

# County Hunter News OnLine

December 2022  
Volume 18 Issue 12

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

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

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

CW County Hunter Frequencies are 14.0565, 10.124.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now occasionally on 7188 KHz. The CW folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 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://marac.org/awards.pdf>

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### N4CD Rumblings

**1 ) Sunspots** – We got them. Some days great with 17, 15 and above active. Lots of DX from fixed stations, especially FT-8 being worked world wide, on upper bands. In general, higher bands improving. Headed up in the sunspot cycle.

**2 ) COVID, etc.** Now we have the tri-demic of COVID variants, regular FLU and RSV affecting millions of folks. Add to it the holiday TRIP-le-demic of millions traveling and joining others for celebrations and dinners, it's still a concern.

On the good news front, you can get your COVID booster and FLU shots. No shots yet for RSV – and that is filling up children's hospital emergency rooms nationwide – yet. Possibly coming next year along with much better flu shots. One major manufacturer is talking about flu shots that not only cover the 4 varieties that 'went around' last time, but up to 20 using mRNA technology.

**3 ) Winter weather** – yes it is the season for rains and snows and blizzards. This holiday weekend, snow is blowing (blizzard conditions) in the panhandle of TX with heavy rains in Dallas – and that system headed east – mostly rain. Across the northern tier, already snow and way below zero at times. Winter has arrived. Short trips are still being run by the county hunters, and park activators are not much slowed down in

many areas. 8 inches of snow near Alpine TX in Brewster County – but melted next day. 4 inches of rain here in 3 days. Tornado in New Orleans area. It's weather, folks. Winter.

**4) Kalawao – yes!** Karl, K4YT, headed to Kalawao to run the county for the county hunters. From TX, good signals on 17m – not so readable in the mobile on 20m cw. Many dozens went in the log. East coast had weak signals to work with. Many relays carried out on SSB – lots of tu-tus and three-threes. At the HI end, most signals easily readable as noise level is zero. Not so the other way.

Later, Karl would run the Historic Site for POTA folks with few takers. Only spotted once on 80M FT-8 there! He was there for 2 days. As you can tell by the awards section at the end of the newsletter, dozens finished up various awards with a contact from Kalawao. It's been years since anyone has ventured there, and of course, the high cost and the strict Hawaiian Covid policies have made it very difficult to get there.

**5) Gas Prices** – coming down. Now \$2.59/gal at the Walmart Superstore here in DFW area of TX.

## AI5P Trip Report

In October I visited the remote (no cell service) Washington County, Kansas, site of the Hollenberg Pony Express State Historic Site. This is one of the POTA's 4-fer site for park credit: The state historic site (K-9180), the California Trail (K-4566), the Oregon Trail (K-4576), and the Pony Express Trail (K-4578).

It was early so the visitor's center wasn't open and neither was 20 meters. I finally managed to get 11 contacts in the log to include 3 Europeans before I moved on.

The history of the owner is pretty interesting - from the Kansas Historical Society website:

### Hollenberg Pony Express Station

Gerat Hollenberg Gerat H. Hollenberg had lived an adventurous life before he came to Kansas Territory in 1854. A native of Germany, he sailed to the United States in the late

1840s. There he joined a party of men who spent the next several years searching for gold in South America and Australia, and in the great California Gold Rush of 1849.

No one knows how much gold Hollenberg was able to gather during his travels. However, one legend relates that he lost it all when he was shipwrecked off the coast of Florida while returning to the eastern United States. Many of his friends were drowned but Hollenberg survived. He is said to have walked all the way to Chicago.

Nothing further is known definitely of Hollenberg's life until 1854 when he settled near the crossing for the Oregon-California Trail on the Black Vermillion River in Marshall County, Kansas Territory. In his small log cabin he kept a stock of goods to be sold to travelers on the trail.

