

County Hunter News

July 1, 2017
Volume 13 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.

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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 and 14328 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://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 . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at 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)

Notes from the Editor

1) N4CD Rumblings

It's been a fairly slow month down here in TX but a few other activities beside county hunting have kept me occupied. We had two state QSO parties this month, plus the Hamcom hamfest in Dallas, then Field Day to end the month. A few mobiles were out and about. Lots of June thunderstorms about, too

Rick, AI5P, began his Route 66 trip – starting in IL and driving along the route of the Historic Route 66 all the way out to California. There are segments still 'original' you can find and see – and in some cases, drive on. As of late June, he was into NM headed west.

2) The Dayton Flea Market Find

The Allied TRF Radio Kit found this year was unusual. I wanted to track down some info on this rare kit so I started looking in the Allied Radio catalogs starting in 1939 – that's the year the 12KS7 tube hit the market for the first time. Obviously, it wouldn't be before then even if TRF sets sort of went out of fashion in the 1920s. . Each of the catalogs is 200 pages plus long – so it was a trip back through the history of electronic parts and the items Allied Radio sold – from PA systems to Hi Fi Amps to kits by others. . All the Allied Catalogs are on line with a few exceptions. No luck in finding anything before WW2 interrupted things and the catalog went to real short editions and only parts – probably only sold to military users. There were more than a few thousand pages to scan through. Not there. There were no spare parts for kits during the war – everything went to war production. The war ended in 1945 and there were lots of surplus parts hitting the market. Production of war stuff just ended.

I hit pay dirt in the 1946 catalog – the kit was offered for sale that year. The sales blurb mentioned you needed a 50 foot long antenna to make this work. This was a four tube kit – tough to get much gain in 3 tubes to drive a speaker with a TRF design. Two RF stages/detector and then a single audio amp, plus a rectifier bringing the tube count to four. I have yet to find a schematic or parts list for it. One of these bad weather days I'll see how many years they sold it after that – but no one else seems to have ever heard of it in the collector community.

3) County Hunter Challenge Certificates

Barry, K2MF, sent out a slew of PDF Award Certificates for the County Challenge Award – for the awards you qualified for.

4) Dayton/Xenia attendance

The paid attendance at Xenia was 29,300 people – the second largest crowd in history. Largest was back in the 1990s with 31,000 folks showing up. Definitely was a successful hamfest. On the schedule for next year – at least one more large building to be constructed, maybe two – and paved roads in the 'flea market area' likely. How

about that? It's on my calendar for next year! There were glitches – and I'm sure folks are working hard to fix them so it should be even better next year!

On the Road with N0KV/N0DXE

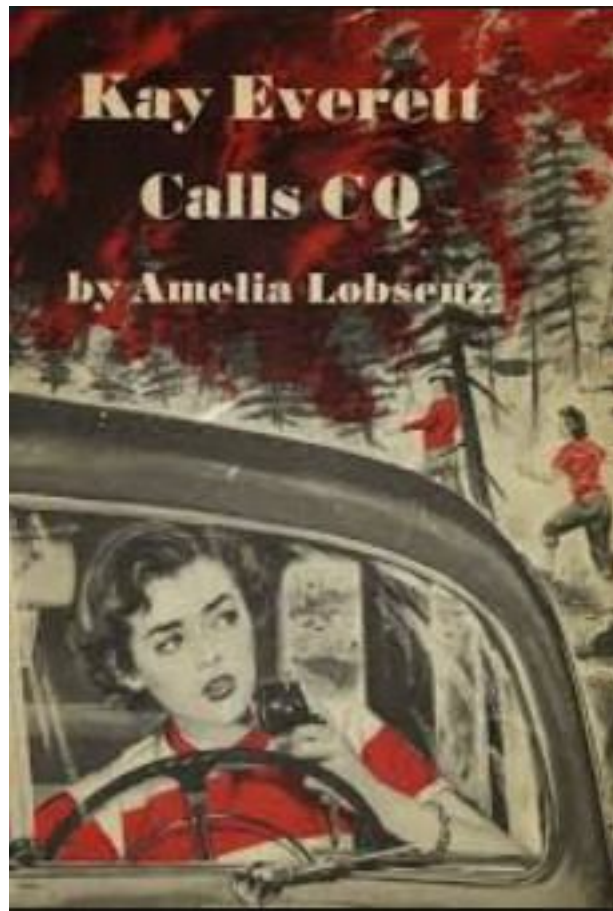
Headed out on 25 April (after medical appointments) to visit family in Mich. We had thought of going earlier but weather and schedules didn't work. So, off we went on 25 April through NE, IA, IL, IN, and MI. Since we were always changing our route/schedule, we didn't post the first days.

