

# County Hunter News

June 1, 2017  
Volume 13 Issue 6

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. 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://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](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](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)

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](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor

### 1 ) N4CD Rumblings

Wow! Lots happening this month to report on – and we start with a few State QSO Parties, the MI Mini wrap up and pictures, more state QSO Parties, the trip to Dayton for the Hamvention, the Dayton Hamvention in Xenia OH plus the usual additional columns. Lots to cover this month!

## 2 ) New Ham Bands

Two new VLF ham bands have been created – with restrictions. The order was 'published' but awaits coordination procedures with “power line carrier” systems. This is radio spectrum where 'ham radio' began before 1912. After 1912, hams were banished to those useless frequencies above 1.5 MHz! Likely some CW at 495 KHz and a lot of digital techniques will be used. Band is all QRP only. We covered this in detail a few issues ago, but now it is about to happen.

## Florida QSO Party

This was another good one with mobiles running all over the state, including county hunter KN4Y and maybe a few other county hunters. Lots of activities and spots were flying left and right. Propagation was challenging at times, good at times, but that's what we get as we near the sunspot minimum.

From the 3830 Contest Reflector:

### **N4FP mobile 1050 cw QSO**

Cut our time short because driver, xyl Marty, WB2VYK, was a bit under the weather. Tough conditions on Saturday with QRN and QSB. Started slow on Sunday but improved greatly as day progressed. GPS took us on some unplanned dirt roads and dead-ends, but we made it. Marty did a fantastic job, driving over 600 miles. 45 states, 5 provinces, 5 dx countries. Under the circumstances I am very satisfied. Flex 6300, 100 watts to horizontally mag mounted Hustler antennas, N1MM+.

### **N4KG multi op 1997 cw 148 ssb**

The FQP is one of my favorite events in the contest year due to the contest

format, activity and a chance to catch up with friends George K5KG and Kay. Traveling from out of state, I used to budget a full day to assemble the mobile with Geo but as he has modified his Toyota Highlander for mobile operation outside of the contest, it now comes pre-assembled. Significant upgrades this year include an improved table in the back passenger seat, a 19" monitor on the front seat headrest, tinted back windows and the conversion of our operating to the N1MM+ program with the FQP mobile. There are positions for 4 hamsticks on the roof enabling instant switching to all available frequencies.

Conditions were down this year, especially for DX but there were still periods, especially on 20M where we had excellent coverage from coast to coast in NA. It must have been a terrible struggle for the Europeans trying to work the mobiles and congratulations to I4VEQ for the strongest and most consistent signal. We were unable to move GA to SSB on 40M this year but was somewhat of a thrill to have I4VEQ and OK1CF call in on phone while trying. We give credit to W2RR for having the consistently strongest signal. Notable regulars were K0HC, K3WW, WA3HAE, N9RV, K0VXU, N9CK, and K9CT. Special commendation to all the VE3/VA3 regulars and support of their CCO.

We generally followed our pre-contest posted route but in the heat of the battle, drove through OKA without noticing. As a result, we started from this county on Sunday morning and did not stop at LAF. We did finally reach our goal of now activating all of the counties in Florida during our 14 years of FQP. With all of the mobile activity this year, we expected to see some of our fellow mobilers on our travels but this did not happen this year. With the exception of I-4 going through Orlando, roads and traffic were OK. Future FQP's will not include this section.

73, Jim, VE7ZO

**K4ZGB mobile reported 760 cw QSO**

**W4AN mobile 1539 cw qso**

KU8E and I had planned to be QRV multi op mobile again this year, but Jeff ended up with surgery scheduled for Monday after the contest and had to cancel. Ted, W8UE, from MI was coming through

Columbus on his way to do a single op mobile effort in FQP and agreed to go out with me. Thanks to Jeff for setting up everything for the contest in my call and to Ted for sharing the operating and driving with me. W4AN is the club call of the South East Contest Club. We didn't have a 15M resonator with us and hadn't expect that band to open much, but Jeff tells me it was open a good deal. Sorry we missed out on that band. We tried to run on both 20 and 40 in each county and 20M cooperated by being open fairly late at night. As usual, there wasn't much 40M activity in the day time and most of the FL stations were within our skip zone, so we didn't work many FL stations. 20M was very poor to Europe, with only a few QSOs there on Sunday and none on Saturday. A few Europeans were quite loud on 40. 20M had relatively short skip in the late afternoons and also, surprisingly, on Sunday morning. 40M had shorter skip zone after dark than during the day. A few west coast stations came through on 40 late Saturday. I think we worked all states except HI, AK, UT, ND, SD, and NE. We also worked VY2, VE9, VE2, VE3, VE4, and VE7, plus KP4, HI, HH, SP, I, OK. I probably left some mults out in that list. I operated Saturday night and Sunday morning for about 1/3 of the contest and Ted operated the remainder.

We lost 1 1/2 hours due to car trouble. We had gone through just a few counties when the oil light came on on my 1997 Buick LeSabre. Put in 6 quarts of oil to keep it going until a service station recommended going to Macclenny, FL and AutoZone there recommended trying Butch's Auto. Butch wasn't open on Saturday, but was in his shop and agreed to try to get us going again. Turned out that the "oil sender" was shot and was itself shooting oil all over the place. Believe it or not, AutoZone had the part in stock! Autozone and Butch are the heroes who saved our trip. I had already found out that there were no auto rental firms in or near Macclenny and I was afraid there might not have been motels either. Butch said that his grandfather had been a ham, but I believe he would have helped us anyway. The bill was very reasonable and it sure helped my faith in my fellow man and it seemed there could have been some providential intervention too. Sorry we had to cut some counties from our planned route.

Thanks for all QSOs. Jeff and I hope to be back next year. 73, John, K4BAI and Ted, W8UE..

**N4EEB mobile 2195 cw QSO**

A business appointment brought my team and I to the panhandle on Friday evening, so it made sense to start there. The appointment canceled at the last minute, so it was cool that we were there for a reason anyway. A very sinister reason, to poach as many QSOs as possible from the fixed stations who were unfortunate enough to be located along my route. Just kidding, it doesn't work that way.

Our category was Mobile - Single Op + Driver. My driver was "Bruce", my girlfriend Mari's son. Mari (short for Marilsa), navigated with a paper map from the back seat. This was their first exposure to ham radio contesting, and they said that they had fun. Bruce had a bad cold both days, but he sure came through for me. We put about 1100 miles or so on the odometer. I could not have done this without them. Thank you.

This was the first time that I assembled the station at the last minute without prior testing. This activity took place in the parking lot of the Crestview Hampton Inn. I pulled the Toyota 4Runner under the hotel canopy in the cool of the early morning and went to work. Bringing a large step platform was the best idea ever, and it made installing the three Hamsticks a piece of cake. One passerby asked me if I was a "storm chaser". Another asked what I was doing. I looked at her with a straight face and politely told her that I wasn't allowed to talk about it.

After everything was all put together, I realized that something was very different, very wrong, almost creepy, about this FQP. First off, none of my body parts were infected. The teeth were all fine, my double ear infection had concluded by the first week in April, and the Shingles on my thigh cleared up on the 20th. I felt healthy and rested, which is not what I'm used to. On a side note, the Hampton in Crestview is simply beautiful. We'll be back.

The second thing that went wrong is that all the gear worked. I even remembered to close the master 50-Amp FQP circuit breaker permanently installed under the hood, (this charges the deep cycle marine battery in the cargo hold -- The FQP goes smoother when the transceiver stays on). I remembered to turn on the battery booster, and to turn off the notch filter on the radio. When I put RF to the sticks, they were all flat on my operating frequency. There was absolutely nothing wrong with me or the equipment, and this is a scary way to start off the FQP in my world let me tell ya.

After the green flag, the first and only gremlin showed its head and stayed there for 20-hours. After several hours of hair pulling, I found a workaround,

but as of this writing I still do not know the cause of the problem or how to fix it. If I entered a WA WB WD, or a few other specific callsigns into the log, the Computer/Winkeyer changed the second character of the callsign to something random. This cost me serious time for a few hours as stations kept repeating their callsign thinking I had entered it wrong. I finally got good at anticipating the error and sending those QSO's by hand (The horror!) I have to find time to figure this all out.

I kinda figured that this would be a 20/40 FQP, but I put up the 15 stick just in case. 15 was dead. What I didn't expect was my ratio of 20 vs. 40. Only 12% of my QSOs were on 40-meters. 20 stayed late and woke up early.

I found QRN on 20 and 40 to be low, and my station was electrically quiet. 20-meters was either good or poor due to QSB. Even when it was poor, I could still run, it just became a lot of work. 40M was always awesome, although it went long quick and early. 20 opened earlier for me on Sunday morning, so I opted to leave 40 early.

I didn't get the typical Hardee County pileup this year. Instead, it shifted to other counties that I would have never expected like Hillsborough and St. Lucie.

The most aggravating thing this year was the amount of dupe callers during the pileups late Sunday afternoon. I don't recall ever noticing this in prior years, and it cost me a lot of points. My pileups were fierce, and the dupes were usually loud and aggressive. You had to work them again just to get them out of the pile.

I only averaged 110 QSOs/Hr this time out, which is about an 8% or so decrease from prior years. I think this was mainly due to conditions and the difficulty I had managing some of the larger pileups on Sunday afternoon. The callsign sending glitch slowed me down too until I became more proficient at the workaround.

Overall the participants were FANTASTIC operators. I enjoyed sending OJ's to several. Even though I made an effort to sign my call at least every 3 or 4 QSOs, I still had my share of stations sending ?? or Call? Call? during huge pileups. This slowed things down too, because, of course, they were always the extremely strong stations.

I didn't pass any mobiles on my route. I came close enough to one in Brevard County on Sunday afternoon that caused me to turn off my 20m preamp, but I don't know who it was.

I don't have any pictures to share this year except for the rear equipment deck and the operating position. I'll post a link later. Someone told me they saw a custom paint job on a Toyota 4Runner with antennas on the top that said, "Spot Me!" on both sides, but I don't know anything about that. It wasn't me.

I'd like to say thank you to all the loyal followers that seemed to always been there at every county line. I feel like I know you guys personally. And Canada, I love you guys! ON was the #1 worked QSO in my log.

A big thanks to K1TO, WF3C, NX4N, and I'm sure I missed a few, for making this a great event. Fun was had by all!

73 John N4EEB

### **K4OJ Multi Multi-mobile 3038 cw QSO**

The K4OJ MM/m had a terrific time again hitting the open roads of our Sunshine State and having a great time along the way. Team members Kevin N4KM, Red K0LUZ and I knew there would likely be challenges with propagation this year but were determined to make the best of things. Kevin felt that, given the poorer conditions, this was our best outing ever. See lot of positives below.