In 1857 Hollenberg moved his business to the present site of Hollenberg Station in Washington County. He realized that there he could capture the growing trade from the St. Joseph branch of the Oregon-California Trail as well as from the older southern branch. He began with a one-room log cabin that soon evolved into a long, narrow five-room building. Here he sold supplies, meals, and lodging. Over the years he added barns and sheds to house his other trail-related activities such as selling draft animals and repairing wagons. His wife, Sophia Brockmeyer Hollenberg, was responsible for the care and feeding of the travelers who stopped at the station.



Hollenberg Station

Sophia HollenbergHollenberg's road ranch became involved with the Pony Express during its brief life in 1860 and 1861. The route went by the station, and the ranch offered all of the necessary services, such as food and shelter for both riders and horses. Great excitement came with the beginning of the Pony Express runs, but soon the

enterprise began to lose money. Eventually Hollenberg lost hundreds of dollars when the parent company went bankrupt.



Pony Express Marker

With the end of the Pony Express and with the reduction of traffic on the trail during and after the Civil War, Hollenberg turned to general farming for his livelihood. He grazed cattle and raised grain, as did most of his neighbors. Less and less frequently did travelers pause at the station for a meal or an overnight rest.

Hollenberg, however, was far from inactive. He turned much of his effort to civic activities. He founded the nearby town of Hanover, donating money for both governmental and church buildings. He made a small fortune in real estate, and he served three terms in the Kansas legislature.

After Gerat Hollenberg's death in 1874, the station became a farm home until 1941 when the Kansas Legislature purchased the building and the surrounding seven acres. The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1961 and two years later, the Kansas Historical Society was given the responsibility to operate it as Hollenberg Pony Express Station Historic Site.

73 de Rick, AI5P

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Notes de N4CD – from the NPOTA days, you could run a site with multiple entities. This site counted for 4 different entities. Each contact was good for all 4. There are even some five-fers where 4 different trails meet a a Fort – Ft Laramie is one. POTA

allows you to also run 2,3,4 and 5 fers. (sort of like county lines – but up to 5 for POTA. Note that WWFF-KFF does not include most trails and no multiple sites at one time)

The Pony Express operated from April 3, 1860 to October 26, 1861. The 2,000 mile long system had 190 'relay stations' where fresh horses, some chow, and often different riders would take over the next leg. It ran through all sorts of weather – snow, wind, cold, hot and cut 10 days off the time to get mail to CA and back. Before it's completion, mail went by sailing ship around the tip of South America - months. Or went to Panama where it was transported across the isthmus to the opposite side and then by ship to CA - still weeks and weeks.

Pony Express riders changed horses every 10-15 miles and each would ride 75 to 100 miles a day. The mail bag carried 10-15 lbs of mail. The system was reliable with loss of only one bag in the time it operated. During its operating time, the system made 308 runs to CA. It delivered 34,753 letters.



From MO, the system went across , KS, following the OR trail for quite a while, but diverging and going through UT, NV to reach CA.

The Pony Express was not a financial success and went bankrupt in 1861. The completion of the transcontinental telegraph line in October 1861., and soon the transcontinental railroad, plus the Civil War, was the end. The company lost \$10 on each delivered letter.

However, it became an icon of the American West and romanticized heavily. It also

served to keep California connected to the rest of the country, and kept it on the Union side which was significant.

A competing system, the Butterfield Stagecoach system, also operated at this time. It took a southerly route. It too went bankrupt and as its route crossed Confederate territory, it was shut down by the Union government at the start of the Civil War. The government tried to combine both systems, but that didn't work out. The railroads quickly expanded routes all over the west, ending all of that. What wasn't connected were served by many private stage coach systems which connected with railroad points to other destinations.

There were movies – Pony Express (1953) and TV shows.

Pony Express is an American western television series about the adventures of an agent in the 1860s of the Central Overland Express Company, better known as the Pony Express. The half-hour program starring Grant Sullivan and Don Dorrell was created by California National Productions. Pony Express ran for thirty-five episodes in syndication from the fall of October 1959 until May 1960. I've never seen a TV re-run of this show.