Visited with family in Mich for 4 days and then headed across Canada to NY, where we needed to run lots of counties. Still have the NY City area to do. Also finished up VT and PA , then home via OH, IN, IL, MO, KS and home (CO). In total, we traveled 5500 miles and ran 191 counties in 16 days. Total QSO's: 4227. Further stats: QSO's by mode: SSB-2216, CW-1829. QSO's by band: 17M-5, 20M-1859, 30M-453, 40M-1636, and 75M-92. There were 195 unique call signs worked and the top 20 stations accounted for 47% of the total QSO's. The top 5 were KC3X, W0EAR, W9DC, W4SIG and N5MLP. All in all, a pretty good trip. We did have a few problems: broke our 80M resonator and the coax to 20 and 17M got water in it so we moved the antenna to a different mount.

On a different note, we hope to run in Montana sometime this summer, pulling trailer and site seeing along the way. We will try and post so you can plan your days accordingly. So, have your needs updated.

Thanks for riding along with us.

Book Review of the Month



All aboard for ADVENTURE! Kay Everett Calls CQ, by Amelia Lobsenz, is about a young college girl who takes a summer road trip from North Carolina out to the West with three friends, a travel trailer, and ham radio.

The story starts in North Carolina. Jane the oldest of the group, has bought a used travel trailer with 4 bunk beds – the kind you haul behind a car in the early 1950s. The four girls have been working to fix it up for two months and plan a long trip out west over summer school vacation. Jane, the ham radio operator, W4HZZ, has installed a rig in the car. They are headed west to the National Parks in the northwest part of the country

– Yellowstone, Craters of the Moon, the Great Salt Lake, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Most of the story is about roaming the west – the scenery, wildflowers and plants and animals – elk, cows, sheep and buffalo and other things not seen in your typical eastern suburb!

A sub plot centers around a jewel thief, who is also roaming the West. Flip, against all advice, has brought a family heirloom bracelet along. Naturally, it gets stolen by the jewel thief at one trailer park.

In the story, Terry, a licensed YL and pilot, takes two of the girls flying over Idaho (aeronautical mobile) where they end up directing smoke jumpers into a wildfire). The protagonist, Kay, is named after the author's own daughter.

The stolen bracelet turns up toward the end of the story as they stop to assist a motorist with a flat tire on the Trail Ridge Road in the Rocky Mtn National Park. It turns out this is the jewel thief, and Flip, one of the girls opens his car trunk and discovers a box full of stolen jewelry. The thief grabs the box and heads on down the mountain trying to escape and a determined foot pursuit by Jane ensues. Jane is right after the thief, but Kay and the others stay behind. She doesn't have a license but puts out a call for help on the radio – and saves the day as all ends well with the arrival of authorities, an exciting foot chase, and an exciting conclusion.

Kay learns about the amateur radio hobby. Ham radio plays a critical role in several places and the author has the main characters explore several aspects of the hobby from communicating with locals along the way, talking 'back home' via phone patch, to going to a hamfest, and to visiting several amateur radio operators along the way.

Written in the 1950s and a relatively rare book – number #6,603,160 on Amazon popularity rating - hard to find a copy till I found it on-line at Open Library! I had to sign up (no fee) for Open Library to read it. Here's the link:

<https://archive.org/stream/kayeverettcallsc00lobs#page/n0/mode/1up>

Note: After the title page there are about 20 blank pages so skim down fast till the text starts!

