

# County Hunter News

November 1, 2016

Volume 12 Issue 11

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.

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CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, 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](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://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

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)

Want county lines on your Garmin GPS?

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>

Download the file to a flash card that fits in your GPS unit, turn it on, and the county lines should appear!

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

## Notes from the Editor

### **N4CD Rumblings**

Wow...what happened to the sunspots and propagation? October had many disturbed days with high A index – some 'poor' right across the HF spectrum. That made mobile operation and county hunting a challenge, but still every day had activity.

Several county hunters continued to stop in National Parks as part of the NPOTA which

goes till December 31. K2HVN, KA4RRU, and others showed up in parks.

Checking back in the log, last January I ran Big Bend National Park – had 150 contacts on 17M SSB alone from there. Now 17m is not doing much these days.

This is a full issue with QSO Party results and a sprinkling of the normal articles and trip reports. As always, I've included commentary, mostly from the mobile operations, during the QSO Parties for your enjoyment. They spend big bucks, drive a lot, and help make the QSO parties events to remember.

## Texas QSP Party

Left over from last month -late reports

### **NO5W and K5OT mobile – 1115 CQ QSO – 2 SSB**

This was the third consecutive year that Larry-K5OT and I have done a mobile trip in the Texas QSO Party running the same route of 40+ counties with some fairly minor tweaks. This year, even though we stuck very close to the schedule, we missed the final county on each day arriving just as the closing bells rang. Saturday Harris was missed and Sunday Bastrop. We could have covered Harris first thing Sunday morning since our Saturday night lodging was in that county but we elected to get on down the road deep into Brazoria before the opening bell since Harris seemed to have adequate representation and we knew the Sunday schedule was going to be tight with some under-represented counties toward the end of the day.

Weather was more a factor this year than in previous years with Saturday afternoon finding us in the path of a significant thunderstorm in Lee county with tornado-looking clouds. Fortunately no twisters materialized. Sunday there was rain in the morning and more in the afternoon, mostly just rain but there was what seemed like a very close lightning strike on Sunday afternoon. Propagation was some of the poorest we have experienced and had a serious impact on our multiplier count. In previous years we have used S&P on SSB to seek out fixed stations in new counties but this approach netted only two

SSB contacts this year. In addition to poor propagation it seemed, and several have commented, that participation was down from previous years. There is a lot of obvious competition for TQP operating time on the current weekend with the main distractions being: CQWW RTTY, NCAA and NFL Football in full swing. At one point for an hour or two on Sunday afternoon it seemed like everyone had left. Truth be told there was also a little operator error involved in that segment with the operator on duty not realizing that the filter had somehow gotten shifted by about 150 Hz. Finally the operator realized why he was having to engage so much RIT and things returned somewhat to normal. Apologies if we CQ-ed in your face during parts of Goliad and Bee. So much bouncing down the road can lead to an inadvertent touch of the filter shift knob that it would be nice to have a way of locking it similar to what is done for the main VFO knob.

Even though participation seemed light, as we worked only 240 different calls, we had a number of frequent callers and appreciate the following stations for providing us with enough QSOs to account for more than half of our contacts: N6MU(48), VE3KZ(39), WB9CIF(34), NW0M(27), K8QWY(27), WA6KHK(26), WJ9B(23), K2ZR(22), K4MM(22), NR5M(21), WB5JID(21), KN4Y(20), VE5SDH(20), WN4AFP(19), K4QPL(19), N8UM(19), K3TW(18), DK2OY(18), WB8WKQ(15), K4BAI(15), WC5D(15), AE5GT(14), N4PN(14), N3RJ(13), W5DXS(12), SP9LJD(12), K9GDF(12), and AH6AX(11).

As always it was a pleasure operating with K5OT and being hosted on Friday night with a very fine dinner prepared by Larry's XYL, Leona. Thanks to both of them for their fine hospitality. Staying over Monday and delaying the drive back to New Orleans until Tuesday allowed time for K5OT to show me around K5TR's fine station in the Hill Country and also time to attend a CTDXCC meeting to visit with some old friends from my previous time in Texas.

That just about winds up the QSO party circuit for us for 2016. We hope to make the usual ones LAQP, MSQP, FQP, and TxQP again next year with perhaps a surprise one thrown in there somewhere. In the meantime good luck to all and have fun in the upcoming contests.

73

Chuck-NO5W

Larry-K5OT

## **W0BH mobile - 744 cw 626 ssb**

2016 Texas QSO Party by Bob/w0bh

Score includes 28,000 county bonus and 1,000 mobile bonus points

I'm short on time this year and it's already a week past, so this will be brief (compared to usual :-). I was planning a full-time multi/multi effort this year, but both ops weren't able to make it at the last minute, so Lorna/k0why volunteered to drive and we headed off to Texas.

I had installed the back seat operating position the same as we used for the Georgia QSO Party when we ran 73 counties and just a few Qs shy of 4000. With no one sitting there, it looked lonely, but it was really lucky I had it and also lucky no one else came along this year.

On Saturday evening of the Kansas QSO Party, my primary radio in front started tripping off line regardless of which antenna stack I used. It had worked perfectly all day until then. At home in the evening, I checked everything and it seemed to work, but after an hour on Sunday, it started again. I ended up putting on a single resonator and reducing power to run the rest of the party.

In the following weeks, I swapped out the radio and all the antenna resonators, took the van out for a test run and activated a nearby NPOTA trail for several hours on different bands and modes. All was well, so I was confident that things were working again. Imagine my surprise when a few minutes into the start of the TQP, the new radio started tripping offline line as well. Not good.

