Band Slots and Single Band 3077 lists) get posted at the beginning of each month and you can always see the latest posting at this link:

<http://countyhunter.com/Toplist/CCAtoplist.htm>

The CCA Top List Rules and Operation have also been tweaked quite a bit since the days of Risto's oversight to reflect what I am actually doing and I automatically issue simple un-numbered certificates to participants for achieving CCA Level and Single Band 3077 milestones. You yourself have certificates in your possession for achieving:

1. Mixed 20m WAC (3077 counties)
2. Mixed *and* CW 30m WAC (3077 counties)
3. Mixed Level IV (12,308 band slots)
4. CW Level III (9,231 band slots)
5. Phone Level II (6,154 band slots)
6. Combo Level II (18,462 band slots)

which is very impressive! No doubt your CCA Level and Single Band 3077 achievements have gone up somewhat since you last submitted your band slots in July, 2009.

You can see CCA Top List Rules and Operational description at this link:

<http://countyhunter.com/Toplist/CCArules.htm>

When the Top Lists are posted each month, I send a summary of the highest rankings to all participants in the Top Lists which you receive via email and which is also posted on the forum.

I have received band slot submissions from 60 CHers during the previous 12 months which is just about 1/2 of the total number of participants on the Top Lists. This number continues to decrease slightly each year, although I suspect that propagation and solar activity have a bit to do with this and hopefully this trend will reverse in the months and years ahead in the next decade.

From my vantage point, there are some real "horse races" which occur on the Top Lists each month and personally, I find them very interesting to follow. It would be fine if you would like to announce to your readers that if there is anyone whose last submission to the Top Lists was more than just a few months ago, I would very much welcome their renewed and more active participation in the Top Lists going forward.

73 Barry K2MF

Tornado Hits Hara Arena

Hara Arena was severely damaged by tornado - May 27th 2019....a week and 2 days after the Greene County Fairgrounds held the event. About 4 years ago, the Dayton Hamvention was moved from this location in Trotwood OH to the new one near Xenia. Some small damage at the new location was reported.



I remember going there for the first time about 1969 or 1970. Same location – but with farm fields all around instead of houses now. Back then, you could park in those farm fields and it was a 300 foot walk into the hamfest. Of course, only a few thousand showed up but the flea market was always good!

You'll recall that Hara slowly went downhill as times changed over 3-4 decades and

went bankrupt a few years ago, permanently shutting down. So did much of the other facilities in Trotwood – including the Salem Mall where the shuttle parking took place, and the Old Country Buffet where he had the dinner after the county hunter forum. That shopping center closed down, but the parking area was still used for the buses.

There's serious damage there to multiple parts of the arena, so it isn't coming back ever. One of the options of the real estate developer who was in the process of buying it was to knock it down and start over. Looks like Mother Nature decided that for him. It's a “goner.” The main part (arena) might be redone, but the auxiliary areas are too severely damaged to be saved.

New USACA Awards Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAY 29, 2019

(Hicksville, NY) May 29, 2019 - Brian Bird, NX0X, of Duluth, Minnesota, has been named the new Custodian for CQ magazine's USA-Counties Award (USA-CA), effective June 1, 2019, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, announced today. Brian succeeds Ted Melinosky, K1BV, who served as USA-CA Custodian and CQ Awards Editor for 21 years. Several updates in the USA-CA award rules will take effect at the same time.

Brian has been a county hunter since the 1990s and earned the USA-CA All Counties Award in 2004, followed a year later by his wife, Shari, KB0MHH. The two of them hosted the national county-hunters' convention in 2011. Brian is an airline pilot who splits his time each month between flying and working in his airline's training center.

"I am looking forward to working with Brian as he assumes the leadership of one of the most challenging award programs in all of amateur radio," noted CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. "With 3077 counties in the United States, working 'the whole ball of wax' takes a great deal of dedication and perseverance. Administering the award takes a special commitment, as well. Brian will be only the sixth USA-CA Custodian in the award's 58-year history."

"I am very honored to being selected as your new USA-CA award custodian," noted NX0X. "I'm looking forward to carrying on with the great history of the awards program and any challenges ahead. Part of being the USA-CA award custodian is to not only handle the issuing of awards that have been earned in a timely manner, but giving you the public recognition so rightly deserved for earning such a prestigious award. I can only hope that I serve you all with the same great service of my predecessors. Hoping that many new counties for you are just up the band."

