

# County Hunter News OnLine

February 2023  
Volume 19 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. We also cover some park chasing activities these days. Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

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

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

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

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

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

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here:

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

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

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

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can

find information on these awards and the rules at:

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

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

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

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

## Notes from the Editor

### N4CD Rumbblings

**1 ) Sunspots** – We got them. Seriously! Some days great with 17, 15 and above active. Lots of DX from fixed stations, especially FT-8 being worked world wide, on upper bands. In general, higher bands improving. Headed up in the sunspot cycle. At this point, we are ahead of predictions for the rise in sunspots. Who knows? This might be a record setting cycle!

Many days saw sunspot numbers nearing 200! Propagation was a bit weird with only 'fair' or 'poor' on 20M but good on 17m and up! Reminds me of the last sunspot cycle with 40 and 20M just so so and the upper bands great. Unfortunately, you might easily work EU and South America on 10M but working USA gets to be a challenge especially from the middle of the country!

As the sunspot count increases, 40m often goes to 'poor' and 20m is only so-so during the day. Upper bands are good to great – but of course, skip distances still long with 1500 mile or more skip on 10M. Lots of use now by Techs on 10M before they upgrade to General. Lots of solar activity can lead to geomagnetic storms and blackouts, too.

### 2 ) Remote Mobiles - Update

The remote mobile situation in the North Carolina and South Carolina QSO parties two years ago was the result of rule changes that year of COVID that forbid multi-op mobiles from operating. The year before, several QSO Parties including Florida prohibited any mobiles of any kind! So to be 'legal', one driver drove the car and another, sitting at home, made the contacts. Likely won't be repeated again since multi-op mobiles are now common in state QSO parties again.

Of course, this triggered all sorts of comments. However, already MARAC rules specified that for self-credit, you had to be physically in the county to get credit. For other awards, you only have to work 'a station in the county'. Rules say nothing about whether that station is remote mobile or remote fixed.

### **3 ) Parks on the Air**

On any weekend, 20m is filled end to end with Parks on the Air (POTA) stations. Every 3 KHz from 14.225 to 14.337 and sometimes on top of each other. Some even below 14.225 down to 14.150 (extra band). They are in counties – but sometimes you have to do a bit of sleuthing to figure out what county. Some 'parks' like trails go through a couple dozen counties, too, so the only way to get that info is from the activator him/herself.

### **4 ) Michigan Mini        2023**

There will be a Michigan Mini this year in April. Details will be coming soon. To be held in Midland, MI. N4CD is set to go! Weather should be better as new site is 200 plus miles south. Past couple years saw 40F type temps during day in Traverse City.

### **5 ) Dayton Hamvention**

Once again, the good ham volunteers (by the hundreds) in the Dayton Area will be putting on the annual Hamvention in Xenia and the Greene County Fairgrounds. If you plan on going, get your reservations in. Usually quite crowded everywhere. Sadly there's no County Hunter Forum any longer (hasn't been one in, what, 10 years?) and no county hunter get together after. Half the restaurants we used are shut down. Many do partake of various other get togethers including the QRP folks at the Four Days in May annual event, the CWT folks /dinner, various DX clubs, ARRL Donor Dinner, ARRL DX Dinner, Parks on the Air meet up and usual QSY to a restaurant for more yakking, etc. N4CD is set to go this year. Mike, KA4RRU and Kyle, WA4PGM will have a flea market table. Who else is going? MARAC has had a booth inside for the past couple years with Lowell and Sandra spending a lot of time there.

6) **Orlando Hamfest** – a Big hamfest is scheduled in February for Orlando. One of largest in country. Lots will be going.

## AI5P Trip Report

From the Web:

The small village of Honey Springs was an important stop along the Texas Road, a north-south artery between north Texas and Baxter Springs, Kansas, or Joplin, Missouri. Prior to the Civil War, the U.S. Army established a supply depot here. Later the Confederacy took over the area. It became a direct threat to the Union Army's manned Fort Gibson which controlled shipping on the upper Arkansas River, 20 miles north.