To make a long story short, after a number of quick fix attempts (I should have known better), I finally went back to the original antenna setup and moved to the back seat. Everything worked great the rest of the party. I also found out I really enjoyed operating from the back seat, but it wasn't as easy to chat with Lorna. I'm still scratching my head on this one. My next guess will be something with the power or perhaps RF feedback into the IC7000. Of course it all works fine now that I'm home, and I haven't been able to duplicate the problem. I've been really lucky with equipment over the years, so I guess it's my turn for a visit from Murphy. I ended up dropping 3 counties from my run because of my radio issues.

I'll compile my stats at a later time, but here are a few that came out as I

got my log ready to send in. Conditions and activity were down all the way around this year, but it was still fun once I got going. Weather stayed dry for all but a few minutes on Sunday morning when the front blew through in most impressive style.

43 US missed ME VT DE AK WY SD  
5 VE worked QC ON SK AB BC  
58 TX counties worked  
4 DX worked KP4 DL HA PA

393 unique calls worked, only 4 dupes, 15.4 hours operating time.

TX Mobiles worked: WB0TEV/17, NM5G/9, KI5AH/6, WA5DSS/3, NO5W/2, KJ5MA/1, W1JCW/1

Afterward

Thanks to all who work to put together this very FB QSO party. Lets work hard to get the activity back up to what we've come to expect. See you next year!

73, Bob/w0bh and Lorna/k0why

## National Parks on the Air

The one year program is coming to an end on December 31. Now is the time to get on the air and work the park units – now or never.

As of now, there are close to 800,000 NPOTA QSOs that have been uploaded to Log Book of the World – the ARRL on line logging system for tracking everything from prefixes to DXCC – and of course, NPOTA. The goal now is to run that total up to ONE MILLION QSOs for parks uploaded in just one year. That is QSOs made from parks, or people working folks who are in the parks. You don't even have to be on LoTW to give the folks in the park a contact – and remember, all parks are in counties! It's fairly easily to figure out which county for most parks other than the long trails that

go through dozens of counties and states.

So.....get on board. Have some fun working the various park units. They are spotted on the DX sites such as Dxsummit.fi and others – and some county hunters self spot on W6RK with the park unit in parenthesis as in N4CD Murray, OK (RC05). Also many runs are spotted on the NPOTA Facebook page.

Two months left! Join the fun! Maybe you want to try and put out a park yourself? However, if you want to put out a park, you've got to be on LoTW and upload the QSOs. Quite a few of the County Hunters have done so – from N0KV, N4JT, KA4RRU, NF0N, NA8W, N8KIE, W5IL, W0BH, AF5Q, K2HVN, N9JF, KA9JAC, KB9YVT, AI5P and more.....

## California QSO Party

### **N6G County Expedition - Tuolumne**

Rig: K3, P3, KPA500, KAT500, Winkeyer, N1MM+

Antennas: Hexbeam at 50 ft on a trailer tower, OCF dipoles at 60 and 75 feet.

High points: Gary NA60 joining the team. Getting a clean sweep, with ND finally calling in the last hour. Watching the tree cutters and experiencing the periodic earthquakes each time one of the giant beetle-infested pines crashed to earth in a huge cloud of dust. NA60 got a real thrill near the end of the contest when a pileup exploded on 20 CW. The rate went over 200 but... What's with all these dupes? A glance at the bandmap explained it. We were spotted as (fictitious) K6G. A quick QSY solved the problem but it sure was fun for a couple minutes.

Low points: The KPA500 died 4 hours into the contest, so we completed as high power even though we were barefoot most of the time. At 4 AM on Sunday, Windows decided it was time to do an update. N1MM simply disappeared, right in the middle of a run, and it took 15 minutes to restart (nice time to go stargazing).

## **W6RBP County Expedition**

KD6DL and I once again ventured out to the Butterfield Ranch Resort in eastern San Diego county to put on our little county expedition - not because SDIE is at all rare, but because we enjoy operating portable, and the campground manager is friendly to us stringing some antennas up in the trees and running wires into the cabins.

Unlike last year, when we were bit by a couple technical gremlins, everything worked pretty smoothly after a few audio snags were discovered setting up. One thing I did notice, as KD6DL brought out his FT-450D this year (as it's easily packable in a Pelican case compared to his FT-920), is that the FT-450's filters leave a little to be desired in the occasionally crowded environment on 40m. It also seems to be a bit down on "talk power" compared to the 920, but I did manage to tweak that a bit mid-contest by adjusting the mic EQ. Tailoring the wav files in Audacity beforehand would also help, but I didn't think of it in time.

Anyway, for a simple fan dipole at 20ft, we were consistently impressed with our ability to work into the east coast on 80 and 40. I guess my old SB-201 helps with that, but with the antenna that low, I'm still pretty happy.

Highlights:

- Our one DX QSO, from JI3MJK who called me on 20 on Saturday afternoon.
- Just missing DE for WAS in a weekend. We had 49 worked by Saturday night, never did find DE. Missed MAR and NT too.
- Having everything set up by 3pm on Friday, so we had enough time to drive into Julian and enjoy a bit of a happy hour at the Nickel Beer Company.
- Handing out the SDIE mult and having a damn good time.

See y'all next year.