If you run into a dead band or snowed in, you can watch a few TV episodes on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUvK3xgmyyM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P1lhG6YwBg>

## Years of the County Hunter News

The first issue of the County Hunter News premiered in January 2005. Back issues are available starting Jan 2006 on the County Hunter News site. We've come a long way since then. They were fairly short at the start. There were interesting items, though:  
From 2006 -



In Jan 2006, I took a trip to Florida in the Buick. Hurricane Katrina had just passed through the Gulf coast, laying waste to a good portion of the coast and inland.

From that issue:

“No problems until I got off I-10 onto Route 39 headed east to St. Bernard...oops....I’m not sure what ‘ward’ of New Orleans this is, but it didn’t look good. Every house was abandoned. The traffic signals didn’t work – there were temporary stop signs every ¼ mile it seems. There were gigantic piles of garbage (clothes, carpets, mattresses, furniture) in front of every house, and I don’t think any of them were occupied. Mile after mile. I guess I stumbled into one of the flooded areas. Not much traffic, no one around, no signs of life. Just a handful of people on the streets. It’s one thing to see it on TV. It’s another to be going through the area – mile after mile, in any direction you look on cross streets.

Then route 39 had a bridge, which was closed...oops.....a quick map check, and I found route 46 parallel. It was OK, so I headed to St Bernard 10 miles down the road. (power seemed OK there). Very depressing – thousands of houses flooded out. Hand painted signs everywhere for ‘home gutting’....’home repair estimates’, refuse hauling, etc

Well, it was off to circle around the lake, then head north 100 miles or more to find a motel room. Ugh....Interstates crawling with damaged bridges, one lane traffic. Finally, I made it up around and up through Tangipoha, all the way up to I-20 in MS.”

This was a trip to Ft. Lauderdale FL with a visit there with my friend Sue who flew in from Chicago for a week. Put out all the counties on the way down and back Many county hunters had antennas and trees down from the severe storms tgat year in FL.

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Other trivia from 2006. US Postage went to 39 cents for a first class stamp. In Jan 2023, the postage will rise to 63 cents for a first class letter.

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That year we started using 3556.5 on 80m for CW. We had some late night activity now on CW



Several trip reports by various folks to Dukes and Nantucket in 2006. Nearly 200 contacts from each county.

W6TMD described his trip with KB6UF to the Second AK – driving. Not long after K3IMC was in AK.

The Annual Convention was in Appleton WI. Half a dozen pics from back then included.

That year, K2NJ, Bill, proposed the Natural Bingo Award – no wild cards. Only suffixes. It's still a challenge in 2022 as no one has yet to get it! The 'ultimate' challenge.

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in 2006, we had the annual CW stats compiled by Elwood, KA3MMM. . Interesting to look at the CW county hunters back then. Many have left us. Recently, the cw stats seem to be missing. Dennis, KK7X did it for quite a few years.

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Many pics of County Hunters in the various issues – over the years – from Minis and Annual conventions. First set in 2006 from Weslaco TX at the frequent winter MINI in south TX hosted by Joyce WB9NUL and Barry WUCW. Remember the antenna forums?

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This issue is the end of Volume 18 - the 18<sup>th</sup> year of publication of the County Hunter News – designed to give you both MARAC news and other news of interest to county hunters, including lots of reports from State QSO Parties and the folks participating in those. Hope you've been enjoying it year after year.

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# On the Road with N4CD

Annual Antique Wireless Club Meeting - Richardson TX Nov 19, 20 2022

One of my other hobbies is antique radios/technologies as you can tell from previous issues and the search for regen receivers – old and newer. Each year the local club holds a convention – which over 100 attend.

So, I headed over to the annual Antique Wireless Convention here – held conveniently 15 miles away just before Thanksgiving.. 120 people showed up at the Hilton Double Tree (\$110/night) . Not much to report. Lots of nice radios – some selling for hundreds of dollars each – from the late 20s and 1930s at that price. Others like table consoles from the 50s and 60s for \$10 – to \$480.