The rules updates primarily reflect the realities of living in the 21st century, such as replacing International Reply Coupons as a payment method with PayPal; and permitting (encouraging) applications to be submitted by e-mail rather than only on paper. Also, due to significant increases in the cost of international postage, it is necessary for us to add a DX postage surcharge for mailing certificates to addresses outside the United States. The complete updated rules appear in CQ's June 2019 Awards column and will be posted as soon as possible after June 1 on the CQ website at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

As of June 1, any correspondence relating to the CQ USA-CA program should be directed to: Brian Bird, NX0X, 4567 Caribou Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55811-9607, USA; or via e-mail to <nx0x@aol.com>.

Note from Frank, G4HBI

Frank was an active county hunter back in the 1980s. He worked and confirmed 3050 counties back then mostly on 14.336. He took a break to raise a family and was absent for many years. Recently, Eddie, G4KHG, got him back interested in radio and he's been busy on FT-8. It's tough working anything from the UK to the US on SSB these days. Or even CW.

He's down to 26 counties to go, and this is the short list. If you know of any FT-8 operators in these counties, or any county hunter wandering there, please let him know. The R's are reworks – never confirmed.

1 Colorado Broomfield

2	Colorado	Washington		
3	Georgia	Brooks		
4	Georgia	Houston		
5	Idaho	Bingham		
6	Idaho	Minidoka		
7	Kansas	Harper		
8	Kentucky	Harlan		R
9	Minnesota	Morrison	R	
10	Missouri	Johnson		
11	Missouri	Miller		
12	Missouri	Scott		
13	New Mexico	Harding		
14	Oklahoma	Pawnee		R
15	Oklahoma	Payne		R
16	Oregon	Klamath	R	
17	Pennsylvania	Bradford	R	
18	South Dakota	Clay	R	
19	Tennessee	Scott		
20	Texas	Bexar		
21	Texas	Grimes		
22	Texas	Lipscomb		
23	Texas	Victoria	R	
24	Texas	Yoakum		
25	Virginia	Lee	R	
26	Wisconsin	Florence	R	
27	Wisconsin	Forest		R

Kentucky QSO Party

There were a few mobiles out and running. Noted AE8M, N4TY and KM4FO out

mobile. The bonus station KY4KY was everywhere. What was surprising is that almost NO ONE spotted the various KY counties even though I heard multiple county hunters working them! Very few spots were made! What a shame.

K4BAI 16 cw 12 counties

Family commitments kept me away from the for most of this year's KY QSO Party. Still need six counties all time in Kentucky and didn't hear any of them. They are: Lewis, Elliott, Lawrence, Meade, Allen, and Trimble. Any suggestions appreciated. Band conditions from GA to KY were pretty good, particularly on 20M, which would often be too long. Phone activity disappointing. Heard only the one I worked and that was on 75. 40M is usually the big SSB band from here to KY. Thanks for the QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI

WN4AFP 15 cw 4 ssb 16 mults

I contacted very few stations this year. I did work work the bonus station 4 times, that helped my score. This contest had much more activity in the past years. I did work KM4FO Dwight in several counties. Thanks to all for the Q's. 73s Dave WN4AFP

N4CD 15 cw 4 ssb 14 mults

Only had a few hours to participate and caught the first 3 hours. Found N4TY/m, AE8M/m and noted KM4FO/m out but didn't get him. Had 20m propagation to east half, 40m faded away as the day went on. The bonus station KY4KY was everywhere and good signal.

OM2VL 37 cw 27 ssb 3 digital 37 counties

It was my first KY QSO Party. The condx was not good. I don't have any info about mobiles, so I missed sure some (or many) counties because I made one QSO and I didn't pay attention when I found this callsign again ... After some hours I recognize, that some stations are in other county than before ... :)

Fortunately 20m was open so long and I heard some stations on 20m CW. Never ending CQ's also on 20m SSB and despite bad condx some KY stations back to my call - thanks

a lot!

In other QPs on 40m at night I made many QSOs, but now it was only few. Maybe because of the bad condx or only these few stations was QRV?