73, Andy NY7N

**N8II- fixed WV - 253 cw 433 SSB**



Working large numbers of small CA stations is quite a challenge from 2300 miles away; the Midwest has a big advantage. It was mostly S%P for me until evening rolled around here. At 21Z, I finally managed to run a few stations on 15M phone which had been wide open since around 1730Z. I had checked 10 a few times to hear nothing, then another check at 22Z revealed some big signals from southern CA (most northerly was N6O in CCOS). All 10M Q's worked Saturday were from 2203-2224Z and 15 was way down immediately thereafter, so it was time for trying a run on 20 phone. I was in QP running heaven from 2253-0034Z working 134 Q's during that unbroken no QSY run. Conditions were really good, noise was low, and QRM bearly nil! I finished Saturday with 525 Q's rather early; I was not enjoying myself trying to break through on 80 with watery signals, which were not so on 40. Trying to crack a 40 SSB pile up is also pretty frustrating from here.

Sunday was slow, but always a new Q on a new band to be found. 15 was barely open early and stayed that way for a long time with strong signals finally around 17Z. I had a decent run on 15 phone from 1852-1930Z. 10 opened briefly from 1845-50Z for 3 Q's and worked N6O later. I took longer breaks than I would have if not so slow just making 161 Q's on Sunday. Running on CW was very slow at best the whole time.

Thanks for all of the Q's; working 280 unique CA calls on 20 phone was pretty amazing! The operator quality was good/great almost across the board and even the slow guys did pretty well. I notice that one CA op who is no speed demon on CW is at the top of his category.

73 Jeff

**N1CC - fixed - TX - 241 cw 369 ssb**

Radio Conditions: Nasty is a good word. Near black-out much of Sunday to West coast. All bands longer than usual.

Had hopes of repeating or improving 2015 performance in this class. With the propagation challenge that was over-optimistic. This year's score is down 18% for about the same amount of on-the-air time. 153 fewer contacts, however, the Clean Sweep was attained at 12:45 UTC Sunday - early for me, and better than missing it last year (Colusa Co. last in the log).

Was able to sustain runs on 40, 20, and 15 some of the time. The 10 Meter opening was short for Texas, however, I suspect the East Coast did very well with several hours of 10 Meter to California open for them. (I did make more 10M contacts than last year). 160M Conditions seemed good, there were not many stations that came down to Top Band.

15M was the best band for me this year, as last year with only 9 fewer contacts. 20M was second, however, was 80 fewer contacts than 2015 making up half of the reduction overall. 40 was very erratic, and almost every QSO had to be completed with a different antenna ... switching between them to get a good QSO.

As usual the CQP was a lot of fun along with the work involved.

**K5YAA - fixed - OK - 276 cw 499 ssb**

Still the Big One. Great to have 15 open both days with huge Calif. signals especially Sunday just before the bands dipped briefly. Not often 40-50 over signals seen on the K3.

Thanks to the sponsors for another good one.

73 - Jerry K5YAA

rig: K3, 6el 15, 6el 20 3el 40 and a Vee on 80

**K6M - county expedition - multi op - Modoc county 1350 cw 772 ssb**

Nasty weather on the mountain for tear-down: wet snow and wind. temp: 32°F. The crew did a great job. Thanks to the NFS for allowing us to use the fire lookout even after they had closed it for the season on Friday. We hope nobody lacked for a Modoc mult.

See y'all next year

**W7YAQ/6 - county expedition - Modoc - 616 cw 131 ssb**

We started a family vacation last week on the Oregon coast. Worked our way south just in time to land in Del Norte County CA for the weekend.

Operated from Ship Ashore Resort in Smith River in Del Norte County, just south of the Oregon border. Put up an R5 vertical for 20-10, and a 33-foot DK9SQ pole supporting a quarter wave vertical for 40, and inverted L for 80. Rig was a K3 with KPA500. Nice waterfront location, but over water direction was to KH6 -- big signals from that direction! Coax from our room to the antennas crossed driveway to boat launching ramp. Thunderstorms and rain limited boat trailer traffic, but unfortunately added to my off-air time.

### **W6RBP - county expedition - San Diego - 759 ssb**

KD6DL and I once again ventured out to the Butterfield Ranch Resort in eastern San Diego county to put on our little county expedition - not because SDIE is at all rare, but because we enjoy operating portable, and the campground manager is friendly to us stringing some antennas up in the trees and running wires into the cabins.

Anyway, for a simple fan dipole at 20ft, we were consistently impressed with our ability to work into the east coast on 80 and 40. I guess my old SB-201 helps with that, but with the antenna that low, I'm still pretty happy.

### **KN4Y - fixed - FL - 250 cw**

Saturday an active CW day on 5 bands, Sunday heard only loud stations. Stayed up for 80-meters but low power CW did not break the pile-ups. Serial numbers are antiquated, maybe some new exchange next year to make a fun QSO party. Did not hear and work enough counties for a sweep.

# Sunspots

The mysterious 'alpha effect' revealed: Tidal activity on Venus, Earth and Jupiter linked to solar activity

The sun's magnetic field is created by the omega and alpha effects  
But, researchers have long questioned the origins of the alpha effects  
The study suggests tidal forces from Venus, Earth, and Jupiter play a role  
Small amounts of energy from these planets may cause oscillations  
This could cause polarity reversal every 11 years, and dictate 22-year cycle

Every 11 years, the polarity of the sun's magnetic field reverses, leading to cyclical peaks in solar activity – and along this same cycle, it aligns with Venus, Earth, and Jupiter.

In a new study, researchers in Germany suggest the tidal forces from these three planets may directly influence oscillations in a phenomenon known as the 'alpha effect,' dictating the 22-year cycle of the solar dynamo.

