

# County Hunter News OnLine

July 2024  
Volume 20 Issue 7

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

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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 ). 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

**1 ) Sunspots** – Lots of them Solar Activity – Lots of it. Some days absolutely horrible conditions for running counties. K index up to 9, quite often K=2 or K=3. We're at or approaching solar max for this cycle. Great DX on 10m, especially FT-8 and lots of contacts being worked on 6M FT-8.

**2 ) New Cars** – looking at new cars here. Toyota dealer says most RAV 4 SUVs (and likely more models) will be all hybrids starting car year 2025. Well, Camry for sure – 100% hybrid. Corolla likely soon, too. Crown, too. Wonder what that going to mean for county hunting from hybrids Toyota is all in on hybrids, with not many EV's. EV's slowly coming as demand is not that high, other than 'blue states' and California.

On the other hand GM is all in on electrics, but only has the Chevy BOLT so far and the new EV Equinox. Oh, if you got LOTS of cash, they got an EV Cadillac. Now, the Equinox comes with a 3 cylinder turbo charged engine. Supposed to last 150K plus miles, but I'm not ready for a 3 cylinder car!

For sure, Ford EV's are terrible (Lincoln brand, too) Ford just doesn't care about ham radio operators and never has. Horrible fuel pump noise for decades and decades.

Matt, W0NAC, had a Chevy Malibu Hybrid – disaster area. That was 10 years ago. Don't know if better now.

One other county hunter had a Lincoln hybrid. Bad news.

On the other hand, have read that one operator in state QSO party did so in a recent Prius. Earlier ones were S9 noise generators. Still had 'some noise'.

Anyone had a recent experience? GM cars for decades have been the most quiet cars you could buy – but all bets are off these days as everyone crams more electronics and sensors into the car, from blind spot monitor, forward adaptive cruise control, stability control, rear monitoring during backup, and collision avoidance, lane following, etc.

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From Toyota Press release :

“The best-selling sedan in the United States is getting the hybrid treatment.

In mid-November, Toyota announced that the 2025 Toyota Camry will exclusively be available as a hybrid “as a part of Toyota’s effort to provide electrification for all,” the company said in a press release.

The 2025 Camry, the ninth generation of the popular sedan first launched in 1982, abandons the pure internal combustion engine in favor of a gas-electric powertrain. Like most hybrids from Toyota, the new Camry is not a plug-in hybrid and the internal combustion engine (as well as regenerative braking) recharges the car’s electric batteries.

The decision to offer the Camry only as a hybrid fits into Toyota’s broader portfolio of low-emissions vehicles, which currently includes more hybrids than all-electric vehicles, though conventional hybrids are not the focus of the Biden administration’s ambitious EV transition goals.

Toyota hopes offering choices among hybrids and electric vehicles will enable more people to adopt electric vehicles, Moore said. He added that the rare earth materials used to make batteries for one EV can be used to make 90 hybrids, which “will have a huge impact on our efforts to reduce carbon [emissions].”

Transitioning the Camry to a hybrid model represents “no downside for the customer,” he added, as owners of the 2025 model will benefit from the advantages of electrification like improved fuel economy, as well as experience the most powerful horsepower yet introduced in a Camry.

Other Toyota models, including the Sienna minivan and the Sequoia SUV, are also only available as conventional hybrids.

<https://www.automotivedive.com/news/toyota-camry-2025-hybrid-only-strategy/701479/>

Likely the Camry will get 44 mpg or more in the hybrid version.

### **3 ) WV National Conventional**

**October 9-12**  
**Bridgeport WV**

Registration now open for this event. See [MARAC National – 2024 | County Hunters convention](#)

Lots to see and do. A trip to a great Radio Museum is being planned.

Been there at is one of the top 3 in the country. Don't miss.

Lots of shopping, lots of local sites to visit. Dozens of parks within 2 hour drive.

