

County Hunter News

February 1, 2016
Volume 12 Issue 2

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in ham radio county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation.

Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

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

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

CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, there is SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188 KHz and on the new Marac net on 14.324. 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) Winter has arrived and buried the east coast in snow. Mobile activity is down during the cold winter months, but activity for the new ARRL National Parks on the air is way way up! Hundreds of portable operations are underway all across the USA, and mobiles are headed here and there to put out the park units.

Propagation has been decent many days, so folks are getting the contacts.

2) MARAC SSB net now runs on 14.324 KHz – with occasional move to 14.317. Join the fun on the new MARAC sponsored net where everyone is welcome to operate.

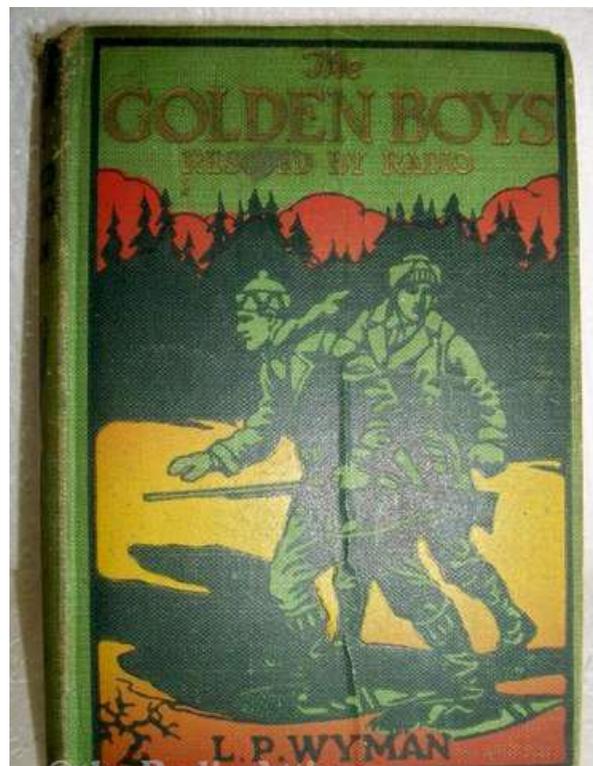
3) The first award for USA-SSB has been issued. This award is for working all counties on SSB after the award was created – Feb 5, 2015. So all counties in the US were 'on the air' in less than 10 months.

4) Hollis, KC3X, forwarded this email:

“Spoke with Kevin the son of N5UZW today for about an hour. He asked me to thank all the County Hunters for their cards of condolences. He said the most support came from the county hunters and they were truly thankful. He said that they hope to have Joe’s estate settled by June. “

Hollis KC3X

Book Review of the Month



Golden Boys Rescued by Radio – 1923 – L.P. Wyman

Going back in the library of rarely seen, hard to find, obscure books having anything to do with 'wireless' or 'radio', this month its a tale from Maine of the two Golden Boys and their adventures finding and then leading to the capture of liquor smugglers. As N4CD churns through the archives to find anything remotely to do with radio, this almost totally forgotten book (for good reasons) eventually surfaced and was found. This book was aimed at the 12-16 year old youth market before radio broadcast even began, and of course, long before TV existed. It's sixth of a seven book series written by Wyman and the only one having anything to do with radio/wireless.

Jack and Bob are 18 and 19 years old. They live in Showhegan, Maine, 100 miles north of Portland. As the story starts, they are in the basement lab, putting the final touches on their 'portable radios'. Here's part of the story. You really need to suspend your belief in science at this point.

“Jack laughed as he turned to the bench and picked up a small wooden case which he slipped into his coat pocket. Then from a small drawer he took a brass cylinder about seven inches long and slightly over an inch thick. Caps, which had the appearance of silver, but were composed of an alloy, the secret of which was known only to the two boys, closed the ends of the cylinder. Some three feet of fine wire was soldered to the center of each cap. From the same drawer he took a small round object closely resembling the ear piece of a head telephone. The little telephone receiver, which was designed to serve as a transmitter as well, he connected by two wires to the two terminals at one end of the case and slipped it into the same pocket. As he stood there there was nothing visible about him to indicate that he carried on his person their latest invention.

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Jack and Bob Golden were the sons of a well-to-do manufacturer and lumberman. Here they spent many hours of their vacations and more than one useful invention had resulted from their labors. The most important was undoubtedly an entire new type of storage cell – though small enough to be carried in the pocket, was yet powerful enough to run a motor boat or an automobile for a long time. “

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OK...so you get the gist of the start of the story. The family has a cabin up north on a lake and they go camping there – on their electric motorcycles run by their pocket size energy cells.

Soon they get recruited by a Revenue Officer – to help find the smugglers bringing in booze from Canada. Prohibition (of alcoholic beverages) started in the US in 1920 and lasted up till 1933. This banning of legal alcohol led to widespread bootlegging, moonshine making all across Appalachia and elsewhere, the crime waves in NYC and Chicago and other major places, and of course, smuggling from out of the country. Canada had a thriving industry producing alcoholic beverages for 'export only'.

One of the big problems of the Revenue Service was catching smugglers, especially in rural places with few 'eyes' and few law enforcement folks. So Jack and Bob were recruited by Mr Jackman to help find one of the border crossing up north between Maine and Canada.

There's the usual tales of the bad guys vs the good guys, a kidnap, a rescue...and amazingly almost no use of the 'pocket wireless'....They never talk to anyone else, either, with their radios, just each other. The author went to pains to 'invent' a magical wireless set that worked up to 60 miles, from your pocket, yet it was almost never part of the story. So....if you are looking for radio adventure, skip it.

Eventually they find the smugglers – who are using an airplane to fly the booze to Boston and locate the airport. The feds move in and snag the bad guys.

You can't find it on line yet – who knows when? Don't even bother to look for it!

We now seem to be at the bottom of the pile of obscure and unknown 'radio' books from the 1910s and 1920s. It's been a good run. Not much out there to find it seems. One or two more slowly showing up now and then – really obscure stuff.

Mobile Activity

Mike, KA4RRU, was busy in Spotsylvania VA putting it out for the ARRL National Park on the Air event at MN02. Then he ran another dozen and now leads the activity list in spot number 1 for the most National Park units put out.

Dave, KE3VV, headed to WV to run a bunch.

KA2LHO headed to FL and later ran around in FL putting out counties there.

Mary, AB7NK, and Neil K7SEN, headed from AZ to TX and back.

Dennis, N6PDB, and Susan, WA6OCV, completed their cross country trek – after a few problems with the motor home on the way home.

Jim, N9JF was out and about. Ran one of the National Parks for the folks, too, while in KY.

Larry, W7FEN was on from AZ.

Ron, KB6UF, returned from CA – and later put out counties in LA.

Mark, W9OP was on from Honolulu, HI. Tough propagation.

Jim, N4JT, was busy putting out many in NC, TN, AR on the different modes.

Rick, AI5P, activated several NP units in NM.

Mike, NF0N, was out mobile in NE.

Fred, K0FG, headed north – noted up in MN.

Jack, K0MAF headed north from FL.

WB5TMW was active in TX counties.

Seth, N3MRA was on in several states.

Ed, K8ZZ, was up in IL and then into KS and MO and OK putting out the counties.

W5IL put out some in NM and a NP unit or two.

Karl, K4YT, headed up to NJ to run counties for the folks.

N4UP was active in VA

Team KB0BA/N0XYL put out some in IA and IL.

Team W8FNW/W4FNW were out and about in FL. Will be there for the winter.

Team N0KV/N0DXE headed to a hamfest in northern CO and back.

CW Year End Stats

LAST CALL!

Now is the time to gather your 'year end' statistics for working counties on CW and forward the results to Dennis, KK7X, for tabulation of the progress of the CW county hunters toward their next award.

Each year, Dennis compiles the results by the end of January or so and we publish them here in the County Hunter News.

If you are working on first time, then you count up how many you have worked toward USA-CW.....maybe 1000 or 2000 counties....and send that total and a note saying 'first time'. If you are working on Nth time, say third time and have 100 or 1500 done, send a note saying 1500 done, third time.

Easy to do and Logger will tell you how many you have worked. A bit harder for those with paper logs, but it won't take too long to count them up and know your progress to the next level.

If you are reading this at the end of the month...get it done by Jan 31 – that's the deadline.

MARAC Sponsored Net!

Daily operation of the MARAC-sponsored nets on 20m SSB is now underway. We should have net control coverage from 1300z to 2200z with some earlier/later operation when mobiles are expected to be active. If you are planning to be mobile this weekend, please join us on the nets on one of the following frequencies:

Primary – 14.324

Alternate 1 – 14.322

Alternate 2 – 14.317

All county hunters are welcome on the net. Your participation in and support for the new nets is encouraged and appreciated.

For more information about the MARAC sponsored nets and net operations, see the article “Net Chronicles” in the October, 2015 RoadRunner newsletter or go to the new “Nets” tab on the MARAC website. You can reach the same webpage by going directly to the following links:

Nets page on Marac.org: <http://www.marac.org/nets.htm>

Net control personnel schedule: <http://www.kw1dx.com/ch/net/schedule20m.htm>

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from the October Road Runner

MARAC is now sponsoring amateur radio nets!

This article is the first in a continuing series of monthly newsletter articles focused on operations and activities on new MARAC sponsored county hunting nets. In each article, you will find featured topics concerning various aspects of net operations including net policy (adopted by the MARAC Board of Directors), net standard operating procedures (created and issued by a new Net Operations Committee), net operating schedules, designated net operating frequencies on many bands for various modes, upcoming special activities (such as one-time scheduled nets on various bands to

determine interest level in those bands and times of operation), new documentation, opportunities for net control training or mentoring, special net staffing levels before and after upcoming conventions, and more.

...the new Net Operating Committee has created a new “Nets” section of the MARAC.org website which has all that documentation available for you to read. The first page of the Nets section provides an outline of the content. Clicking on any of the sub-headings will take you to a document which addresses that particular subject.

Please read the Overview document first and then any of the other subjects you are interested in. The complete policy document for net operations which was adopted by the Board of Directors at their September 11, 2015 meeting is available as is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for net operations issued by the Net Operations Committee. Initially, a daily net has been planned to operate from 1300z to 2200z (nine hours) on 20 meter SSB frequencies. This period will be comprised of three separate three-hour sessions with different net control operators. We expect to begin operation of that net on Saturday, October 17th at 1300z. In the interim, ad-hoc nets are underway for both CW and SSB on various bands. The suggested frequencies for a primary, first alternate, and second alternate frequency can be found in the SOP and in a separate specific document which is on the main table of contents page for easy reference. Some frequencies on various bands have not yet been established but will be added after additional research and discussions with various members has been completed.