While it's known that the dynamo, a combination of the omega and alpha effects, is responsible for the sun's magnetic field, the origins of the alpha effect have long remained a mystery.

In the study, published to the journal Solar Physics, researchers at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR) investigated the unanswered questions surrounding the sun's magnetic field.

'As with the Earth, we are dealing with a dynamo,' explained Dr Frank Stefani, a physicist from HZDR.

'Through self-excitation, a magnetic field is created from virtually nothing, whereby the complex movement of the conductive plasma serves as an energy source.'

The alpha-omega dynamo abides by a cycle in which the polarity of the sun reverses every 11 years, leading to an increase in dark spots on the surface, known as sunspots.

'Interestingly, every 11.07 years, the Sun and the planets Venus, the Earth and Jupiter are aligned,' Stefani says.

‘We asked ourselves: Is it a coincidence that the solar cycle corresponds with the cycle of the new conjunction or the opposition of the three planets?’

It’s widely accepted that the omega effect originates in a region known as the tachocline, where areas of varying rotation converge to generate the ‘toroidal magnetic field.’

But, there is little clarity on the position and cause of the alpha effect, which uses the toroidal field to create a poloidal effect, running along the sun’s lines of longitude.

Some have suggested that the alpha effect stems from a place near the sunspots – but in the new study, the researchers propose this effect is linked to a phenomenon known as the Tayler instability.

The Tayler instability plays a role in the resonance of the solar dynamo, and arises when a strong current flows through a conductive liquid or plasma.

When strong enough, the interactions between the current and its magnetic field can create a turbulent flow.

In the study, the researchers at HZDR found that certain conditions result in oscillations of the alpha effect.

With just small amounts of energy, the tides of Venus, Earth, and Jupiter may influence the alpha effect based on the principles of resonance.

‘If you only just give a swing small pushes, it will swing higher with time,’ Stefani explains.

‘The impulse for this alpha-oscillation requires almost no energy. The planetary tides could act as sufficient pace setters for this.’

The calculations revealed the Tayler instability oscillates between right and left-handedness with little change in the flow energy, suggesting small forces are enough to initiate the oscillations in the alpha effect.

‘Our calculations show that planetary tidal forces act here as minute external pace setters,’ Stefani said.

‘The oscillation in the alpha effect which is triggered approximately every eleven years,

could cause the polarity reversal of the solar magnetic field and, ultimately, dictate the 22-year cycle of the solar dynamo.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3822306/The-mysterious-alpha-effect-revealed-Tidal-activity-Venus-Earth-Jupiter-linked-solar-activity.html#ixzz4MDfHvyrY>

## Pennsylvania QSO Party

### **KA3QLF – rover – 460 QSO**

KA3QLF : “ had a decent trip around the north eastern part of the state. Thanks to several known CHers for following with me. I hope we covered most everything I could help with, and the others helped folks with PA needs. Hand log shows 460 qso, for 14 activated counties. While I thought I had it setup for easy CW and SSB, something happened. Thankfully they were tuned for CW. 40 worked on SSB, but 20 lost its tunability up there, and seemed to detune itself to be low SWR at 13.990. Without cutting the stinger, I couldn't make it any shorter Always a project. will have a more detailed report when I am done hashing the paperwork Scott, KA3QLF

### **WN4AFP - fixed - SC 128 cw 103 ssb**

WOW! Activity was excellent and the band conditions from SC to PA was awesome! On Saturday, I started on 40m and moved to 80m at 0000z. 40m was still in good shape, but the PA guys moved to 80m early. 80m got better as the evening progressed. Had a short amazing 20m opening this morning and after being gone most of the day, returned to 40m for the last 1.5 hours of the contest. I even 'ran' several times during the event with nice results. I'd like to thank the mobile/rover ope who went the extra mile for all of us. Also, the bonus stations did a great job too - made 14 contacts with W3UU. This was my 4th PAQP and I can't wait until next year. Thank you Mike and the PAQP for adding the Low Power awards to the mix... that's one of the reasons I stayed in

the chair. 73s Dave WN4AFP

### **KN4Y - fixed - FL 115 CW QSO**

Finally decent band conditions for a QSO party. Would like to see the serial number exchange be deleted, so more mobiles would get out and operating. Had a nice run on 80 meters until last few hours, low power was not competitive.

### **N2CU mobile - 594 cw 288 ssb**

Fun? WOW! Thank you to all who participated in this great QSO party. QSO leaders W3CG(120), OM2VL(36), WA3HAE(17), K2SSS and W1EQ(15), NW0M(10), WA4GQG and AA3B(9), N4PN, W1QK, K8NYG(8) and many others. Highlights were visiting W3CG and running the bands, 160 thru 2 from two counties, and working OM2VL 80 thru 15m. Thanks Laci! I made it a point not to leave each county until I worked you. I had a terrible time trying to find a clear frequency on 40m SSB to call CQ. Just no room for weak mobiles. I worked 60 counties and bonus station W3UU 4 times.

A great time, but having the first day end at 1 AM local is the pits. Only 38 QSOs those last three hours; why not start the contest earlier and end the first day at a reasonable hour? Got back to the cottage at 2:15 AM and then up at 7:30 AM for the second session.

### **OM2VL 233 cw 133 ssb**

Unfortunately many stations preferred 40m at daytime in Slovakia and don't move to 20 and 15m ... :( I have no chance to made this counties.)

At night long long time I called K0BAK/R from MIF on 40m SSB, but cant break the USA wall...