Take a good look at the activities. Museums, historic sites, all around within an hour drive. Plus of course, WV counties for those needed them on the way and back. Now with self credit, you can run those counties yourself. Fill in ones you need.

### **4 ) EV used car prices plummeting**

The price of used EV's is dropping like a rock. If you buy an EV, you have horrendous depreciation, about 25-33% higher insurance premiums, long waits for spare parts and repair parts, fewer places to get your car fixed. New EV's are sitting on dealers lots for long times. Some new EV's are no longer getting the \$7500 tax credit, too.

While used car values have been dropping overall over the past year, used EVs have dropped like a stone in comparison. iSeeCars found that the average for used electric models fell by up to almost 32 percent since 2023, while the used gas vehicle average price sank by just 3.6 percent. Used EV pricing trends over the past year look like this:

February 2024: -31.8%  
 January 2024: -30.8%  
 December 2023: -31.2%  
 November 2023: -33.7%  
 October 2023: -33.7%  
 September 2023: -39.1%  
 August 2023: -38.7%  
 July 2023: -34.7%  
 June 2023: -29.5%  
 May 2023: -29.9%

Tesla leads the way in dragging down those averages. Tesla’s initial price cuts started the trend, and its subsequent slashing of starting prices has taken much of the EV market with it. “Elon’s desire to maintain new Tesla sales through price cuts had a very destructive impact on the brand’s residual values,” said iSeeCars’ executive analyst Karl Brauer. The brand’s cuts to new vehicle prices impacted used values to the point that four of the most significant price drops in the overall used market between 2023 and 2024 came thanks to one of its vehicles.

Top 10 Cars With the Biggest Year-over-Year Price Drop: February 2023 - 2024 – iSeeCars Study

Rank	Model	Average Used EV Price	Year-over-Year \$ Price Difference	Year-over-Year % Price Difference
1	Chevrolet Bolt EV	\$17,981	-\$7,847	-30.4%
2	Nissan LEAF	\$17,895	-\$7,329	-29.1%
3	Kia Niro EV	\$24,802	-\$9,236	-27.1%
4	Hyundai Kona Electric	\$23,474	-\$7,710	-24.7%
5	Tesla Model X	\$60,943	-\$19,919	-24.6%
6	Tesla Model 3	\$30,466	-\$9,681	-24.1%
7	Tesla Model S	\$58,875	-\$15,144	-20.5%
8	Alfa Romeo Stelvio	\$29,003	-\$5,534	-16.0%
9	Jaguar E-PACE	\$28,965	-\$4,958	-14.6%
10	Mercedes-Benz CLS	\$48,362	-\$8,238	-14.6%
Overall Used Car Average		\$31,153	-\$1,161	-3.6%

While manufacturers tout EV's have 'fewer moving parts', they are full of expensive items these days. If your car computer dies, that's \$4000 likely. You have all sorts of

fancy new systems from a/c compressors, heating/cooling systems/fans, cooling systems for the battery/heating systems for the battery, cooling systems for the traction motor, etc. EV's typically weigh another 1,000 lbs more than a regular car – go through tires faster (and often special \$\$\$) ones.

As for regular cars, Kia and Hyundai have had a string of bad engines and transmissions in recent cars. Engine dying at 60,000 or excessive oil consumption, transmissions dead at 70K miles.

More EV models coming with EV Chevy Blazer out soon.

## KB6UF Trip to Alaska

KB6UF: That was a bust

1600 dollars, 24 hours travel time up and back, different antenna than I am used, no rental cars available, had to pay a Napa employee 50 bucks to use his truck in the parking lot for 30 minutes, and lousy band conditions.

The bad thing regarding this mess was no contact for MD, so with that being said my plan was run DD in many counties to work towards 500 DD counties. But that is out the window, so the plan going forward is, return N8KIE's Antenna, tune up my hustler antenna with modified mast. Tune it all up with the the radio. Fully test system.

