

# County Hunter News OnLine

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Volume 21 Issue 8

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

We hope you will enjoy the County Hunter News. Feel free to forward, or provide links. Permission is given for copying or quoting in part or all provided credit is given to the CHNews and to the author of article.

CW County Hunter Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. There is SSB activity now occasionally on 7188, 14336., 18136, 21336, 28336 . The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 ). Look around 18136 or for occasional 17M SSB runs usually after the run on 20M SSB . (21.336 and 28.336)

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

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

The USACA award was sponsored by CQ Magazine, which unfortunately has gone the way of the dinosaurs. However, like other CQ Awards, they are still available. CQ awards require confirmation of all claimed contacts.

Rules and information are here:

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

**MARAC sponsors the US Counties Award which can be earned in increments of 500 counties.** The rules for this award are at:

<http://marac.org/documents/usa-ca-rules.pdf>

This award requires log data only to earn.

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

**1 ) Sunspots** – Still have them. . However, 10M has not recovered and few contacts being made there. Most days this month were undisturbed with few really bad days.

### **2 ) Driving down the road**

I head around town on errands and eating some meals out. Guess it's a new habit. Look at cars and the different color 'shark fin' antennas on top. Seems most SUVs, CUVs and

sedans have them. Few older cars are around with 8 to 12 inch 'spike' antennas. Have only seen one 50s style whip antenna on a pickup truck in 2 months. Oh well, makes for interesting diversion while driving along the highways – hi hi.

### **3 ) QSO Party time again -**

Several real good QSO Parties are coming up this month. KS usually has all counties on the air – many times with multiple mobiles and modes. OH is often good. You might snag all but Kalawao in the HI QSO Party – but check out the multipliers ahead of time- there are more entities other than just the counties. . Colorado is a toss up. Sometimes there is a mobile or out – some year not. It's not an easy state to run the west half of the state quickly. Lots of opportunity to run mobile yourself, or snag the counties by working stations/mobiles.

## **On the Road with N4CD I**

At the end of June, tens of thousands of hams head out to Field Day – specifically designed to get folks set up in temporary places, activate from Emergency Operations Centers in their town, or for the lazy/disabled or those without local clubs or fellow operators, operate from home stations. Each year is a mixed combination of low power battery operated stations, stations run off generators or solar power, and home stations (some run off home generators). Probably a million contacts occur each year.

As for N4CD, I had several possibilities. I belong to two local clubs – the Plano Radio Club (K5PRK) and the Richardson Wireless Club (K5RWK). Both have over 200 active members. The Plano club sets up outdoors at a pavilion at a local park. The Richardson club sets up at the Richardson Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Both get around 40-50 participants. (plus another 40-50 – show up for 'dinner'. This time of year in June – it is usually hot. HOT! Blazing sun. There have been years with nasty T-storms, too.

This year it was just hot. Bright blazing down sunny day. As a senior, I elected to head to the indoor EOC. Can't do hours outdoor trying to operate with high 90s temps. The clubs always need CW ops. There are lots of SSB ops and digital ops in the club, and the majority of club membership are on 2M and 440 FM. There's also a 900 MHz repeater here. 30 or 40 do weekly 'fox chasing' direction finding. 50-60 show up for monthly meetings, with another 15 on Zoom log in for RWK.

Field Day starts at 1800z, which is 1pm here on TX. The clubs, and operators, can set up antennas and radio equipment before hand. Luckily we have a crew that appears and sets up the antennas early in morning, radio equipment, computers – networked together running N3FJP logging software before start time. It was even hooked into the big screens at the ops center.

There are several rooms we occupy – with 3 stations set up. One for CW, one for Digital and one for SSB. In addition there was a Go-To station for newly licensed hams to get their feet wet. We ran class 3F (Emergency Ops Center) – 3 operating positions. Also had a satellite station. The EOC Class requirement for it was that it had to be capable of running on standby generator power. It was, but we used commercial power since they only use the large generator for power outages and for the weekly maintenance checks. That's fine by the rules. (50KW generator)

You can also have a GOTA station, a VHF station, and a satellite station that don't increase your transmitter category number running at the same time. Not much happens here on VHF.

I showed up at a bit after noon. Temp 94 and climbing. Headed in. Well, not too many cw ops but digital and SSB manned by half dozen. The SSB folks got 20M so I started on 15M cw. Conditions fair – but of course, skip from TX yielded mostly contacts from the coastal areas. Over the next couple hours, with logging help from Carl W5SU, we put about 75 QSOs on 15M CW in log. Later in afternoon we got an hour on 20M and but another 50 QSOs in log. NN5T took over logging duties. We used a nice Yaesu rig, AEA memory keyer, set of paddles, and mostly did search and pounce. 15M was busy but long skip limited how many contacts you could make. . 20M was a zoo and I cranked the cw bandwidth down to 200 Hz, but still many on top of each other calling CQ FD. After 3 ½ hours, I was worn out. Jon NN5T switched to 40M CW and I rested up a bit, watching the QSOs roll by on the big screens in the main OPS center room.