Missed counties: BED, BLA, CLE, CLI, CMB, LAC

BONUS station W3UU/M worked 20 times! Score included this 4.000 points.

Thank you very much for the QSO's especially to Tom N2CU for many QSY's to another mode and band and for POT county in last 6 minutes of the Party, and to Jim K8MR for quick QSY's to SSB.

Mobile:

N2CU/M 36/11 (QSO / Cty)

W3CG 20/4 - 4Cty line

W3UU/M 20/13

K8MR/M 15/7

N3VZ 14/2 - 2Cty line

KA3QLF/M 9/9

AB3AH 6/2 - 2 Cty line

PLEASE!!!! your QSL's for my US County Award and US County Challenge - every band + every mode

Maybe I missed some QSO's because I hunted also AZ QSO's - made 46 QSO in Arizona QSO Party.

73, Laci OM2VL

### **K8MR mobile 336 cw 23 ssb**

This was an opportunistic operation. Saturday afternoon my son-in-law's family (Cleveland daughter) hosted a clambake at his parents' QTH 10 miles from PA. So I excused myself for a couple of hours before the food was ready to run over to the rest area on I-90 three miles into Erie county, for 45 minutes of operating. 40 was quite good, but few signals were heard on 20, even from AZ. Highlight was hearing NO3M's VFO zero beating me and then Ty calling me with his 1930's vintage setup.

We were then heading to New Jersey on Sunday to visit our other daughter, so I got my wife to drive most of I-80. She doesn't like driving, so I had to spell her for a while in Clearfield, Centre, and Luzerne counties. (All big counties). She was driving about 10 mph over her normal speeds, trying to get to NJ in time to watch the Indians-Red Sox game at 4:30 EDT - which turns out to have been rained out.



First time mobile in our Prius V. It is noisy, though not vastly noisier than other cars I've been in. There were, however, one or more layers of signals that I couldn't copy over the noise. Plus there was one time when 40 meters went very quiet - turned out I had hit the RX Ant button on the K3. Sorry for any alligator imitations on my part.

Since I was not trying to be competitive, I did not spend time looking for multipliers, and did not stop to maximize QSOs in counties that we passed through very quickly. I did smile when we stopped for lunch at Arby's in Clearfield and found a long line - I went to the car and operated while my wife got the food. And in Monroe county, we came to a dead stop in a four mile traffic backup from an accident at the Tannersville exit. This may have been the first time in recorded history that somebody was happy to get stuck in a traffic jam, allowing for a very good total from MOE.

It was a very good way to occupy myself on the otherwise boring trip down I-80, and as always good to work old friends and pass out QSOs to new ones.

73 - Jim K8MR

### **K0BAK mobile 33 cw 305 ssb**

Improved 10% over last year's score.

Also was more disciplined in following my rove plan so covered all the counties I wanted to. Could not find a place to call CQ on 40m SSB most of the time. Probably could have given out more relatively rare ones like PER if I could have CQed. Maybe part of the problem is using a better radio with a scope so I could hear and see more signals than last year.

As in every contest, I'm competing with a serious handicap by not copying CW by ear. Hope I fix that when I retire soon.

Great job W3UU getting all those bonus stations on the air.

Thanks to the hard working organizers, especially Mike Coslo.

## On the Road with Rick, AI5P

During my trip to the Baltic states, I had the nice opportunity to meet our fellow county hunter, Jonas, LY5A, at his home near Siauliai, Lithuania. If you wondered why you can hear him, I think the following information and photos of his antennas will explain why!



Jonas, LY5A and Rick, AI5P

20 meters: 6 elements at 42 meters

17 meters: 3 elements at 12 meters

15 meters: 6 elements at 35 meters

12 meters: 4 elements at 12 meters

10 meters: 6 elements at 33 meters



But what really impressed me was two four-legged towers - each 45 meters high weighing 10 tons each and self-supporting embedded in 25 tons of concrete! One is used as a full-sized vertical for 160 meters with 4 radials (over 300 countries worked). The other one is basically used as a support structure for delta loops for 80 and 30 and a 40 meter dipole. Wow!

73 Rick AI5P

## Arizona QSO Party

**KN4Y - fixed - FL 18 CW QSO**

Did not hear many Arizona Stations on CW. Wish Arizona would drop the serial number from the exchange and get mobiles on the road.

# New York QSO Party

## **K8MR mobile 228 cw 44 ssb**

I operated as a rover, which is no longer a NYQP category. In particular, I used the 33 foot wire fed against the car body from 3 of the 40 counties.

I did a swing around NYC from my daughter's QTH in Montclair, NJ. I got across the GW Bridge and to my New York county location very easily, and found a good parking spot in Ft. Tryon Park with a beautiful view of the Hudson River. No space there for the mast, so this was my pure mobile effort. Had a scare - after one QSO, the K3 went deaf and dumb. Tried various power cycling, etc., for ten minutes. After an snap of the front bail, the radio snapped back to life and worked fine for the rest of the contest. NEW total was 35 CW, 3 SSB.

Second stop was in Queens, at parking lot at the entrance to Fort Totten Park. Nice view here also, other than watching the traffic crossing the Throgs Neck Bridge at a crawl. The five mile drive to the next stop in Bronx (Orchard Beach) took 40 minutes. QUE was good for 67 CW and 14 SSB.