Did eventually find did find a hard copy, but not many around.

AL QSO Party

This year had 7 mobiles or so and lots of fixed activity. Some of the fixed stations racked up 600 and 700 QSOs and many out of state stations had 80 plus QSOs into AL. It was a good one!

KN4Y - mobile - 581 cw QSO

Strange DX contacts are not a multiplier. Great day, had a downpour in Wilcox county, otherwise a great day for a QSO party. Band conditions okay with loud signals most of the time. New hearing aid helped, did not ask for too many repeats. The mounted shot gun on the back window made me accepted as a native, told people I shoot skip. Had some good bar-b-cue. My driver made some wrong turns so I got to run a few unannounced counties. Total Miles 805.

N6MU - fixed - CA - 117 cw QSO

Good activity this year with seven CW mobiles to keep it interesting. Top mobile for me was AD4EB with 26 Qs followed by KN4Y(18), K4BAI(17), K4ZGB(8), K4NO(7), and W4NZ/KC4HW with 3 each.

Thanks to all the fixed stations as well. Never heard a peep on 15. 73...

John, N6MU

K4ZGB - mobile reported 555 cw QSO

W4NZ mobile - 350 cw QSO

This year our setup consisted of an Icom 756 ProIII and two Hustler antennas mounted on the roof of a 2016 Dodge Durango. First time using the Durango which turned out to be completely free of any ignition noise.

Our crew - K0EJ, K4VIG and I, could only participate part time this year. We did manage to cover 11 counties and about 350 miles in 5 1/4 hours. Our last QSO was at 2138Z which means we had to quit just as conditions and activity normally pick up. Maybe we can come back next year for the high rate hours.

Thanks to all who called and followed along with us.

73, Ted W4NZ

KN4O mobile with KA9EKJ 494 cw 12 ssb

Lots of fun in this one. Operated from 12 counties. I did all of the driving and Roger did most of the operating. Everything worked. Need to add a 2nd antenna as we had to pull over to change bands.

Thanks to all who called in

Greg K4NO

AD4EB mobile - 1217 cw qso

This was our 7th time going mobile in the ALQP, which has become one of our favorite QSO parties to operate in. Melody, KI4HVY, was able to be our trusted driver/navigator this year, which made the going much better than last year. We did not score as high as previous years, but we were pleased with outcome, as everything worked perfectly on our side and we had great fun running around Alabama. We ran pretty much the same route as previous years, covering 28 counties.

We operated 40m and 20m during this first 9 hours of the contest, and switched to 40m and 80m for the last 3 hours. Nothing was heard on 15m. Band conditions were very quiet and a bit unusual, as stations that were very loud in one county would be very hard to copy in the next. Looking at IonProbe when we returned home showed the K index rose from 1 to a 4 during the contest and the effective SSN from 1 to a 30. Worked 13 DX stations, most surprising were RZ1OA and ZL2IFB,

Here are the top 11 stations based on number of times worked:

K9OM (32) - Way to go Dick, you were loud and quick to find us
WN4AFP (29)
NW0M (27)
N6MU (26)
W2RR (23)
N4CW (21)
W0BH (20)
K5WAF (19)
W5TM (19)
K5GA (18)
VE2FK (18)

DX Stations worked:

DK3BN, DL3DXX, DL3GA, EU1KY, F4AZH, F5FJ, F6HKA, F8BBL, HA8IB, HK3Q,
OK1CF,RZ1OA, ZL2IFB

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to work us. And thanks to the Alabama Contest Group who help make this contest happen every year.

73 from the AD4EB/m team:

Melody - KI4HVY, Jim - AD4EB, Don - N4ZZ

KC4HW - mobile - 232 cw 9 ssb

Brand new mobile installation.