Another website (hosted by KW1DX) has been created to provide an online schedule of the net control stations which will support the first scheduled net for SSB operation on the 20 meter band. This schedule goes from October 17th through January 3rd, 2016. The functionality of the site does not currently include the capability for members to sign up for net control positions online, but that capability may be added later. Instructions are provided at the top of the page to submit a signup request via email.

All licensed radio amateurs and MARAC members are welcome to participate in these nets.

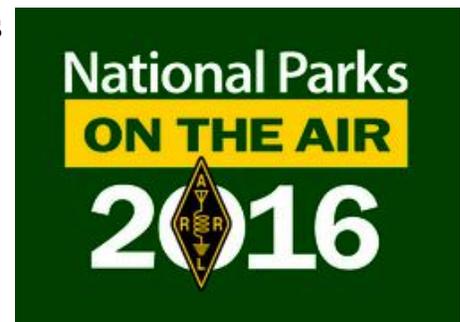
N5MLP, AA8R, K4PLB, N0KV, W0NAC and others have been busy running the net many days.

ARRL – National Parks on the Air

In 2016, the National Park Service ([NPS](#)) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.

"As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units.

The program will have two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online [Leader Board](#) based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>.



Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). *No* paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a "location."

Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station's total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks Honor Roll certificate will be available to any station confirming contact with at least 75 percent of the 59 National Parks *activated* in

2016.

While there is no formal partnership between NPS and ARRL for this event, the League has been in discussions with the NPS over the past year, and the National Park Service is aware that increased Amateur Radio activity in their parks is likely during 2016.

The NPOTA will use the official [list](#) of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. [Complete details](#) on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website.

Looks like folks who like to go mobile, go to national parks, make lots of contacts – might enjoy this. However, to make anyone happy with a contact, you must upload your log to LoTW. Otherwise, it won't count. Same if you work them from home or wherever if you want to get credit.

If you've never used LoTW, there's a little learning curve to get set up – but not bad.

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Looks like Rick, AI5P , has joined some others putting out the National Park Units - here's AI5P in NM, his home state.



AI5P, Rick, at MN59
Visitor's Center - Petroglyph Nat Monument

On the Road with N4CD I

Wow! This month the trip was different. For years and years I've been county hunting. Now there was something new to try. Nope, I wasn't into IOTAs or chasing DX or playing DX- been there and done that a few times. This was something you can combine with county hunting, and so far I think just a few of the county hunters have gotten into the act of putting out National Parks, Monuments and Historic Sites! Mike, KA4RRU has been busy along with AI5P. W5IL is in the fray, too.

Last month we wrote about the ARRL program called National Parks on the Air – a ARRL on the air celebration in conjunction with the Park Service commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Park Service. There are over 400 'park units' to work – consisting of everything from the Washington and Jefferson Monuments in DC, to the Appalachian Trail, to Fort Davis TX historic site, Yellowstone and all the other big well known National Parks, and hundreds of smaller ones. Yes, they are close to some and far for others – out in the boonies, up in the mountains, the deserts. Some are just a building or single site – others are hundreds of square miles or 300-1000 miles of 'trail' where you can operate anywhere along it.

It was a good time for a road trip anyway. The mobile hadn't seen much action since the big trip back east other than a short jaunt up to Oklahoma for a day. So – with the new year – I could get on and 'activate' some of the Texas parks, historic sites, trails and monuments. There are 14 of them. The only other county hunter I know really into this is Mike, KA4RRU, and he has been VERY busy putting them out. Ron, AD0DX, one of the active mobiles in QSO parties, was also putting them out. AI5P has joined the fun, too.

The one thing you need to keep in mind – contacts ONLY count if you enter them into the ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW). No one gets credit unless you upload your contacts – and you don't get credit if you 'chase' the parks unless you load your logs and get a 'match' with the station in the park for a QSO. I've never used LoTW before so this would be a learning experience. Even worse, I don't do computer logging, so getting a ADIF file to upload to LoTW from the computer log isn't going to happen for me. For those who can export a log file in ADIF – well, that's half the solution right there. There are ways to get logs uploaded. If you are going to run the parks, you really need to upload logs to LoTW – otherwise a lot of folks will be disappointed with you! It's not hard. I figured it out and Rick, AI5P, got it squared away quickly after his first

run in a park unit.

Anyway – on to the trip. I decided to just go out county hunting for a week or so. To make it more interesting, I'd visit a couple parks. Actually, I'd been 'by' a lot of them in my travels. Just run the county – and bug out. When I was a kid, my parents showed me the sites – so I've seen Yellowstone and Yosemite and the Grand Canyon and Bryce and Zion, etc. Visited some a second time while county hunting, too. Zipped along the Trail Ridge Road in Colorado....but now I might actually take some time to see things. Yep, slowing down a bit. No need to rush....and the weather would be decent for this trip in TX.

I did some homework on the parks in TX. There's a fairly new one right off the interstate in Waco TX. Been by it at least 50 times or more on the interstate, and never stopped by. You've probably never heard of it, either – it was a new one on me. Well, you learn something new every day. It's the Waco Mammoth National Monument, known as MN81 in the NPOTA lingo. Actually, it was just last year that Barack Hussein Obama officially designated this as the 408th National Park with a 'stroke' of his 'executive pen' – one of 14 in TX. Before that, it was just an interesting 'state' site.

From the National Park Site:

“On a spring day in 1978, Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin embarked on a search for arrowheads and fossils near the Bosque River. To their surprise, the men stumbled upon a large bone eroding out of a ravine. Recognizing the unusual nature of the find, they removed the bone and took it to Baylor University's Strecker Museum for examination. Museum staff identified the find as a femur bone from a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*). This now extinct species lived during the Pleistocene Epoch (more commonly known as the Ice Age) and inhabited North America from southern Canada to as far south as Costa Rica.

Strecker Museum staff quickly organized a team of volunteers and excavation began at the site. Using hand tools such as brushes and bamboo scrapers, crews slowly excavated a lost world. Between 1978 and 1990, the fossil remains of 16 Columbian mammoths were discovered. Their efforts uncovered a nursery herd that appears to have died together in a single natural event. Between 1990 and 1997, six additional mammoths were excavated, including a large male (bull).

Since the discovery of the site in 1978, museum staff, students and volunteers have spent thousands of hours excavating and working to preserve the fossil material. While the remains excavated through 1990 are now housed at Baylor University's Mayborn

Museum Complex, most of the fossil specimens excavated since then remain in situ (still in their original position within the bone bed). These specimens have been protected in recent years by a climate-controlled Dig Shelter, allowing for both public viewing and further scientific study.”

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The last of the Woolly Mammoths died out about 4000 years ago.....and likely from humans hunting them down for the meat and fat. They were large – a ton or more and some other mammoths weighed up to 10 tons. All had giant tusks.

I checked the NPOTA site for 'park units' in TX – there's 14 of them scattered all over the place, from the Spanish Missions to the old Spanish Trail – to Big Bend National Park and one way down in the tip – a national 'recreation area'. There is one in the panhandle of TX and another at Padre Island. I could hit a couple in the trip and it would be a new experience.

So on a January Thursday, I loaded up the car for a one week trip – well, that's how many days I packed for – and that's enough time to be away from home in the winter time. That trip would be a nice break from the routine. Since it was a work day, I had to wait for rush hour to be over – I had to head south through the Dallas Metroplex first. That didn't work too well since it had drizzled that morning and there were accidents and slowdowns everywhere. I'm happy I'm retired and don't have to fight rush hour in the mornings – one of the advantages of being a retired 'senior citizen' – hi hi. Plus every day is a county hunting day! Travel took a while – down to creep and crawl for the first hour, then it was zipping on down I-35 to Waco with a five mile side trip to the Waco Mammoth site. They open at 9am. You can find a list of all the National Park units at the ARRL NPOTA web page with information on hours open, directions on how to get there, and other useful stuff.

I was there early – the gates were set back from the road so I was on 'park property' and could start running just before 9am. The rules are pretty specific about being 'on the property' – or in the case of a trail, within 100 feet of it – they are still 'fine tuning' the rules. No one has ever done this before – it's all new – and there's a NPOTA Facebook page for it too, along with a FAQ on the ARRL NPOTA page. A few minutes later they opened the gates and I found a nice 't' in the road that led nowhere and stopped there.

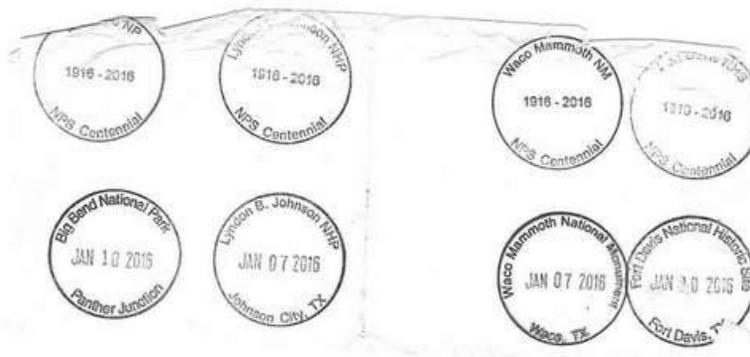
You'll find most of the 'chasers' are on SSB. 90% or more of them – and there's not so much activity on CW. Whew! Find a good frequency on 20M SSB and you can put a couple hundred QSOs in the log in 2-3 hours. The pileups were monstrous.

Remember when you were out county hunting and worked 40-50 people on SSB in counties on 20M and 40M in 10-12 minutes? And then had to move off frequency? The pileups were big and stations kept coming for 2 plus hours. I was busy and doing paper logging. It helps if you have a lap top, a quiet inverter if you need one to run your computer – saves you time later. These were big pile ups. At times I had to go 'by numbers' just to thin out the folks. The exchange is simple. You give out 59 and the park designator – in this case MN81, and the other stations give you a report and their state (or park if they are an activator).

What's this? There's KC6AWX – chasing parks – on cw too! Plus W900 (USCA #609) and other county hunters not heard on the nets these days. Plus, of course, it counts for county hunter credit. For the county hunters I was in McLennan, TX and folks spotted it as “**N4CD McLennan (MN81)**” on W6RK. Folks also look to the DX Summit site for spots and the NPOTA Facebook page now, too.