Federal forces, numbering around 3,000, moved south from Fort Gibson. Confederate forces, around 6,000, were at Honey Springs. Federal forces consisted of the 2d Indian Home Guard, 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, 2d Colorado Infantry, 1st Indian Home Guard, 6th Kansas Cavalry (Detachment), and the 2d and 3rd Kansas Light Artillery Batteries.



Confederate forces consisted of the 20th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted), 29th Texas Cavalry, 5th Texas Partisan Rangers, 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles, 2d Cherokee Mounted Rifles, Cherokee Regiment, 1st Choctaw-Chickasaw Mounted Rifles, 1st and 2d Creek Lee's Battery, Scanland's Squadron Texas Cavalry (Artillery), and Gillett's Squadron Texas Cavalry (Artillery).

The Union Army attack began in the morning of July 17, 1863, with skirmishing with Confederate forces. This action revealed that many Confederate soldiers had wet gunpowder causing many misfires and accidents. The main attack began in the afternoon and a rain squall intensified the Confederate ammunition problems. Federal forces drove the Confederates back and captured the depot.

The Union Army, including its black and Native American forces, had a definite edge in both quality and quantity of weaponry. The Confederate troops were poorly armed, typically with obsolete smooth bore muskets and flintlock shotguns. The terrible equipment of the Confederates, and the rain which ruined their powder, played a large part in their defeat. The victory opened the way for Federal forces to capture Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the Arkansas River Valley all the way to the Mississippi River.



The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest confrontation between the Union and Confederate forces in the area that eventually became Oklahoma. The engagement was also unique in the fact that white soldiers were the minority in both fighting forces. Native Americans made up a significant portion of each of the opposing armies and Union forces contained African-American units.

The site in Muskogee County is a Parks on the Air location (K-6336) and I was able to put 27 in the log - all on CW.

Rick AI5P

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De N4CD - this is not an often run site. In fact, only 8 activations have taken place here with a total of 214 QSOs made! Only 36 of them on SSB! Probably half of all the POTA sites in OK have double or triple, with some at 10x the number of QSOs. For example, Lake Texoma State Park in OK has had 49 activations with over 2,400 QSOs. Of course, when you can stay overnight (campsites, shelters and cabins to rent), you get many staying for a few days, or operating in state QSO parties – to put out the parks with lots of contacts. Plus Lake Texoma near the TX border so some mobiles from TX head that way. Nothing but parking at this site seldom visited.

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More from the web:

The Battle of Honey Springs, the climatic engagement of the Civil War in Indian Territory, was fought on July 17, 1863, and had been in the making since the beginning of the war.

More than two years earlier the United States government had withdrawn its small peace-keeping forces from the forts of Indian Territory for what it considered more urgent military needs in the East. Soon afterward, authorities of the Confederate States signed treaties of alliance with the Five Tribes, and for a year Confederate control of Indian Territory remained unchallenged. Then, as part of an overall plan for conquering the Confederacy, Federal forces invaded Indian Territory.

After a year of unsuccessful efforts to reestablish Federal authority, Colonel William A. Phillips of Kansas occupied Fort Gibson in April of 1863, and Confederate authority in

Indian Territory was successfully challenged for the first time.

At once the Confederates made plans to drive the Federals from Fort Gibson. While Colonel Phillips struggled to keep his supply line open to Fort Scott, Kansas, 175 miles to the north, the Confederates assembled twenty miles southwest of Fort Gibson at Honey Springs. From this location Confederate cavalry detachments harassed the Federals at Fort Gibson and attacked supply trains en route from Fort Scott.

The Confederate installation at Honey Springs consisted of a frame commissary building, a log hospital, several arbors, and numerous tents. Several springs supplied ample water for soldiers and livestock.