At 5:30, the pizzas showed up along with salad stuff. Had a nice dinner. The RWK FD runs to 8 PM Saturday and shuts down. Few want to stay overnight so for the past few years, it's ended at 8pm. Upper bands gone by then and activity down on 40m. Sunset here is now around 8:30. The antenna crew showed up after dinner. At 8pm, the antennas came down, feedlines rolled up, systems disconnected and things put away till next year. Rigs went home. No Sunday operation.

That gives many a chance to run FD from their home locations. (Those that either couldn't show up – or elected to run from home could also contribute to total club score.)

You get to add your individual score to the club entry. Typically 30-35 participate from home running usually class 1-D. Home station. A few run off batteries these days. With the advent of LiONPh batteries, you can buy a 20-30 Amp-Hour battery for \$100-200 which will run a 100w transceiver for hours on SSB- five or six hours , at probably 4-5 hours at 40-50 w CW. Some even buy 100-200 amp sizes which will run all 24 hours, maybe even 2 stations.

A 100w radio on SSB with a 30% duty cycle takes about 7.5 Amp Hours of battery per hour. Do search and pounce, even less power as you spend lots of time listening, then calling. At 50w CW, about the same. So your 30 Amp Hour battery will last a few hours. Better run 15w digital off batteries.

I headed about 7pm. The car indicated it was 102F in the concrete parking lot. Drove along at it stayed up at 98F on the 12 mile drive home. 97F under the shade tree in front of house. Yuck. I felt sorry for those running FD outside in TX and 'the south'. Got a good night sleep

Sunday morning. Read the big Dallas News paper. Then headed over to my favorite 'park' US-4423 25 miles away. Dallas County. Got there and operated FD under N4CD, class 1-C – mobile. Stayed mainly on 20M search and pounce. Quickly put 70 QSOs on 20M, switched to 15M cw and added in another 23. 15M from the mobile not great - . Did catch KB6UF mobile there on 15m as he put out counties. Signals weak for the most part on 15. Nothing on 10m. OK. Enough. Time to head home.

Did work several county hunters at FD sites. W8SP(likely W8OP operating. N0KV – Barry operating.) After a couple hours, headed back home. Enough. Head ringing from CW operating. Getting hot, too, but running car with a/c so OK.

That was it for FD. The club made over 450 QSOs. Many added in their personal scores to the RWK listing.

Hope you had a chance to participate.

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Otherwise, N4CD activity was going over to Park US-4423 on Wednesdays, and sometimes weekends.

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## **N4CD Comments:**

With the advent of COVID and restrictions on 'social distances', the ARRL relaxed rules on 1-D home stations at the time, allowing them to work other 1-D stations. Previously, this was not the case. 1-D stations can operate at 100w output level max. A 1-D station is a home station running on commercial power. The bands were full of 1-D stations calling CQ FD.

Now that the COVID emergency is over, I'd like to see the return to where 1-D stations could only work non 1-D stations. It would help to cut down the QRM. Or perhaps limit them to only 6 hours total operation or so. Or only allow them to 'search and pouch' on other stations not I-D or 1-E.

Field Day is intended for just that – GET OUT TO THE FIELD. Not operate from home on commercial power! What do you think?

## **Mobile Activity in July**

At the beginning of the month:

K0DEQ was busy putting out counties in MO

N9JF was in TN and IL putting out a few parks

N3MRA was mobile in IN

WA9DLB spotted in 3<sup>rd</sup> AK

N8OYY spotted in WV

For a week, there was the 13 Colonies event, with 1x1 calls and other special calls.

K8ZZ was noted on FT-8 in MI, OH, Then noted on cw in others across the state.

K8II took trip to MD – ran many counties

AI5P spotted in park in AR

AB7NK/K7SEN headed out from AZ, through NM man there, then , to TX to run dozens there. Across the state to the NE corner, Wound up in OK. Then more in KS.

NN9K noted in park in IL

W4SIG traveled from ID back to UT mid month, then many more ID counties.

W8MP noted in a few counties in NE then into IA, back to NE.

K5GE met up with AB7NK/K7SEN in Murray County OK Ran a two dozen or more together, wound up in KS for days. Then back to OK. Still going as of 7/26. Back to TX.

KA9JAC/KB9YVT noted in WI

K0AP headed through AR to MS – then ran in the AL QSO Party.