Like others we dedicated this FQP to Ron WD4AHZ (sk) - Ron was a real FQP fanatic and always went full throttle to support it.

The 2016 FQP starting operator meeting point was also one of the last times I got to visit with my brother Matt, who passed away unexpectedly last Sept...and you can bet this FQP, with our starting point only 5 miles from Matt's home, was full of mixed emotions for me. RIP, dear brother - this one's for you! I even took our Gator 2008 FBS championship caps along in your memory (he treated me to that game!).



Considering the conditions, we all were amazed at the \*many\* positive things we observed/experienced this weekend.

\*Positives/Highlights:\*

- The MUF move downward made for a Record 40m mobile QSO total of more than 900 QSO's; way overshadowed what we have done in previous years. One key difference - We had moved the 40m antenna to the rear of the roof where the (unneeded) 10m antenna used to be and it really played well! Kevin was working as far away as W8, W1 at 12:30pm both days - now that was a hoot! That antenna really worked, and Kevin played it for all it's worth. We ended up with a 40m total of 550 Q's the first day, so there was still lots of action on Sunday, even as we headed to South FL. We felt Loud on 40m with quiet Rx levels too; very rewarding for this station engineer.

When 40m got slow Kevin would try 15m with a bit of success too. Overall, this made us very happy that we decided to do the multi-transmitter thing again.

- A bonus of moving the 40m antenna is that we had very little RFI into 20m, which meant Red could run unfettered - and he ended up with 2000+ QSO's even with the conditions (Wow - can you spell Q-S-B?). Top notch effort, Iron Butt! That man only too one break each day :-)

- A 2nd bonus of our 40m operations - we were really pleased to help our buddies in W4-land have more fun working us nearly fully time as we roamed. MANY thanks to you guys for tracking and calling us - I remember WN4AFP in particular working Kevin 'endlessly'. Others were very active searching us on 40m too and were nice to occasionally spot us. Friends, we will see YOU again next year on 40m; you can count on that! I've already challenged Kevin to break 1K QSO's on 40m in 2018 FQP.

- Rock solid station/antenna/power reliability - nothing stopped working, period. Almost boring, but careful what you wish for! Best ever for our team; but Murphy is always looking to visit. I guess shaking a dead chicken at the Suburban helped. BTW, my Sub now has 378K miles with original engine and it just keeps running. I don't ask questions; just shut

up and drive.

- Our route planning/execution went without any major hiccups; the driver did get lost in ALC but allowed the copilot named Garmin to take over when there was smoke in the cockpit.
- Probably the lightest traffic on our entire route ever. Fires? What Fires? Minimal road construction and cops/cameras too; this made for many enjoyable driver observations - see below.
- Much improved band conditions, especially on 20m, on Sunday. Gave us all renewed hope!
- \*The Pile ups!\* Both Red and Kevin enjoyed some Texas-sized pile ups, with truly A1 operators on both ends that kept it manageable and fun! NAS and GIL pileups were especially huge, and then there was...
- \*MONROE!\* Both Kevin and Red were getting \*\*all sorts\*\* of inquiries as we headed through the Grand Dragon County of CLR for almost an hour before getting to that sweet little swath of paradise at MON.

Finally, about 5 minutes before we got there, I turned the air conditioner fans to max cold to put us into a deep chill. You see, it is usually 90 degrees plus at that swamp-stop, and with the difficult QRN/QSB levels we turned off the SUV completely to minimize both electrical and audio noise to work the pileups.

Red in particular had a HUGE GRIN on his face when the pile up started; quickly that changed to the concentration of a CW Master, making every dit count.

Kevin also had some nice action on 40m, working all the way up to W1-W8 (midday from MON - wow!) but was fairly lonely CQing on an open 15m band with but a few callers. I overheard at least one sweep on each band, including one guy that thanked him about 10 times!!

With Garbage Truck sized horse flies buzzing all around us trying to find an open window to carry us off to their young, Red and Kevin worked down those pileups until they were no more. We even did a bit of SSB and then, after half an hour in MON and sweltering in our Easy-Bake-Oven, on we went.

It felt so special to give many of the deserving FQP supporters help towards a Sweep. We were hoping team K1XX/m would clean up anyone we missed but we had not yet received word of their misfortune (so sorry Charlie and Marty - next year!).

- One TERRIFIC highlight was our dinner with teams AD4ES and NO5W, hosted by my wife and I at home Sat night. Lili had the pizza hot and ready as we traded stories from the road and commiserated with each other about conditions. Both teams AD4ES and NO5W have very impressive station/antenna setups; well done, gents.

Chuck, Eric, Wolf, Mike, Ted and Chuck - thank you so much for modifying your routes to join us; such fun! Let's do it again, friends.

#### \*Lowlights:\*

- 10m = didn't even set up an antenna; 'nuff said.
- 15m = 54 QSO's (2016=300+; 2015=1300+); sure can see the Cycle at work!
- Monroe SSB - We called and called on SSB on 40m and 20m for 5+ minutes without a single answer. Still - I got to watch Red work a mic; talk about Rare DX! :-)
- This one is both a positive and negative. Building only 2 stations is easy as pie as opposed to cramming the Sub with 3 or 4 stations; huge difference in complexity. The downside is I sure do miss teammates N4BP, W4LT and KR4X being part of the MM/m madness. Band conditions make the rules though, so for now two transmitters only.

#### \*ROAD TALES/TAILS:\*

This driver really enjoys operating FQP but the Stations management, route planning and especially Driving the road rally can be both challenging and very reward. Our state is so beautiful and the endless green fields, huge trees and inviting lakes/ponds make this part of FQP fun for me.

Any I also noted some real Strangeness including:

- We stopped for a quick GP (not ground plane, but rather Gas & Pee) break. As I started into the store, a man started driving away with the gas hose still attached to his car! Fortunately he stopped, and an

onlooking started running toward him until she realized she had a cigarette in her mouth - yikes! That was a first for me...

- While waiting on the DES line in a neighborhood I saw a 3 ft black snake race to the bushes as a Blue Jay tried to peck/claw him. Mr. Snake lived to fight another day. Another first!
- Less exciting but very enjoyable was 'racing' a 100+ car freight train heading in parallel at night in POL
- Also enjoyable to be crossing the humongous Sunshine Skyway in PIN/HIL/MTE watching a loaded monster barge head out to the Gulf; probably headed with chips and salsa to the "O" team's home (KN5O and NO5W) in LA.

In summary, we had a great time with a trip that once again exceeded our expectations. Red and Kevin are perfect teammates; we have great synergy and encourage and help each other.

Thanks to our FCG/FCP organizers including K1TO who is the heart and soul of this FB contest with countless hours of leadership and support each year - thank you so much Dan. Also want to give a huge bow to Floyd KK3Q for doing Yeoman's work on our FQP website - folks, I worked with him just a bit and observed both his technical expertise and dedication to create a new website with much improved functionality and user experience. Thanks Floyd.

Great appreciation goes to former teammate Bob N4BP, who is helping up put together our logs and ensure we turn in a valid workable on - thanks Bob for helping again.

Also a \*must\* - sincere appreciation to Bob K0RC and Chuck NO5W for their super-duper county tracking tools - these are indispensable for working the sweeps, planning routes and more. Bob/Chuck - you guys are the best! Thanks for your major support.

A tip of the hat to our fellow road warriors, each of who do an amazing job of getting cobwebs of antennas, rigs, pc's power plants and vehicle and routing set up to make the first contact. I sincerely am in awe of your enthusiasm for hitting the road and am proud to call you fellow FQP mobiler. Also have to give huge kudos to our fixed and 1x1 spelling bee partners - you are the foundation of our way-cool QSO Party - thank you for standing strong on all our bands representing our State.

Finally - my biggest, loudest applause is for all of you out-of-state

operators who are the real heros. Whether you make a dozen or several hundred QSO's, your enthusiastic participation and support help make the FQP fun for all. We can throw the party, but it is you that keep coming back every year - thank you, thank you, thank you!

See you in FQP 2018!

vy 73/OJ/AHZ/MATT,  
Chris, NX4N - K4OJ MM/m Team Lead

### **K8MR mobile 1109 cw 104 ssb**

I was somewhat concerned with operating while driving, but on the empty straight roads of rural Florida it was not too bad. The missing hour was the time spent driving though St. Petersburg and Tampa on I-275, which was a good thing not to be operating while doing that.

I stopped at three county lines on Saturday, CLR/HEN, GLA/HIG, and HIG/HAR. Hopefully people figured that out and logged QSOs for both counties (N1MM will do that readily). I ended Saturday night at my favorite waterfront parking area in Sarasota. No bathing beauties doing photo shoots this time, however.

Sunday morning I started at the Sunshine Skyway Bridge rest area in MTE, followed by operations from the North Fishing Pier State Park for HIL and PIN. I hope being next to or above salt water gave me a few extra dB! Most of my SSB operating was from these three locations.

I was a bit insulted when K4OJ drove by the MTE location without stopping to say hello :-)

I was driving a Prius V, not the usual van or SUV one generally sees with mobile efforts. Basically the Prius engine ignition noise is significant, but there is minimal noise from the electronics. The nice feature is that while parked the engine ran only if the big battery was getting low, an infrequent situation. But while parked the small battery (i.e. radio power source) was apparently being charged by an inverter from the big battery, which was quiet. So good radio voltage without idling engine RFI.

I had no comparison to make with previous years' propagation, but I was

disappointed by low European participation. I4VEQ was the only regular, along with OK1CF who was on 40 Saturday evening. Both were as loud on 40 as any stateside station. I even caught VEQ once on 15. But otherwise only two DL QSOs, and one each with PA, ON, F, LZ and a second Italian.

Thanks to all who participate, especially the regulars who were always there waiting. I'm looking forward to 2018!

73 - Jim K8MR

### **N4DAB mobile 409 cw 52 ssb**

Drove 340 miles, over 9.5 hour -8 Counties over 2 days; two vehicles, 4 operators, two radio stations. It hit 98 degrees in Putnam County on my car sensor....and it felt it in the Sun!! The CW station used a vehicle mounted hamstick on 20M/40M, ICOM transceiver, generator power supply. SSB station used an ICOM, Buddipole, and 85 AHr storage battery. Bands were "OK" for CW. SSB conditions sucked dirty canal water. Huge QSB & atmospheric noise (would hear stations "disappear" mid-transmission both days!).

Called CQ for hours without response (fortunately two of use taking turns). At least two out-of-state stations (obviously at home and running amplifiers) sat in the mobile window for almost all day Sunday...including others sitting on freqs, "Calling any Florida Stations" making it difficult to work in the designated window. I thought WE were the sought-after Qs! Also, had a Special Event station (WWII memorial) right in the middle of the SSB window. It appeared that at least in the SSB category, no one cared to look for mobiles, as they were busy hunting down (and waiting in pileups) for the alphabet stations many running kilowatts & beams, at home stations. Not so bad on CW sub-bands, but after about 30 mins, the calls again were down to a sporadic hit or miss. For years, we only went out on Saturday - had we done that this year, we would have had HALF of the contacts shown (Saturday when we closed down, we had 28 SSB and just over 200 CW Qs. Good thing we did the second day this year! Yeah, our SSB rate was 4 per hour.