Replaced the 1999 Chevy Truck with 410k miles with a 2014 Chevy with 36k miles. Been doing some RVing and the new truck handles those duties much better. Nevertheless had to start from scratch with the installation. Got the local audio shop to run a pair of #6 wires (positive and ground) direct from the power distribution block through the firewall. Each #6 was fused 30 amps and terminated with a four outputs block. This makes for easy hookup of the radio and other items.

The antenna is a Hustler fold over mast with resonators for 20m CW and 40m CW and PH. Even though I announced CW only, I did manage to ink out a few PH QSOs on 40m. In the future I will try to do more PH QSOs.

Had a antenna bracket manufactured/fitted by a local welder. I provided 3/8" aluminum plate for the material and a description. The welder/manufacturer fashion a perfectly fitting bracket that made use of the truck frame bolts on the rear. It was also required to be position where as to allow the tailgate to go down/up with no problem. Used the "hockey puck" from Breedlove. I ran the coax under the interior trim through the breather on the rear of the cab down the truck frame rail into a cross member and back to the feedpoint. Since I had a good bit of coax left over, I coiled it up as a 4" RF choke of 6 turns or so.

As it turns out there was no interference to or from the radio. No RFI in the RX and no RFI to the trucks systems! Happy Days! This was even better than the old 99! Needless to say I was very happy about this.

Had planned to use the ole trusty TS-50, but unfortunately it had bit the bullet twice in 6 months or so! So after much consideration, I decided to buy a new Yaesu FT-891 mobile radio and it arrived Thursday noon. I was apprehensive about a radio that was completely menu driven, except for a volume control and VFO knob. After spending most of Thursday afternoon and some of Friday morning learning it, I felt that I had acquired enough knowledge to run the radio during a mobile operation on Saturday's AQP. I will say that it was a bit awkward changing bands and modes--perhaps this will get easier. I had tried to program memories but for some reason that did not work, probably op error! Nevertheless I was able to work with it with no significant problems.

I did have a couple of hang ups with the old XP laptop. But a reboot seemed to solve the problem, I think the computer went to sleep and when I restarted it the serial port did not re-initiate. Used computer generated CW and Writelog to log the contest. Easy to keep up with the frequency because you can enter it directly into the log window. Although it looks like it will be easier to interface the CAT when the time comes. Without CAT is was not the best situation but a workable one.

I left home about 8AM to have breakfast and arrive at my first stop (Covington COVI county). I managed to make the first QSO at 1608Z, landed just a short

distance away in Escambia (ESCA) with first QSO at 1707Z. Conditions appeared to be pretty good. Made a slight error in driving and went the wrong way, cost me an hour plus driving (about 30 minutes driving mistake) but recovered and made the first QSO in Conecuh (CONE) at 1918Z and operated until 2020Z. 31 minutes of driving time got me to Bulter (BULT) with QSO at 2051Z. Operated for 35 minutes, then 32 minute drive to Crenshaw (CREN) with first QSO at 2158Z. Next stop at 2221Z was Coffee (COFF). Then earlier dinner! Made it to Dale (DALE) and first QSO at 0037Z. Conditions on 40m was excellent from DALE. 20 minute drive to Houston (HOUS) first QSO at 0121Z. Not many takers in HOUS so left at 0132Z for last stop Geneva (GENE), first QSO at 0158Z. It was totally dark for the last hour or so and I really did not have enough light in the truck to comfortably operated the computer. So after just 9 Qs I was done! Wrapped it up and called it quits!

250 miles and about 13 hours all total of driving and operating.

Nine counties to include Covington, Escambia, Conecuh, Bulter, Crenshaw, Coffee, Dale, Houston and Geneva.

Things to do for the next QSO Party:

1. Rework the charging unit for the old computer to do a direct connect to the 12v access direct from the battery.
2. Got to get a light for the computer to shine on the keyboard. Very difficult to operate the computer without amply light. I knew I need this from last year, but just could not remember!
3. Get a stiffener added to the antenna mount, so that it stabilized the antenna a bit more while driving. The big resonators seems to leverage the mount a bit.
4. It would be nice to have a ATAS or Tarheel antenna system as a second antenna on the truck--so that I could quickly change bands. Probably for use only during the QSO Parties.