Early in the Civil War it became an important depot for the Confederates. It took on increased significance as the Confederates planned to drive all Federal forces from Indian Territory during the mid-summer of 1863. For this purpose about 6,000 soldiers were collected. Supplies were brought from Fort Smith, Arkansas, as well as from Boggy Depot, Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle, and Fort Washita, all located in Indian Territory.

The Confederates at Honey Springs were ready to march on Fort Gibson and awaited the arrival of approximately 3,000 reinforcements and additional artillery from Fort Smith on July 17 under the command of Brigadier General William L. Cabell, a West Point graduate distinguished for bravery in combat.

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The battle was over in 4 hours. As they retreated, the Confederates set all buildings ablaze – so there is not much left to see – if it would have made it 100 plus years to now anyway.

More history here if you are a history buff

<https://www.okhistory.org/sites/hsbattle?full>

The Honey Springs Battlefield site includes more than 1,000 acres. Visitors can enjoy hiking and area wildlife while exploring the history of the Civil War in Indian Territory. Six walking trails with interpretive signs take visitors through the Union bivouac area; Union line of battle; the Texas regiment line of battle, which includes 1/8-mile of the original Texas Road; the battle at the bridge over Elk Creek; the final action; and Honey Springs and the Confederate supply depot. A Visitor Center features exhibits about the

battle. Through artifacts, graphics, and narrative, the exhibits tell the rich history of the Battle of Honey Springs.

### Location

Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The new Visitor Center is located approximately one and a half miles east of US Highway 69 off of Gertrude Avenue. The GPS coordinates are 35.523556, -95.485119.

### Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments

A reenactment of the Battle of Honey Springs is held biennially. The multi-day event begins with an Education Day for school groups, followed by weekend activities including presentations about the Civil War era. The battle reenactments are held on Saturday and Sunday. Visitors can tour the reenactors' camps and browse souvenirs, books, and reproductions of nineteenth-century military equipment and clothing on sutler's row. The next reenactment will take place in 2023.

## Mobile Activity in January

Winter weather and storms slowed down mobile activity in January. Although the south was 'above normal' there still were nasty winter storms up north in MN, WI, MI, across through OH, NY and New England. After the holiday travel, just a couple mobiles out – with NU0Q and K8ZZ providing dozens and dozens of counties.

### At the beginning of January

W8OP out mobile in NC, VA, and WV.

K8ZZ started out on a multi-week trip to FL. Through WI to IL, KY, TN, GA, into FL for many and several visits with county hunters there. Spent a week in FL then headed back to MN and the cold.

KE4UP started out in CA, headed east through AZ, into NM, then into TX. Ran lots of TX counties.



NU0Q resumed his trip in Texas headed west through many TX counties. Down to Brewster and Big Bend National Park. Out through NM and AZ to Los Angeles then back through NM. Into TX. Stopped by Guadalupe Mountains NP as well. Hit the "Death Highway" in TX (US highway 285) in Loving County TX area. Into OK and then to home in IA.

N8KIE put out Honolulu , HI Plans to go to Kauai now in February.

K0DEQ was out mobile in MO

Many parks on the air were activated – several hundred in the month of January. Some posted runs in Maui, Kauai, HI runs. Third and 4<sup>th</sup> AK districts. Others in various states around the country.

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N4CD made it over to the local park on Wednesdays and a few weekends but no trips. Made a bunch of contacts in the ARRL 10M contest, some in the NA SSB QSO party (lots of QRM!) on 20-10M. Maybe some trips coming up! December seemed to be 'doctor month' with half a dozen doc appointments, dentist, etc, but now set to get out for a week or 10 days to see what happens. Travel hasn't been too good for me lately. Hi hi.

## NF0N Doing CW Stats

Mike NF0N is accumulating and tabulating the year end CW stats for first through Nth time CW awards. Hope you sent in your end totals toward the next time around.

Latest stats will be published on CountyHunter.com - the site run by Dennis, KK7X. Lots of good info there.

The County Hunter News will publish an early version. See above web site for the latest updates.

# Georgia State Parks on the Air

The Georgia State Parks On the Air will be held April 1 - 2, 2023.