If FCG wants to keep SSB folks, we to re-think the scoring and "alphabet" stuff. Maybe.... making mobiles worth more points; auto-disqualifying any non-mobile station running in the mobile window. Reducing the number of "alphabet" stations (we had 20....maybe 5-10??). While I LOVE going out with the fellas to do this contest (and have

for the last 5 years), I am seriously re-evaluating the SSB portion.....maybe not doing it next year.

All-in-all, lotsa fun, lotsa laughs, and good comrades sharing a great hobby!

Hope the other mobiles (SSB) did better.

73 to all!

Steve WB4OMM

### **KN4Y mobile 1100 cw QSO**

Nice Florida weekend for QSO party. I operated in 23 Florida counties, made 1100 QSO's. My wife wandered off on Sunday and I got call from a Deputy when in Liberty county, had to cut trip short and did not run Gadsden and my home county Wakulla. What a bummer. Had pile-ups in all counties, the latte I bought got cold. Saw and heard a lot of motorcycles in the panhandle. Worked more Ontario stations than I did in the Ontario QSO party, lot of boarder crossings. DX was down, only worked a few stations. The number of QSO's per county proportional to the time operating in that county.

### **AD4ES mobile 2339 cw 2 ssb**

Operation was multi 2 in a full size modified cargo van.

In addition to the 2341 QSO's we also were hit by a renegade deer to the tune of \$1100. I do not know how many multipliers we get for the deer.

### **W0BH operating K0HC fixed KS 321 cw 197 ssb**

The mobiles were out in full force.

N4GI : 5

N4DAB : 7

K4ZGB : 11

KN4Y : 16

N4FP : 17

K8MR : 20

AD4ES : 21  
W4AN : 22  
NO5W : 30  
N4EEB : 34  
K4OJ : 37  
K4KG : 44

The most fun was tracking K4OJ and N4EEB for my Sweep. I somehow missed OKE on Saturday, so while most were waiting for CLR, I needed CLR plus OKE. I noticed both K4OJ and N4EEB were racing towards OKE. For fun, I pulled up my mapping program and started tracking them by county crossing times. There aren't many roads in that part of Florida, so it was easy to see where they were. My mapping program predicted their county crossing times almost perfectly if I subtracted a few minutes for what I shall call "speed differential"

As we got closer to OKE, N4EEB was coming in from the west and K4OJ up from the south. They appeared to be heading for the same OKE border crossing. K4OJ had two possible routes, one direct which put them there first, or one through an additional county. They chose direct and I got my Mixed Sweep from them. I next needed OSC for my CW Sweep. Team OJ dipped south to pick up another county which put team EEB in the lead for OSC and my CW Sweep. K4OJ seemed to be traveling a bit faster, so I wonder if they caught up later! At times, they must have almost been in sight of each other.

Thanks to all the mobiles for many Qs. A wish for next year would be to have back the web page with their routes published so I knew the order of their route. The format this year gave mobiles in county, but no routes which made things much more difficult. Maybe I just didn't find the correct page. And I know the mobiles would join me in asking fixed stations to respect the mobile window. Several of the 1x1 fixed stations were particularly prominent and cost me a number of Qs with the mobiles trying underneath. Having said that, most didn't, and the 1x1s did a great job of representing FLORIDA SUN!

On Sunday, it would have been possible to Sweep in one day. It seems like Collier is always a problem and anyone that goes there has to go through big counties to get there so it's a long wait for us and a slowdown for the mobiles. Starting there on Saturday maybe, then head north?

Again, great work all!



73, Bob, w0bh

## Pictures from the MI Mini

The group picture at the MI – courtesy K8ZZ/W8TVT



Jim, N8HAM sent along the following pictures



Randy AA8R, Terry WQ7A standing

Gene, KD9ZP, seated with Lifetime Achievement Award



Neil, K7SEN Mary, AB7NK



N8IPG K8OOK

K8ZZ



W9OP W9PIP



K5GE Mary Ida



K3IMC KJ4NIT





W8TVT N8RRR



K8AO



Helen and WA9DLB



N9DQS NN9K



Sandy WG9A



N9QS and Bonnie N8WQT





K8ZZ



W4SIG KB0BA N0XYL



Debbie WB0PYF



N8RLJ N8KIE



NF0N     Dianne



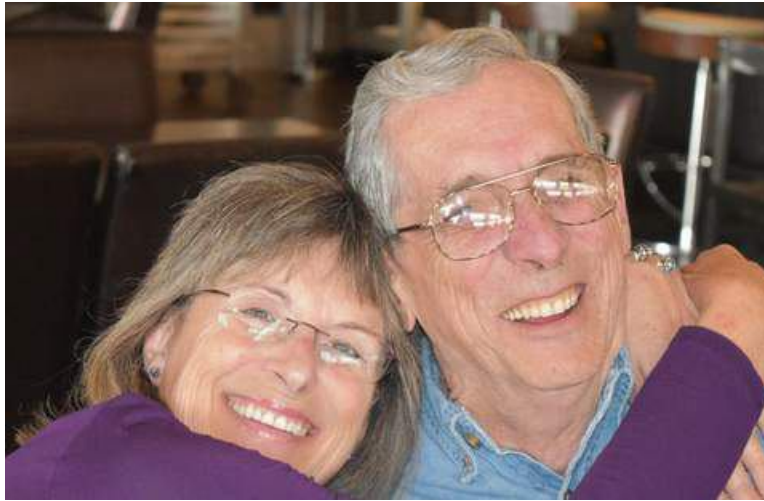
NM1G   AA8R   W8TAX



NU0Q Karen



WA3QNT Jackie

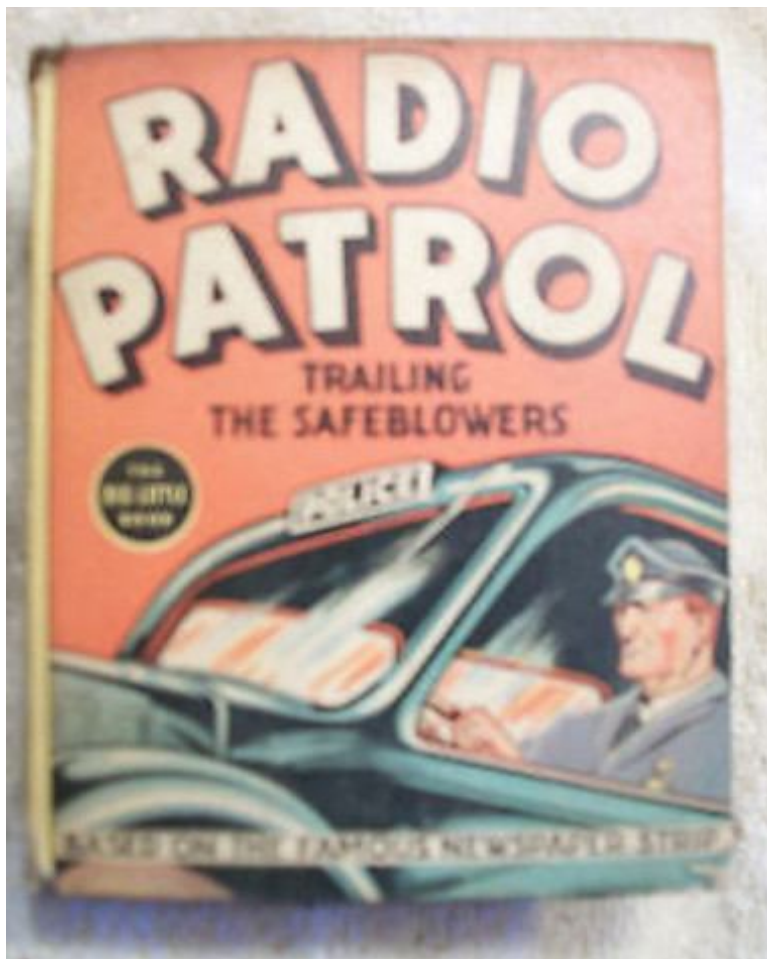


AB7NK K8EMS

## Book Review of the Month

**Radio Patrol – Trailing the Safeblowers**





This month we are back to the Little Books – those half comic illustrated, half text small size books about 3 1/5 by 5 inches – 410 pages - and the **Radio Patrol Trailing the Safeblowers**. Copyright 1937 – and not the least bit “PC”. That's “Politically Correct”.....

Pinky, a youngster, is in Pat's Radio Patrol car. Even though the title is Radio Patrol, very few lines in the story deal with it.

At the start, two professional safe cracker thieves are headed into town to rob a bank. They arrive at the local airport with self carried on 'golf bags'. They are picked up by two local mobsters. One had rented an apartment next to the Safety Bank – and the two local men had tunneled into the basement of the bank– all but the last few inches which would occur tonight. Within a few hours, the professional thieves gained access to the Safety Bank, captured the lone watchman, drilled and 'blew' the large safe with

nitroglycerin, , and made off with a million dollars in cash and securities. All four exited through the apartment into the street and drove off to divide up their loot. The two out of town folks would hop on the next plane out of town – headed for Big Town.

The watchman was able to trigger the bank alarm and shortly thereafter the call went out on the radio for cars to head to the bank to investigate. The tied up watchman was able to give accurate descriptions – and a half print was obtained from a water glass – which went off to the FBI labs in DC. In a short time, one of the out of town bank robbers had been identified as a known mastermind safe cracker.

Pinky, the youngster, is assigned to trail Duke – the local mobster and suspected criminal. Through twists and turns, he manages to change a telegram sent by Duke to trap the two 'imported safe crackers' at a meet at a hotel lobby. One is arrested there and the other manages to flee.

The story goes through a few twists and turns but all four of the bad guys are rounded up and sent to the slammer. There's only a few times in the story when radio is used to dispatch cars to here or there or a big event where multiple cars are needed.

It's geared at the 'youth market' in the 1930s. Lots of fisticuffs and fights, half a dozen bad guys get killed or seriously wounded, and there's a final shootout at the end with machine guns. Near zero radio content so don't go running out to buy a copy. I crossed it off the list of obscure books that have anything to do with “radio”.

## Indiana QSO Party

It happened. Few reported anything on the 3830 contest reflector and no comments seen. I worked a few from TX but not many. Think there was one mobile out there and that was it.