OK, well this was all there is to it! Once again thanks to all for the QSOs and the participation in the Alabama QSO Party.

See you around the Ham Radio campus!

73

Jim/KC4HW

K4BAI mobile 823 cw qso

IC756Pro, 100W, Hustler mobile whips with magnetic mounts on trunk of 1997 Buick. Many thanks to Jeff, KU8E, who helped me install the rig and antennas and was the driver. We lost some time due to a return home to get a forgotten tool box and two quick meals. Thanks for all QSOs. Considering recent band conditions, the band conditions this weekend were excellent. 20M was open to most of the US plus Europe and the Caribbean and northern South America. Skip was short so that we were able to work adjoining states on 20 (except GA). 40M didn't seem to have any skip zone that has been occurring lately and we were able to work other AL stations for the whole contest period plus HK and west coast and Europe after sunset here. 80M was surprisingly good for the last two hours, but no DX this year. It appeared that the AL stations turned out in good numbers. Congrats to my fellow ACG members.

WN4AFP - fixed - SC - 118 cw

40m was the band this year... I'd like to thank all the stations that answered my call. Mobiles did a great job in this race... AD4EB 29, K4BAI15, K4ZGB 12, KN4Y 10, KC4HW 5, K4NO 5 and W4NZ 5. 40m really made the AL stations boom into

SC during the evening. I worked a few on 20m during shorter skip in the evening. I improved my cw contacts over last year by 40 Qs. Best 10min rate was 36. Thanks to the ACG for their work to make this possible. 73s Dave WN4AFP

On the Road with N4CD I

Hamfest time! The Hamcom Convention comes to Dallas once a year in early June with about 5000+ attendees. It's the largest in TX with a decent indoor flea market and a dozen different presentations during the day. Vendors turn out in force. So I was looking forward to it.

Come Friday, June 9, I was up at 6am out the door at 6:30. It had just started to rain a bit. Hit the McD for a breakfast sandwich then it was about 30 miles down to Irving TX – hopefully before more rush hour traffic hit. That was not to be. The skies open up and it began to pour. Steady heavy rain with periods of monsoon type downpours that brought the 70 mph traffic to 30 mph. Water everywhere. Slowly I made my way down that way – not the best weather to be driving in for sure. Accidents everywhere. Pickup trucks off the sides of the road (hydroplaning).

I got down there and found the Richardson Wireless Club tables – each year the club reserves two flea market tables for the use of the 100 members of the club to sell things and to advertise the club. Unloaded two boxes of things to try and sell including some of the books reviewed in the CHNews. All set before 8am. Later Carl, W5SU, would come by with the big club banner and we would string it up with some plastic pipe supports.

At 8am the doors for the general public open. Friday is a slower day since many hams are busy working, kids are in school, and the main events are on Saturday. However, the bargain hunters are definitely there. Sold a few things including all five Radio Pals books to one lady who seemed fascinated by them. Good. They come in, get read, reviewed, and out they go. I'm not 'collecting' those old books any longer – hi hi. I suspect in a few years, most will be on line. These were 1950s and the copyright was still good although no one sells new copies and most are in the 9 to 10 million ranking for popularity for sales on Amazon dot com. Most young kids don't read hard copy books these days. If it doesn't show up on their Kindle, iPad or smartphone app as an ebook, it doesn't exist. Hi Hi

The crowds on Friday were definitely down a bit due to the heavy rains and accidents all over the place.

Not many park hunters and country hunters showed up either day. Bill, K8TE from over in NM was there. That was about it for county hunters.



Bill, K8TE



Gary, K9JN
Park Hunter

Half a dozen park hunters including Mike, WA5POK, Gary, K9JN, KF5MY, and John, AE5B, were there, and I missed seeing the famous 'Harris Herd' and N5PHT. Knew they were there from the Facebook posts but we never connected. One of the 'Herd' worked on and got the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge – they had a half day program to qualify for it.. Another one of the Harris Herd took his tech test and passed it. It's a 'radio active' family. The “Herd” made it into several stories in QST last year.