N8MD spotted in OH.

end date 7 27 2025

## Alabama QSO Party

There are 67 counties in Alabama. Looks like half or so were on the air, with top reporting early at 34 worked. Two mobiles were very active, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> was QRP mobile. (maybe running parks? - unknown – only spotted in one county).

**K4ZGB mobile 436 CW QSO**

Thanks for following me around. New truck, rig and antenna but still a little slow on the keyboard. 73, tom

**KJ4M QRP mobile 155 cw qso**

no comments

**W5TM fixed OK 73 cw 33 counties worked**

Thanks for the QSOs

**N4HB fixed VA 45 cw 21 counties**

Not a lot of QSO Party activity from the Alabama hams on CW, but there were a couple of mobiles (K0AP & K4ZGB) that should be commended for their efforts to activate a number of counties on CW! Without them, it would have been very few to work! Those two stations accounted for almost half of the QSOs that I logged in the AL QSO Party.

**K7SV fixed VA 84 cw 34 counties worked**

Could have used more activity, but appreciate the folks who did get on. K0AP and K4ZGB in their mobiles kept it interesting! Tks for the Qs!

Maybe more comments next month. Not all filed on 3830 contest reflector - as of print date of 7/28

## **MARAC US Counties Contest**

Activity was sparse – one of the problems being it didn't show up on the ARRL contest corral so limited visibility to non-county hunters reading the MARAC RoadRunner or the County Hunter News On Line. It was shown at the last minute on the 3830 contest reflector – a few days before the contest. A few of the contest regulars showed up but not tons of others.

Meanwhile, a very active IOTA contest was underway – around the globe with many



US stations spending hours working them.

AC6ZM mobile was out. N1QY was active in New England. K0AP was busy in AL QSO Party but I doubt most working him gave their county in reply if he was keeping track.

Early reports from 3830 reflector:

**K9CW fixed IL - 59 cw 32 counties worked**

**K4BAI fixed GA 13 cw 12 counties**

A lot of competing contests and very little activity in this one this year. Thanks to N1QY for a mobile operation. Hope for more activity in future years. 73, John, K4BAI

**KI5MM fixed TX 241 d2 181 counties worked**

Felt like the lone ranger on this contest. only heard one other MARAC tester. Thanks to those non contest folks.

73

KI5MM

## Awards Issued

### Roadrunner Award:

W4SIG attained 1350 Last counties, He received #7

KB6UF attained 2450 Last counties, He received #2

K0DEQ completed 250 last counties, he received #106

**County Challenge:**

K3IMC attained level 25000

**USA-CA Award:**

KG5RJ attained Level 500 and received #3892

NL7CO attained level 500 and received #3893

W4SIG completed his 6th time and received #58

**Native American Award:**

K4XD completed the award and received #70

**President's Award:**

K4XD completed the award and received #67

**Ran All State:**

KB6UF ran all Maine for the 2nd time. He received #4

## Events for County Hunters

Woo-Hoo.....it's QSO Party time again!!!! And none with stupid QSO Serial Numbers (not that it matters – I just give out whatever serial number feels good at the time – hi h....). Unless you submit an entry then you have to play the serial number game which is really a PITA with paper logs while mobile.

Lots of counties up for grab and usually lots of activity in many of them. In the North American QSO Parties, there may be remote stations operating.....using their home call and someone else station far away. ....so you have no real ideal of county they are in. Use caution.

Aug 2 0001z to 3 2359

28

**10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB Ph**

Name, mbr or “0,” SPC

[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

2 1800z to 3 0559

1.8-28 North American QSO Party, CW CW

Name, state/DC/province/country

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

Aug 9 1400z to 10 0400

1.8-28

**Maryland-DC QSO Party CW Ph**

MDC county/city or SPC

[www.w3vpr.org](http://www.w3vpr.org)

9 1400z to 9 2200z

3.5-28 **Kentucky State Parks on the Air CW Ph Dig**

KY park abbr, SP or “DX”

[k4msu.com/kypota](http://k4msu.com/kypota)

Aug 16 1800z to 17 0559z

1.8-28 **North American QSO Party,**

SSB Ph

Name, state/DC/province/country

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

Aug 23 0400z to 25 0400z

1.8-28

**Hawaii QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), HI district, or SP

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

Aug 23 1600z to 24 0400z

1.8-28

**Ohio QSO Party** CW Ph RS(T),  
OH county, SP or “DX” [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org)

Aug 30 1300z to 31 0400z

All, except WARC

**Colorado QSO Party** CW Ph Dig  
Name, county or SPC/DX prefix  
[ppraa.org/coqp](http://ppraa.org/coqp)

Aug 30 1400z to 31 2000z

3.5-28,50

**Kansas QSO Party** CW Ph Dig  
RS(T), KS county, SP or “DX”  
[ksqsoparty.org](http://ksqsoparty.org)

That's all folks