# On the Trail of Regens

One of these showed up on Ebay for a giant price – a 'rare' one of the first shortwave designed receivers – when shortwave wasn't even all that 'short' – hi hi

**1921/1922 Kennedy Model 281 'Shortwave' Receiver/Amp** – 150 to 650 meter coverage

from a review on the Western Wireless Museum site:

Right after WW1 ended, hams were eventually let back on the air – along with government and military stations and the beginnings of the 'broadcast era'. Hams were banished to wavelengths/frequencies above 200 meters – 1.5 Megahertz.

The Type 281 Short Wave Receiver was intended for the experimenter, radio fan or ham operator. It tunes from 150 meters to about 650 meters, so it would receive most of the popular transmissions in the early twenties. The Type 281 wasn't popular as a ham receiver, probably due to its somewhat high selling price of \$90 when compared to similar Grebes or Paragons. The same Kennedy level of construction quality is used in the Short Wave Receiver but since it only tunes in the higher frequencies, the components are small and the receiver interior appears rather sparsely populated since there is an absence of large inductors or huge condensers.





The Type 281 may not have been too popular with the hams but it is a great little receiver and performs quite well. Since it doesn't have to tune the long wavelengths, it is a very simple receiver with very few components. Also, since it tunes the shorter wavelengths, it seems to perform better because the majority of signals (AM BC) in that part of the spectrum are much stronger than the typical longwave signals. The Type 281 will receive ham signals on 160 meters and the hams running AM stations sound very good. When listening for CW signals, the detector must be oscillating and that ends up with a lot of hand-capacity problems making tuning difficult. SSB signals encounter the same difficulty. At the time the Type 281 was new, most hams were on damped-wave spark using rotary gaps which would have been received somewhat like a modulated-CW (MCW) signal, that is not requiring the detector to be oscillating.



Kennedy offered popular Two-Stage Audio Amplifiers that were intended for use with their regenerative receivers. The smaller Type 521 was intended for use with the Short Wave Receiver sold for \$55. Both amplifiers were two-stage, transformer coupled audio amplifiers that use "hard amplifier" tubes with pure tungsten filaments, the UV-201. These tubes require 5vdc at 1A to light the filament. When operating with a receiver, the total current requirement for this setup is 3A (or 15 watts.) Plate voltage on the tubes is normally around +60 to +90vdc. Although the manuals show +60vdc for the Plate voltage, these amplifiers work much better with +90vdc on the Plates.

Operating any of the Kennedy receivers without an audio amplifier is a challenge when searching for DX signals. You need to use really good 'phones, like Baldwin Type C, to have enough audio on the really weak signals. A Two-Stage Audio Amplifier is a tremendous help in hearing the really weak ones.

## 7 Land QSO Party

from the 3830 reflector:

**K4XU as N7XU mobile 957 cw qso**

Drove 473 miles east to Burley ID on Friday where we stayed overnight. I'm breaking in a new driver, my skiing buddy Phil Kirk. We left on time at 6AM MDT. Operated from the hotel parking lot for a while to take care of Minidoka County but it was noisy so we went north into the country a bit. I don't know what it about gas stations, but they are at least four s-units higher than ambient. Moving back south across the Snake River, we turned west to hit Cassia and Twin Falls where we turned north, recrossed the Snake river into Jerome heading for Lincoln. At Shoshone we turned east on 26 and headed back to I84. Here it's wide open farming country with lots of slow moving implements, but very quiet. We worked our first DX: I DL OM F and JA. The rest of the trip through Idaho is mostly on I84 with side trips to Owyhee, Boise, Gem and Washington counties. On 84 still into Oregon for a stop for fries and coffee at

McDonald's in Ontario. 10 miles up Rt95 and back to hit Washington County then on to Oregon.

### **K6WSC/7 County Expedition to Cochise AZ - 410 cw qso**

This was my first ever county expedition. It was incredibly fun!

TS-590S, 40/20/15m fan Inverted-V with center at 20 feet.

Thanks to all the people who make the 7QP happen.

73, Bill K6WSC

### **W6ABM County Expedition to Tillamook OR 2 cw 37 ssb**

Another year operating portable in Tillamook (Holiday Style). Conditions at the coast were not as good this year. 80 proved more productive than expected. Enjoyed the outing.

### **KD7VIK County Expedition to Tillamook OR 36 ssb**

Another year running portable from Manzanita OR as a portable County Expedition single operator low power station.

### **KK6M mobile (KK6MC operator) 448 cw qso**

Mobile operation from 4 county lines for a total of 7 counties activated. AZ counties are huge! I covered half the state.

Conditions were good for the most part on 20M and 40M. I tried 15M, but it was dead both times I checked it and a few CQs didn't raise much. 40M opened very well at my last stop and I spent more time there than I intended to, which put me home to Albuquerque later than I wanted to be home. That is one of the problems in operating out of state QSO parties.

I used APRS to beacon my location, but I don't know how effective it was in

generating QSOes. Would like to hear from anyone who found me that way.

KU7Y was strong with his QRP signal the two times I worked him. As usual I worked John, N6MU from each stop. Thanks for looking for me John!

Rig is TS-2000X to an Alpine Screwdriver antenna. I use a battery booster to keep the voltage on the rig up at stops.

### **N7WA mobile with KT7Q - 822 cw qso**

Randy K7TQ and I usually run separate mobile operations for the 7QP. Due to the loss of Randy's usual partner (Jay W0WWW) due to work, he wondered if he could help me and I snapped him up. Usually I have to run solo on county lines. This would allow us to run continuously for the 18 hours. But where to start?

Randy lives in Idaho and I live on the rainy side of Washington. Bob N7AU and his wife Diane KB7JPX offered us a place to crash Friday night and Saturday night after the test. They live smack in the middle of eastern Washington (Ephrata) between the two of us and a perfect location to start our route. Google estimated that Randy had to drive two minutes longer than I did to get to Bob's.

Randy had us timed out to the minute and I dare-say, it worked out just as he planned (with one minor exception). He even has a cool home-brewed Arduino-based timer that tracks the time. That exception? Well, the road to Ferry county was closed (it's prone to slides) so we had to back track into Lincoln and go around. That meant we spent double the time in Lincoln but we put it to good use and lots of Q's.

We did have to start about 80 minutes early from Bob's to get to the first county so we were on the road even longer than the 18 hours. We would switch between driving and operating about every three hours. Then, unilaterally, Randy changed the rules on me and made me operate the last chunk. In hind-sight, he knew best because the last part of the route was territory where I had never been and very very dark. I even asked a stupid question about 10:30PM local time.

"Do you know where we are?"

"Yes!" was the answer.

Whew! Back to my key.

We were going to try a KX2 as a second radio for the op to listen on the alternate band. Even with a bandpass filter, there was too much signal from the primary rig (KX3/KXPA100) overloading the KX2. That worked out ok because frequently we were working as a team to decode signals as they came in. As you get tired, the brain gets a bit mushy and a second brain helps even things out.

Otherwise, the equipment worked well. We had some crackling on the 20M antenna early on but it seemed to work itself out. There was some weird very low level background noise on 40M but I think it was the truck. It almost sounded like someone tuning up with a series of dits but the frequency changed with time. I don't think it was an impediment to copy, just irritating sometimes. The 80M antenna was a bit persnickety on tuning but once I found the sweet spot, the KXPA100 was happy. The KX3 likes to jump into Dual Watch mode (turns on the sub receiver) which could be confusing when unexpected. I had a function programmed to turn it off. I just had to remember that I had that function.

In the end, we worked over a hundred Q's on 80, doubled that for 40M, and doubled that for 20M. 15m was a dog. We tried a couple times. Nothing heard, nothing worked. We said we would try some SSB but it never happened. Neither of us cried any tears about that. :>)

Lots of people followed us. N6MU (23), NX6T (18), W0BH (15), DL5AWI(13) come to mind. There many others. DX was limited to some Europeans, one JA (JA1YNE), and a Columbian. The bands were better than I expected (20-80) and the east coast was workable on 40/80. That's probably a better testament to their ears than my inefficient antennas. I think Randy had fun. I know I did. I thank you all for playing. I thank Bob and Diane for letting us stay. And Randy, thanks for asking if you could join me in the effort.

Oh, one more thing, we didn't beat you this year Dick (K4XU/K7XU), but we have your tail lights in our sights... :>)

cheers dink, n7wa

**K7UM (with NG7M) County Expedition - to Grand/emery UT line**

NG7M & K7UT Multi-Single Mixed HP / Call K7UM. This was a two county line operation on the Utah Emery and Utah Grand county lines in Green River Utah. Exchange was UTEME/UTGRA.

Thanks to Darryl K7UT for joining in for the fun and providing the tower and beam for the high bands. We used Darryl's Force 12 C3 at 50' and an 80 meter dipole horizontal at 50' feed with ladder line with a 4:1 balun into a Palstar HF-AUTO. The tower and beam worked great and held up in some nasty micro burst wind.

This was a two operator setup / operation and breakdown (NG7M & K7UT), however I need to give kudos to KK7L John for finding the site for the operation. Plus we used W7CT's new 1.3K-FA on 110AC and it worked perfectly. (thanks Jim!)

Thanks for all the Q's. Nice to have some stations calling from EU along with all the NA stations, including the New England QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party and Delaware QSO Part. This has turned out to be a very active QSO Party. Thanks to the 7QP organizers along with all the support from the 7th area States. N1MM+ worked like a champ and it's so nice to have it handle multi county exchanges along with the multiple QSO parties at the same time.

Max NG7M & Darryl K7UT

### **AE7EU multi op County Expedition - 520 SSB**

For the 4th year, AE7EU (ex AE7IK) activated the county line at Lake/Kalamath at my special little spot. Up on a ridge, this place boasts easy driving access and 100ft Ponderosas. This years activation was a bit of a comedy of errors and Murphy. Driving down, my van decided to throw a check engine light. For the entire weekend, I was afraid the transmission had gone out (Code check later said O2 sensor) and I was going to have to worry about how to get back home. Arriving Friday, we got started setting up antennas, and my first attempt at launching a length of mason line snagged around my arm, giving me a nice little bit of rope burn. We got the haul lines up and over the trees though, and our 80/40 dipole hit 75-80ft, the TA33jr was up and securely pointed east, despite the winds that were picking up trying to blow the line off the trees. Which later turned to snow.

Antennas up, we went to set up the radio, and I'd forgotten a power cable for my power supply. No matter, Jim had brought his. But we were getting RF in the audio, which wasn't diagnosed until Saturday morning after the first few contacts. So we switched from my kx3 + Jim's KXPA100 + My SB200 to Brain's TS440 + My SB200. Things worked well after that, though we didn't really get cooking on the bands until 20m really opened up later on in the morning.

Lunchtime found I'd forgotten the avocados and cucumbers.... How are you supposed to have a good salad with just spinach, carrots and onions? Ohwell, worse things to have forgotten.