WA5POK Mike
Marion County TX

I didn't see a lot of boat anchors. Two Collins KWM-2s were up for sale along with a Hallicrafters SX-110. Did see a few 'rare' HF radios including a KW-2000 transceiver (made in the UK) and another old Yaesu receiver from the 1960s, a, a FR-50B. Never seen either before – tube type radios.



KW-2000 Transceiver
Made in UK

The KW-2000 was a 1960s rig made in the UK. One of the first SSB transceivers there offered for sale. It used a 455 KHz mechanical filter for SSB generation/reception. Few made it to the US and in the US the price was high compared to Collins and Heathkit type gear.



Yaesu FR-50B

The FR-50B was a 160-10m tube type receiver that come out in the 1960s. Not bad for the times. Not much reason to own one these days.

There were a few HF transceivers and some VHF rigs for sale – and the vendors were doing a nice business selling new radios and handhelds and all the accessories. One TS-50 and antenna tuner had a \$650 asking price. Way out of line. Golly, I had one of those back in the early 1990s. No keyer built in – 80-10m. Now they work but not worth that price. It sat all day. You can buy an IC706 that includes VHF, a built in keyer (and DSP in the Mark II versions) for about that price.

Food – high price and not much variety. I'm spoiled after Dayton! \$6 sandwiches that weren't much and \$6 mini-pizza worth about \$2.50. Oh well.

They had a screw-up in the flea market table sales and about 1/3rd of them sat unoccupied this year.

Saturday was a repeat of Friday with greater attendance. More people browsing. Sold a few more things. Not much 'new' junk showed up – and left a bit after lunch and headed home. No new 'goodies' followed me home.

West Virginia QSO Party

Propagation didn't cooperate from TX. I couldn't eek out the mobiles. However, others had fun and put out the counties or snagged them.

KN4Y - fixed - FL - 11 cw

Exciting I - got to work most of the West Virginia CW operators along with two mobiles. Conditions not the best to the Florida panhandle. Overall not a good weekend for amateur radio activities.

N8II - fixed - WV - 107 cw 785 ssb qso

The sporadic E clouds were pretty kind to me. There was some direct ionospheric propagation on 20 to every state except WV, DE and MD. I think I may have worked

PA on 20, not sure. From the start until around 20Z, there was nearly constant Es into NY, all of New England, and ON (never heard a Quebec surprisingly). And for most of that time and into the evening most of the 4th call area was covered well by Es (worked many NC all over the state and as close as Roanoke, VA about 160 miles SW of me). To the west many MI and IN were worked with a few western OH. Beyond those areas, prop was decent almost all of the time, but few 6's and 7's were worked before 20Z and best west coast conditions were from 2300-0130Z. KH6RC called in with a good signal at 1906Z, and I added about 5 more HI stations on at least 3 islands. I had a big surprise being called by a VK2 SHORT PATH on 20 SSB in the 23Z hour, a first on that path around that time in 46 years on the air! The Es finally faded except to AL/FL around 24Z, but the western USA kept 20 phone run going until around 0045Z with small runs after that. Needless to say, 20 phone activity was fantastic for a low activity QSO party; I was surprised/amazed that so many called in to get a WV QSO or help me out, MANY THANKS!

15 and 10 were open to many areas on Es and I worked PR on 10 with a strong signal (double hop Es), but activity was very poor on 15 and most of the 10M Q's were 4th call area with a few 5's, 9's and 0's. I worked VT as well on 15. So, if you needed WV on 10/15 and were not on, you missed an opportunity.

40 and 80 were fine with relatively low noise for this time of year, but 40 and 80 CW yielded few Q's/runs after one at the start on 40 CW. I heard two WV stations calling CQ on 40 and 80 CW in the evening and getting very few answers.