The ARRL folks suggest you take a picture of you at the site for verification.....and/or get a 'stamp' from the visitor center. Here's what they look like:



These are the 'stamps' for each of the National Parks along with the date stamps. N4CD was there! (ARRL likes you to get them for verification of your operation). I try to take a lot of Percy Pics just for the heck of it. Digital pics are cheap.

Now is this a popular activity? There are 1500 people signed up for the Facebook page! 1500! Likely 90% of them are 'chasers'. In the first week on the year, K5RKK in Texas worked over 100 'park units'! That's how many were on the air in the first week of 2016 – and Richard was very busy and has a big station to catch the QRP folks. Many of the activators are QRP folks – running five watts into wire antennas along trails, mountain tops, and 'pedestrian mobile' at building sites. To be an official activator you need to make at least 10 QSOs to get credit yourself, but others will get credit no matter how few you make – as long as you upload them to LoTW. One person on Facebook commented that when he went to a hamfest, the subject that came up the most was NPOTA.

All the QRP type portable folks are coming out of the woodwork to do this – from their usual handful of contacts, many can make 100+ using five watts if they head to a National Park unit. Some of the sites are likely only going to be run by low power or very discrete operation set ups – like single buildings and monuments in cities. Or wilderness areas you have to hike into to operate from them.

The 'tour' at the Waco Mammoth site is about 45 minutes and it's the only way you'll get to see the excavation location. Parking is easy and it's just a few miles off I-35. I might hit it again on the way down to the Bell County hamfest/swapmeet twice a year – April and October and put it out again!

Quickly over 200 QSOs were entered into the log. It was now time to hit the visitor center and see what they had there. Might as well. They give tours once an hour. More if more folks show up. Then it was time to be on the road headed toward the final destination for the evening – Fredricksburg, TX. Grabbed lunch at a Subway. It would

be a couple hours to the next one – but of course, I ran the counties along the way. Gene, K5GE, and Terry, WQ7A, were around to give me Double Diamond contacts which made me happy.

Bob, KA9JAC, and Patty, AC0CU were in the pileups working the NP units.

Along the way, however, with a bit of planning, you can stop by the Lyndon B Johnson Memorial Park – both the boyhood home (with visitor center) and the LBJ ranch 15 miles away. Well, since this was a trip to put out some NPOTA units.....I stopped by the LBJ site in Johnson City TX and ran it and the county for the folks! Two in one day. This is HP25 in the NPOTA lingo and reference. (Historic Park).



Once again, I took a picture of the N4CD mobile in front of the park entrance sign. I've run out of places to take county line signs – none needed with 800 miles of my home QTH.....so now I can start on the over 400 National Parks/Monuments/Scenic Rivers/Trails, etc. Dropped by the visitor center, looked around, got the 'stamp', then it was time to get on the radio.

This is also an easy one to put out – nice parking lot – a bit of noise – S2 – but most calling were S9 plus and the pileups were again big. I ran for a little over an hour as it was getting late and I had to get to the motel soon. Despite the pileup I went QRT at 5:30 local time as the sun was headed down. For the night, I was going to be 30 miles away and it was time to make some tracks if I expected to get there before 'dark' arrived.

However, I did advise the folks I'd be back in the morning

Thirty miles later the N4CD mobile arrived at the Super 8 in Fredericksburg. I did check TripAdvisor and this had mostly good reviews. You get a bargain rate of \$33.76 plus tax if you are an AARP member. AAA rate is \$36. It's likely the least expensive place in town – and there are at least 30 motels and another 20 or 30 B&B places to stay. Many folks head here from Austin and San Antonio – about 100 miles – for the day or for the weekend or just as a 'get away'. It's a 'quaint little town' with a 1/2 mile historic district, a mile strip to walk up and down, a dozen or more antique stores, good German restaurants and other places to eat by the gazillions. It can handle thousands of tourists and day trippers.

The Super 8 is an older one where you can park right outside your room – which I like. When I'm mobile I take in the radio, GPS, spotting tablet, the suitcase and the bag with the 'accessories' such as antenna analyzer, tools, multi-meter, etc. I can do it in two trips if I have to drag stuff a couple hundred feet into the interior of buildings.

The room was fine – good bed – but it is an older place so don't expect Hilton Quality. Only 3 pillows on the bed. Everything worked fine. Next door was a Ka-Bobs Steak and other food place. Mexican food place on the other side. After a long drive I didn't feel like wandering around looking for dinner so I just walked over there to K-Bobs. Got a small steak(\$11) and the extra cost salad bar (\$4) to try and eat 'healthy' at least part of the time. Slept well.

The Super 8 had a good breakfast with waffles. I had one. Good! Then it was back to LBJ - HP25 to put it out for another hour or two. The total for 2 days was over 230 contacts for that park. You can tour the LJB Ranch – stop by the visitor center and get a pass. After a few hours there it was time to get back to town and do some sightseeing. This was the first time I ever spent two nights in the town. Usually I was just passing through.

There's a great museum you should visit if you are a history buff. It's actually a two-fer. Chester Nimitz grew up here. His family traced roots back over 100 years as they were some of the first German settlers in the mid 1800s. German legal immigrants settled from Austin, New Braunfels – to the west and northwest. Many of the buildings in the historic district go back to the 1800s. One of the museums is dedicated to the life and achievements of Nimitz...who rose to be and Admiral in charge of much of the Pacific campaign. The other museum is the Pacific War museum – and it's large. It will take you a couple hours to see it all. It's got detail on every battle, island, submarine patrol, airfield, etc in the Pacific with good displays – in chronological order.

<http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/>

One of the most interesting things to me was an actual Japanese midget sub – type HA19 – on display. At least five of them were used to attack Pearl Harbor in a sneak attack – one made it near the shore but was attacked and eventually sunk and later washed up on the shore. The government took it and made a display out of it and hauled it around the country to raise money for War Bonds. The bond tours did raise over \$350 million dollars which paid for a good part of WW2. To let you see inside, they cut portholes in the side and put in Plexiglas windows – with two manikins for the sub operators. Cool!

I think the last of the midget subs was just located a year or two ago in several thousand feet of water. That was the one that actually was running on the surface, as did most subs of the era most of the time, and one of the navy patrol boats saw it, and fired on it. Claimed they 'sunk it'. They alerted Pearl Harbor, but since it was a Sunday, and no one was expecting a Japanese sub to be around, the message was ignored. However, it was recorded in the logs as a 'unverified sub sinking'. Sure enough, when they got to the bottom seven decades later to see the sub (with a remote undersea vehicle), there was a giant hole in the conning tower. They are still debating what to do – raise it or leave it to rust away as a 'memorial' since it contains the remains of the two Japanese submariners. Also has live torpedoes and is very rusted away. Good history. This shot by the patrol boat to sink the sub WAS the first shot fired in WW2.

The weather was great – near 70 and sunny. The streets were full of 'tourists' even the first week of the year in January. Tee shirt weather! The weather was going to change, however! Colder!

By the time I did both museums it was getting on dinner time, and you have a good selection of German restaurants (as well as just about any other type of food) to choose from for dinner. Ate well. Slept well.

Now it was Friday and time to head on down to some of the rarer counties in TX – all the way down to Presidio and Brewster counties – a good day's drive. After another good breakfast at the Super 8, I loaded up the car and headed out. Grabbed lunch at a Subway along the way and arrived mid afternoon in the town of Alpine in Brewster County. Zipped over to Presidio about 15 miles away, ran it, and returned to Alpine. .

As I ran through the counties – whoa! It's N8KIE calling me on cw from Hawaii –

about sunrise his time, noon TX time. He's 339 on 20M and 559 on 17m CW! Thanks for the Double Diamond credit Bob – the hard way! Guess he was checking out the mobile and waiting for Mark, W9OP to come by and put out the county on cw for the folks.

There's not a lot of 'towns' to stay in down this way. Alpine is about the best place to stay if you need a motel. There are a bunch of high price ones. My favorite- the Antelope Lodge– was booked so I had to look elsewhere. I choose the Value Inn- a so so rating on TripAdvisor – some 'bad' reports (maybe just spammers) and mostly 'it's old but OK' reports. It's a 1950s style motel – nothing fancy. The price was \$56 plus tax – and everything else was \$100 and up after taxes. Ouch! I'd be here for two nights – another first. Well, I guess N4CD is slowing down and doing some National Parks along the way. Probably 10 of the 35 rooms were taken by workers/contractors paying by the week.

There's not much choice for restaurants other than Mexican, Tex Mex, Mexican or Mexican here. The restaurant I ate at last trip was closed as were at least half the eating places in town. You'd see a restaurant sign, and as you got close, you'd see a 'closed sign' as well. Getting folks to spent bucks for eating out must be a challenge here. There 's not much to the economy other than Sul Ross University – a branch of the Texas University system. In the winter time several hundred snowbirds nest here in mobile home/RV parks. That, and folks traveling through to Big Bend National Park and stopping for the night or getting supplies. There was a Chinese Buffet place I noted, and that's where I dined. Good – about \$11 – and lots of choice and good fruit bar to round out the diet a bit. The only veggies you usually find at Chinese places are broccoli....and limp and drowned string beans. Most have a few things for a salad bar like lettuce and that 's about it. Ate well. Headed back to the motel. Room OK....old but serviceable. Heater ran most of night keeping the place warm. If you aren't fussy, this motel is OK. Most YL's would probably not be overjoyed here unless they are real budget types. Slept well.

It got COLD. Alpine is up at 3500 feet AMSL and the temp drops typically 40 deg from the highs. I was greeted by 26 degree temps and a frosted windshield. Had to get out the ice scraper to get going. The car windshield was self destructing. About five years ago I got a small stone 'ding' on the passenger side. Forget where. Well, for five years, it had been fine. Then on the last trip north at Thanksgiving time up in WV, where it got down to the low 20s and then we had freezing rain overnight – I guess the high defrost started that 'ding' to begin to crack. By the time I got home from that trip, it had spread out two inches in two directions. Still nothing serious. Made note to self....don't defrost window with defrost on 'hi' for too long. Well.....the crack decided to start

growing about an inch a day on this trip. With the 20 deg temps and need to defrost the window - that didn't help. It was spreading across the front of the car toward my side at 1-2 inches a day. Not good. Maybe I'd make it home before it reached the area of my vision. Hmmm.. Never a dull moment when you are out mobile.