Once we got a pile started though, they just kept on rolling. None of us are iron-butt operators. There were times where I could keep 150Q/hr rolling no problem though, and it's really hard to give up the reigns at that point. Our score wasn't as good as last year, and we missed South Dakota and Nebraska, but all things considered I'm quite happy with how things turned out. A big shout to all those who were patient in the pile, and we look forward to doing it again next year! (Minus, of course, Car issues, wind, snow, rope burns, food issues, RFI and forgotten cables :)

### **KS5A Mobile - 150 cw qso**

Mobile ops to operate from the 3 AZ counties (SCZ, MHV, LPZ) that did not have planned activity. Unfortunately, driving time exceeded operating time by huge amounts. Thanks for the Qs.

N6MU – fixed CA 323 cw qso

N6MU 323 CW QSO

air conditions on 20. Couldn't hear the mobiles all the time. 40/80 were better in the evening.

Top mobile for me was WW7D with 25 Qs followed by N7XU/N7WA(21), K7RE(11), KK6MC(7) and KM7R(4).

Thanks to all those who played. Still one of my favorites. 73...

John, N6MU

## **WW7D mobile 723 cw 136 ssb QSO**

My route this year was slightly tweaked from what I did last year, basically roving through 29 counties, mostly in Idaho. Again, I roved in my trusty 1988 Toyota Pickup (with over 240,000 miles). Again, I used three homebuilt screwdriver antennas and a 10m whip. Again my primary rig was a Kenwood TS-480SAT with a Yaesu FT-857D as a backup. In fact, this 7QP was remarkably similar to last year's adventure, include similar weather, including thunderstorms about the same time and place.

I left about 10am on Friday morning for the 13+ hour trip to Driggs, ID. A screwdriver on front of the truck gave me some practice worked SOTA activations while en route. By the time I arrived, got checked in, organized things for the next morning, I hit the sack after midnight with the alarm set for 6am. The next morning, I was sitting on the end of "State Line Road", simultaneously in Teton County, WY and Teton County, ID by 6:45 am. I set up the three screwdriver antennas and did some other pre-contest preparation for about 15 minutes and joined the contest a few minutes after the 7am (MDT or 1300z) start of the party

Twenty meters was in pretty poor shape at the start, so I began on 40m CW for most of my stay in WYTET/IDTET. At 1330, I tried 20m again with only a few QSOs before moving to 40m phone. Twenty meters blew open about 20 minutes later while I was in motion through IDTET. For the next two hours, I switched between 20m and 40m, CW and SSB to equally good effect.

rolled into Baker City, OR, where I had motel reservations, just as the contest ended. It was good timing—I was really not wanting to be driving by then.

After removing duplicates, the log contained 723 CW QSOs and 136 phone QSOs for a total of 859 QSOs. (This is slightly down from the 750 CW QSOs and 130 Phone QSOs from my solo effort last year). Total multipliers were 59 (up from 52 last year). This included 48 states, all but NE and (oddly enough) ID, six VE provinces (AB, BC, NB, ON, QC, & SK), and five DX entities (DL, HA, I, JA, OM)

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Note: Lots more story and LOTS of pictures at:

<https://ww7d.wordpress.com/2017/05/16/ww7dm-does-the-7qp/>

## **N7N County Line Expedition – Multi OP – 2419 cw 294 ssb QSO**

This was a full time operation from portable setups on three county lines and mobile operation between those setups. W6JTI and K9YC were the operators when we were portable. W6GJB was our team leader, built the contesting trailer, did much of the setup and teardown at each county line site, and drove his pickup towing the trailer between sites while W6JTI worked 20 CW riding shotgun.

Our first site was at about 3800 ft elevation at the highway 95 bridge over the Colorado River, which is the county line between San Juan and Garfield counties.

The site is sort of in a broad valley. Our second site was 130 miles to the west, on Rte 24 at the Wayne/Piute Co line; our final setup was a few miles away on Rte 25 at the Piute/Sevier county line. The last two sites were at about 8,400 ft elevation, and had good dropoffs in all directions.

Our setup is shown in <http://k9yc.com/7QP.pdf> The two stations in the trailer are K3, P3, KPA500, and KAT500, with double stubs on the 80M and 40M feedlines to kill second harmonics of the power amps. Antennas were a C3SS and dipoles for 80 and 40M. In the truck was a KX3, PX3, and KXPA100 feeding a Ham Stick.

## **Mobile Activity in May**

At the beginning of May

AB7NK/K7SEN were on their epic trip in OH putting out counties – eventually heading back home

K0MAF was spotted in FL

Ray, WB0PYF was noted in IL

Gene, K5GE, was on his way back home from the MI Mini

Terry, WQ7A was in IA headed back west

N0KV/N0DXE were in NY getting set to put out counties in New York and Vermont...then headed back later in the month.

N4UP was busy putting out more WV counties then into eastern KY

N9JF, Jim, was on the road again a few times during the month – IL, TN, MS,

Bill, K2HVN headed up from DE through MD and NJ

W8UE headed from FL north up through KY

Ed, K8ZZ, ran a bunch on the way back home from the Mini

There was a very busy weekend with the NE QP, the 7 Land QP, IN QP – plus mobiles still on trips back to TX (K5GE) and WA (WQ7A) and N0KV in New England and others still on trips. Spots were flying left and right. A few 'mobiles' in 7 land and NE QP but mostly fixed stations

Ed, KN4Y, was on in the 10-10 contest but not a peep from him in TX this year. You've got to have a fantastic station or be able to work the DX that does make it through.

KC7YE was mobile in the 7QP and ran a few counties for the folks

Team WA6OCV and N6PDB were out and about in CA and into NV, UT, MT, ID, OR. Dennis got his feet wet on CW and likely will be more active CW mobile!

Ron, N5MLP, started out on a long trip – winding up in Dayton, then continuing for more counties and states on his way home. Several week trip!

Jim, N4JT, was busy with five modes in WV and KY counties. Lots of activity from KY this month from several mobiles!

Kraig, KA2LHO, put out parks/counties in PA. Later in the month headed back to FL running them along the way.

N0C (WB0PYF) was busy in IL putting them out. MARAC CW QSO Party time

Ed, KN4Y was putting them out in the MARAC CW QP in GA. As far as I can tell, not a whole lot of mobile activity this year. Slim pickings. N4CD tried to get some action going on the Sunday but few takers. Gave up and went back to running parks/counties for the most part.

The Dayton Hamvention was coming up. Several mobiles would hit the road including N4CD, KJ8V, AA8R/W8TAX, After, AA8R/W8TAX were busy down in KY headed south.

N2MH/KD2KDJ ran on six meter mobile on the way to Dayton. Hope they worked each other. Don't know if they caught any skip.

Bill, K0DEQ, zipped over to Dayton and back – running the counties along the way.

K6YEK was active – headed from AZ east through TX

N2OO headed out from NJ to Dayton – running them 20m cw

Bill, NU0Q headed to Dayton – and back via more KY and eastern counties.

KB0BA/N0XYL headed to Dayton – and while there, headed up the MARAC Booth in 'tent city' along with Dave KS4BO and others. (NF0N, K1SO)

K4ZGB headed to KY running them on cw along the way to Dayton.

Jerry, W0GXQ, headed to CO – ran into some bad weather along the way and limited operation.

Bill, K2HVN, again putting out more MD counties

Doug, WA4UNS, headed to Dayton and back.

Mike, KA4RRU, headed to Dayton and back from VA.

After the hamfest, mobiles hit the road again. Team AB7NK were still going on their trip. N5MLP continued with more weeks of county hunting activity.

There were hundreds and hundreds of counties on the air in May! A giant leap in activity! Whew!

End date 5/24

## New England QSO Party

**NZ1U mobile - opr N1WK W1UJ 892 cw qso**

What a super fun radio weekend in the great (still showing some) white North!

Thanks to K1KI for organizing another FB NEQP contest weekend.

Congrats to the top notch NEQP/m effort of the WA1Z team.

We had very low amount of time for implementation, or what we did have for time may not have been used correctly..

The 'Contest Caddy' used for 2012, 14, 15, and 16's NEQP MultiOp Mobile efforts was going to take a break this year in favor of the brand-new 2017 Chevy Equinox SUV, or, the Blue-Ox. Our 5th year, cool!

A Class 2 trailer hitch was procured and installed as the primary antenna mount along with a Harbor-Freight 500# steel Hitch mounted luggage rack.

Using the luggage rack to mount both the Hustler mast/resonator and the Hi-Sierra motor-tuned antenna. Right in the middle was an official WRTC-2014

Honda 2KW Generator used by a top 10 team! ;)

Sooooo... we tried High Power. Using a Tokyo Hy-Power SS KW amplifier and having the Hustler 'Super' resonators picked up recently we hit the road....

One would think that tons of time is necessary to engineer an effort like QRO mobile radio contest operating, but you may be mistaken! We tested the antennas around 17Z, or ~3 hours before the start! But the road plan had us -way- North for the start and much ground to cover. We hit the road. It worked!

It was not trouble free. (SHOCKER!) The biggest issue was that the operator could not touch the 'touch pad' mouse on the laptop while transmitting or the laptop would lose comms and CW to the K3.. Also, the sent CW must have sounded horrible as we could not get the CW weight to work through the serial port CW on the K3 it was with HP or LP didn't make a difference- sending a bit slower helped. The amp was not used much, if there was a 5-cq or so lull, turn drive down to 20w and throw amp in. It would run about 400w with comfort, until nearing the end and we activated SuffolkMA, we were @900w comfortably. That generator was working vry hard! Called CQ on SSB even 1 answer..... Everything held quite nicely. (DO NOT touch that mouse pad!)

Used N1MM+ Logger to send CW through the USB serial port- this was only on Saturday, on Sunday, the decision was made to introduce a WinKeyer which was a good move. Still cannot touch the mouse-pad when TX'n or the Rig and the Winkeyer would drop....

One of the goals was to be home Saturday night. The hub of the barnstormers is NE CT and we wanted to operate North... starting and ending in the well-covered WORMA. Another goal was to cover the 'least covered' counties of 2016. The missed/forgotten factor was that Team WA1Z wasn't there in '16, and their counties were open in 2016, but they are back in it for '17. On Saturday night after many requests for SUFMA we knew there was coverage in the north ME counties and we were heading to SUFMA since it seems there may have not been activity there with many asking about it again on Sunday morning.

N1WK = "It's not the (Contest) Caddy" in reference to the Blue Ox.

Trade offs for superior luxury, powerful engine... etc... etc... is good gas mileage and lots of cabin room.... The Caddy will likely be re-commissioned in future efforts! Just need a trailer hitch. It seems that a couple-hundred horsepower and luxury seats and operating position is worth the ~5 MPG

sacrifice....