First I have to have Hernia Surgery some time in July. Then will do trip plan to Hawaii to finish up 3077 counties. Sorry know DD contacts, unless a Diamond holder goes to Alaska and run 2nd district (probably not in the cards not many of us left to go), so all I need is one contact in each county to complete them all, at that point my mobile days will end , the stuff I need will be completed via FT8 and QSO parties. Any mobile operations would come about if and when I obtain Diamond status, then I would go do the 500 DD's

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Note de N4CD.

Ron had already been to Second District years and years ago, driving up the haul road with W6TMD. Happily that trip finished off many on 30M for ran all counties, and gave many others 20m contacts. Ron already had 'transit' credit from there. This trip was to complete Mobile Diamond but did not work out well.

Note de N4CD. Ron tried to contact Ramon, AL7X, who has in the past provided SSB and FT-8 contacts. I first met Ramon, AL7X, in the 1980s on my first trip to Nome AK. At that time, he was the local internet service provider in Nome. Later, he became the UPS/Fed Ex/PO delivery person, picking up packages from the twice daily flights and delivering them in the Nome Area. He only had 2m at that time, so I worked him on 2m, guaranteeing at least one QSO for transmitted county credit.

On my second trip to AK for second time transmit, his hex beam was not operational and it would take about 3 folks to lower his crank up tower safely. Was not a big priority with him, but he 'might get around to it' someday. That was about 12 years after the first trip in 2002. (second trip June 2014 write up in July 2014 CHNews). It would also finish off a half dozen county hunters for Mobile Diamond if propagation held up. It did.

Now, according to my figures, Ramon is 78 years old. Apparently his email and phone doesn't work well, if he replies, so don't know what's up. QRZ still has him living in Nome. He's been there for past 40-50 years, so it's home to him. If someone goes to Nome, maybe can track him down in person, but apparently not 'radio active' on HF, likely only the 2M repeater.

Second AK is run on average about once a year – but sometimes 3 folks in one summer, then nothing. K4YT ran all districts last year. Ran the others a few years before. He went to Prudhoe Bay and had a rental truck. Had good success on CW but next to NIL on SSB. Spent a lot of \$\$\$\$. Prices for Motel 6 now \$250/day. (write up in CHNews July 2014 with pictures) WY0A and K4YT trips last July issue.

Ron vows to try again.

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Note de K4YT posted on K3IMC forum:

“Before I decided to run the 2nd I looked into both Nome and Prudhoe. After 2 years of trying to get in contact with AL7X he finally answered me. If you read his bio on QRZ

he shows a nice station with a hex beam. Also he runs the UPS, FedEx, US post office and several other businesses in Nome. He wrote me a long email back describing Nome and basically telling me it was a waste of time trying to work the lower 48 with a mobile ant. Also 1 of the only 2 hotels in town had burnt down and never rebuilt.

Also most all the active hams there are on 2m FM. Told me to bring a dipole and poles to hang as there were no trees there. With WY0A going I teamed up with him and he gave me more info on Prudhoe. I stayed in an oil man camp of such which was very nice. I think I paid 100 bucks a night for a private room and bath plus 24 hrs of food. The place was very nice. There were no car rentals there only full size pickup trucks @ \$350 a day. There was a tech YL there but only with a POB so no way to find her. I was on all times of the day and night. It never got dark there. Since there was nothing to do I spent a lot of time in the truck listening and spotting myself.

I was able to work a few on 30, 20, 17 mostly all in CW but that was 3 days of sitting in the truck or driving around the oil field town, not 1 contact and back on the plane. Now being a MD I probably will fly back to run it for DD credit but at a different time of the year.

Same for Kalawao. I plan to get back this year to Kalawao for 30/40 and maybe 80 CW operations. Kalawao is another expensive trip. There were no hams which I could find on Molokai. Only 2 condo apts which could be rented \$\$\$\$ . Not motels. Same for car rentals at the airport. Not that many choices where to eat either”

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Note de N4CD – re Kalawao: The resident ham, K9FD, moved years ago and is now SK. He was there for 20-30 years. Met him second trip. Stayed at Hotel Molokai which I think is still there. There are a few condos but if I recall right, most had 3 day minimum. Might check AirBNB. Have had some recent articles on non-county hunter visits there. Bring \$\$\$\$ just like going to AK. See also N8KIE comments in latest issues about the hassles of getting flights to Molokai.