ARRL member Claude Ray, AC4SH, said this is the first time that all of Georgia's 50 state parks have been involved.

"The objective is to encourage ham radio operators to visit Georgia State Parks and experience the fun of Parks on the Air activations," said Ray. "This is a fun contest only, and the rules are minimal, the scoring is simple, and the main award is simply the fun of getting on the air."

The entire process is largely based on the honor system, although logs of top activators will be cross-checked. The contest period begins at 0800 EDT, April 1, 2023, through 2000 EDT, April 2, 2023, and operating hours are subject to park rules and times.

Participants with the top three scores in each of the five categories will receive a certificate indicating the award:

Georgia Activator - Individual

Georgia Activator - Club

In-Georgia Hunter (individual or club)

Out of State Hunter (individual of club)

Georgia ARES® Club

Every station participating in the event and submitting a log will, upon request, receive a Certificate of Participation indicating the number of parks contacted.

Ray added, "There are 47 parks that already have at least one ham planning to activate on the April 1 - 2, 2023, weekend."

See the complete rules at [gaparks.org/rules](http://gaparks.org/rules).

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There will be many State Park on the Air events for different states. Including TX but the rules often favor working other parks within the states thus only 40 and 80m

operation.

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## **Texas celebrates 100 years of state parks**

from the TX Highways and Byways magazine:

“ Before she died in 1921, Isabella “Mother” Neff donated six shady acres of land along the Leon River south of Waco. We willed the land, where families had long gathered to swim and picnic, to the state of Texas for a park, thus sparking the idea of what was to become the Texas State Parks system.

Two years after his mother's gift, Texas Governor Pat Neff officially established the State Parks Board, which began accepting donations and got legislative funding to grow into the parks system of today.

Starting in January, Texas State Parks will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation with events throughout the year.

Each of the 89 state parks will host activities to commemorate the milestone, from First Day Hikes on New Year's Day to community festivals and family fishing events.

In all , state parks logged about 9.6 million visits during the 2021 -22 fiscal year. That includes more than 500,000 visits to the state's busiest park, Garner, plus thousands more to hidden gems like Daingerfield , Cooper Lake and Lake Brownwood state parks.

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de N4CD

There are about 200 POTA entities in TX including dozens of Wildlife Management Areas, Historic Sites, Trails, etc. I've been to 95% of them now. A few left that can easily be run that I've managed to miss so far. . A couple requiring a small footprint portable set up remaining on my list. One is 10 miles offshore on a barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico. Another also takes a boat to activate. One is 4 wheel drive only and three are currently 'closed' to the public awaiting funding to open. So far, no one has run all of them. That leaves about 8500 other parks around the country I've yet to activate!

# Highway of Death

NU0Q posted on K3IMC Forum : “We are on vacation and tend to do things like visiting parks and doing hikes earlier in the day. On Friday, we did a short hike in the Guadalupe Mountains Natl Park before heading to Reeves, Loving, and Winkler counties. We ended up sitting on US 285 for 20 minutes before turning around and finding county roads (which were actually better!) to get us around the traffic jam caused by a truck accident. Since Loving County has a population of 64 (as of 2020), we expected a lonely road. Instead, it was busy with lots of trucks related to the oil and gas industry. Also, every road was under construction except US 285, which was blocked by the accident. **I have since learned that US 285 is called the 'Death Highway' due to the high accident rate.**”

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From <https://www.arnolditkin.com/blog/motor-vehicle-accidents/the-most-dangerous-highway-in-west-texas-us-285/>

“In the West Texas stretch of US 285 alone, 93 people lost their lives in traffic accidents in 2017. The number of fatalities seems to rise and fall along with oil production in the Permian Basin.

Loving County, which lies along the Pecos River close to US 285, saw just 18 traffic accidents in 2016. That number jumped to 103 in 2017, even though the county only had about 60 residents. Nearby Ector County saw more than 5,000 collisions in 2017, nearly twice the amount from 2015.