For Saturday the goal was to catch COONH FRAVT GRAVT. GRAVT is way up there, and we went to the top NW corner of it and headed South right through GRAVT and making it through while it was still daylight out.

Another learning experience and many mental notes that are likely to be forgotten next year, but we look forward to it and it is a considerable amount of fun. More band changes.. Tightening up complete antenna/coax systems... etc... the normal things... same as last year....

Rock star award to N1WK for powering through with the driving getting us home safely. Saturday 707 miles Sunday 509 miles Average speed 54.3 MPH  
34.0 MPG Best 50 mile run  
Average fuel economy 26.6 MPG

Thanks to The Barnstormer fixed team of NB1U and NR1X, while putting in their own significant NEQP efforts and tracking the NZ1U/m team and notifying the masses where we were. Also to the Cap'n KB1H(sk) for getting us all together.

Thanks to all of the 'Regulars' that follow the /m's through the counties, you guys make it worth it for everyone.

A few pics and vids here; <http://w1uj.net/NEQP-2017/>

73

The Barnstormers

### **WA1Z multi op mobile with K1GQ W6PH WA1Z - 974 cw QSO**

After a one year hiatus (my wife and I had an opportunity to do a multi-day hike in the Grand Canyon at this time last year that killed NEQP operations), W6PH and I hit the road again for the fifth time. This year, K1GQ joined the team making the operation a Multi-Single. As usual, Kurt did all of the driving while Bill and I alternated operating counties.

Congratulations to the NZ1U Barnstormers Mobile team!!! What an incredible job putting together a brand new kind of operation! It's always fun to try

something new in a contest.

Station:

2008 Honda CRV

Elecraft K3, 100 watts, powered from car battery

Bill and I logged separately on non-networked computers.

Two Hustler MO-2 54-inch masts mounted on hatchback door secured by a homebrew roof rack harness

One Hustler MO-4 22-inch mast mounted on mag mount, guyed to roof rack just to add a little more security

Hustler RM-model resonators and DX Engineering Capacity Hats for 80 through 15 Meters.

This year, we set up a K3 on a small homebrew desk in the middle of the backseat. Bill and I sat on either side of it. We each brought our own WinKeyer and, through a Y-adapter, connected both to the K3, so that we each could transmit without having to fuss with changing cables. This made for seamless county transitions, but also made it really easy for us to accidentally hit F-keys when the \_other\_ guy was doing the operating. Oops.

Mobile Contesting was a new experience for Bill. My goal was to make sure he operated as much or as little as he wanted. And for much of the weekend, I kept under-estimating which counties would have better rate than others and was desperately trying to line up alternating counties so Bill could experience some fun county changes. In general, I think I oversold Bill on how “exciting” county changes were going to be. I kept reminiscing about fun, 30-minute-long high rates from rare Maine counties from yesteryear that never materialized this weekend. Instead, we usually got 3 minutes of mayhem working the same 12-15 folks, then wore-out the F1 key until the next county change. Oh well...

Best DX was to JA on 20. And it was a real treat having XO1X (thanks Gerry!) call in from YT.

Somehow, we missed UT and WY (not enough S&Ping in 7QP) and SD.

73,

Bob WA1Z

## Delaware QSO Party

Not much heard in TX – more 40 and 80 activity back east. Not many filed comments or just worked one or two stations. Back east, some had 30 QSOs.

from the 3830 reflector:

**KA6BIM – CA - 11 ssb qso**

Yea, I got the sweep, all 3 counties! I would liked to have found more DE stations, but conditions were not great this weekend, and I decided to do a SSB only weekend. Thank you for the Qso's

## Arkansas QSO Party

Due to logistics, I missed getting to AR on Saturday and just had a few hours to put out a few counties in AR for the QP. Not much activity. Gave up after 20 minutes of calling CQ AR QP and went back to just running Parks on the Air and counties. Disappointing. Many of the other major mobiles didn't show up. Heard K5CM, Connie, from OK – giving out counties. Didn't even hear any AR fixed stations!

**WN4AFP, fixed, SC 33 cw 11 ssb**

Conditions were good on 20m most of day and fair on 40m... Great to hear Bob, K5KPE enjoying the QP. Need a few more mobiles running in this one. Thanks to K5CM, on for several 7 mults, K5XK for a county line and the other fixed stations. 73s Dave WN4AFP



### **KI0I – fixed - 12 cw 3 ssb**

I'd loved to have been in AR mobile but with mom day and nice wx with much to do , it wasn't in the cards.

The bands seemed weak early today and very crowded this eve. Only found one qso on 40m early afternoon but sigs were lots better this eve with K5CM/m pounding on the old Drake s-meter. Sounding good Connie !

I jumped in to make a few Q's before the end of contest. Was playing with my Drake C-line , it needed some exercise. ! Thanks for the qso's and thanks to the ARQP team for their work.

73 Mark ki0i

### **K5CM mobile – 703 cw QSO**

Poor planning on my part caused me to miss the first 5 hours of the party. 15 was open with Es prop, but not many stations to work there.

Some stations worked:

N8NA on 15, 20, 40, and 80 and 16 Q's

N8II, WA8KAN on 15, 20, and 40.

KE0TT, W8TM, N4VV on 20, 40, 80

15 Q'S with KE0TT

12 Q's with N4VV

11 Q'S with K4BAI, WN4AFP

Best DX to West was JO7WXN

Best DX to East was HA8IB

Thanks to Don, K5DB for putting this QP together.

Rig:K3

Antennas on Ford F-150: Tarheel Model 200A-HP used on 80 and 40

Hamsticks for fast band change on 20 and 15.

73,

Connie, K5CM

### **N5EE QRP Portable in AR 22 cw qso**

Operated QRP Portable with a K1 and EFHW up about 30 feet. QTH was on the White

River and given my opportunity to trout fish, my operating time was cut short (1 hour). Hopefully next year I can give this a more serious effort. 73

Ken, N5EE

## On the Road with N4CD

It was time to make the annual trek to Dayton OH for the best hamfest in the US – the Dayton Hamvention. This would be a 'first' for the Hamvention – which has been held at the Hara Arena for as long as I can remember – going back to around 1969 when I and a couple thousand made the trip. Now, attendance is usually over 20,000 people and this year the event was moved to the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia OH, about 15 miles east of Dayton.

If you've ever been to the Dayton Hamfest at Hara Arena, you'll understand why a change was needed. Way back when Hara arena was a top location for events. It had a nice sports area that supported basketball and hockey games and loads of room for meeting (Forum) and indoor spaces for vendors and other groups to have 'tables' and sell or promote their activities. However, it was getting old and decrepit. It did not support many activities now. It was getting 'old' and tired. The area around it in Trotwood was in depression and had been for decades. The shopping center that provided shuttle parking shut down 15 years ago – as the big retailers left – and the parking lot was still useful but hadn't been maintained for those 15 years. The Old country Buffet shut down years ago – we used to head there for a a county hunting dinner after the Forum on Friday afternoon. Dayton used to be a powerhouse of manufacturing – but like many 'rust belt' cities, industries closed down left and right, downsized, or left the area for greener territory. Let's just say this part of Dayton was 'left behind'.

The paving in the 'flea market' was about the same – adequate but not in the best shape and the building was definitely in sad shape – 'adequate' but barely. However, any pavement is better than none. They kept it going but the arena had been one step from bankruptcy for a decade and was getting set to shut down several times. It still worked but every year one had to worry that this venue would 'close' and the hamfest would be stranded- no place to go to at the last moment. It was time for a change but finding a new home for 20,000 plus attendees was no easy job!

So.....the adventure began with a new venue...more on this later. First, we've got to get there via some Parks on the Air and other events.

This was the MARAC annual CW contest weekend. Hmmm....Saturday I listened – couldn't hear W3DYA in east TX. Longer skip on 40m and it popped right over him. Did catch KN4Y in a few in GA – and got a few needed ones too. That's about all the MARAC activity I heard on Saturday as I waited for the mail to arrive – with the flea market ticket for Dayton. It finally came at 6:15pm in the evening – mail delivery runs LATE on Saturday here. So Sunday I could be on my way – a day later than I was hoping to be. Five days for mail from VA to TX. Slow!

## **Sunday**

Sunday arrives and I'm on the road at 6:30 headed east. I wait till 9am local time (1400Z) for the MARAC contest to start. Had the list of abbreviations for the MARAC test, the AR QP, and the KFF numbers for the parks. I was set.

Well, dang.....come 1400Z and I call CQ County Test – over and over again. Work 2 people in 20 minutes and decide this isn't going to be worth the effort. All the way across Bowie County TX on 20 and 40M and wrote down 2 entries. Hmmm.....Well, next up was Little River AR (AR LITT)....no takers until I got to the park and spotted myself. Headed for the first park Millwood State Park (KFF-1101) in that county – and the contacts came left and right for the park! That was good since it takes 44 contacts to officially activate a park (and that can include the same station on different modes and bands – so please work me as many times as you can hear me! Sure helps). Caught NU0Q in Leavenworth KS as he headed out on this long trip to KY – after stopping by Dayton a few days later. Reached the magic '44' number in the first park– so the park is officially 'activated'. This has great bass fishing for you sports folks!

Next Up - Historic Washington State Park is a 101-acre Arkansas state park in Hempstead County, Arkansas in the United States. The museum village contains a collection of pioneer artifacts from the town of Washington, Arkansas, which is a former pioneer settlement along the Southwest Trail. Walking interpretive tours are available throughout the 54 buildings. Washington served as a major trading point along the Southwest Trail, evolving into the Hempstead County seat and later the capital of Arkansas from 1863 to 1865 when Little Rock was threatened during the Civil War.

During the 1820s and 1830s, Washington was a stopover for travelers going to Texas. It

was originally the county seat of Hempstead County until a new courthouse was completed in Hope, which was designated the seat of government in 1939. The park emphasizes regional 19th century history from 1824 to 1889. Davy Crockett and others passed through here – and it lies on the infamous Cherokee Trail of Tears. The railroad bypassed this town – and headed to Hope – which became the new county seat. Hope is known as the town where Bill Clinton spent some years during his youth – and his former residence is a National Park unit.

There was NO internet there even though not more than 10 miles off the I-30. Didn't get to 44 QSOs but got more than 10. Oh well. Maybe another return visit? You've got lots to see here. Most of the CH are 'zombies' until a spot appears. A good part of the CH were on the way to Dayton, and it was Mother's Day distracting many others.

Next I headed to DeGray Lake State Resort Park – KFF – 1080. Now, some might ask what is the KFF? The US designation for the World Wide Flora and Fauna site starts with a “K”...just like the parks in Australia start with VK and in England with a G. There are about 4000 parks, natural wildlife areas, natural wildlife refuges in the system in the US with more added continually. It just got started in the US big time at the beginning of 2016 with NPOTA, and really going as a 'new' program for park chasers in 2017, and in the world in 2012.