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Note de N4CD re Second AK. Ran in June 2014. Had big big truck with roof up 7 feet, and put the 8 foot high ant on triple 5inch mag mount on top. Had no problem working county hunters. (Same first trip 12 years before – had a pickup truck, 8 foot or so high antenna on mag mount).



According to my records, in 2002 I made over 150 contacts from Nome AK – some of them duplicates from folks working me on several days or several bands. CW and 78 SSB on 6/14. On 6/15, made another 74 (some repeats) and on 6/16, another 18.

Later in 2014, headed back to give out/get MD credit. In 2014, 6/20 made 20 contacts from Nome, most on SSB. On 6/21, another 26, half cw, half SSB. Not as many county hunters around, and conditions not as good. Yeah, it seems that 70% of county hunters slowly vanishing following year 2000. The peak of county hunting was back in the 1990s I believe.

Is Nome better than Prudhoe Bay? It's further west but a couple hundred miles further south. Some 2M hams around to be sure you get a contact if you are there seeking 'transit credit' with dead, dead bands. Bring 2m FM radio. Helps if you go with partner to Second, ala WY0A and K4YT. Either way, without driving up the haul road, it's a toss up. Probably most CH (60% ?) have driven up the haul road to Antigua Pass beyond the C/L sign.

## Kentucky QSO Party

There are 120 counties in Kentucky. Looks like most folks worked 42 counties or less, with most working in the 30s for those spending some time to chase the couple of mobiles. County Hunter KM4FO was out mobile.

Last year there were at least 3 mobiles out running and folks worked another 10-12 counties.

**OM2VL fixed Dx 63 CW 25 SSB 2 RTTY Mults42**

Very bad condx. On 20m very low signals and really opened only in the last few hours of QP.

15m was excellent, but unfortunately not many takers from KY. Band was open till 22Z and 10m also opened shortly around this time.

Thanks for the QSOs, especially for the new (16) counties for my US County 2nd time! Still need 54 ...

Most QSOs:

KM4FO 9/7

K4CUP 9/2

KJ6SVE 5/5

N4TY 2/2

(4): K8IJ, W4WKU, W5MX

K4KCG BONUS station: 8 QSO!

73, Laci

### **N4TY mobile with driver 215 CW qso**

Flex 6600 with Scorpion 680 screwdriver, N1MM.

The Flex died after 3.5 hours injury Burkeville, KY.

The backup K3 wouldn't power on, so we were done :-)

I need to get my mobile station dedicated QRV and use it a LOT before this event.

My apologies to those who were looking for Metcalfe and Allen counties. We will probably do the same route next year, with a few modifications.

### **N8II fixed WV 48 cw 28 SSB Mults40**

20M was a big disappointment from here, worse than last year. 20 was open best from 1555-1615Z. Other than that only open to western KY or closed, my last 20M QSO was KM4FO/M at 1956Z. I chased spots, most 20M were not readable here. Activity on 80 was poor and signals not great, but the QP ends before sunset in most of KY. Between 1801-2055Z I managed one QSO, tried maybe 3 different times, signals on 40 were too weak to find anyone new then. Things did pick up after 21Z on 40.

Many thanks to the mobiles and rovers. I started catching N4TY in most all of his counties, but last Q was 1436Z. KM4FO was worked the most, 7 times. KJ6SVE was worked 6 times.

The KY phone ops on 40 seemed to be having fun. I ran 7 stations there starting 2319Z with 4 new mults. Just not enough activity to keep me in the chair. 12 hours is a long

stretch to find a few QSO's. It seemed that even the serious ops/contesters were part time except WX4W, congrats on FB LP score.