No breakfast at the motel. Headed over to McDonalds for breakfast about 7am – even before the sun was up. Then headed down to Big Bend National Park – 100 miles away. Whoa – the car outside temp gauge was down to 16 deg in places as I drove south. This is more like Chicago or Minnesota! It's so dry here it doesn't do much most of the year as far as rain or snow. They do get 'monsoon' rains in the fall that total up to 13 inches IF they are lucky. Some years it's a lot less. Think 'bone dry'. Most of the year you can count on 25-30 days of sun a month.

Just before the park you hit the hamlet of Study Butte – pronounced Stooddy Beaut. Weird but that's what it is. It's the first place to buy gas in 90 miles and there's a small store and attached small restaurant. There's not much there in Study Butte. One souvenir shop. No motels. There are a few scattered 'ranches' where you can stay but they are way off the main track. I passed through town and headed to the Park Entrance another 10 miles.



Another genuine Percy Picture (25 deg F)
Big Bend National Park – Brewster County

About 2 or 3 miles later into the park there's place on the other side you can pull over

and run the Park/County. It's Brewster County and NP04. Most of the time there no shoulder and no place to pull over – unless you want to risk going into sand – and how deep it is I'm not going to find out.

The pile up was huge and over 300 went into the log quickly - all on SSB. K5ALU had announced he was headed there to run CW so I left all the cw contacts to him. No need to be greedy. Hi Hi. Golly, I made more contacts on SSB on this trip than I have in the past five years combined! Whew. It took a good couple hours to put it out on 20M SSB and 17M SSB. Worked a few on 40M but without spots, no one shows up. There was cell phone coverage over most of the park but no Verizon data service. No way to spot. Did get spotted though as the pile ups were BIG! Started the run about 8:30am and it lasted for hours. Got hungry. There's almost nothing in the park as far as gas stations or eating.

I headed back the 10-15 miles to Study Butte to the restaurant there and had a nice lunch – took about an hour but no hurry. After lunch I decided to head through the park – to Panther Junction – and then out the east side and up to Marathon – then back west on 90 to Alpine. The 'visitor center' is at Panther Junction. Well, it's like 50 miles to the visitor center. Got a 'stamp' there – so I'm double verified – hi hi – for being there. Did buy some gas there – the car uses about a gallon or two an hour sitting and running, and I'd done 150 plus miles getting there. It's the only gas station on the route until another 90 miles to Marathon. Gas was \$2.43 a gallon – about 40c more than in Alpine, which already was 20c higher than gas in Dallas. OK...now I'm in good shape to go another 120 plus miles to Alpine and not be bouncing on 1/8th of a tank which makes me nervous. Temp up to the 50s and the sun is bright and warm.

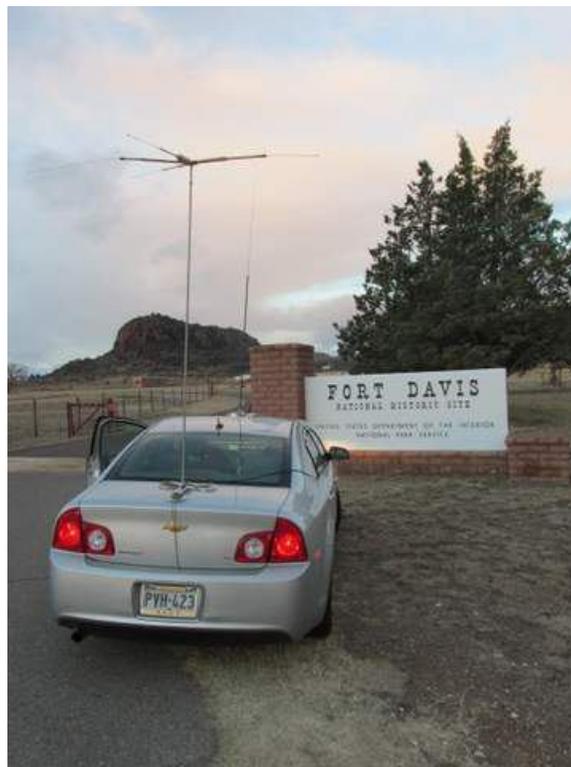
There is lots to see in Big Bend – especially if you like hiking. They only get 13 inches of rain a year – in a good year. Recently there haven't been too many good years. The entire park is part of the Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico. There are 6000-7000 foot mountains – that rise a couple thousand feet above the 'valley floor' with their own ecosystems. A lot of the roads/trails are 4 wheel drive only. The park is under a water rationing of no more than 5 gals per RV per day. RV'ing and camping is the way to go. There are a few rooms available at one lodge in the park and that's it for 'rooms' You either stay 100 plus miles away for a motel, or camp/RV here. Unlike most of the country, some things actually shut down in the summer – it's just too darn HOT! Lots of camp sites and more old abandoned buildings/mines are just outside the park in Terlingua – an official Texas 'ghost town'.

Way back in the 1800s, the army actually tried to use camels here. They were twice as fast as horses, could go 3 days without water, carry 400 lbs. Shortly after, though, the

railroad was completed and there was no need for camel caravans to carry in supplies from a couple hundred miles away. The railroad went through Marathon and Alpine. Alpine had a good water supply and the steam trains needed tons and tons of water to run.

It was getting on to mid afternoon and time to head on home. I exited the park and drove the 80 miles up to Marathon, then another 30 back to Alpine for the night. It had been a 'successful activation'. Lots of contacts on paper. A couple hundred miles of driving and I never left Brewster County! Hit the Chinese Buffet place again as it was Sunday and the place you could get a steak was closed on Sunday - supper club/bar. I did hit the grocery store in town for some bananas for snacks. Slept well.

Next morning - 33 deg. No frost on windshield. No breakfast at the motel so once again to McDonalds for an Egg McMuffin and a cup of decaf coffee. As the sun rose, I was headed to Jeff Davis County and Fort Davis National Historic Site for another 'activation'. It's not too far away – and you go through some spectacular scenic areas along the way. Fort Davis is a good size west Texas town. The Fort Davis site is in the small town but it's lots of acres and you hardly notice the surrounding town. It's in a small box canyon – easy to defend. . Way back in the 1850s this was a major stopping point on the San Antonio to El Paso route. As travelers moved west they'd go through a lot of really isolated territory, and various Native American groups would raid the wagon trains. This resulted in the army setting up a few forts along the way, with Fort Davis being one of the major ones to protect the travelers' route. At it's peak, there were over 100 buildings and 400 soldiers stationed here, including the Buffalo Soldiers (soldiers of 'color'). Now, many of the buildings have been carefully restored and you can take a 1/2 mile hike around the grounds visiting officer quarters, enlisted men's barracks, the hospital, storage rooms, stable, the HQ building, etc. Really a good restoration and well worth the stop. The raids eventually stopped by the 1890 era and the fort was no longer needed.



Fort Davis TX – Jeff Davis County

I arrived just before 8am and sat outside the gate (which was already 200 feet into the park. The nice lady ranger opened the gate and in I went to large parking lot for about 50 cars. I picked a spot far from the entrance walkway to the buildings and fired up the rig – making a couple hundred contacts – mostly on SSB. Surprisingly I had internet access and could self spot on W6RK, the NPOTA Facebook page and DX Summit. After a couple hours of operating – after the pile dropped down and the QRM was moving in – I went QRT and decided to take the tour – as well as get the official stamp at the visitor center. As I looked around at the souvenirs there, I noted a nifty tee-shirt celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Park Service.



Here's N4CD wearing the 2016 National Park Service Centennial shirt! They have them at the Park Stores. Also ARRL has a National Park on the air tee- shirt and other things specially for the NPOTA folks – mugs, maps, banners, handouts, etc.

Wow....some of the old county hunters came out of the woodwork for these contacts – I 'heard N4ANV on my radio' and he was sounding good. If you do this, stop by on the 14.324 net and put out the county as well for the county hunters.

After a couple hours, it was time to head on out and head on home. It was a long way to go, so I'd do it in two days, heading through some less run and more needed counties like Reagan and Upton. By late afternoon, I arrived in San Angelo – Tom Green County and stopped at the Motel 6 there. Been there before and it's good value for the money. On the way I spied a Golden Corral, so after check in, I managed to find my way back to the GC and had a nice dinner with loads of veggies. Slept well that night. One day to go to get home.

Next morning (no breakfast at the motel) – and 34 deg – headed to Denny's for the \$4 Everyday Value Slam – two eggs, two pancakes, two slices bacon – and decaf coffee. Then you get a 15% AARP discount on that. Good value for the money. Time to head home – just zipped through the counties into Fort Worth – running them on the new

MARAC SSB net (14.324) and cw frequencies.

There is a great set of county lines on the way home. Four counties come together but are offset, and the road conveniently winds around so you can run two pairs. I was zipping along looking for the signs that the GPS was there. No new sign with the post and big visible sign showed up. Hmm. Things go by fast at 70mph. I circle back and hunt for the sign. Sure enough, off to the side are the 'old signs'. The small concrete posts likely go back 100 years or more – a foot high and usually buried in the foliage at the side – and usually impossible to see unless you have real good eagle eyes. The other are the side by side wood signs – and many of them are faded and blend in. This was on the opposite side of the road 50 feet back from the road and blending in color wise.



I guess we are getting too used to nice convenient large signs on our side of the road. This picture with telescopic zoom.

Arrived home a bit after noon – 1523 indicated miles and six days on the road. Four park units transmitted and 1260 SSBCW QSOs for the parks, plus a couple hundred more cw/ssb from counties as I went through them. Most park operation was SSB.

Hope we hit something you needed! It was a great winter trip!

County Challenge Award/Top List

Barry, K2MF, posted on the K3IMC forum:

I would like to announce to everyone that starting this month, I will be assuming the duties of compiling and maintaining the County Challenge Top List. While Jim ND9M is working in the Pacific starting this January, he has passed the baton to me and I am looking forward to serving the county hunting community in this fashion.

I want to start by giving Jim a BIG heartfelt thank you for all the hard work he has put into keeping the Top List going for the past 8 years. Working alongside him last month and learning the ropes has been both educational and fun. I hope to continue compiling and maintaining the Top List in as conscientious a manner as Jim has been able to provide during his tenure in the driver's seat.