BONUS stations: W4NJA I can move some times from SSB to CW, but no luck. On CW I never heard him. KY4KY I heard on 80m and I called him about 40min, but also no luck. QSO's with bonus stations: W4NJA - 20m CW,RTTY, KY4KY - 40m CW,SSB,RTTY; 20m CW,SSB, RTTY

Most QSO's: N4TY/M 11/10 (QSO/Cty), KM4FO 6/6, KY4KY 6/2

Thanks for the QSOs, please QSLs for my US County Award + County Challenge Toplist.

73, Laci OM2VL

Hamcom 2019

Each year in early June, the Hamcom hamfest is held in Plano TX, conveniently located 8 miles from my QTH. About 8,000 folks show up. There's a good selection of programs during the day, an outdoor and indoor flea market, and a DX Dinner put on by the Lone Star DX Club.

Things start on Friday morning with the outdoor flea market opening up at 8am. I headed over there - and checked out what was for sale. Some of your usual stuff was there – everything from A4 tri-band beam, tower sections, old receivers – Hammarlund, National, Hallicrafters, Heathkits....although not a lot of tube type equipment. Some 2M FM gear and some commercial radios there. A few Collins units were there for sale. The tube type stuff is disappearing and few buying these days or at bargain prices. New hams are all solid state and talk SDR radios. Even the Yaesu FT-1000s, that sold for thousands of bucks, are dropping as you can buy an SDR radio – direct sampling – for under \$1000 that matches their performance. Maybe 50 sellers on Friday. It gets toasty warm by afternoon so you really need a canopy of some sort if you're going to be there a while. After a few trips around, I headed back home. Then over again to the venue for the 12 noon opening.

The indoor flea market/vendor display opens at noon and the programs start. I wandered in then to check out the indoor flea market – maybe 100 sellers. Lots of the same from tubes to coax to new radio/parts dealers. Old radios,new radios. Gary, KB9AIT was there selling the Wolf River Coils and antenna accessories. It's the first time he's been at this hamfest. Elecraft and several dealers were there along with 20 other vendors. It's not like Dayton....but few hamfests are.

Didn't buy anything. Wandered around, sat in on a program or , then headed out late afternoon to home. Skipped the DX dinner hosted by the Lone Star DX Club, but I know Rick, AI5P was there. Also ran into Bill, K8TE, there and some other park hunters/chasers. Three or four simultaneous programs were going on during the day. I was still recovering from recent eye surgery (cataracts) so really didn't stick around too long.

On Saturday, the outdoor flea market starts at 7am and the indoor one at 8am. Same for the programs. Didn't see anything new I had to have outside so headed in at 8am. A few more folks showed up inside selling but just didn't need anything this year.

Sat in on one of the programs. Noted that Tamitha Skov, the Space Weather Woman, was doing a presentation via video conferencing. Hope folks enjoyed it. I caught her at Dayton and it was an excellent presentation. I guess she is doing a few hamfests on the circuit this year so keep your eyes open. Might be one near you soon!

At noon on Saturday a dozen park hunters/chasers got together at the Fish and Tail restaurant for lunch. We yakked for an hour then headed back for more hamfest.

Here's a pic of AI5P, Rick, KG5LKU – a park activator/chaser, and N4CD, Bob



Vanity Callsign History

Vanity Call Sign History by Dick Morgan K6RAH

In June 1990, retired Texas Extra Class amateur, Jim Wills N5HCT, filed a Petition for Rule Making suggesting that radio amateurs be allowed to choose a dormant station call sign upon paying \$30. The petition was denied. But that did not stop Wills. He wrote his Congressman concerning the reassignment of unused call signs.

On December 9, 1991, Congressman Ralph Hall wrote Wills back saying that he had contacted the FCC and that they were determining whether such a fee would collect enough money to pay for itself. This was all happening at a time when a system was being developed to have the FCC's budget basically paid for by the various beneficiaries of their services. The change was finalized when Congress added a new Section 9(a) to the Communications Act authorizing the Commission to collect annual regulatory fees to recover its operating costs. Neither the ARRL nor the FCC had advance knowledge of the short four-word "Amateur vanity call signs" that was added to the Schedule of Regulatory Fees at the last minute.

President Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (the official name of his Deficit Reduction' Plan) into law on Tuesday, August 10, 1993, and with it, the provision for Vanity call signs became law (Public Law 103-66).