Bronx was the biggest (almost)empty parking lot I've ever seen. It did have some serious RFI issues on 40 meters - I suspect from a couple of 50KW AM radio stations a couple of miles away. After some good results on CW, I went to 40 SSB and quickly got called by a very loud K0BAK - who was on the other side of the same parking lot. Pete drove over to where I was and we had a very neat eyeball QSO. When Pete got back to the opposite side of the lot, he called to say my QRM was clobbering 40 SSB, so I went back to CW to finish off the county. BRX totals: 63 CW, 21 SSB.

With more traffic leaving the BRX location, I skipped the planned stop in the common Westchester county, and proceeded through another traffic jam at the Tappan Zee Bridge to get to my planned location at a park in Orangetown in Rockland county. Had a very interested park cop (probably a volunteer). By that time the band was beginning to lengthen a bit, but still pulled out a decent number: 63 CW, 6 SSB.

Other than more traffic than I had expected, it was a beautiful day to be out

and about, and as always it was good to pass out some QSOs and multipliers to the deserving.

73 - Jim K8MR

### **N1CC fixed TX 37 cw 15 ssb QSO**

Although conditions improved in the few days before the NYQP they did not stabilize well enough to really take advantage of "radio good conditions" that never came about. Final score down 33% from last year, fewer contacts on 80 and 40 and zero contacts on 15M this year.

Not able to get much of a run going, in part lack of stations on from NY and then there were the N4, NN8, VE3, KA9. W3. KA3, N2 (not NY) and WD8 that just had to call and were then offended when I told them NIL as they were not in NY and had answered a "Directed Call for New York Only". I guess since that represent an additional 8 lost opportunities - or 20% waste of time it only means that the "shake and bake" schools on a weekend aren't turning out properly "Elmered" Hams. That needs to change. Several of the WAG stations kept infringing on all stations, as they have no regard for "QSO Party" activity. The unusually large population of JOTA stations also created less than desirable spectrum.

This year it was a challenge to get more than 50 valid contacts.

### **N2CU - mobile 449 cw 158 ssb**

A H-U-G-E (upstate NY'ers will get the reference) thank you to the NYQP organizers and the RDXA for this event. Even though conditions were sucky to the extreme, activity was good.

My start in ERI was very slow and it was like pulling teeth to get a QSO. I CQ'd on 20, 40 and 80 with little to show. 47 QSOs. It was the same thing last weekend in the PAQP where I started in ERI also.

In CHA, things improved with a better location and the sun warming things up.

102 QSOs. CAT was not far away, distance wise from the ERI and CHA lines, and it produced pretty well. 86 QSOs.

Then it was a longer drive to reach WYO, ALL and LIV. Once in LIV after sunset I decided to change my on-the-fly plans and double back through a few counties to get some 80m QSOs. That was a good choice rather than running 20 or 30 miles to another county. I loaded up in WYO and ALL to finish. WYO 128 QSOs, ALL 160 QSOs and LIV 124 QSOs. I also finished 1 hour away from home; got home at a decent hour.

I checked/CQ'd on 15 and 80 during the daylight hours but no takers for the most part.

Got lots of crazy good signal reports, like 40 over 9 on 40m SSB from a station in New England, and 20 over 9 from the midwest. I love it! Maybe being on a hilltop at 2100' elevation had something to do with it.

Stats:

Counties activated 6

Counties worked 42

Sections and provinces 45

Thank you to all who participated in our QSO party. It was very much appreciated.

73, Tom N2CU

### **N2ZN multi-op mobile 719 cw QSO**

with NW2R - 26 counties put out

Another run through New York State for the NYQP. This year, we just stuck to mostly the main highways and didn't get too fancy. We got to see almost all of the regions of NY State on this trip, from Western NY and the Finger Lakes to the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, the Southern Tier, and the Capitol Region. You can definitely cover a lot of ground in 12 hours.

We were down 200+ QSO's on 20 meters compared to our last mobile trip in 2014, but did better on both 40 and 80. 20 seemed open most of the day, with good

signals, but no rate to be had, most of the time.

We had originally planned to end in Cattaraugus county, but instead opted to change the route to include Putnam county earlier in the day, since it would be close to our route. That turned out to be a better idea, since we would have hit CAT at the very end with only a few minutes left, with no idea if anyone would still be around to work us!

Thanks to all who worked us, and thank you to all of the other participating stations who made the 8th running of the NY QSO Party a success. Also thanks to the other mobiles who got out and put some rare counties on the air.

73, Ken N2ZN and Dean, NW2K

**K2VX mobile reported 682 SSB QSO** – had no further comments

**K0BAK - mobile/rover - 287 ssb**

Roved in all New York City boroughs / counties plus WES.  
Operated rover-style, stopping in each county at one location each to operate. Dangerous to operate in motion with just one person.  
Screwdriver didn't move near the end; could only operate 20m in RIC.  
High" power was only 400w.

Most operating locations were also NPOTA units, so attracted additional contacts from NPOTA chasers but gave out the NYQP exchange.  
Self-spotting should be permitted, especially for mobiles.  
Cannot police self-spotting anyway.

## On the Road with N4CD

This month the road didn't go too far – just up to OK for the “Texoma Hamfest” in Ardmore, OK (Carter County). It's a small hamfest – usually barely worth the drive –

but this year with National Parks on the Air, I could do both and make it worthwhile.