As I launch into this job I will attempt to interest more CHers to participate in the Top List, and also to interest some CHers who haven't reported their totals in some time to start doing that again. The Top List is nearly 10 years old and there are some new and interesting things happening with it which I'd like to share here:

1. Some history: The [very first Top List](#) got its start with 14 participants on August 10, 2006. In 10 years, that number has grown to a total of 97 participants, 20 of whom are still working on the USA-CA award and sadly, 4 are silent keys, including the past president of MARAC (K2NJ) for whom the MARAC County Challenge Award is dedicated. 6 of those 97 participants report Mixed totals only while the remaining 91 on the Combo list report a mixture of CW, Phone and Digital (as well as Mixed) totals.
2. There will be a slightly expanded look to the [current Top List](#) starting with the January posting (which will happen shortly). Going forward, I hope you all enjoy the few new items that will be tracked and visibly indicated. Of course, there may be a few tweaks in the months ahead.
3. I have done a bit of work on some of the formulas in the [CCA template file](#) that will help us all catch errors with our totals before they ever get submitted for posting. While of course we will always accept your totals in any format you can provide, I would very much appreciate it if as many of you as possible would start using this new Excel 97-2003 compatible template with your next submission. It will make my job considerably

easier with compiling and maintaining the Top List. If you do not have Excel 97-2003 or later, I also have Excel 5.0/95 and MS Works compatible CCA template files available, so if you need to use either of these, please contact me via email and I will send the latest template in the format of your choice to you.

4. And here is one last set of statistics which pertain to the CW year-end totals that you all might find interesting. As of this morning, there are 109 participants who have posted CW year-end totals sometime since 2011 in the [CW preliminary stats list for 2015](#) at [countyhunter.com](#), 89 of whom are active (i.e. have submitted totals for 2015 and/or 2014). Of those 89 active participants, only 27 of them have also been active on the Top List at any time during 2015, the remaining 62 of whom are divided up as 17 who have participated in the Top List at least once during its lifetime but have been inactive in recent years, and, a whopping 45 who have never participated in the Top List at all! To all of you who post your CW year-end stats, if you aren't doing so already, I invite you to participate in the CC Top List as well. I would welcome receiving your totals!

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MARAC sponsors the County Challenge Award. Here are the rules from the MARAC Awards page:

County Challenge Award

IN MEMORIAM: The County Challenge Award is dedicated to Bill Inkrote (K2NJ - SK). In addition to his years of service to MARAC and leadership as MARAC President, Bill was an active DXCC Honor Roll member, contester, DXpeditioner, and a dedicated county hunter who led the way in working counties on all bands and modes.

OBJECTIVE:

To encourage county hunters to work and activate counties on as many bands as possible and to work as many counties as possible on the following bands: 160m, 75

- 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, and 6m.

SPECIAL RULES:

The number of counties worked for the award is the combined total of counties worked on each band. For example, if 500 counties are worked on 80m, 1500 on 40m, 2000 on 30m, and 3000 on 20m, the County Challenge total is 7000.

AWARD LEVELS:

Each one thousand (1000) counties worked is one level of the award. For example, a

CC total of 7,000 counties would be eligible for CC Level #7.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application, logs, and fees.

National Parks on the Air II

So you want to be a 'activator' and get to all of the National Parks? Here's the optimal route:

AN OPTIMAL ROUTE TO TAKE YOU TO ALL 48 NATIONAL PARKS



This route is 15,758 miles and would take you 11 days, 14 hours and 30 minutes to drive straight through each location.

Kings Canyon is currently closed due to the wildfires that are consuming California's forests right now, and because of that it is not included in the interactive version.

You'll have to take a ferry to three of these National Parks, but these directions will take you as close as you can get on land.

See <https://www.islebox.com/2015/national-parks-road-trip/> for more. Of course, this is only the National Parks – not all the historic sites, monuments, scenic trails, recreation areas and so on.

However, you get bonus points for running National Parks and the Leader Board on the NPOTA site lists those who have run the most 'units' and the Honor Roll lists those who have run the most National Parks.

As of press time, KA4RRU is far ahead of anyone else for activating National Park 'units' doing a bunch of two-fers.

Fifty-nine units are NATIONAL PARKS; 47 of these are in the 48 contiguous states. Another 8 are in Alaska, 2 in Hawaii, 1 in American Samoa, and 1 in US Virgin Islands.

On the Road with N4CD II

I wandered over to the Cowtown Hamfest in Fort Worth the second weekend in January. It's a small but active hamfest with a couple hundred showing up. You never know what you'll find or who you will meet. K5IID, Tom, was there. Didn't see any other local county hunters – but did run into one person for the first time – a 'former' county hunter. Looks like he moved from Oregon.



Ed K7OC

Ed retired last spring and moved to Texas near Ft Worth. While he never accumulated counties – never finished USACA, he was known for his, ahem, 'unusual' county putting out style– or not. Or lack of it. Some (many) suspected things weren't right. Times didn't add up. Always a loud signal from 'his mobile'. He wouldn't meet up with county hunters supposedly on the same route 'nearby'. All three award custodians (CQ, MARAC, and B&B shop) requested any verification he had been to ANY of the 100 plus counties he had 'run' while on business and especially his last 'vacation' trip to Montana. A gas receipt. A motel receipt. A food receipt. None was forthcoming. Just one. Ed disappeared off the CH nets after that. Past history. He's still active on the Geritol Net.

Other than Percy, everyone else struck every county he had run from their logs before this episode ended badly many years ago. Percy announced he was keeping 'all his K7OC contacts' even if the mobile wasn't there.

However, for the next 10 years, you know who and sidekick Just Plain rotten would routinely accuse people of 'not being in the county' and other such crap. Seems the only folks they didn't accuse were some of the folks actually scamming the folks with bogus contacts. That was and still is one of the reasons for the new MARAC SSB net on 14.328. It's also why 'percy pictures' came about!

So the K7OC story comes full circle. Ed might put a HF radio in his truck.

On the Trail Of Regens

Whoo-Hoo – it's hard finding new regens I don't have in the collection already. What should appear at the Cowtown Hamfest? The 'ultimate CW regen receiver' hand built by Bruce Vaugh, NR5Q. He wrote about it in Electric Radio, and in his book, Surviving Technology.





Top View

It used National Verniers for the tuning – boatanchor 'solid'.

The article, by Bruce Vaughan NR5Q, was the first in a series of three, appearing in consecutive issues of ER Mag, December 2001 thru February 2002 (vols. 51 - 53).

Bruce had built two of these receivers just to verify that the excellent performance of the first one wasn't a fluke. The receiver is very simple: A regenerative detector followed by a two-stage audio preamp ending with a 6V6 audio output tube.

Richmond there is the Richmond Battlefield Park. Have yet to go up into “NOVA” to activate any parks – too much traffic. There are a bunch in Maryland and PA that I will activate sometime during the year. We do have all year to do this.

I am going to be an activator and not much of a chaser. If I did both I feel like I would not have time to do anything else. As for logging I use a laptop and N1NN. (sometimes computer does not cooperate so I have to go old school with paper and pencil.) Spotting is very easy (if you have cell coverage). I spot myself on dxsummit.fi , , County Hunters spotting page and the NPOTA Facebook page. You can also put your future activations on the ARRL NPOTA Website. (<https://npota.arrl.org/index.php>)

My setup in the car is a 706MKIIG with Hustler antennas and I am tweeking my “out in the field” setup. Right now a FT-817ND. (qrp rig that I have used mobile a few times)

So far here are my totals for the parks that I have activated: (I post this information on qrz.com)

01/01/16 MP02 - Self spotted only on County Hunters spotting page only, Worked 84 q's 40-10 cw and some digital on 40 and 20.

01/04/16 BP02 -Self spotted only on dxsummit.com. Worked 41 q's on 20 and 17 cw.

01/05/16 DZ08/TR23/TR03 - Worked 123 on 20, 40 and 17 CW.

01/08/16 NP51/TR01 -could not self spot. worked 62 on 20 CW ... no luck when on 40

01/08/16 MP06 Worked 62 on 20 and 40 CW.

01/10/16 BP02 Last time I was there I did not do 40m. Did 40m today and made 24 q's in about 20 min.

01/11/16 MN38 Worked 94 q's on 40 and 20 CW.

01/13/16 DZ08/TR23/TR03 -Worked 96 q's on 20 and 40 SSB

01/14/16 NP51 Worked 36 q's on 20 and 40 SSB and 17 cw.

01/15/16 BP03 Worked 76 q's on 20, 40 and 17 CW.

01/18/16 MP02 - Second time here 1st time only use county hunter spotting page this time I used dxsummit.fi and NPOTA Facebook page. Worked 71q's 20 and 40 cw.



KA4RRU put this out - MP02



KA4RRU mobile at Chancellorsville

Some Pics from NPOTA

Dozens of mobiles/portables have been out putting out the parks. Here's a few I've snagged pictures from:

Enjoy the scenery!



KG5EIU – Fort Davis, TX



K8ZRH and KE7WS

“Thanks all who worked me today from TR04, the very snowy North Country Scenic Trail. We set up at a spot on the trail deep in the woods overlooking Tahquamen Falls, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It was a gorgeous spot, but tough to get too as we had to lug the get through about 20 inches of snow. Set up a Buddipole and worked about 40 states in two hours, before the batteries died. Not bad for 5 watts! Folks from the Trail's council up here came by and were pleased with what we were doing. That's who KE7WS assisted me on my right... de K8ZRH “



Rick, AI5P – TR17 in NM
El Camino Real De Tierra Adentro NHT



AD0DX at a “three-fer”

This is where the three historic trails – Sante Fe, Oregon, and California – all were

together and conveniently this park is a few miles from AD0DX's house!



Rosie The Riveter Home Front
HP37 – Richmond CA

A group set up a tent and put out this rare one at the Rosie the Riveter Home Front Historic Site. Many buildings around here were involved in the WW2 effort – and women played a large role. This is a museum site dedicated to those women who joined the war effort.

On the Road with N4CD III or The Last Ride of the 2009 Malibu

The weather was still decent so it was time for another road trip. While Storm Jonas was trekking across the country dropping from inches to feet of snow, it was just cold in the home county and nearby with temps in the 20s and 30s all day. Yuk! Winter. The cold front came through with a few thunderstorms and a bit of rain but nothing else. So why

not another trip?

Since I've caught NPOTA fever – as least as far as 'activating' the park units, there were still several close by. I packed up the car for a couple day trip and headed north to the first one, which had been run before – Chicakaaw National Recreation Area about 140 miles north of the home QTH – mostly right up I-35. So it was off after breakfast at home by 7:30 in the morning to run that 'park unit' known as RC05 in the park lingo. Every park has a designator – NP for parks, RC for recreation centers or areas, NS for 'historic sites', etc. The ARRL has set up something similar to the Centennial event where you had to work every state on cw, ssb and data mode to get the award. This you have to work the NP units, and there is a 'leader board' and and “Honor Roll' for folks to work towards and achieve.