A year later (December 23, 1994) the FCC Commissioners adopted final rules implementing vanity call signs in the Amateur Service. On June 14, 1995, the FCC adopted a revised Schedule of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995. The fee, which is reviewed and adjusted annually, also takes into consideration the total amount of funding that the FCC needs for its upcoming fiscal year.

The first Vanity call sign was issued on May 31, 1996. The cost: \$3 a year or \$30.00 for a ten-year term, just as Jim Wells had proposed. The ARRL suggested gradually implementing Vanity call signs through a system of "starting gates." Gate One allowed a previous holder to apply for that call sign or, where the holder is deceased, a close relative could apply. Gate Two would allow Amateur Extra Class operators to apply. Gate Three allow Advanced Class operators to apply. Gate Four opened the system to any licensee. A club station license trustee could also apply for the call sign of a deceased former holder. A Vanity call sign is valid for a ten-year term after which time another regulatory fee must be paid.

--

article from the Richardson Wireless Klub newsletter, June 2019

Special Needs

Several folks are REAL CLOSE to finishing up. Let's see what we can do during 'travel season' to get them finished off!

Down to one to go!

CU3AA - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/17/2019

Down to ONE: Grant, ND. If anyone plans to go there PLEASE PLEASE send me a email.

ND: Grant

AE7KI - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:5/19/2019

IA: Hancock

These folks are closing in with 20 or less....some just a few!

KG5RJ - USACA Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/12/2019

Almost there also getting ready to retire so I have more time. Let me know if your going where I need this last few

- AR: Franklin, Perry
- KS: Clay, Comanche, Grant, Greeley, Wichita
- KY: Mclean, Union
- ME: Lincoln
- NY: Lewis
- OK: Blaine, Harmon, Tillman
- SD: Campbell
- TN: Lake
- TX: Foard, Irion, Kent, Mcculloch, Robertson, Scurry, Throckmorton

AB7RW - Master Gold Award using CW Only - Updated:5/28/2019

- GA: Paulding
- ME: Franklin
- NH: Sullivan
- NJ: Monmouth
- NY: Fulton, Hamilton, Oswego
- OH: Morgan
- WV: Wirt

N8KIE - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:6/13/2019

17 left in 6 states

- CA: Kings
- GA: Wilcox
- IN: Blackford, Fulton, Hamilton, Johnson, Wabash
- MI: Cass, Clare, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Monroe, Saginaw
- NC: Lincoln
- OH: Lucas, Mercer

NN9K - Master Gold Award using CW Only - Updated:5/30/2019

GA: Murray, Muscogee
KY: Lincoln
NC: Madison
WV: Upshur

N1QY - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:5/30/2019

Getting close.

CA: Butte
CO: Kit Carson
GA: Brantley
IN: Martin
KY: Casey
MA: Nantucket
MD: Queen Anne
NC: Carteret
ND: Kidder
NM: Roosevelt
NY: Montgomery
TX: Reeves, Sutton
VA: Warren
VT: Caledonia
WA: Douglas, San Juan
WV: Doddridge

PA3ARM - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:6/6/2019

AL: Covington
AZ: Santa Cruz
CO: Clear Creek, Grant, Jackson, Mineral, Pitkin, Routt, Summit
HI: Kalawao
ID: Clearwater
IN: Shelby
KS: Grant, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, Stanton
KY: Casey, Green, Hancock, Knox, Perry
LA: Beauregard, East Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Washington, West Feliciana
MT: Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Treasure
NE: Box Butte, Cass, Johnson, Scotts Bluff, Sioux
OR: Benton, Columbia, Crook, Grant, Josephine, Lake, Lincoln, Tillamook,

Wheeler

SD: Brule
TX: Calhoun, Comanche, Ector, Hutchinson, Jeff Davis, Kimble, Lamb,
Lampasas, Nolan, Upton
UT: Tooele
WA: Wahkiakum

AJ5ZX - Master Gold Award using SSB Only - Updated:6/5/2019

This is everything I need for MG.