Thanks and 73, Jeff

**KM4FO Mobile 456 CW QSO**

KY4SYZ Driving

**KJ6SVE mobile + driver 209 CW 8 SSB**

My first ever contest

## Mobile Activity in June

AI5P circled around in Arkansas on his quest to run all the counties plus dozens of parks.

Here's a few results he noted on the K3IMC forum. The number in parenthesis is the park number, followed by the number of QSOs in the county.

### **Results - 27 May**

Prairie (1098) 27 Q's, Monroe (1097) 25, Phillips (1081) 14, Lee (1102) 23, St. Francis 13, Cross (1117) 7. Rick

### **Results - 28 May**

Another tuff day with condx: Cross (1108) 22 Q's, Crittenden 39, Pointsett (1095) 15, Mississippi (1083) 12, Mississippi (1084) 19, Mississippi (other) 38. Rick

### **Results - 29 May**

Another tough day on the bands from about 15-20Z... Hope tomorrow is better!

Craighead 20 Q's, Greene (1093) 2, Greene (1077) 11, Clay 6, Randolph (1079) 16, Lawrence (1112) 22. Reminder - with the (Pota) sites I need at least 10 to get activation credit - so if you hear me on different bands, please call even if you don't need the county! Rick

### **Results - 30 May**

Condx better today! Lawrence (1089) 41 Q's, Sharp 15, Fulton (1099) 24, Independence 15, Jackson (1086) 17. Rick

If you worked me here you can thank 2 guys.... I pulled into the Park - Mammoth Spring and discovered no cell service at all. I didn't expect this as the park is in the town of Mammoth Spring. I drove around town and also in the adjacent town of Thayer, MO (1/2 mi up road) - no signals at all. Went back to the Visitor's Center and checked with the desk. Told me T-Mobile (me) - no chance, ATT - spotty service, Verizon - probably ok. Greg at the desk allowed me use the Visitor's Center phone and I called Jerry, W0GXQ, who then spotted me on W6RK... glad he was home! Always a challenge on the road - I know several of the AR parks have no cell service so sometimes I have to approx times of activation. Neat park if you have a chance to visit - Mammoth Springs flows at an average rate of 9.78 million gallons per hour with a constant water temp of 58 deg Fahrenheit. The actual spring cannot be seen as it emerges more than 80 feet below the water lever of the spring pool. Rick AI5P

### **Update AR trip**

Message: For the bean counters... 1 Nat Park, 35 state parks, 50 counties activated so far! Hang in there... hope to be back on the road next week... Rick AI5P

### **Results - 6 June**

Ran Ashley, Drew, and Chicot... Boy I can pick the days for blackouts can't I.... just say results were disappointing... altho a Russian called me on 17m ..hi...Rick

### **Results - 6-7 June**

More dismal condux again.. If you worked me in Ashley, Drew, Chicot, Desha, Arkansas, Jefferson or Grant, you were one of a few! Will check A/K this week before deciding what to do. Rick

### **Results - 10 June**

Morning condx was much better; afternoon not so much. Grant (9 Q's), Dallas 22, Cleveland (1100) 32, Lincoln (1073) 30, Drew 7, Ashley 2, Bradley 3. Keeping fingers crossed for tomorrow. Rick

**: Results - 11 June**

Another not so great day on the bands: Bradley (1103) 20 Q's, Calhoun 8, Ouachita (1111) 18 and Nevada (1118) 12. But a little better than some previous activations for sure. 12 counties and 10 state parks to finish. Rick

**Results - 20 June AI5P**

Another up and down day....Montgomery 11Q's, Scott 38, Polk (1114) 21, Howard (1075) 10, Sevier 7, Pike (1078) 10, Pike (1076) 8. Mornings not bad, afternoons poor. Rick

**Results - 21 June AI5P**

Little River (1101) 9 Q's, Miller 10, Lafayette (1074) 20, Columbia (1096) 26, Union (1115) 11, Union (1070) 6, Ouachita 13. Rick

The plan is to run Hempstead County - Washington State Park (1106) on Friday morning June 28. This is the last county (#75) and state park (#52) on my all Arkansas CW trip

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N5MLP was in TN at the beginning of June. Moved into KY. Back into TN tuning dozens. Then into NC for some, back into TN . Back to TX, then into AR for many there.