Boxes of tubes were sold – with some individual tubes going for \$50 each. Certain tubes – like 47 audio output tubes (good for 5w) in those early high dollar Zenith consoles and used everywhere in console radios, are hard to come by – they tend to wear out and are hard to come by. If you're a Zenith TransOceanic fan (their super SW portable) – you'll fork out big bucks for a 1L6 pentagrid converter tube.

Hundreds of radios from \$10 run of the mill 1950s off brand table radios – to a few of Edison type cylinder players – all went by in 3 different auctions. (One brought \$700!). Some folks collect 'green' color radios. Some only Zenith or RCA or some other make. Some like wood cabinets. The rarest of all is Catalin cabinets which can go for up to \$1500 each in primo condition.

I passed up on everything. I've got too much stuff as it is! But it's fun to see the old radios. Almost no ham gear showed up this year. Only one home built regen was for sale, with a single plug in coil, and not much to talk about- didn't buy it.

Over 900 lots went by in 3 auctions – with a total value of \$25,000.

We had a good catered annual awards dinner Saturday night, with a program and awards given out for the best radios on display in the show area. Some super nice radios and restorations were there in 15 different categories from 1920s battery sets to TV related, to celebration of 100 years of of the local 50 KW station WBAP. . Folks spaced out but not at the auctions for 'covid reasons'. Not too much of a concern these days apparently.

This year the convention moved to a nice facility with on site restaurant and bar. Lots of

'gray hair' among the collectors. Some selling down their collections, others building up their collections.

Yes, this was the 100th Anniversary of 'Broadcasting' from WBAP. Our local station WBAP/WFAA went on the air 1922. AM radio has a long history and things really started moving in 1922. Within 10 years, just about 'everyone' had a radio to listen in – some on their second or third set as technology changed fast. The superhet arrived in 1926 and by 1930, most other competing earlier technologies such as regens, reflexes, TRF sets, vanished.

## Mobile Activity in November

Not one QSO Party to report on – but some good activity.

At the beginning of the month:

K0DEQ was out and about in MO for several days. Lots of counties. A few days later, even more counties for day after day.

K4YT spotted in PA

KE4UP noted in KY counties for several days putting them out. Later even more KY counties. Then into AR and MO, then more AR counties. Into OK, Many there then into panhandle of TX. Next in NM,

W5VS running in WV counties

Around the 11<sup>th</sup>, K4YT showed up in Kalawao for 2 days.

WD4OIN noted in NC counties on several days during the month.

AI5P noted in NE counties

NF0N spotted in NE counties

there were a few days of no spots on W6RK.....due to a gremlin

W4SIG out and about in MS later in the month

K2HVN ran some in DE and VA

End date 11/26

## AI5P Trip Report II

Driving across the plains of western Nebraska, it's a great place to train watch. I traveled up to North Platte to see some steam engines (not under power) and other railroad cars being transported from Cheyenne, WY, to a museum in Illinois. These were being transported by Union Pacific across their transcon tracks.

This train photo is one of the many eastbound UP freights near Cozad, NE.



This is along Union Pacific's mainline freight triple track

line with over 150 trains a day traversing east and west. You never have to wait for longer than a few minutes to see a train. North Platte is also the home of Bailey Yard - the largest yard in the world. You can visit the Golden Spike Tower and get a panoramic view of the large yard.

I went on this trip to get a chance to see some of Union Pacific's heritage fleet being transported from the Cheyenne, WY, shops as a donation to the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America in Silvis, IL. The photo is of a UP Class TTT-6, 2-10-2, # 5511 steam locomotive that was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1923. It was a working locomotive until the late 1950's. Some of the UP passenger cars are shown behind it. Hopefully, #5511 will be restored in the future.



Once I had seen the engines (which were held overnight in downtown North Platte), I drove over to the Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park in North Platte (Lincoln County) and ran the county and POTA site K-2612.

Unfortunately, the house and grounds were closed for winter but the parking lot had a great view of the house and some of the grounds. A total of 58 SSB contacts were made.