GA: Barrow, Bulloch, Douglas, Polk
NJ: Union
VA: Clarke

WØGXQ - N Prefix Award using SSB and CW - Updated:6/15/2019

IL: Crawford
MI: Arenac
MN: Lincoln, Wabasha, Wilkin
VA: Greene

DL6KVA - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:6/6/2019

ID: Clearwater
LA: Evangeline
NM: Sierra
WV: Mingo

KØMAF - 1st Time Award using SSB and CW - Updated:5/19/2019

I have 9 counties to go for USACA

IA: Cherokee, Emmet
KY: Mclean, Monroe, Owsley
MN: Pennington
OK: Pushmataha
TX: Goliad, Hamilton

NFØN - 2nd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:6/3/2019

Many Last Counties Here

AR: Lincoln
CO: Fremont
IL: Jo Daviess, Putnam, Stephenson

IN: Delaware, Warren
KY: Taylor
MI: Baraga, Muskegon
MN: Wilkin
MT: Teton

KA4RRU - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:5/31/2019

CO: Bent
GA: Bacon, Burke, Liberty, Towns, Wilkinson
IL: Hardin, Kendall
IN: Blackford
KY: Russell, Shelby
LA: Red River
NC: Cherokee, Clay, Rutherford, Yancey
NH: Belknap
NJ: Cape May, Cumberland
NY: Oswego
OH: Monroe, Morgan
OR: Benton
PA: Northumberland
SC: Bamberg, Calhoun
TX: Irion, Ochiltree, Reagan, Runnels, Uvalde, Zavala
VA: Surry
WA: Skamania
WV: Brooke

W4SIG - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:5/31/2019

CA: San Benito
CO: Custer
ID: Bingham, Fremont
IN: Jennings
MA: Suffolk
ME: Hancock
MI: Huron
MN: Douglas
NC: Montgomery
NE: Banner, Franklin, Webster
NY: Chenango
OH: Defiance

PA: Potter
SD: Oglala Lakota, Tripp
TX: Hood, Hutchison, Jim Hogg
VA: King And Queen, Mathews, Northumberland, Powhatan, Westmoreland
WA: Klickitat, San Juan
WI: Wood
WV: Marshall

W4YDY - 2nd Time Award using CW Only - Updated:6/8/2019

IL: Lawrence
MT: Mineral
OR: Crook, Wheeler
WV: Putnam

K4YFH - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:5/23/2019

:

CO: Otero, San Juan.
MS: Greene, Leake.
NE: Grant, Wayne.
OR: Clackmas, Crook.
UT: Duchesne, Piute, Sanpete.

KC5P - USACA Award using CW Only - Updated:6/14/2019

GA: Atkinson, Clarke, Polk
IN: Hamilton, In
LA: East Feliciana, Red River
MA: Nantucket
MN: Sherburne
NJ: Hudson
TN: Macon, Meigs

NFØN - 5th Time Award using SSB and CW - Updated:6/3/2019

CO: Gilpin
NE: Webster

N4RS - 5th Time Award using CW Only - Updated:6/6/2019

IA: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Emmet, Pocahontas
KS: Clay, Ottawa
MN: Carver, Faribault, Isanti
OR: Benton, Lincoln
SC: Williamsburg
TX: Wilson
WA: Jefferson
WY: Sublette

NUØQ - Master Gold Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/3/2019

Only 10 to go. All needs shown here. Someone with Bingo needs to go to Alaska!

AK: Fourth J. D. C
AL: Blount
GA: Walker
NC: Carteret, Pamlico, Warren
WA: Ferry, Okanogan, Snohomish, Stevens

N1API - 5th Time Award using Any Mode - Updated:6/13/2019

CO: San Juan
GA: Washington
MA: Suffolk
ME: Franklin
MT: Petroleum, Sanders
NH: Belknap
NY: Bronx, Queens
OH: Morgan
PA: Juniata, Montour
VA: Buchanan
WV: Hardy, Morgan, Pocahontas, Wyoming

K2MF - 3rd Time Award using SSB and CW - Updated:6/16/2019

CA: Madera, Siskiyou
GA: Elbert
ID: Adams, Boise, Cassia, Clearwater, Washington
KS: Graham

MT: Cascade, Daniels, Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum
ND: Griggs, Kidder, Mclean, Oliver
NY: Clinton
OR: Crook, Lane, Lincoln, Wheeler
SD: Lake, Spink
UT: Utah
WA: San Juan

NØXYL - Master Gold Award using SSB Only - Updated:5/20/2019

ID: Boundary
OR: Deschutes, Tillamook, Yamhill

West Virginia QSO Party

N4CD headed over to the local park for a few hours on Saturday to see how many WV stations were rolling in. Hmm....N8II worked on 20m SSB and CW. W8WVA worked. Caught K8JQ on 40m cw. That was it. Left after a few hours but racked up 70Q otherwise from the park.