Although the Permian Basin region includes just 1.6% of the population of Texas, it is home to 12% of all traffic fatalities in the state.”

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de N4CD: Read today in my local Dallas Morning News:

'Lone Star State allows toll-free superhighway for oilfield 'produced water'

Take a drive on US Highway 285 southeast from Carlsbad, NM headed to Pecos in West Texas and you'll be driving atop a portion of the largest proven oil reserves in the United States.

Along the drive, much of the scenery will look the same. Drilling rigs are numerous and tower high above thinly rooted desert shrubs. Above-Gouda pipeline and power line easements follow the road on either side. Look too long and drift from the lane and the sound of rumble strip will draw your attention back to the road ahead.

Trailer trucks, pickups and construction vehicles, all branded with corporate logos, pass in both directions. Roll down the windows and you will smell diesel exhaust and an unmistakable whiff of sulfur. This is the Delaware Basin.

You would hardly know the point where you cross into Texas as no noticeable demarcation exists. However a well trained eye might start to notice salt water disposal (SWD) facilities appearing on both sides of the road with increasing regularity. Facility signs mark the entrances, advertising to passing water-hauling trucks looking to unload their tankers.

A fundamental of oil production is the production of water. The Delaware Basin generates the largest volume of oil in the nation. According, it also produces the largest volume of 'produced water'. Produced water contains high concentrations of salt, heavy metals and other toxic substances. Thus, careful disposal is required. SWD wells are drilled expressly for the purpose of reinjecting the produced water into the ground as means of disposal

Why the disproportionality between Texas and New Mexico? The explanation is simple: Regulations. Permitting SWDs in Texas is easy and quick compared to New Mexico. This is one of the reasons why each day an estimated 1.8 million barrels (75.6 million gallons) of NM produced water is sent to any one of the numerous SWDs across the Texas state line. This volume is growing daily. “

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So if you're out in this neck of the woods, beware – massive amounts of traffic jams – zillions of water hauling trucks. Oh, and be sure to have motel reservations as the industry is booming and there aren't many places to stay.. In addition to the truck traffic there are some giant RV parks there too to cater to the ten thousand plus workers.

While things quieted down during the pandemic, with oil prices bottoming at 35 bucks a barrel, the price of oil is up to \$60+ per barrel and activity has shifted to high gear once again. Record traffic. Record number of accidents. Drivers can make over \$120,000 a year and many work 60+ hours a week. Some more – leading to fatigue and more accidents.

There are several other hot spots in TX – where you'll run into the same situation.

## Gasoline Prices

Back in December, gas prices in TX bottomed at about \$2.48/gallon. Now it's up to \$2.90 or so a gallon here. \$3.05 at name brand stations. Around the country it's averaging over \$3.50 and depending where you live, up to \$4.50/gal.

The good news is that cars continue to get better mileage so in the end it all works out. Now imagine being a county hunter 50 years ago when cars got 15 to 18 mpg. A good car might have gotten 20-22. Now, many cars routinely get 25+ MPG and the compact ones get 30 mpg on the road.

Back in the 1960s, most cars got 13 mpg! And burned a quart of oil every 500 miles! The tires lasted 20,000 miles and the mufflers and shocks 18 months. An old car was one with 60,000 miles at 5 years. After that, up 'north' they quickly rusted out. A really old car was one with 100,000 miles and by then you would have replaced the 'generator' twice, rebuilt the carb, and gone through a lot of tires, mufflers, exhaust system, shocks, probably transmission rebuilt. Didn't get much better till the Japanese invaded with cars that got 25 mpg and Detroit eventually responded.

I recall my 1975 Ford Econoline van got 13 mpg on the highway. The 1977 International Scout got 16 mpg on the road in 2 wheel drive. Took to the 1990s before Detroit could sell you a car that got in the mid 20s mpg. I'm sure a lot of county hunters will recall those 'olden days'.