NN9K spotted out in a couple park in IL

NU0Q noted out mobile in KS

W7EEC out mobile on SSB in MN.

KE4UP noted in WV around the 5<sup>th</sup>. Then into VA. Soon was in IN, Next noted in MO. Next spotted in IL, back into MO for more there. Route goes through KS to CO to UT to NV. Still going on his trip out west.

NA8W busy in OH running park on FT-8

K0FG running in MO counties. Then into IA

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Most of June kept busy by KE4UP on SSB and AI5P on cw. N5MLP busy first days of June, then quiet rest of month after long long trip.

Many days in June had 'disturbed' conditions with poor propagation on 20M and below. Good on 15 and 10m, but not very useful for county hunters as skip is usually very long – or out of country.

## From ARRL Propagation Bulletin

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere - June 6, 2024 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH:

"The rise in solar activity is confirmed by the average sunspot number for May, 171.7, which is the highest in 22 years. Plugging this into the formula for calculating the smoothed 12-month average gives 127.8 for last November. As a consequence of the high solar activity, including CME flares, there were a large number of geomagnetic storms in May. The largest of these occurred on 10-11 May, while accompanied by auroras, easily observable even at mid-latitudes.

"Shortwave conditions were above average on only six days out of the entire month of May, and mostly poor on half of the days in response to a total of seven one- to three-day disturbed intervals. The worst day was May 11. In addition, a summertime sporadic-E layer contributed to the erratic development, especially in the mid-latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere.

"While the two large sunspot groups, AR3663 and AR3664 (AR3691 and AR3697 in June), continue to have a magnetic configuration conducive to the production of large

flares, there are fewer of them than in May, and the evolution of propagation conditions is therefore more regular, and the occurrence of above-average days is more frequent.

The number of sunspot groups increased from seven to twelve during the first six days of June.

Although the sunspot number and the solar flux (which is the power flux of solar radio noise at the 10.7 cm wavelength) may still be increasing, a repeat of the large disturbances experienced in May is unlikely in the near term."

de N4CD – thank goodness. May was a tough month for propagation.

## West Virginia QSO Party

Wow....this didn't start off with the best propagation. A index of 9, K of 5 – major geomagnetic storm under way. That didn't stop the activity with big stations racking up lots of QSOs. No mobiles out this year. Later in day propagation improved .

Last year there were 4 mobiles out including county hunters WB8III (now K8II), W8OP, KM4FO.

There are 55 counties in WV. Most worked 10-15, with max at 19 reported mults worked on the 3830 reflector

### **From the 3830 reflector:**

**N8II fixed WV 247 CW 709 SSB**

After so many WVQP's under my belt, this year was pretty atypical. My goal was to maximize QSO's for the SQP Challenge rather than maximize score. I did very little S&P or checking spots. Sorry to the out of state ops that there seemed to be no serious mobile activity, so that made my decision easier.

Thankfully, even without good sporadic E to the NW/N/NE on 20, the endless callers still persisted most of the time. Good Es in all directions would have been worth over 100 more QSO's. 40 and 20 phone were the bread and butter bands,

the rest icing on the cake. Limited range on 40 made for limited Q's until the 21Z hour; after 24Z 40 was in good shape with low noise for summertime. 15 and 10 were open better than the score indicates with best condx in the 18 and 19Z hours with some Es to the S/SW/W.