After a morning routine doc appointment, where the doc said I've been eating too well (gained 7 lbs with all the travel and meals on the road and waffles), I headed up to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Murray County. It's a very nice park with a big lake, camping, boat launch areas, a floral garden area, nature trails galore, swimming, and other activities. There's even a bison herd there. I found a different spot – boat launch area – with giant parking lots and sat in one for a few hours. After putting over 100 QSOs into the log, I headed back to Ardmore. This hamfest starts at 5pm on Friday for 3 hours, then resumes on Saturday morning. The Super 8 motel is conveniently half a mile from the convention center where this hamfest is held.

There wasn't anything of interest – no regens – no mobile goodies – so it took less than an hour to check out the place, then off to dinner at the Sirloin Stockade (a buffet type place), then back to the Super 8 motel (\$54).

Next morning I had half a waffle, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee.....then over tot he hamfest when it opened at 8 am. Nothing new. I did see AF5Q who has run most of the OK parks. He'll likely run the OK City Memorial site again if you need that (OK County) before the end of the year and the end of the NPOTA program.

I didn't stick around long at the hamfest – and headed back north to the Chickasaw Rec Area. After a few hours, I ran the total up to 222 QSOs from the park and decided to head on home.





Chickasaw – RC05 – Murray County OK

Had to buy a new tire at 41K miles. The repair to the one tire done in CO at 30K miles started leaking some air so a new tire was needed. Rest of tires look like they'll go to 60K miles – and they are the original equipment tires. Good!

There will probably be a trip or two before the year end, but who knows? Not too many new parks within 1000 miles of the N4CD QTH to run!

## Iowa QSO Party

**N6MU - fixed - CA 92 cw 2 ssb**

Thanks to the mobiles for keeping it interesting. Top mobile for me was WI0WA with 29 Qs followed by K0PC/NU0Q with 26 each and KE0TT with 3 Qs.

15 was open all day. Never heard anything on 10.

Interesting display of skip distance today on 20. All three mobiles were in the western part of IA and easily workable on 20 and 15 until about 17Z. The skip moved just enough east that all disappeared for about two and a half hours. At the same time, W0GXA, in eastern IA, was S9 on 20 and 15. Ah, propagation!

73...

John, N6MU

### **WI0WA multi-op mobile - 420 cw qso**

ops: N0XR, N0AC

First, thanks to the Ottumwa Amateur Radio Club for sponsoring the 2016 Iowa QSO Party. Second, thanks to all the stations that QSOed with us. Third, thanks to Dean, N0XR, for operating, driving, and putting up with me all day.

The HF mobile bug bit me pretty hard earlier this year with news of the NPOTA program. With visions of activations in the Rocky Mountain National Park I improved my mobile station by following the suggestions of the K0BG.com website. The biggest improvement was bonding various parts of my truck body to the frame. In the past inverter noise was the biggest downfall so when I found a small gas powered generator at a garage sale I snapped it up. Needless to say “you always get what you pay for” so I also upgraded the generator. Now thoughts of mobile contesting danced in my head and a need for quick band changing so I added a second antenna. Here is the rundown of the mobile station we used for the IA QSO Party:

2003 Dodge Ram Diesel Truck, 185,000+miles

Elecraft K3 at 100w

Tarheel 200A-HP antenna, driver’s side

Ameritron SDA-100 antenna, passenger’s side

K1EL Winkeyer with Vibroplex paddles

Old HP Laptop running Win7

N1MM+ logger

Honda EU2000i generator

Our plan was to activate 19 counties which required us to keep moving all day but as it turned out we were able to activate a 20th county. We figured our money bands would be 20 and 40m with QSYS to 15m on request. We started out in Polk County on 80m but Dean found the band to be noisy and moved to 40m quickly thanks to our two antenna setup. Our first QSO was with Jim, AD1C, in Colorado at 1403z. After re-tuning the other antenna to 20m we spent the rest of the day bouncing back and forth between 20 and 40m. N6MU was the

only station to ask us to QSY to 15m so every time we worked him we would re-tune the opposite antenna to 15m preparing for the quick QSY. John was usually loud on 15m but CQing there didn't yield any activity so we usually went back to our running band. Conditions were not outstanding but decent with a marked improvement in the afternoon.

I did some work with Google Maps and used their mileage and travel time between counties to setup a schedule. Surprisingly we keep on track most all day. A bonus was activating Johnson County. We found a section of road that was on the county line of Iowa and Johnson counties. As we drove North we activated Johnson then as we turned back West we went to Iowa County. This turn West was the only time we got off route but it really didn't matter as we would run into our next county anyway just not on our planned road. It was a mad dash to our last county, Jasper. With 15 minutes before the ending bell Dean put 17 QSOs in the log including one QSY to 15m with N6MU. Our last QSO was with John, K4BAI, in Georgia at 2259z.

Notable are the stations that QSOed us multiple times:  
N6MU, 29 N3RJ, 12 K5GE, 10 N3RM, 10 WB5JID, 10

Dean, N0XR and Bill, N0AC

**KD0NEO - mobile 541 cw 7 ssb**

Man, what a ride! Thanks to all who posted us. KX3 and KPA100 with hamsticks worked great

**K0PC mobile 428 cw**

This year I decided to run the IAQP in the same area where I rode RAGBRAI in July. So I mapped a route that took me to all the counties on the southern border. The hills were much easier in the car than they were on the bike.

Everything worked reasonably well even though I was a little late starting. Conditions were OK but not great. My QSO count is down considerably from previous years.

Thanks to the Ottumwa ARC for sponsoring this event over the years. You do a great job. I look forward to another run across the state next September (and a bike ride next July).