From the Nebraska Game Parks website:

Home of famed showman scout William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park at North Platte recaptures the life and career of the famed Pony Express rider, Army scout and buffalo hunter-turned-showman. Since it became a state historical park in 1965, the house and barn have been restored and a wealth of Cody memorabilia has been acquired and placed on display. The mansion is open to the public for self-guided tours from late spring until early fall.

### About Buffalo Bill

William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody was born Feb. 26, 1846, in Iowa. At age 7, his family moved to Kansas, where they were among the first settlers. At age 9, Cody started working for Russell, Majors and Waddell, a freighting firm out of Kansas that also started the Pony Express. He later served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Following the war, Cody earned his nickname “Buffalo Bill” while supplying buffalo meat for the Kansas Pacific Railway. By the mid-1880s, Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show was in full swing, touring the United States and Europe. The success of the show enabled Cody to build “The Mansion on the Prairie,” as the locals called it. The Second Empire-style house was the largest house in North Platte in the late 19th Century. It was Buffalo Bill’s home from 1886 to 1913. He raised cattle and purebred stallions on his 4,000 acres of land. A large barn was built in 1887 to house Cody’s ranch horses and stallions.





## Awards

### USA-CA Nth Time

WQ7A completed his 8th time on 11/11/2022. He received #19

W9DC completed his 5th time on 11/11/2022. He received #122

K5GE completed his 10th time on 11/11/2022. He received #7

WD4OIN completed 4th time on 11/12/2022. He received #174

K8ZZ completed 4th time on 11/11/2022. He received #175



K4YT completed 4th time on 11/11/2022. He received #176

WD4OIN completed 4th time on 11/12/2022. He received #174

K8ZZ completed 4th time on 11/11/2022. He received #175

K4YT completed 4th time on 11/11/2022. He received #176

W4SIG Completed his 5th time on 11/11/2022. He received #123

N1API Completed his 5th time on 11/20/2022. He received #124

### **USA-CW Nth Time**

K4YT completed CW II on 10/31/2022. He received #44

W4SIG Completed CW III on 11/11/2022. He received #18

### **Bingo Awards**

W4SIG Attained Bingo III on 11/11/2022. He received #45

### **Single Band Awards:**

N1API 10 meters Level 1000 on 22 October 2022. He received #3

N1API 15 meters Level 1000 on 24 October 2022. He received #10

N1API 17 meters Level 2000 on 21 October 2022. He received #5

N1API 40 meters Level 1000 on 22 October 2022. He received #8

### **Roadrunner Awards:**

K8ZZ completed 1475 last counties on 10/17/2022. He received #4

K8ZZ attained 1500 last counties on 10/9/2022. He received #4

WY0A completed 225 last counties on 10/20/2022. He received #112

KB6UF Attained 1925 last counties on 10/12/2022. He received #2

N8HAM Attained 150 last counties on 9/30/2022. He received #180

K4YT attained 375 last counties on 11/11/2022. He received #55

K4YT attained 400 last counties on 11/11/2022. He received #56

W0GXQ attained 1550 last counties on 4/15/2022. He received #3

### **Ran All State Awards:**

K0DEQ completed all Missouri on 11/2/2022. He received #3

N8HAM completed all North Dakota on 10/9/2022. He received #34

N8HAM completed all Minnesota on 9/21/2022. He received #29

WY0A completed all California on 10/20/2022. He received #29

WY0A completed Georgia on 6/21/2022. He received #29

WY0A completed Tennessee on 6/21/2022. He received #31

WY0A completed South Carolina on 6/21/2022. He received #38

WY0A completed North Carolina on 6/21/2022. He received #26

K4YT completed Pennsylvania on 11/1/2022. He received #30

K4YT completed South Carolina on 3/20/2022. He received #39

K4YT completed Hawaii on 11/11/2022. He received #23

K8OOK Completed all Delaware on 6/28/2010. He received #80

### **County Challenge Award**

W6OUL Attained level 12000 on 11/8/2022. He received #3

## **Events for County Hunters**

Nope. No State QSO Parties. No minis. A few contests like 10M, 160m, etc , to tide you over to a new year.

That's all folks!