Phone is definitely the mode for today's casual QSO party op. Quite a few WV counties called me on 40 phone, thanks!

Many thanks for all of the casual op help. I think this was my 2nd highest QSO total (maybe 3rd) in the WVQP and my highest mult total ever. Please stop by next year.

73, Jeff

K8AJS - fixed - OH - 2 ssb

West Virginia is the next-to-last state I need on SSB to complete my Triple Play effort. For a while, I wasn't sure I would find anyone to work, it was hard to

find any signals from WV, even on 40, but in the afternoon I was able to find a couple. Thanks to Steve and Jeff for the contacts, and I'm looking forward to a LotW confirmation for Triple Play.

73 and thanks to all for the contest participation!

WN4AFP - fixed - SC 12 cw 15 ssb

Worked the bonus station on 40m phone. Thanks to K8JQ and N8II for 12 of my 27 Qs.
73s Dave WN4AFP

K4BAI - fixed GA - 12 cw 10 ssb

No long skip on 20 or 40, so skip from GA to WV was very good for those who were QRV. 80M was a bit noisy, but signals were strong. Thanks for all QSOs.

73, John, K4BAI.

K3JJT/8 147 cw

It was fun to pass out the Monongalia County mult to all the interested parties who wanted wild wonderful west Virginia.

On the Road with N4CD II

The trip was set – I'd be heading out for a week to west TX – first out along I-20 with a few detours for counties then circling back a bit south to hit about 10 or 12 new “Parks on the Air” and 30-40 counties. The suitcases were packed, the mail was stopped, paper stopped, and I headed out. Everything working fine. I was zipping along in Parker County about ready to put it out....and the trusty IC706 decided to turn off. Wouldn't turn back on. What's going on here. Got out voltmeter and checked power to the plug that plugs into the radio. OK.....seems radio dead.

Well, I'm 80 miles from home – radio dead. Head back home and cancel a few motel

reservations at the start of the trip. Not going to happen now. Take radio into house, and decide to just watch TV and read for a while,. Bummed out.

Next day I put the radio on the bench - and lo and behold – it works fine. Hmmm.....it seems the pins in the Molex connector in the car – have had too many 'ins and outs' and just don't want to make contact with the pins in the 706. Need to replace that connector or splice in another 'end' of a cable. Didn't feel like making the trip now – so there wasn't any mobile activity – plus it was blazing hot out that way with over 100 deg temps – hardly the time to be sitting for hours in parks – usually without shade. Just didn't feel motivated like last year with the National Parks on the Air.

Mobile Activity in June

As June rolled around:

N5MLP, Ron, was still on his long, long trip putting out counties in MO.

Bill, K0DEQ was busy in MO, too

Jim, N4JT was running NC counties for five mode award.

Dave, KW1DX was putting them out in New England – VT, NH, NY

K6YEK started in KY and proceeded west. Spotted a few times.

Ed, K8ZZ, was in KS and MO on several trips.

The AL QSO Party was held and county hunter mobile KN4Y participated. A half dozen mobiles were out including big contester John, K4BAI.

Norm, N9NN, was giving out counties/parks in IN and MI.

Mike, KA4RRU, was noted out and about in PA

Phil, AB7RW was noted out and about in WA.

KZ2P/N2FPM were mobile in SC and NC.

Pete, N4UP was running counties in OH

Tony, WA9DLB, was spotted in WI.

Mike, NF0N, ran NE and IA counties – then into MN

Jack, K0MAF noted in KS heading west to CO then back to KS.

W8FNW/W4FNW spotted in OH counties

Seth, N3MRA noted in WV headed west through OH. Later spotted in VA. Then MO and AR. He's a Big Rig Driver.

The June VHF contest occurred with a few spots from/by county hunters on 6m – fixed.

K0ATZ, park activator, was spotted half a dozen times in MO parks/counties.

Ray, WB0PYF, noted in IL and OH into WV and MD – back around through KY to WV to IN and IL on his way home.