The miles went by quickly. It was cold – in the 20s headed north – and it got colder the further north I went. The park was easy to find and there is a 'floral garden' right off the main road with a nice parking lot. Sat there for 2 hours and logged 170Qs in two hours then decided to bug out. The pile up had ended. This had been run before and will get run many times likely. Easy to get to. There's all different park areas - never did make it to the park visitor center – to get my 'stamp' but did take a Percy Pic.



N4CD – NPOTA RC05 Murray County OK

This almost 10,000 acres of area started out as 'mineral springs' back in the 1800s as

settlers moved into the area. The government 'migrated' various tribes west to Oklahoma and gave this area to the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes. By the 1890s, settlers had built a bath house at Suphur Springs promoting the 'health benefits' of the mineral baths. Concerned that overuse would ruin the springs, local folks tried to 'preserve' the springs, and to that end, the Choctaw and Chickasaw sold the springs and a buffer area to the government. The CCC built pavilions and planted 500,000 trees in the 1930s. (The CCC was a make-work project of the government during the Great Depression of the 1930s). The area was expanded to almost 10,000 acres of land including major lakes for recreation. Legislation required naming it Chickasaw National Recreation area due to the cooperation of that tribe in 1902 in establishing the park. (Yeah, it was all new to me! You learn something new every day!).

Then I grabbed a quick lunch at Subway, filled up the car with 100% real gas (no ethanol), and headed to the second destination – Oklahoma City to check out another national park unit and maybe see if I could make a few contacts. I knew the mobile wasn't going to work – you can't access the 'park' with a car. You can get excellent information on nearly all the park units on line – maps, descriptions, visiting hours, faculties, etc. This would be a 'double star super sensitive location'. There are only a handful of those – and they include things like the White House and similar locations.

Two hours later I'm in downtown OK at the Oklahoma City memorial site. This is where the home grown terrorist, McVeigh, set off a large truck bomb in 1995 in front of the building which contained many government offices, and the local IRS HQ. McVeigh had a beef with the IRS. In a flash, 138 people were dead and 30 buildings damaged. The government building was demolished by the bomb. Now, there is a two city block memorial – with different areas and a museum dedicated to the event. It's also one of the 438 NP units and as far as I can tell, no one has run it. Checked it out on line and it didn't look like you could get near it 'mobile'. That turned out to be true. Even though there is a large garage under it....it's only pedestrian access on top – and it is treated as 'sacred ground'. - like a cemetery. Not going to be easy to run this one, for sure – at least not with a big signal.

I had a 20M SSB handheld I picked up at Dayton many years ago. Supposedly puts out 2w and has a 5 foot base loaded whip with it. I thought I'd try it to see if I could make a contact or two. Ten are needed for 'activation' credit. Well, I set up a sked with Jamie, W3UC. He had a decent signal on the handheld despite an A index of 25 at the time and K of 4. He couldn't hear a peep from me. Nada. Zip. . It was 30 degrees outside with a good wind! Real cold. I'm not used to cold cold cold. The fingers didn't like it either and the knobs are so small on the unit you can't wear gloves. Tried for 10 minutes but

no luck. He doesn't hear me. Went back to car, warmed up, then set the unit for CW. Had AA8R call me on cw. He is good copy....but doesn't hear a peep out of N4CD hand portable. Darn. I'm getting chilled. This isn't going to work. Another day – preferably one that isn't 30 deg, overcast and windy! Brrr. I did tour the museum and use the windows to 'overlook' the memorial. Just like they show on the web. You could probably run this 'pedestrian portable' with a better antenna off a backpack. Perhaps some local hams could work in something. The 'museum' is not part of the park but is park HQ. Well, at least at 30 deg, parking wasn't a problem. Few were wandering around although there were 30 or so in the museum walking around.



Mizuho MX-14S
20M SSB/CW 2w handheld

I'll have to put the Mizuho handheld on a wattmeter to see what is going on. Base loading the antenna is also horribly inefficient, too. Maybe I'll concoct a center loaded whip although it will have to be 'light'. The other downside of the Mizuho is that it has a 0-50 freq scale not corresponding to frequency. It uses a VXO and has 2 xtals – one for CW, one for about 230-310 on SSB. That doesn't help either. As far as 'radio' it

was a bust. Not a single contact. National Park unit AA18 remains 'not put out'.

The time had gone by quickly and I don't like driving at night – so I headed to a Super 8 motel in Midwest City – just east of OK City. Arrived at 5:15 as sun was getting set to disappear for the day. This one was once a Motel 6 – and I stayed at it before. Now it is a Super 8. OK..... \$55 including tax. I remembered there was a Golden Corral not far away – and that's where the car took me for dinner. Good. Filled up at one of the best Golden Corrals around. Slept well that night.

Next morning I enjoyed a waffle, OJ, an apple cut up on a bowl of Raisin Bran, cup of decaf coffee.....included in the rate – and then headed out east on the Interstate to AR and Fort Smith – historic site NS25. Found it easy after a 3 hour ride. Well, it helps if you get the address from the NP web site! You can park easily in the main lot and run the county and park. Sebastian County, AR. There's a big power line that gives you S3 noise to work through -makes the weaker ones tough – but otherwise good RF location. I got my Passport stamp at the visitor center. (ARRL likes you to have 'proof' you were there just in case – and pictures help too). I also signed the visitor log so I guess I'm triply good- heh heh.

Whew – Big Pileups. Not sure if this had been run before. Maybe it was 'virgin territory'. Heck, the NPOTA program is only 3 weeks old and already over 200 of the 438 or so NP units have been activated. Activation means at least 10 contacts made from the park unit. I sat for a few hours working the pile up. Nearly all the 'hunters' are on SSB. You get just handfuls on cw.



N4CD – Fort Smith NS-25
Sebastian County AR

Most of the time, I didn't run the county until I got to the park. That would pretty much guarantee at least 10 contacts from county hunters for the county while I'm in the park! I'll get my ten by hook or crook – heh heh. Well, I got 270Qs in a few hours from Fort Smith. No sweat. The NPOTA is hugely popular!

It turns out that 'nearby' but not near enough (100 feet is the rule) the Cherokee Trail of Tears ran down the river. For NPOTA, you can run two-fers and three-fers – just like being on two or 3 county lines. However, you have to meet the rule for each unit. The rule for 'historic trails' is that you must be on or within 100 feet of the trail. Obviously they don't want you setting up a tent or rigs right in the middle of the Appalachian Trail or similar – so up to 100 feet away is OK. For 'scenic trails' - you can't be in a vehicle.....got to be portable.

At Fort Smith, you have an 'overlook' for the Trail of Tears – which runs from GA to OK – but it is not anywhere near the parking lot. It runs down the river here – and in many other places. You could run this as a portable if you sat at the overlook which is right next to the river and make it a 'two-fer'. Couldn't do it from the parking lot. Ran just the Fort. I stopped in at the visitor center. Nice museum there – I've seen it before.

Free with the Senior Park Pass. Got my park stamp. I'm doubly good along with the Percy Pic. Also signed the visitor log so I'm triply good. It's bitterly cold out – at least for us 'southerners'. In the 20s and wind blowing. Brrr. No sun either. The car heater works fine and I operate from the car with the engine running.

Fort Smith is another one of the frontier forts. The 1803 Louisiana Purchase by President Jefferson in 1803 set forth a chain reaction of events. Jefferson wanted the 'Indians' back east to be moved 'west' of the Mississippi River. Only problem here was those lands were already occupied by other Indian tribes. Jefferson thought the lands were vacant and it would be 1,000 years before those lands were settled. Turns out it took less than 50 years for the westward migration.

Fort Smith was built in 1817 to try to keep the peace between the newly arriving Cherokees and the Osage, who already claimed the land. By 1842, the frontier had moved further west and the fort was abandoned. It was reactivated a decade later, rebuilt at a new location nearby, and flip flopped between Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. It was used as a law enforcement center and jail up to the 1890s. There's only a few remains and one main building left. You're a lot better off visiting Fort Davis in west TX. Or Fort Concho in San Angelo TX.

I ran Fort Smith, NS-25 for the folks. A 'one-fer'.

Not to be discouraged and to hit yet another NP unit, I moved 1/2 mile north to the town Riverside Park. I was less than 100 feet from the river bank, and I'll assume that the wide river was the 'trail', so I run TR12 – Trail of Tears - for the folks. Mostly the same folks are eagerly working all the NP units they can hear. For each park, you work the same 150 people, plus some others – more on weekends than weekdays.



N4CD overlooking the River
Trail of Tears – NP TR12

Now, maybe folks aren't familiar with the Trail of Tears. It was a forced 'removal' from land in GA to “Indian Territory” in OK. Here's some history on it:

“Migration from the original Cherokee Nation began in the early 1800’s. Some Cherokees, wary of white encroachment, moved west on their own and settled in other areas of the country. White resentment of the Cherokee had been building and reached a pinnacle following the discovery of gold in northern Georgia. This discovery was made just after the the creation and passage of the original Cherokee Nation constitution and establishment of a Cherokee Supreme Court. Possessed by "gold fever" and a thirst for expansion, many white communities turned on their Cherokee neighbors. The U.S. government ultimately decided it was time for the Cherokees to be "removed"; leaving behind their farms, their land and their homes.

U.S. government prevailed and used it as justification to force almost all of the 17,000 Cherokees from their southeastern homeland. Under orders from President Jackson the U.S. Army began enforcement of the Removal Act. The Cherokee were rounded up in the summer of 1838 and loaded onto boats that traveled the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers into Indian Territory. Many were held in prison camps awaiting their fate.

An estimated 4,000 died from hunger, exposure and disease. The journey became a cultural memory as the "trail where they cried" for the Cherokees and other removed

tribes. Today it is widely remembered by the general public as the "Trail of Tears" " It extends from GA all the way to OK – and they didn't have paved highways and interstates back then.

Whew. Another couple hours and 225Qs go into the log quickly. Now it's getting to be late afternoon and time to find a motel. The downside is all those SSB Qs and I only count cw contacts these days. Not many on cw - maybe 10-20 total. I'm wearing out my vocal cords – 1000 SSB QSOs per trip!

Well, there went most of the day after the travel period. Are we having fun yet? I checked my Motel 6 book – sure enough, one not far away and that's where I head. It's \$44 including tax. It's an older unit but it works. Get there by 5pm. Dinner at a very close by Furr's Buffet. Good but not as good as Golden Corral if you want to eat healthy. Too much stuff at Furr's is full of mayonnaise, or is 'sweetened' or loaded up with sugar and calories. Ate enough – then back to the motel after dark. It's still the middle of winter. Slept well. It was bitterly cold outside – 20s.