If you're over 60, you'll remember those gas guzzlers. Of course, there weren't any other options so no one really cared about it. Between all the other parts of the cars going bad frequently, and adding quarts of oil all the time, gas mileage wasn't a major factor in buying decisions .

# Winter Field Day 2023

## Notable Rules for Winter Field Day 2023

All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.

All logs must be in the Cabrillo format and submitted online at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)

Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.

**We have added a 4th category M for Mobile / Mobile stationary stations.**

We have added an additional Antenna bonus.

**Eligibility:** All licensed amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate. Radio operators in the United States and Canada will use the designated location identifiers set up by the ARRL and RAC field organizations. Operators in Mexico will use MX as their location identifier, and all other operators outside of North America will use DX as the location identifier. All participants are encouraged to submit a log of stations worked.

**Objective:** To set up an amateur radio field station and successfully make multiple contacts. Successful participants are those who can set up their equipment and correctly log the designated exchange during the operational period explained below.

**Operational Period:** Winter Field Day is always held the last full weekend in January. For 2023, it will be held on January 28th and 29th. The 24-hour operational period starts at 1900 UTC on Saturday, the 28th and ends at 18:59 UTC on Sunday, the 29th. Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 19:00 UTC on Friday before. However cumulative set-up time shall not exceed 12 hours.

**Entry Categories:** A WFD operation, regardless of the number of stations operating under one call sign, must be in the same physical location. All station equipment, including antennas, feed lines, and accessories used, must be located within a circular area, whose diameter does not exceed 1,000 feet (300m).

You must choose which category you are going to operate in. If operating as a group under one call sign, all stations in your entry must fit the category you choose. We have

added a new category this year. Many participants that would have been an Indoor or Outdoor station last year will now fall under the Mobile / Mobile stationary category.

The categories are:

H = Home: is defined as any station participating from their permanent livable residence or within 500ft of their Home regardless of operating inside or outside.

I = Indoor: is defined as any station operating away from Home but from inside an insulated, weather-protected building or structure on a permanent foundation. Indoor stations typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, and running water. Church, EOCs, a club shack, a cabin, and community centers are all examples that would be Indoor.

O = Outdoor: Outdoor stations are defined as operating from a partly or fully exposed building or shelter that does not typically have plumbing, heating/cooling, or running water available. Operating from a picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies are all places that could be considered outdoor. These are locations where you may have to provide your own heat source and/or protection from the elements.

M = Mobile / Mobile Stationary: These stations are defined as operations from a mobile or potentially mobile structure like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer, mobile EOC, ETC. These are operating positions that may offer some sort of built-in heating/cooling.

Full rules here. Bonus if you are fully 'mobile' capable of making contacts while in motion.

<https://winterfieldday.com/rules.php>

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Of course, you can just play around making contacts. If you're at home, you are 1-I. One – indoors.

## Volunteers on the Air (VOTA)

You may hear some stations calling 'CQ VOTA' this year. What's up?



The ARRL is celebrating 2023 as “The Year of The Volunteer.”

The inaugural step in what is intended to be a year in which the value of the contributions of every Amateur to the growth and preservation of Amateur Radio is recognized is an on-the-air operating event — Volunteers On The Air.

It is marked by qualified ARRL Members activating W1AW twice in each state during 2023 and by each Member QSO with an ARRL volunteer, another Member, W1AW/x portable station, and certain other designated stations earning points.

Each W1AW/portable operation will be a week in length, starting on a Wednesday and ending on a Tuesday.

#### Oklahoma Activation

W1AW/5 will be active in Oklahoma starting January 25, 2023.

#### Texas Activation

W1AW/5 will be active in Texas starting February 1, 2023.

Volunteers from each state will activate the state on multiple bands and modes (some at the same time) for a week.

#### Points Schedule

Be aware the published point schedule is subject to change as it is the subject of review by the ARRL’s Programs & Services Committee at the ARRL’s Annual January Board of Directors’ Meeting this week.