Jim, N9JF noted up in MN – into MT – headed into western Canada. Last noted running parks in 4th District AK.

Hollis, KC3X, put out a few in NC.

W8OP was busy putting out counties in WV – and also in the WV QP.

Rick, AI5P, headed up to IL to start the Route 66 trip county by county. Started there running the counties along 66 and at the end of the month, was into NM headed to CA.

Kerry, W4SIG, made a trip over to IA from the home QTH of TN. Then back through IL to home.

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In late May, Ron, N5MLP led the pack for activity. In early -mid June, Ray, WB0PYF was the most active. At the end of the month, Rick, AI5P, was spotted the most. Good to have mobiles out on long trips giving out lots of counties! SSB frequency 14324 received some activity from the mobiles out and about – a lot more than on the private net on .336 it appears. Good to see that happen. 7188 in use a lot too. WB0PYF, AI5P, K8ZZ, K0DEQ, N9JF, W4SIG, and others kept the cw frequencies humming.

Awards Issued

County Challenge Level 8 #45	K2MF	5/18/2017
Call Sign Combo 1x2 #4	KC3X	5/15/2017
USA-CW #150	N4JT	5/14/2017
USA-CA 4th Time #167	K2HVN	4/30/2017
Call Sign Combo 1x2 #3	N6PDB	4/2017

Events for County Hunters

Well, dang. There's nothing going on this coming month as far as State QSO Parties.

However, if you haven't signed up yet for the County Hunter Convention in Colorado, now is the time! It's going to be a good one....and the 'summer heat' will be over so it will be great traveling weather – and the summer crowds will be gone!

The early bird registration prize ends July 1, so get your application in! See you there

MARAC 2017 National Convention Registration
September 25-28, Hotel Elegante Conference & Event Center, Colorado Springs CO
(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is July 1, 2017)

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROV: _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Convention Registration Fee: Note: Includes badge & Non-alcoholic beverages & snacks. \$45.00
(One Registration fee/family unit – Includes 1 prize ticket)

Name on Badge: _____ Call sign: _____ USACA _____

Additional Attendees: Badges & non-alcoholic beverages & snacks included (list info below)
Total # _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Name _____	Call sign _____	USACA# _____	Relation: _____
Name _____	Call sign _____	USACA# _____	Relation: _____

Relation: S-Spouse, O-Other (specify-friend, son, daughter)

Photos will be e-mailed after convention -- Group, CW, YL, etc. Free/included w/registration)

Extra Prize Tickets (Increase your chances of winning the Big Prizes! (plus additional prizes)

Single Tickets	_____ x \$1 each =	\$ _____
12-pack tickets	_____ x \$10.00 =	\$ _____

Events & Activities *(Descriptions provided on-line)

* Schedule of programs, mobile antenna testing, etc. on Tues and Wed provided at a later date and included w/registration

package.

Monday, Sept 25 – Check in and hospitality room

Tuesday, Sept 26 – Bus Tour (U.S. Olympic Training Center and Garden of the Gods
on a Comfortable coach (9:20 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. # _____ x \$35.00 = \$ _____

Sept 26 – Do-It-Yourself Activities/Shopping, Programs, etc.

Wednesday, Sept 27 - **Banquet**/Dinner Buffet 6:00 PM # _____ x \$40.00 = \$ _____
Door prizes, main prizes, announcements, etc.

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail your registration form and check, made payable to: “2017 MARAC Convention” to:

Pat Mitchell, N0DXE

12200 Boothill Dr

Parker CO 80138

Hotel Reservations: (\$119 for single or double, plus tax). Includes breakfast.

Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center, 2886 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs CO
80906

Call 719-576-5900 and request Group Code MARAC or book on-line at:

[https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?
hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1694377](https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1694377)

(Hotel is pet friendly)

Door prizes/Gift Exchange: Everyone please bring a gift valued at no more than \$15. These will be swapped via ticket drawing (no fee for a ticket)

See marac.org page for latest updates.

That's it this month.