In the morning there is no breakfast at Motel 6. No clocks in the room either. I use my cellphone for an alarm clock. Up at 6:30 and over to the Denny's nearby for their Everyday Value Slam (\$4) which consists of 2 eggs, 2 bacon, 2 pancakes, plus extra cost glass of OJ. After 15% off AARP discount it's \$5.50. Not bad for breakfast. Leave a nice 25% tip. Then back to motel to load up the car and head to Hot Springs National Park – NP30.

What's this? Zero Street? I've seen thousands of First and Second Street and Main Streets in downtown areas. There is a Zero Street in Fort Smith. Cool! Something different. Well, on to the next destination a few hours away.

Hot Springs is a town of 38,000 people, plus some 'suburbs'. It goes way back a hundred years or more. Back in the 1920s, the gangsters from Chicago decided this was a nice spot to 'take over' and it was a second home for them. Does the name Al Capone ring a bell? He was a frequent 'client' here. The name comes from the hot springs – and they were used for bath houses and 'cures' of all kinds. The downtown historic area is full of restored bath houses. The hot springs put out a half million gallons of hot water a day. Back in the early 1900s they built a hot water distribution system with cooling towers – to serve all the bath houses (a dozen or more of them). Now, the government runs that system and gets a 'commission' on each customer of the bathhouse.

The streets are loaded with tourists and many park miles outside of town and take a taxi or shuttle in. Not much in the way of parking downtown even on a cold day. This is a

tourist mecca with a zillion shops. There are thousands of motel rooms around. Millions visit the park and historic district each year.

I checked the map and found a 'mountain loop' that went to Tower Monument'...sounded good to me. I needed a quiet spot to run, inside the park, but away from the QRN of downtown (horrible). I passed by the visitor center – no parking - had to park on the street on the opposite side and no spots open. Very congested traffic, too. . No hope. Well, maybe on the way back. Up, up and back and forth on switchbacks to reach the summit of Mountain Tower. Left, right, left right. Gosh, it seems like West Virginia or Kentucky! All at 25 mph speed limit on the road. It's a small hilltop at the summit.



Mountain Tower – Hot Springs Park
Garland County AR

The tower is about a thousand feet above terrain at the top of the tower – which is 218 feet high. The top observation deck was closed – ice and snow from the couple inches they got the day before, but the deck right below was enclosed and had great views all around. The parking lot is up high – and QRN free – good place to run the park. Several hundred Q's went into the log book including about 40 on cw.

Hot Springs NP is the smallest of all the National Parks. It was designated a "National Reservation" back in 1832 but didn't become a park until 1921.

I did manage to get back downtown and luckily found a 15 minute loading zone – parked and ran into visitor center – got my 'stamp' in my Passport – then got out of tourist central! Yuk! The downtown was crawling with people.

I was done with the radio 'putting out' after noon and headed toward the next destination – Hope, AR to investigate another site for transmit capability. Just a few hours down the road was the Boyhood Home of William Jefferson Clinton (aka Bill Clinton). It's now a National Historic site. The site is rather small, consisting of the visitor center, in an old home adjacent to the 'birth home' and the house that Clinton spent the first few years of his life. Unfortunately, there was a fire in the house a while back and it is off limits now. There is no parking on site so it would be a 'portable' or pedestrian portable operation. Didn't look too promising – I don't have a real portable set up – and so far nothing for 'pedestrian portable' that works. I spent 30 minutes there in the museum and a quick look at the 'store' then left. If I didn't dawdle, I could be home by 6pm or so. A quick stop at a Subway for a late lunch and then head for home. Arrived home at 6pm as the sun was already set in the winter sky. It was nice and warm – near 50 degrees! Yeah!

Trip – over 1000Qs – 864 miles in 3 days. The N4CD mobile has 177,314 miles on it and it's getting time to trade it in for a new vehicle.

Remember the 'good old days'? Some folks reminisce about them – and the cars of yesteryear. Well, if you owned cars decades and decades ago, they were usually a lot of fun at the time.

But do you also remember that 1950s cars required a tune up twice a year? Had to check/replace the points, set the timing with a timing light, adjust the idle speed on the carb, often replace the spark plugs. Mufflers and tail pipes lasted 18 months due to leaded gas corrosion. Tires (bias ply) lasted 20,000 miles. An old car had 60,000 or 80,000 miles and very few went over 100,000 before they self destructed. Cars got 10-15 mpg for the most part. You had a radio with tubes and a vibrator to get the HV. You'd change the oil every 3,000 miles and add oil maybe every 500-1000 miles. You'd be replacing generator brushes, fan belts, radiator hoses. Change the anti-freeze every couple of years, too. Oh, and 'shock absorbers' lasted 20K miles maybe. Plus those

pesky 'thermostats'? Remember that part? Seat belts and airbags? No way. Oh, and if you wanted a big engine and big performance – a big V8 and 4 barrel carb! Six miles a gallon! Zero to 60 in ten seconds with LOTS of noise.

Early 50s cars were 6v batteries, too! Then cars became 12v toward 1960.

1960s cars weren't much better – had alternators and 'transistorized' radios now. It took till the 70s and 80s before 'radial tires' made much of a dent. Still went through mufflers and needed tune ups until the lead was removed from gas and electronic ignition became standard. Still had carburetors that needed adjusting until fuel injection became standard.

Now? It's 100% different. The Chevy Malibu has gone 177,314 miles. No need for a tune up and has the original spark plugs, muffler, and everything else. Changed the oil every 6000-8000 miles, bought new tires every 75,000 miles, changed the air filter every 30K miles, replaced one tail light bulb and replaced the battery, one alignment..... and that's it. I did have to buy a new 'key fob' as the buttons wore out. Pretty amazing, isn't it? Zero to 60 in 10 seconds with a 4 cylinder engine getting 30 plus mpg. Same 'lifetime' anti-freeze. Same everything. Be thankful for progress.

Kalawao – April 1

As part of the NPOTA event, Bev, AH6NF, and 4 others will head to Kalawao and activate the Kalaupapa Historic Site. From Bev:

“A group of 5 Oahu hams is privileged to be activating Kalaupapa National Historical Park (HP18). We will be operating from the north tip of the Kalaupapa peninsula, by the lighthouse. So, this activation will qualify for NPOTA (Kalaupapa National Historical Park, HP18), for Kalawao County and for Kalaupapa Lighthouse (ARLS HAW-006). Likely operations will be on 10-40 meters on SSB, RTTY and some CW and other digital modes. Ham radio operations will be a secondary purpose of our trip, so we will be on the air as available. This may be the only activation of this park for 2016 due to park entry restrictions. Look for updated info and a web page closer to our activation

dates. As there will likely be no access to internet or cell phones on site, the info that is posted just before we leave may not be updated while we are there. If you hear us, please spot us.”

If you need Kalawao County, put this on your calendar for April 1. More details to follow. Will be listed on the upcoming NPOTA activations web site.

17M Worked All Counties

Once again, Gene, K5GE, snags another FIRST being the first person to work all counties on 17M. Jerry, W0GXQ and Hollis, KC3X are not too far behind. Serious work on 17M started after folks finished up running 30M – where a half dozen have worked all counties on 30M. Now, one of the challenges is 17M before the sunspot cycle takes us way down in MUF for a few years. It helps to be on the 'edge' of the continental US for 17m as the skip is usually long – unless you are K0DEQ who can seem to work mobiles at any distance with his set up – hi hi. So...once again, Gene comes up with number 1 for an award yet again.

There's still activity on 17 and 30 – but a lot less than on 20M.

Some Needs from the K3IMC Needs Page

These folks are getting close. See if you can help out! Selected needs from the K3IMC web page. Lots more there – take a look.

K1SO - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 12/29/2015
Bingo for first time - single county ...Get a WBOW. 73 K1SO@aol.com
WY: Teton

K1TKL - BAND-20 using CW - Updated: 01/04/2016

CA: Calaveras
MA: Bristol
MI: Eaton
NE: Adams, Furnas, Grant
NV: Esmeralda
TX: Kerr, Llano, Robertson
VA: Grayson

WA1ZIC - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/01/2016

TX: Loving

K2HVN - 4TH using SSB - Updated: 01/19/2016

AK: 1dist.
GA: Wilcox
KY: Owsley
MT: Big Horn, Granite, Lake, Lewis Clark, Sweetgrass
NV: Lincoln
OR: Benton, Harvey, Grant, Wheeler
Email to jansens1@comcast.net

K2HVN - 4TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/10/2016

AL:? lamar, sumter, washington
AK: 1st District
GA: Wilcox
KY: Owsley
MT: Big Horn, Lewis Clark, Sweet Grass
NV: Lincoln
OR: Benton, Grant, Harney, Wheeler
Email to jansens1@comcast.net

N2JNE - BINGO using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/04/2016

Complete list. No Digital. Contact if you plan to be in one of the listed counties. Thanks,
Charlie - N2JNE AT hotmail.com

CA: Inyo, Mendocino
CO: Saguache
ID: Bonneville, Franklin
MT: Broadwater, Carbon, Madison, Powder River, Sanders, Treasure
NH: Grafton
NV: Esmeralda, Mineral

OR: Clatsop, Columbia
PA: Clinton, Indiana, Schuykill, Sullivan, Susquehanna
UT: Wasatch
VT: Rutland
WA: Skagit
WI: Price
WY: Lincoln, Park
Email to n2jne@hotmail.com

N2JNE - 2ND using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/24/2016
Complete list. No Digital. No Relays. Contact if you plan to be in any listed county.
Thanks, Charlie - N2JNE AT hotmail.com

AK: Second
CA: Butte
CO: Costilla, Rio Grande, Saguache
IA: Humboldt
ID: Camas
MA: Suffolk
MT: Broadwater, Carter, Chouteau, Garfield, Prairie, Teton
NV: Mineral
OR: Columbia, Crook, Harney, Lincoln, Wheeler
UT: Wasatch
Email to n2jne@hotmail.com

WA2VYA - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/10/2016
Email: wa2vya@msn.com or tel. 908-415-5161
CO: Dolores, Ouray, San Juan
GA: Oglethorpe
IN: Fulton, Marshall, Noble
KY: Breckinridge, Carroll, Casey, Crittenden, Gallatin, Hancock, Johnson, Knott,
Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin, Meade, Spencer
MT: Beaverhead, Carbon
NC: Anson, Graham
NE: Chase, Merrick, Washington
NV: Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Mineral
SC: McCormick
SD: Brown, Faulk, Hyde, Kingsbury, McPherson, Potter, Sully
TX: Haskell, Live Oak, Orange
UT: Daggett
VA: King William

K4AMC - 2ND using CW - Updated: 01/21/2016

Getting close for CW II.