#### VOTA Information Sites

More details, rules and information on VOTA are available at these sites:

<https://www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air>

from ARRL:

As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST, ARRL is celebrating a year-long operating event honoring all ARRL volunteers: Volunteers On the Air.

In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration, and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Highlights of the event include:

**Earning Points for contacting W1AW Portable Stations:** There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US Possessions/Territories, that will generate on-air activity to earn points. Each state will be activated twice. The schedule of when which states will be activated as posted in the dashboard above will be updated as changes/additions occur. See the POINTS TABLE for the full list of points.

**Contacting ARRL Volunteers or Members on the air:** ARRL Officers, Directors, Section Managers (and their appointees), Staff, and even Members domestically (and DX) can be contacted for points. See the POINTS TABLE for the full list of points.

**Using Logbook of the World (LoTW - see <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) as the QSOs data source,** the 2023 Volunteers On The Air event features W1AW activations from all 50 states (twice) and several territories during 2023. Weeks will begin on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Some weeks will be shown as off weeks to avoid other major operating events.

Participants will work W1AW portable stations and ARRL volunteers to earn QSO points.

Participants do not need to upload to, or participate in LoTW. Uploads to LoTW by W1AW portable stations and by the volunteers will feed the points scoring system.

A Leaderboard will be activated after the event ramps up, and Certificates will be available during and after the event concludes. Once the year is completed, a final summary will be released.

## CW Stats as of Jan 23

The number refers to USACW 2<sup>nd</sup> (#2) through Nth (#n)

CALL 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018

AA8R 3043 #2 3041 #2 3035 #2 3013 #2 3010 #2  
AB7RW 2977 #4 2909 #4 2696 #4 2448 #4 1926 #4  
AC0B –  
DL3IAC 2740  
DL6KVA 3074  
K0DEQ  
K1TKL  
K2MF 3077 #2 3076 #2 3057 #2 2942 #2 2806 #2  
K4AMC  
K4XI 3047 #3 3039 #3  
K5GE 3042 #3 2992 #3 2803 #3 2634 #3 2480 #3  
K7DM  
K7REL 2972 #6  
K8IW 3077 3036 3035  
K8OOK 2917 2845 2803 1798  
K8TE 2910  
K8ZZ 2191 #3 3077 #2  
KA4RRU 3072 3061 3046  
KA9JAC 2303 #2 2112 #2 1992 #2 1822 #2 1677 #2  
KB0BA  
KC3X 2914 #6 3066 #5 2766 #5  
KC5P 3036  
KC7YE 2618 2581 3576  
KE3VV 2799 #3 2429 #3 757 #3  
KK7X 2268 2268 2258  
KM6HB  
KN4Y 2073 #5  
N1API 3065 3047  
N1QY 3058

N2JNE  
N4CD 2821 #6 2788 #6 2701 #6 2687 #6  
N4RS 2747 #6 1310 #6 3073 #5 3050 #5  
N4XI  
N5MLP 1706  
N5PR  
N6PDB  
N7JPF  
Now  
W7RRC 1170 #2 1063 #2  
N8CIJ 1602 #2 1163 #2 568 #2 3075  
N9JF 239 #2 3075 3068  
N9QS  
NF0N 1912 #3 1008 #3 3074 #2 3071 #2 3056 #2  
NM1G  
NS2N 3066 #3 3053 #3 2941 #3  
NU0Q 3014 #3 2937 #3 2630 #3 1897 #3 872 #3  
NX0X 2601 2601  
SM6VR 2020 #2 2995 #2  
W0GXQ 3059 #8 3031 #8 2741 #8 2187 #8 1005 #8  
W0MU  
W3DLM 2982 2958  
W3DYA  
W4SIG 266 #4 3072 #3 3063 #3  
W4YDY 185 #3 3076 #2 3075 #2 3073 #2 3070 #2  
W6TPC 1295 1164  
W7EEC 1466 #2  
W7FEN  
W8BZY 3077 #1 3063 2967 2613 2505  
W8OP 2954 2858  
W9MSE 3074 #6  
WA1ZIC 2954 2828  
WA3QNT 617 #2  
WA4UNS 3077  
WC5D  
WD4OIN 2946 #2 2764 #2 2379 #2  
WE7G  
WQ7A 2963 #2