I spotted myself and still only had a few callers on 15, almost none on 10. 20 phone as usual was a sea of casual ops who helped me with a QSO, amazing what 100W will do with a good antenna. That said, backscatter condx were pretty poor with few Q's. On 20 I worked virtually no W2's or 3's(few locals) and only a handful of W1's. Until past 23Z I still needed MT, UT, ND, and SD, got all of those but never worked AK, HI, WY, or DE.

I did better than usual with Canada working VO1 and VE1-7+VE9. Thanks to 3 VE9's and 3 QC ops for several QSO's. 40M was very productive in the 22 and 00Z hours. Several EU ops called on 40M SSB. I couldn't get much going after a short break at 0130Z on 40 after that. 80M CW activity was very sparse, no one around from WV at 0120Z except for me at first.

It was easy to pay back K5CM/N5KW for their many QSO's and mults they have given me on the road. At 1943Z we moved to 15 and 10M. They were 30 db over S9 on 15 and about 10 over on 10M. Thanks for another sweep of the bands this year Con and Pam with a total of 20 Q's! I also moved for a few others and some found me on 80/40/20/15 for 6 or more Q's like WN4AFP and others.

My rates were better than expected with 130 Q's in the first hour (20CW, then 40CW, then 20 SSB). 19Z was worth 100 Q's (20M 81 Q's/15/10M). At 02Z I had an amazing run of stations from the 4/5/6/7/9/0 call areas on 20 phone along with some 75M running which yielded 117 Q's, 2nd best hour. There was never a slow stretch for more than 5 minutes, always able to switch bands/modes to keep the rate going.

Many thanks to the QP crowd and all of the casual ops for calling and making it a happy day, love to run.

73, Jeff

**WN4AFP - fixed SC 17 CW 26 SSB 19 mults**

Activity was lower than previous years, but stations moved to different bands and modes



during the contest which kept me going. I made six Qs with N8II and W8WVA. The bonus stations really helped my score. GO SWAMP FOXES! 73 Dave WN4AFP

**K4BAI - fixed GA - 13 CW 9 SSB 11 mults**

Thanks for all QSOs. Unfortunately, a lot of WV participants wouldn't call CQ, but were answering and working other WV stations. They didn't answer my CQ WV calls. Very frustrating for stations outside of WVA trying to work everyone in WVA. Hope for more activity including more WVA stations working stations outside WVA, next year.

73, John, K4BAI.

## Trip Report by Rick, AI5P

The Rohwer Relocation Center in Desha County, Arkansas





This camp was constructed in the late summer and early fall of 1942 as a result of Presidential Executive Order 9066 (February 19, 1942). Under this order, over 110,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were forcibly removed from the three Pacific Coast States - California, Oregon and Washington. In all, ten camps were established in desolate sites, all chosen for their distance from the Pacific Coast. Rohwer would be the most eastward camp.



Ultimately the camp held administrative offices, schools, a hospital and 36 residential blocks, each with twelve 20 foot by 120 foot barracks divided into "apartments." The 500 acre site was surrounded by barbed wire and surrounded with armed guards. It was in operation from September 18, 1942, until November 30, 1945. It held as many as 8,475 Japanese Americans.

Today, all that remains are the Memorial Cemetery, where many that were interned at the camp were laid to rest, and a tall smokestack (on private property) where the hospital used to be. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1992. The site is surrounded by active agricultural operations.

Two large monuments stand in the cemetery - one honoring those who passed away there and the other honoring the young men from the camp who died while fighting for the U.S. Army during the war. This war memorial intrigued me as it is shaped like a tank and honors those 531 men from the camp that joined the army from the camp and served in the famous 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442 Regimental Combat Team or the Military Intelligence Service. Thirty-one of these soldiers died and their

names are inscribed on the memorial. You military history buffs will recall that the 100th Infantry Battalion and the "Go For Broke" 442nd RCT is the most decorated unit in U.S. history. Members of this World War II unit earned over 18,000 individual decorations including over 4,000 Purple Hearts and 21 Medals of Honor.

The site has a Parks on the Air designator of US-11233. I managed to squeak out 12 contacts on CW with another day of poor conditions.