From the 3830 reflector:

N8II - fixed - Jefferson, WV 147 cw 682 ssb

Apologies that more WV stations were not active. The activity level seemed about the same as last year except no mobiles/rovers. N4RA in HAM was not worked last year, he was on several hours. Obviously 20M was the band that kept on giving, an unbelievable number of non-contestants stopped by to give me a Q! 20 was open to all states except PA,DE, and MD at some time during the contest and parts of MD and PA are quite close to me. I worked 49 states, nothing from HI and the band was wide open in the evening as 2 ZL stations called in with nice signals. During the afternoon prop to the NW USA/Canada was very limited, but I ended up working 3 in AK, 3 in SK. I worked VE1-VE7, VE9, and VY2 in Canada. The propagated noise from upper Midwest storms was bad the entire day on 20, a S7-9 drone all evening. As soon as prop opened to that area on 40 and 80, they were also very noisy. I gave 80 a good try several times during the evening with dismal results, nothing worked that far out. 40 was better, nice activity around 23-24Z with no apparent skip zone; this provided my best rate with 111 Q's. Late

afternoon, northern NY was as close as I could work on 40. There were 2 big openings to New England, first as the party started then again around 22Z. Starting 0009Z for about 30 minutes there was very short skip to the south, many NC/SC and one in SW VA. Sporadic E into the 8/9/0 call areas was present most of the evening. Late afternoon, things were pretty slow on all bands, so I chased some mainly EU DX on 20 to boost the score. I found ZA/Z61DX without any help from the DX cluster. The 02Z hour (test used to end at 02Z) was my 2nd best with 104 Q's on 20 SSB and several small pile ups. Thanks to all for calling me; it was a lot of fun except the S/N ratio was pretty marginal on many 20M stations (lots of small signals). Many did not understand the value of enunciation and good audio. Only a few were too weak to pull through, but 100W was enough on 20 and sometimes on 40. 73, Jeff

K4BAI - fixed GA - 10 cw 5 ssb

Worked every WV station I could find except K8NYG (after skip had gone long on 40). 20M was too long for GA to WV. Thanks for the QSOs. This QP needs a bunch of mobiles! 73, John, K4BAI.

Interesting Direction Finding Site

KiwiSDR TDoA Direction Finding Now Freely Available for Public Use

A few weeks ago we posted about some experimental work going on with Time Difference of Arrival (TDoA) direction finding techniques on KiwiSDR units. The idea is that public KiwiSDRs distributed around the world can be used to pinpoint the physical locations of any 0 - 30 MHz transmitter using the TDoA technique. This feature has recently been activated and can be accessed for free via any KiwiSDR.

The KiwiSDR is a US\$299 HF SDR that can monitor the entire 0 - 30 MHz band at once. It is designed to be web-based and shared, meaning that the KiwiSDR owner, or anyone that they've given access, can tune and listen to it via a web browser over the internet. Many public KiwiSDRs can be found and browsed from the list at sdr.hu or by signal strength and location on this website.

One thing that KiwiSDRs have is a GPS input which allows the KiwiSDR to run from an accurate clock, as well as providing positional data. Time Difference of Arrival (TDoA) is a direction finding technique that relies on measuring the difference in time that a signal is received at over multiple receivers spread out over some distance. In order to do this an accurate clock that is synchronized with each receiver is required. GPS provides this and is able to accurately sync KiwiSDR clocks worldwide.

Just recently all KiwiSDRs were pushed with a beta update (changelog) that enables easy TDoA direction finding to be performed with them. Since many KiwiSDRs are public, this means that right now anyone can browse to a KiwiSDR web interface and start a direction finding computation. You don't even need to own a KiwiSDR to do this so this is the first freely accessible RF direction finding system available to the public. This could be useful for locating signals like numbers stations, military transmissions, pirate stations, **jammers** and unknown sources of noise.

https://www.rtl-sdr.com/kiwisdr-tdoa-direction-finding-now-freely-available-for-public-use/?fbclid=IwAR1NmYK8OqrIHU9L1mpw2et2C-e0_sDnG39-tI2ZEsZKrfP6lDZjdpl1dhY

Running a TDoA job is as simple as using the KiwiSDR OpenWebRX GUI interface to select a signal and choose two or more receivers to use in the calculation.