# Awards Issued

## **Roadrunner Award:**

N5MLP attained 350 last counties on 21 October 2022. He received #63

AB7NK attained 1175 Last counties on 11 December 2022. She received #9

N8KIE attained 1275 last counties on 7 January 2023. He received #7

K8ZZ attained 1500 last counties on 19 July 2020. He received #6

## **Call Combo Award:**

K8zz attained 1X2 Level 3000 on 18 October 2022. He received #4

K8ZZ attained 1X3 Level 3000 on 28 December 2022. He received #5

K8ZZ attained 2X1 Level 2000 on 30 October 2022. He received #7

K8ZZ attained 2X2 Level 2000 on 30 October 2022. He received #6

K8ZZ attained 2X3 Level 1000 on 30 October 2022. He received #7

K8ZZ attained 2X3 Level 2000 on 31 October 2022. He received #8

N1API 1x2 attained Level 3000 on 1 October 2022. He received #5

N1API 1x3 attained Level 3000 on 6 January 2021. He received #6

N1API 2x1 attained Level 2000 on 23 October 2022. He received #8

N1API attained 2x2 Level 3000 on 7 January 2023. He received #2

N1API attained 2x3 Level 2000 on 16 March 2022. He received #9

### **Single Band Award:**

K8MW completed 80m Level 2000 on 29 December 2022. He received #4

K8ZZ attained Level 3000 on 80meters on 30 October 2022. He received #1

K8ZZ attained level 2000 on 15meters on 30 October 2022. He received #2

K8ZZ attained Level 2000 on 17meters on 30 October 2022. He received #8

### **YL OM Mobile Award**

N1API attained Level 2000 on 1 October 2022. He received #12

N1API attained Level 2000 on 7 October 2022. He received #17

## **Events for County Hunters**

2023 MARAC Michigan Mini  
April 20, 21, 22, 2023  
Springhill Suites Midland, MI

More Info as it becomes available

- - -

Yes, it's back to QSO Party Season with a couple to lead off the spring activity. If

nearby, maybe think about going mobile and putting out some counties. The crazy folks in MN will be out early in Feb running the icy and snowy roads once again to accumulate points and give out the counties!

Feb 4 0000z to Feb 5 2359z

1.8-28, VHF/UHF

**Vermont QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

RS(T), VT county or SPC

[www.ranv.org/vtqso.html](http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html)

Feb 4 0001z to Feb 5 2359z

28 MHz

**10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB**

Ph Name, mbr or “none,” SPC

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

Feb 4 1400z to 4 2359z

1.8-28

**Minnesota QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

Name, MN county or SPC

[www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules](http://www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules)

Feb 4 1600z to Feb 5 2359z

1.8-28

**British Columbia QSO Party CW Ph RS(T),**

BC district or SPC

[www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp\\_rules.htm](http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.htm)

Feb 11 1500z to Feb 12 1500z

1.8-28

**OMISS QSO Party Phone**

RS, SPC, member number (if any)

[www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php](http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php)

Feb 88 0000z to Feb 19 2359z

1.8-28

**ARRL International DX Contest, CW CW RST,**

SP or power

[www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

Feb 25 1500z to Feb 26 0159z

1.8-28,50

**South Carolina QSO Party CW Dig Ph**

SC: RS(T), SC county or SPC

[scqso.com](http://scqso.com)

Feb 26 1500z to Feb 27 0100z

3.5-144

**North Carolina QSO Party CW Ph Dig**

NC county or SPC

[ncqsoparty.org/rules](http://ncqsoparty.org/rules)

All contests above courtesy ARRL Contest Corral for Feb 2023.