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Note de N4CD – as of mid June, there have only been 5 activations with just 78 QSOs from there. Sort of 'rare'.

There are other sites, some nearly complete, some almost all gone, that you can visit around the country – some National Historic Monuments.

Rick is running all the counties in AR this month and a ton of parks as well.

## CQ FD CQ FD CQ FD 2024

The annual ARRL sponsored event where folks are encouraged to go portable or operate from Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) occurred in late June. Always a big event with hundreds of radio clubs getting on, plus a hundred fixed stations, some with emergency power (1E), some not (1D). Some folks went battery portable (5w), others had generators or high powered battery operation.

I belong to two clubs. The Plano Radio Klub (K5PRK) sets up in a nice park pavilion in town in nice park. Use a generator. Normally 3 stations, plus VHF/Satellite are used, plus a GOTA station. They hope for a breeze, otherwise it's a couple fans to keep you less than boiling.

Richardson Wireless Klub (K5WRK) operates from the Richardson Emergency

Operations Center in nice air conditioned building. 3 stations plus VHF and satellite, and a GOTA station. For the GOTA station, that is for folks licensed less than 1 year, and they have to set up their radio stuff by themselves.

In the morning, on Saturday, headed to the local park US-4423 about 25 miles away. Got on, chased some parks, then put out the park – winding up with 89 QSO's. By 11am I was ready to head to FD after a quick lunch at Subway.

Weather – it got up to 98F with heat index of 108 during the day. Guess where N4CD headed? Too old for sitting outside for hours and hours. That's for the younger crowd.

So down to the EOC for some CW operations. 75-80 inside building. Put in a couple hours on 15m to start and later 20m. Here's a quick summary from the FD chairman:

“In the 8 hours of K5RWK at the EOC, we had 150 CW QSOs (Thanks to WB8QZM, N5KIP, W5SU, K7IOL, N4CD and W5PB for stepping into NN5T's shoes), 115 SSB QSOs (with a long string of operators and loggers), and 109 Digital QSOs (with N5SKT and an equally long string of operators) – Almost double last year's total. Not a bad afternoon! But we can always use your additional QSOs - 16 stations submitted home logs last year tagged with RWK and it really added to our total score.”

“We had 69 Members and Guests! I guess everyone wanted to be in the A/C...”

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The RWK has about 250 members now. Plano club about the same.

Club only operated till 9pm, then shut down. Logistics of overnight there harder without a real emergency, and most RWK folks not night owls these days. Have done in past but getting night shift folks harder. Plus not many contacts during the wee hours of the night. So the club elected to have only Saturday operation.

Nice pizza and salad dinner at 6pm.

Left at 7:30 pm and it was 96F outside. Yuck.

Well, it was still FD on Sunday (temp 83F) so headed to park to put of FD from the N4CD mobile, class 1C. Added in 103 Qs on 20 and 15m CW search and pounce. Home before the real heat hit. Forecast was for 99F on Sunday. Heat index 108 plus.

Heard one other '1 C' station – that is 'mobile'. Might have been others on Saturday.

Hope you managed to get out. A few folks said “Hi Bob' from their club stations but not sure who – hi hi. Worked N0KV in CO – usual use of the N0KV call at local club, Barry in attendance. Probably a couple dozen CH out for FD.

## Awards Issued

### **Roadrunner Award:**

W8OP attained 200 last counties and received #133

K7TQ attained 25 last counties and received #532

### **Ran All State:**

K4YT completed all Washington and received #36

K4YT completed all Connecticut and received #47

K4YT completed all Rhode Island and received #53

K4YT completed all Vermont and received #40

# Events for County Hunters

One QP late July – then a spell till later in August for the next

July 27 1500z to 28 0300z

3.5-28

**Alabama QSO Party CW Ph**

RS(T), AL county or SPC

<http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp>

**NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING UP. SEE MARAC PAGE. GOING TO BE A GOOD ONE! TONS OF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL.**