If you want to try this out then it's easiest to start with VLF/LF or MW stations (less than 1.6 MHz) as these signals tend to propagate to receivers only via direct ground wave. HF sky wave signals are a bit more difficult to locate as they tend to travel longer distances by skipping, bouncing and refracting around the ionosphere, so it is difficult to determine exactly where they are coming from since the bounces result in a difficult to predict time delay. But if you know the rough location of the transmitter, you can try and select nearby KiwiSDR receivers, which will hopefully ensure that the signals are received directly via ground wave, and not via sky wave. More advanced users could try using receivers spaced further away, but at similar distances from the expected transmitter location. This will hopefully ensure that all the receivers have identical skip distances, and thus identical delays.

Tamitha Skov Videos

Solar Activity Cycle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7_Nn09mpNI&t=4855s

Noctilucent Clouds, A Sign of Solar Minimum? | Space Weather News 06.13.2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ92MP2CcuY>

solar flare course

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN7C1hQtVxU>

Mobile Activity – June 2019

Mobile Activity in June

Bill, NU0Q continued his trip. Headed from IL into IN then back around to home.

Rick, AI5P was busy out in NM and TX running parks/counties. Then over to AR for counties and parks, and hit the Hamcom hamfest in TX along the way.

Mike, KA4RRU was noted in IN on a trip there

Kerry, W4SIG, made a trip to TX

Kraig, KA2LHO was busy running FL parks

Kerri, KB3WAV and Ray, KC3RW, were busy running parks in MD and PA

N5KUC spotted out and about in TX

Ed, K8ZZ, spotted out in NJ and NY running counties and parks. Hit the boros of NYC, too. Later he'd head back to KS, then up to MI, WI and MN.

NN1N spotted out in NV, WY, UT, into NE.

Bob, WA3QNT, spotted out and about in PA

Larry, W7FEN, put out Wallowa, OR

Ed, N8OYY, spotted in TN and VA. Later in the month was down in NC and VA.

Ed, KN4Y, spotted in FL counties

N4TY ran counties in KY. Was busy in the KY QSO Party then showed up again later in the month.

AE7KI hit several counties in KY and TN

Donna, AG6V, put out a few counties on her way to TX and then more on the way back west.

Jim, N9JF, spotted in NE going west. Noted in OR...headed to AK

Peter, KQ6QB, noted in CA counties running parks

6/21

Most active mobile this month - by far - K8ZZ. Second most active mobile N8OYY, both putting out dozens and dozens of counties. Maybe 100 in the case of K8ZZ.

Field Day 2019

Many county hunters head for their local club field day sites and operate during the ARRL non-contest Field Day 'event'. Ed, KN4Y, joined his club – K4WAK, in Wakulla County FL. I caught him while in the park ans N4CD during FD and he said 'hi Bob' so I know it was him. Other county hunter calls heard include Steve AA8HH

He moved to Costa Rica back in 2014 and was active as AA8HH/TI for 4 years. Now he's relocated back to FL in Sarasota County.

Bill, K8TE, was on from NM – Sandoval NM.

When FD started, I was over in Park 4423 for 2 hours and put 85Qs in the log from the mobile operating Class 1C. 20M was decent and stayed that way into the evening hours.

Worked club call K2NJ – West Jersey DX club – in Hunterdon County NJ. They took over the call after legendary county hunter Bill, K2NJ, passed away over 10 years ago. They are an active group and keep that call on the air.

Kyle, WA4PGM operated 1B QRP in VA (battery power) and made 258Qs.

N4DPM made 102Qs as 1D low power home station on commercial power

After 2 hours there, I headed over to the Richardson Wireless Klub field day site. It's at the Richardson Emergency Operations Center – and we ran 3F from there. Bands were decent and their antennas seemed to work decently. Put a couple hundred in the log for them.