AR has some 'resort' parks with lodges and other great facilities – and this one is on the shores of a large lake – everything from golf to tennis, hiking, mountain biking, boat rentals and pedal boats and a lodge you can stay at. Pulled in and did my thing for Hot Springs County AR.....got to the magic 44 number – after running the bands. Good internet here – which makes all the difference.

Then I headed on in to the Super 8 motel in Bryant (Saline County) AR - where I have stayed a half dozen times before. Didn't get 'too far' today but with the parks (1 1/2 to 2 hours typical) taking up a good part of the day - it was still a good start to getting to Dayton for the big day. Dinner at a 'new' Great Wall Chinese Buffet. Good.

This was Mother's Day so maybe many CH and park chasers were off doing other things. We'll see. Propagation isn't always the best these days, either.

## **Monday 5/15**

Next up was Mills Park Natural Area –KFF-0637 - Saline County - one of the different things between POTA and NPOTA – which had only a few of the Preserves such as Craters of the Moon (OR) and Big Thicket (TX). Parks on the air (POTA) has

hundreds and hundreds of them. Some are 'easy to find' and others are darned tough to find 'access' into them. Or even 'find' them! This one is easy....it is a wooded tract within a local 80 acre town park. Found it – had cell service (came and went) so managed to put 44 plus into the log even at an early hour. If you are going to run parks and the NWA/NWRs, be sure to get directions off the web for these sites – maps don't often show them and the GPS lady is clueless as to most of the NWR/NWAs. It's fairly small as far as sites go. Worked out well. You never know what to expect on these. They'll be a few adventures later just trying to get 'into' some of these.

The route was the usual interstate (boring) route across AR on I-30 then up I-55 north. The evening would be spent in the Super 8 in Blytheville, AR –at the end of the day – but in between a lot of parks and counties to get there! One five mile detour off to get Lee,AR for one of the 'needs'.

There were still parks to run along the way – Next: Village Creek State park – KFF – 1117 – 7000 acres of scenic area – with two lakes, equestrian campground and stables, 35 miles of hiking trails, campsites. Cross County - north of the Interstate. Pulled in around noon time. No internet here! Zilch. Not aware of any 'wi-fi hot spots' either – many of the entrance gates/buildings in TX have free wi-fi so you can check your mail or tweets or whatever. This was going to be a challenge rounding up contacts. Most of the county hunters are zombies until a spot appears so hopefully someone would spot me on the different bands. (thanks KC3X, K5WAF and DL3DXX for spots for the park!). Did get just over 44 so that was 'success'. Nice park – and most are 'quiet' radio wise.

Nearby was another park – same county – which isn't always good as some folks will work me once in a county then disappear. I NEED the contacts for the new parks, so feel free to work me again in the same county but a different park! This new one was Parkin Archaeological State Park – KFF 1108 – Cross County - which preserves a 17 acre Mississippian Period American Indian Village located here from AD 1000 to 1550. There is evidence to suggest that Hernando de Soto visited this site in 1541. It's got day-use picnic areas, a visitor center, guided tours of the site – etc. I ran it from the picnic area parking lot - and thanks to CH (for working me again same county ) and park hunters, reached the magic 44 Qs from the park. Had internet which really helps.

Well, still time.....and on to the next – which was the Wapannoca National Wildlife Reserve KFF -0170. I 'found it'.....after going through a under the railroad tunnel with maybe 10 foot clearance. You come around a bend in the road at 20 mph and there it is. Hmmmm....my 40m antenna is sticking up about 11.5 feet – mounted on the top of the car – a hamstick. I stop take it off - knew it wouldn't go under. Then I pull forward a

bit and look – OK..the main antenna needs more than 9.5 feet...and it will fit...except there is some ceiling steel mat hanging down.....need to avoid....and go through slowly. Lonely road and no traffic. I go a mile or two down a one lane 'dead end' road with overhanging trees – carefully – and find the entrance into the Reserve off to the side of the road. Oh No! Horrible QRN along a power line into the place. There's a ranger building...and the road continues....but internet fades away quickly. I stop in an area where I can get 200 feet from the line but the noise is S5 or more on CW and worse on SSB. Maybe if you go into the park for a bit – but you WILL lose internet it – it gets better or the power line decides to leave the road or there is a parking area. I chose to be near where I had marginal internet. Did not work out well. Got more than 10 for credit for me – but only 12 in the log so the park itself did not get activated. Another day – not far off the interstate. This was first of a 'few' failed runs - not reaching 44 – and there would be more. It was already late afternoon – and 20m fades away these days. In fact, I had NO contacts on 20M at 2030z. All on 30 and 40m. Can't win them all.

I could still try for one more today. Hampson Museum SP KFF 1083. Hampson Archeological Museum State Park in northeast Arkansas exhibits a nationally renowned collection from the Nodena site, a 15-acre palisaded village that once thrived on a meander bend of the Mississippi River in what is today Mississippi County. Hampson Archeological Museum interprets the lifestyles of this farming-based civilization that lived there from A.D. 1400 to 1650. Artifacts and exhibits share the story of this early aboriginal population of farmers who cultivated crops and supplemented their food resources with hunting native game while developing its art, religion and political structure along with a thriving trading network.

Pulled in to the picnic area and reached 23Q. Late in the day. Half way to the 'park activation'. Well, maybe another trip, or other park activator only needs 21 to reach the magic number 44 total Qs. Only a few folks around. Took lots of pics of the signs – if you serious want to see them check the Facebook ParksOnTheAir page – posted them all there – as in 'N4CD was here' – hi hi.

That was it for the Monday – Super 8 Motel Blytheville AR – Mississippi County – dinner next door at a Greek-Mexican Steak House. Tomorrow it is up through Pemiscot MO then over into TN and a bunch of park units there.

## **Tuesday.**

Tennessee has dozens of Wildlife Reserves and Wildlife Areas – and I'd try to find a few of them. The first up was Tumblewood – KFF 3964 in Lake County TN – north of the interstate. That's a fairly rare county so I was hoping for a good run. Dang....I found

the place.....but there was no parking spot for the 'south' unit. You could drive around it...but not into it! It was a 'new addition' and I guess 'in the works' with future access. Had to head north the other unit for the 'park'. Took a while but found an 'entrance' and ran it. Did the 44Q even though early in the morning. Just acres and acres of 'nature'. Nothing there other than 'wildlife'. Headed to the next.

Up next – White Lake Refuge – KFF 3965 – another tough one to find. The sign that was supposed to be there wasn't off the highway. I took the gravel road anyway and a few miles later came up on the park unit. Only way to know was the gate. Not even a sign at the gate. Ran it and got to 44 then left. Lonely. Don't expect to see much as these other than 'nature'.

Well, that was two, so why not keep going. Off the Ernest Rice WMA -(Wildlife Management Area) – KFF 3938. Dyer County. Found it – good directions off the web site. Nice parking area right off the road – but water both sides of road getting there – and last week with the rains probably underwater and inaccessible! I parked in front of the sign about 30 feet away on the side, and proceeded to get out the camera to snap a picture. I wasn't watching too carefully and what looked like a 'wet area' ....turned out to be a 12 inch deep swamp puddle of goo.....as I discovered when both feed suddenly broke through the surface half way up my lower leg. I backed out and everything covered with green goop/moss/mud. Yuck! Took me 15 minutes to dig out other pair of shoes, new socks.....and get over it. Didn't even get a good pic. Hi hi. The good thing was I did have a good run from there. I'd try to be a bit more careful!

Left and headed toward the next one. Gooch WMA – KFF 3940 – Obion County. Worked out well with more than 44. I run all the bands and sometimes 20 and 40 SSB. Well, almost always 20M SSB. 40M is a tough one at times finding a frequency. It was getting hot – 90 degrees outside.

Ran the counties headed up into KY – quick stop on Hickman/Fulton line – now the highway it is being turned into I-69 so not so easy to stop there these days. The good news is the speed limit is higher so you make better time.

That evening arrived in Calvert City, KY – Super 8 Motel there. Getting closer to Dayton. Super 8. Mexican restaurant nearby.

**Wednesday** – today I'd try and get into Dayton for the night. That would give me a day to unwind before things really get going. I don't travel as well as I used to – where I could go for a week or more at a clip. So I limit my days at a time on the road...then rest a day or two before the next things happen. Still had miles to go and parks to hit.

OK....quick short version....Hit Kentucky Dam Village State Park – 2 miles from the motel! Talk about convenient! Hi hi. 44Q went in the log. Big park, lodge, golf, everything for a 'resort park'. Nice. KFF 1282

Then to Mineral Mound SP in Lyon County – KFF 1266. . Quick 44Q then hit the road all the way to Dayton a few hundred miles away. No more parks. Saw signs for them, the car tugged at the wheel....but I had to keep moving. Ran all the counties along the way getting to the former Super 8, now a Knights Inn (lower standard than Super 8) in Moraine OH, which is just south of Dayton. It was convenient for getting to the old Hara arena..and is just south of route 35 which heads to Xenia. I'd find out what the drive situation would be.

### **Thursday – at Dayton**

Things don't get started in a big way till Friday – when the exhibits and flea market open to the public. I had a flea market ticket – and some folks set up on Thursday – so I would plan on checking it out later in the day – both to hunt for goodies – and to just reconnoiter the situation at the new venue.

However – there were nearby parks to run and I could just loaf and head on over to run one to the Northwest about 15 miles away. So....off to Scyamore State Park in Montgomery County OH – KFF 1955. Worked at it and wound up with 45Q just barely over the limit. Many operators were on their way to Dayton and not at home. Caught a few CH mobiles for contacts which helped. Squeaked by the 44 number. OK.....well, that worked out well. Only the 'picnic' area of this park is open. The rest seems to have been damaged by tons of rain and many roads are closed or have detours – including the main road into this park. No problem for me. Lonely in the picnic area but had nice 'facilities' to use, big empty parking lot, and no noise.

OK..one worked, why not try another OH park? Off to John Bryant State park – KFF 1964 in Greene County. I'd get a head start putting out Greene – which will be run to death by CH by the end of the Hamvention. Xenia is in Greene. Hi hi. Got to 45Q and called it quits.

Well, there was a nearby National Park unit not too far away. I could do a quickie 10Q there. Last year I probably logged 80 or 90Q from there during ARRL National Parks on the Air so it should be well 'activated'. All I needed was 10 for credit for an activation in 2017. Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers home – KFF 0916 now, is just a building with a parking lot next door. The building is only open for special tours a few



times a year. Nothing really to see, but...it's a park unit. Did my thing, logged 21 and left headed to the Greene County Fairgrounds a few miles away.