73, Pat K0PC

## Book Review of the Month

This month it's another obscure hardly known 'Little Book' from the 1939 era called "Radio Patrol – Outwitting the Gangsters". Measuring about 2 1/2 x 3 inches – and a couple hundred pages making it about an inch thick, it lives up to the name 'little book'. You'll find this is a Dick Tracy type comic book – illustrations on the right hand page and text on the left hand side.

Starting out, we find that detective Molly has gone undercover as a chorus girl, trying to solve the murder of the District Attorney. She associates with the known gangsters trying to get a handle on the killers. Her hobby is collecting glasses from bars – and as it turns out, ones with the finger prints of the various gangsters as she tries to find the murders. Unfortunately, she's found out – and kidnapped and held hostage. Big Dan, the head of the gangster organization, keeps her in a safe house.

Her boss manages to recruit some of the local teens to try and find the hideout by trailing gang members – and they do. While the title is radio patrol – there's only one instance where the radio is used – and the police are tipped off that the gangsters are listening in to police calls – so all that is said to Car 11 is 'call the station'. Hmmmm....so much for a 'radio mystery'.

In the end, the good guys catch the bad guys, Big Dan and two of his henchmen who killed the DA go to the big house, Molly is saved, and all ends well.

Lots of violence and fisticuffs from all sides. Not the least bit PC. No radio involvement here. Lots of illustrations but barely worth the six bucks it costs. Will be up for sale next antique wireless association event.

It looks like there's a couple in the Radio Patrol series. I might have to see if I can find a few more bargains.



## South Dakota QSO Party

Not a whole lot going on – a few fixed stations to work and that's about it.

**K4BAI fixed GA 1 cw 2 ssb qso**

Too bad more SD stations didn't participate. Thanks for the QSOs. 73, John, K4BAI.

## Mobile Activity in October

There were QSO Parties almost every weekend. Some county hunters participated by going mobile, others were quiet as the bands were full – especially on SSB during the big ones. November has several BIG contests to either avoid, go around, or join in.

N9AC concluded his trip to FL

AE7KI was spotted in WA and WY and SD – then into MO – into TN.

AB7NK/K7SEN headed up to UT and CO and circled back through NM to home in AZ.

K7TM left WA and headed down through OR into CA

N4UP was busy putting out counties in VA many days. Later headed to IA

Ron, KB6UF headed over to AL, then up to TN and back putting out many

Kerry, W4SIG, was over in AR then up into MO, and busy many days in TN ....

Bill, NU0Q, headed north from IA to MN

Jim, N4JT, spotted up in MD putting them out on multiple modes on many days

N5KUC was spotted out in west TX

Tony, WA9DLB, was noted out and about in IA

Ed, K8ZZ, made a long trip to AZ and back putting out lots of counties. Picked up new screwdriver antenna.

AA8R/W8TAX noted out and about in MI

Jim, N9JF ran a few in IL and IA

Barry, N0KV was busy in CO – and later the team N0KV/N0DXE headed up to NE

KA9JAC/KB9VYT were out and about in WI

KM9X/KB9MGI spotted in TN and AL

Bill, K2HVN, headed to New England and ran a bunch up that way.

Ray, WB0PYF, noted out and about in MO

Paul, N7JPF, spotted out in MT

K0PFV noted in MO

Mike, KA4RRU, ran a few in VA including some NPOTAs

KA1JPR/KA1QBC noted in FL running counties

KW1DX put out counties in New England

N7MZW was noted in WY

Hollis, KC3X was active in NC a few days

Silver, N9QS took a trip to SC and back

**Most active mobiles of the month? N4UP, N4JT, K8ZZ, K7TM, K2HVN**

## Illinois QSO Party

Ah, yes, another IL QSO Party with portable stations set up on 3 and 4 way 'county lines' to keep things interesting. A few mobiles out and about, with many counties on the air with fixed stations. Again, much of the activity was IL stations trying to work each other on 40m during the day and 80m at night – makes it tougher for stations far away.

## **K0PC - mobile - 908 cw**

This was my first mobile effort in the IL QSO Party. I have done the IA QSO Party for several years but this year I decided to make it a double header weekend by staying over and do the ILQP on Sunday. I have a feeling this won't be my last fall ride through Illinois.

Conditions were up and down all day. 20M was very good for a while then it faded, only to return later in the afternoon. 40M was good all day with a lot of in-state stations. I finished up on 80M with good propagation and not too much noise.

Here are some numbers.

917 Total QSOs  
IL - 250  
Non IL - 667  
Unique Calls - 242

Thanks to the Western Illinois ARC and especially to Jim N9JF for sponsoring this event. It is a first class operation.

73,  
Pat K0PC

## **Awards Issued**

USCA III #251	Ed, K8QWY	October 3, 2016
7 <sup>th</sup> Time #25	Terry, WQ7A	October 2, 2016



# Operating Events for County Hunters

Just one state QSO party this month – Kentucky. We're winding down, but there are many contests to work. Be wary that many Sweepstakes stations are 'guest operators' at other stations – not necessarily in their 'home county'.

Nov 5 2100z to Nov 7 0300z

## **ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW**

Serial, precedence, your call, check, section

[www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

Nov 12 1400z Nov 13 0200z

## **Kentucky QSO Party**

CW Ph Dig

RS(T), county or SPC

[www.wkdx.com](http://www.wkdx.com)

Nov 19 2100z to Nov 21 0300z

## **ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB**

Serial, precedence, your call, check, section

[www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

Nov 26 0000z 27 2359z

## **CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW**

RST, CQ Zone

[www.cqww.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm)

That's all folks. See you next month ....de N4CD