Their set up for cw was for trying to get some new comers on CW. It had a code copy program, display of the waterfall – and you made contacts (slowly) by clicking on the selected station on the waterfall as it was being decoded. Then it would log the reports. Slow as molasses (about 5 min a QSO) but I guess for those used to digital copy – like for FT-8, it was a way to make contacts. I just used the logging program N3FJP and the paddles – no memories worked in the program – the logging computer didn't key the

radio – so lots of hand sending. Not to worry, that's how I operate in the mobile – with paper log.

10M was open for a bit and the SSB guys worked a dozen up there, plus more on 15m ssb. 20M ssb was a bit rough as the band was very crowded.

Things were still going all out on Sunday morning till near shut down time. Then the bands went 'silent'. I went over to the park for another hour and added in another 50Q.

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If you're hunting for counties in FD, most of the groups are in their counties – or cities – but some of the big guns are operating portable at other stations, so beware. You'll see scores on the 3830 reflector with calls and in the report, they mention they were operating at some other hams location – maybe in a different county. Otherwise, the XXX County Radio Club is likely to be in the same county!

Mag Mount Modification

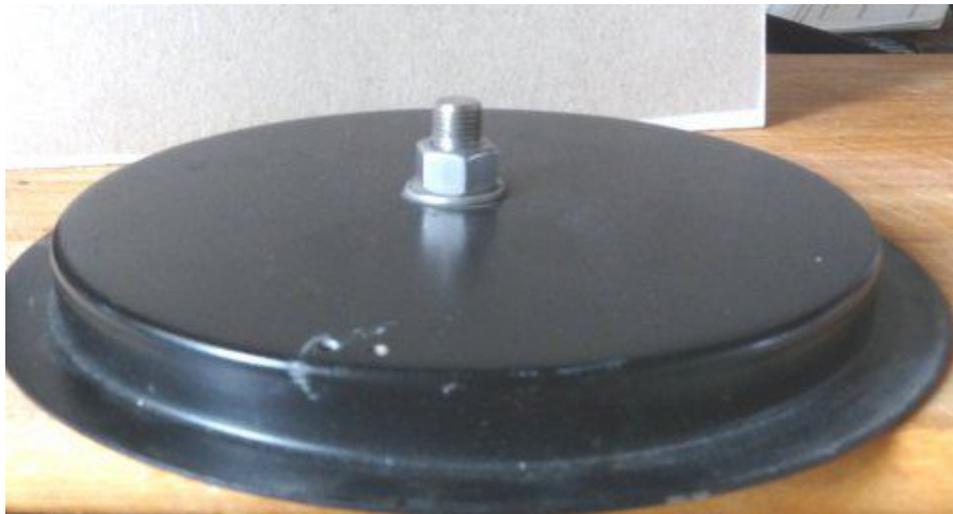
Frank, G4HBI, sent this along. It's an interesting way of 'fixing' the often poor coax connection to a mag mount.

“Having found the coax on my mag-mount to be of very poor quality I decided to replace it with good quality.

When I stripped it down I found the connection to be of the molded type and there was no way to replace it.



So took it all apart and inserted a stainless steel cap-head screw through the center hole (image 1)and secured with a stainless steel nut.



Then I obtained a dipole center piece, the sort you can use to make a dipole out of 2 hamsticks. Screwed the - side to the cap-head screw mounted in the base then Hamstick or the quick release in my case screws into the + side of the center piece and the coax with PL259 attached enters from the side .



I then sealed the PL259 with impregnated heat shrink and it has worked perfectly for about 4 years.

The Earth, (automobile) is 2017 KIA Rio, and I mount the mag-mount dead center of the roof. I use hamsticks for 15M, 17M, 20M, 40M and have never had any SWR or RFI problems. I have worked 180 countries, the best being E5 South Cook Islands 20M SSB (confirmed LoTW).

That's about it, really pretty simple but for me it has worked out fine

73's Frank”

Awards Issued this Month

None other than last counties were posted at publication date of 6/25

Upcoming Events for County Hunters

It's summer. No state QSO parties for another month or two. Enjoy the travel season..

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We're at the bottom of the sunspot cycle – almost a month so far with not a single sunspot and SFI in the 66/67 range most of the month. Yet, at Field Day, hundreds of thousands of QSOs were made, many by QRP 1B battery stations operating portable.

That's all folks. See you next month.