AL: Cleburne, Jackson

GA: Calhoun

IL: Boone

KY: McLean, Taylor

NE: Loup

K4CGY - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/07/2016

GA: Quitman

MN: Lake Of The Woods

K4PBX - USACA using SSB - Updated: 01/21/2016

Thanks to everyone getting me this far, getting close...

CA: Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Plumas

ID: Lemhi

KS: Harper

KY: Clinton, Johnson, Warren

ND: Eddy, Griggs, McHenry, Rolette, Sheridan, Steele

NE: Pawnee, Stanton

OR: Lake, Washington

TN: Sequatchie

TX: Mitchell, Robertson

UT: Davis

WA4UNS - USACA using CW - Updated: 01/24/2016

19 left to go.

GA: Chattooga, Effingham, Macon

IN: Noble, Washington

MI: Ionia

NY: Wayne

OH: Gallia, Henry, Lawrence, Medina, Miami, Shelby

SC: Chester, Florence, Horry

SD: Buffalo

VA: Pulaski

WV: Marshall

WA4UNS - 5TH using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/24/2016

25 to finish...

AR: Randolph
GA: Evans, Hall, Pike, Upson
IA: Boone
KY: Jessamine, Letcher, Washington
MO: Sullivan
NC: Onslow, Scotland
NY: Hamilton
OR: Benton
PA: Sullivan
SC: Georgetown
VA: Gloucester, Grayson, Goochland, Powhatan, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth
WV: Boone, Lincoln

K4YFH - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/29/2015

CA: Madera, Sutter.
CO: Otero, San Juan.
GA: Decatur, Jones.
MS: Greene, Leake.
NE: Grant, Wayne.
OR: Clackmas, Crook.
PA: Montour, Sullivan.
TX: Irion, Mason, Menard.
UT: Duchesne, Piute, Sanpete.

K4YT - 3RD using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/12/2016

email hs0zdg@gmail.com
ND: Dunn, McKenzie
NJ: Atlantic

N6PDB - BINGO3 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/17/2016

dennis@d-mason.net / 831.425.3991
CA: Sutter
GA: Glascock, Jasper, Pickens
KY: Perry
SC: Williamsburg, Lancaster
TN: Carter

AB7NK - FIVESTAR using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/18/2016

LC - WBOW!!!!
CO: Delta

AB7NK - MASTER'S PLATINUM using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
01/21/2016

CO: Delta
ID: Custer
MO: Knox, Scotland
NC: Pamlico
NE: Boyd, Keya Paha
NM: Valencia
PA: Cameron
SD: Stanley
UT: San Juan

KC7OD - USACA using SSB - Updated: 12/29/2015
VA: Lunenburg

NA8W - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 12/26/2015

Any help appreciated
AR: Cross, Van Buren
GA: Calhoun
PA: Wyoming
Email to na8w@arrl.net

KB9AIT - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/12/2016
The last I need for work them all first time. A big thank you if you can help.

IA: Hardin, Shelby
KS: Linn, Cheyenne
MI: Tuscola
MN: Wabasha
MO: Audrain
MT: Musselshell
ND: Rolette
NY: Schuyler
OH: Ottawa
SD: Moody
WV: Wirt

WA9DLB - BINGO4 using SSB - Updated: 12/28/2015
Lawrence, Hale, Coosa, Macon, Henry
IL: Moultrie

TX: Lamb
UT: Duchesne, San Juan
VA: Cumberland

NA8W - BINGO using SSB - Updated: 12/26/2015

Any help appreciated
AR: Cross, Van Buren
GA: Calhoun
PA: Wyoming
Email to na8w@arrl.net

KB9AIT - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/12/2016

The last I need for work them all first time. A big thank you if you can help.

IA: Hardin, Shelby
KS: Linn, Cheyenne
MI: Tuscola
MN: Wabasha
MO: Audrain
MT: Musselshell
ND: Rolette
NY: Schuyler
OH: Ottawa
SD: Moody
WV: Wirt

WA9DLB - BINGO4 using SSB - Updated: 12/28/2015

Lawrence, Hale, Coosa, Macon, Henry
IL: Moultrie
TX: Lamb
UT: Duchesne, San Juan
VA: Cumberland

W9MSE - 6TH using CW - Updated: 12/26/2015

CO: Dolores
IA: Jackson
IL: Boone, Jo Daviess, Stark
KY: Campbell, Larue, McLean
ME: Knox, Lincoln, Somerset
MT: Deer Lodge, Granite

NC: Polk
OR: Grant, Tillamook
PA: Bradford, Northumberland, Union
SC: Georgetown
WI: Crawford, Door, Kewaunee, Oneida, Sawyer, Vilas
Email to w9mse@yahoo.com

WØEAR - MASTER'S PLATINUM using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated:
01/13/2016

Please let me know if you plan to go through any of these counties. Thanks! 612-964-8226

CA: Butte, Plumas
KS: Cowley, Marion
MO: Howard

KØFG - USACA using CW - Updated: 12/29/2015

IA: Appanoose, Calhoun, Henry, Washington
IL: De Witt, Monroe
IN: Fayette, Warrick
KS: Decatur
KY: Boyle, Casey, Greenup
LA: Jackson, Red River, Vermillion, Winn
MN: Meeker, Morrison
MO: Boone, Howard, Putnam
MS: Quitman
MT: Glacier
ND: Logan
NM: Otero, San Miguel
SC: Allendale
TX: Calhoun, Concho, Foard, Kimble, Runnels
Email to kzerofg@gmail.com

KØFG - BINGO2 using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 12/29/2015

kzerofg@gmail.com cell 573-280-0612

OR: Lincoln
Email to kzerofg@gmail.com

WBØPYF - USACA using CW - Updated: 01/18/2016

Cell # 314-486-4484, email, n288ds@sbcglobal.net

GA: Bleckley, Chattooga, Dawson, Decatur, Jefferson, Jones Lincoln, Miller, Pulaski
IA: Jackson
IN: Blackford, Brown, Ohio, Ripley
KY: Calloway, Grant, Grayson, Johnson, Lee, Martin, Nicholas, Owsley, Trimble
MO: Maries
MS: Adams, Jefferson Davis, Smith, Tunica Wilkinson
NC: Ashe
NE: Burt, Chase, Sherman
TX: Jackson, Marion
Email to n288ds@sbcglobal.net

WBØPYF - USACA using All Modes (SSB, CW or Digital) - Updated: 01/24/2016
MS: Jefferson Davis, Smith
Email to n288ds@sbcglobal.net

NØXYL - MASTER'S GOLD using SSB - Updated: 01/20/2016
AK: Fourth J.d.c.
ID: Bonner, Boundary, Franklin, Lemhi
MT: Garfield, Powder River, Teton
OR: Deschutes, Douglas, Lake, Tillamook, Yamhill
PA: Greene
VA: Prince Edward, Pulaski, Southhampton
WA: Skamania, Snohnomish

There are many other needs posted on the K3IMC web page for Special Needs. Check it out. Maybe you can help with something close by your QTH, or on the way to visit someone somewhere.

Awards Issued

5th Time #115	Chuck, NM1G	12.22.16
Bingo III #36	Ken, K4XI	1.23.16
5-Star #76	Kerry, W4SIG	12.16.15
Worked All Counties Single Band - 17M #1	Gene, K5GE	12.18.15,

Events for County Hunters

We are back in QSO Party season once again!

February 6

Vermont QSO Party
Feb 6 000z to 2359 on Feb 7
RST and S/P/C
www.ranv.org/vtqso.html

Minnesota QSO Party
Feb 6 1400z to Feb 6 2359z
CW Ph Dig

Name, county or SPC

www.w0aa.org

Feb 13 2016

New Hampshire QSO Party

Feb 13 1600z to Feb 14 2200z

CW Ph Dig

RS(T), county or SPC

www.w1wqm.org/nhqsqso

Feb 27 – 28

South Carolina QSO Party

Feb 27 1400z to Feb 28 0059z

CW Ph Dig

RS(T), county or SPC

scqso.com/rules

North Carolina QSO Party

Feb 28 1500 z to Feb 29 0059z

North Carolina QSO Party

CW Ph Dig

County or SPC

rars.org/ncqsoparty

Future planning – dates to keep open

April 21-23, 2016 Michigan Mini

Once again, the MI Mini will be held at the Holiday Inn in Traverse City, MI. Ed, K8ZZ, has moved to Topeka, KS, but will handle the email/reservations and Joe, W8TVT, will handle the hotel arrangements and other details. More to follow shortly. Check MARAC page.

May 20-22 2016 – Dayton Hamvention

The annual Dayton Hamvention will (most likely) be held at Hara Arena on Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 20-22. There are some financial issues with the arena that need to be resolved (potential shut down) but so far things are on track for yet another great hamvention. Put it on your calendar.

August 1-4 2016 – Annual Convention

from W4SIG, Kerry:

The dates and host hotel have been set for the 2016 MARAC National in Memphis, TN. I am so looking forward to this event!! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. It ought to be a lot of fun for all.

Right now I am working on the events and excursions and will have more details on that soon. There is so much to do in Memphis the challenge will be how to narrow it down. In addition to being centrally located, Memphis is has a deep and rich history in the Mississippi Delta being the “Home of the Blues” and the “Birthplace of Rock ‘n Roll”. You can bet there will be some Graceland and Elvis on the agenda, but there’s also Sun Studios, Beale Street, Gibson guitar factory, the Peabody Hotel with its duck pond in the lobby, and some of the best Barbecue and soul food your lips will ever taste!

Don’t plan on sticking to your diet. Oh, and get ready to enjoy the annual banquet while floating down the Mississippi River on a dinner cruise with live music! While more details will be coming, you can go ahead and make your hotel reservations now. The host hotel is very nice and a Hyatt property for only \$109 per night! You must make your own reservations by calling the Hyatt Place at 901-759-1174 and ask for the MARAC group rate.

This hotel has free warm breakfast and complimentary shuttle service to shopping and restaurants within a 5 mile radius, which includes two of the nicest shopping and restaurant-stocked locales in the area. We will have a large hospitality room in which to

mingle throughout the days of the convention.

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That's all folks. See you next month

73 de N4CD