OK.....the GPS lady and the Hamvention web site have good instructions. All I'd have to do now is find the 'right gate' for flea market parking. Did find it.....a bit of confusion – but pulled into the 'horse race track' area where most of the flea market is held. They were still racing harness horses – those deals pulling the jockeys behind in the 2 wheel carts. You had to be careful not to hit one coming around. During the hamfest, flea market folks could park along the outer part of the race track – but not today. I wandered with the car looking for Mike KA4RRU and Kyle WA4PGM who would be setting up things – and it took a while to find the spot where they were. The flea market area is grass. The grid was marked on the grass and little signs every 3 spaces had the space number. This was going to be interesting as hundreds came in and hunted for their spots the first year. The 'aisles' quickly turned to less than 'grass' from all the vehicles.



Flea Market -Dayton 2017 – the Race Track Area  
pic courtesy KD8RTT  
Typical Aisle – Friday/Saturday

Note: It was ALL grass to start with, but dozens and dozens of cars turned the center parts into grassy semi-mud. You could stay on the grass at the edges to see what folks had for sale.

I parked and wandered around a bit. Maybe 100 sellers setting up. Good food this year! Ten times better than Hara – with wide choices from BBQ to custom made sandwiches, egg biscuits and ham, full breakfast plates, lunch plates, salads, hot dogs, chicken, and if you looked hard, pizza. There were 50 different food carts. Yum!

Didn't find anything to get excited. Walked a mile or two it seemed....and got worn out so headed back to motel. It was a good preview of what was to come.

That evening had an invitation only dinner at the Packard Museum in downtown Dayton. Never been there before. From Wiki:

“The building is a restored Packard dealership transformed into a museum that displays twentieth-century classic Packards and historic Packard artifacts and memorabilia. Originally, The Citizens Motorcar Company sold Packards in Dayton, Ohio beginning in 1908, and moved into what is now the museum building in 1917. Robert Signom II, the museum's Founder and Curator, acquired the building in 1991 and painstakingly rehabilitated it to its original Art Deco grandeur. . Car Collector magazine has also named the museum one of its "Top Ten" automotive museums. More than 50 cars are on display, from 1900s Brass Era cars to the streamlined Classic cars of the 1930s and 1940s, and modern Packards of the 1950s. It is open 12 noon to 5pm, seven days a week, year round, and is closed only on Christmas, and New Years Day.”

Interesting – and right in downtown Dayton. You might consider stopping by if you have time. (If you missed the Wright Brothers Bicycle Shop/Museum in downtown Dayton, that's another to put on the list to see! After the Air and Space Museum!)

Then back to the motel for the big day ahead!

## **Friday in Dayton**

Friday - Hamvention

This is the 'big day' with tens of thousands descending upon Xenia and the Greene County Fairgrounds. I head over, leaving about 6:30am, after over sleeping a bit, for the 30 minute trip to the Hamvention. All goes well and there is almost no backup today. There's police cars at every intersection directing traffic and I zip right in for the flea market and park. With a 'flea market' ticket, you can get in after 6am. Entry for others starts at 8am and 9am in the main part of the park. I understand that at the main gates, no one got in until 9am – there was no way into the flea market without getting

into the 'main grounds' from the front. They'll have to work on that.

Sellers were streaming into the flea market – hunting down the 'new' spaces assigned this year. The aisles for the cars got to be a little bit muddy but not bad. It had poured early Friday morning so everything was wet. I wandered around for a good 2—3 hours wearing out the feet. I'm not used to walking miles these days but did my best to see everything as it was being set up Friday. About half the folks arrive sometime on Friday. The ankles got sore, too, as the ground was a little bit rough and you had to make sure not to twist an ankle here and there. The shoes got covered in mud from crossing the track back and forth to see both sides.

Whoa – the food is good. All sorts of things from full breakfast to breakfast sandwiches to regular sandwiches and snacks. Ice cream and gourmet coffee and you name it. Eventually, I start to wander into the main buildings. There are 3 main buildings and then the 'tent city' – an area of very large tents with maybe 300 more vendors underneath.

The weather was warm and muggy. Very warm under the tents. While the temps were in the high 70s and low 80s, you did a bunch of sweating. Hmmmm.....Aha! The forum rooms – two very large ones – were air conditioned! One could escape from the heat for a bit. Each of the two rooms could hold more than 350 people. Later in the day, the County Hunter forum would be held at 4pm. There were two other forum rooms located by the grandstands for the race track. Those had A/C too! Did not have time to check them out.

During my tour of the flea market, I was hunting for goodies. On the hunt for regens, I spied the following

Pilot Super Wasp – 1929 type 'shortwave' radio – two of them, one missing parts/tubes, and the other an original unassembled kit. Asking price \$500 – way way out of line.

National SW-3, SW-4 receivers and a power supply from the 1928-1931 period. Didn't bother to ask – same guy and I have more than one of each. Nice shape. Did not get a chance to check back later.

One Knight Kit Ocean Hopper from the 1950s – short wave radio with set of coils – asking price \$200 but 'flexible'. Didn't need it – and it was sold shortly thereafter. This was the ham's first receiver and he had built it himself way back when.

That's all I saw on Friday. I did score some things on Saturday. Likely any bargains

were instantly snapped up. Didn't see any or hear of any from others, but you never know.

What I did not see a lot of....were radios from the way back days. Very very few Hallicrafters or National Receivers. One or two Drake 2Bs but that was it. Near zip Collins gear, too. There were a dozen Heath SB series rigs – SB100s, 101s, but not many others. You could buy half a dozen KW amps and many newer Kenwood/Icom/Yaesu rigs. One or two Heath AT-1 TX. Almost no Knight Kits. Am I getting old, or is the 'ancient stuff' not even brought out these days? Dunno?

Eventually I found the MARAC booth in 'tent city'. Warm – sizzling warm – and very noisy from all the other booths around it. Lowell, KB0BA, Sandra, N0XYL, and Jerry, K1SO were there at the time and no extra seats so I said 'hello' and wandered on. It was a ways from the 'race track' part of flea market but near the main buildings and the Forum room 1-2 entrance.

By that time of day I was pretty worn out. During the day I ran into loads of NPOTA folks from last year – the chasers and activators. Of note, I finally ran into the 'cookie lady' Emily, KB3VVE. She started the year with 'no code' and ended having made several thousand CW QSOs for NPOTA and getting her speed up near 18 wpm. She would bake dozens of delicious cookies and send them out as rewards for her 'challenges' every now and then, and brought maybe a hundred to Dayton to distribute them. There were maybe 100 folks I ran into from last year overall. Ingrid, W7ISG and husband Reynold were there. She was #3 activator behind N4CD(#2) and Stu, KB1HQS (#1). That was also a first time 'meet'.

I ran into PY1AHD – the designer and seller of the “Alex Loop” portable loop antenna that I used on a dozen 'portable set ups'. If you were at the MI Mini in 2016, I demo'ed it to the crowd there. This antenna – about 3 feet in diameter, folds up into a small bag that weights about 2 lb total! Nifty for carrying and for mountain topping or hiking into a 'site' or along a trail. Covers 40-10M at 10w power level. Now, he's selling a speaker/mic for the KX2 transceiver.

There were a few other loop vendors there. One from Italy was selling a six foot diameter loop for fixed operation. Claims it was only down 0.4 dB from a half wave dipole at 14 MHz and 6db down on 80M. Expensive - \$2100! Solidly built of 3-4 inch type aluminum tubing with giant loading cap capable of KW power operation.

I wandered around the exhibits. Kenwood was there with equipment set up but nary a sales rep. ICOM was well represented – loads of folks, as was Yaesu. You could get a

Yaesu hat – I have enough – if you needed one.



Mark, N2MH and KD2KHJ

Eventually 4pm approached and I headed into the Forum area to escape the 'warmth' and crowds and being on my feet all day. Whew! Tired out. Legs cramping. It was a lot easier doing hamfests 30 and 40 years ago! None of the buildings are air conditioned but have fairly good 'flow through'. The Forums are A/C. Delightful.

Two weeks ago, I was planning on just sitting back and letting others do the program for county hunters. I've been doing it for years and years, usually presenting something. The best designed plans go astray. On the way up to Dayton I get an urgent call from Tim, W8JJ, the County Hunter Forum coordinator. Tim's had this for maybe 10 years now, having taken over from N4CD, who took over from Dave, KJ8V, who took over from Pete, K4QFK 30-35 years ago. Seems that Bob, KA9JAC, who was scheduled to speak on "Parks on the Air" and the WWFF system, but came down with a serious back injury again and was unable to travel. Could N4CD fill in? Dang....all I have with me when I travel is my little spotting pad – and no way to create anything for a program/slides. Fortunately, Bob KA9JAC had prepared a great program that I could use and did. It worked out well for the crowd assembled in the large room. We had regular county hunters and maybe two dozen 'park hunters/activators' joining in. Maybe

we can interest a few of them into County Hunting as well. We sure could use more activity many days.

If you would like to see the presentation on “Parks on the Air” you can see a copy of it here off the Facebook Page:

<http://tinyurl.com/kjzydwo>

This is a 25 slide presentation explaining what POTA is, where it started, what the goals are, how to participate, the various awards and so on. Nicely done. As a chaser, you don't need to do anything! You'll get credit when the activator uploads the logs.

Tim, W8JJ discussed the new things happening with MARAC including 'self credit' for 13 of the awards, where you can claim credit for the county you are in. We had a round of introductions – moving the mike around the auditorium. Mike, NF0N, had the oldest USCA number - #52. Bob N4CD had the 'most times around'. We had a few minutes at the end for meet and greet – there was no rush to get to the county hunter dinner. Maybe next year something can be arranged. Some CH had conflicting forums, too. We were lucky to score one of the two large centrally located forum rooms – only 2 at the moment. The other two are a bit further away. There was a bit of 'generator noise' but the PA system overcame that. Maybe they'll fix that by next year. I stayed around till 5:30 – and, dang, it was raining a bit outside when I left. I did manage to catch a courtesy golf cart to get to the parking area – and that worked well. My legs were pretty well shot.

So...the first day – good exhibits in 3 large halls. Tent city a bit hot. County Hunter Forum went off well. Met dozens of folks. Walked a mile or two. But it wasn't over yet! Good exhibits indoors and in tent city. Lots of meet and greet. But wait! It's not over yet!

The NPOTA group was assembling at Willies Sports Bar in downtown Xenia. Some could make it but there was a competing DX Dinner going on too in town. About 30-40 showed up including Mike, KA4RRU and many others – some to meet for the first time. Peter, the inventor of the Nerd Wagon (nice article on it this month in QST) was there along with Emily, KB3VVE, with a supply of delicious cookies, and Ruth, KM4LAO, who had presented at the DX Forum, and other notables. I grabbed a dinner and stuck around for an hour and half then headed back to the motel in the Dayton area. 30 minute trip back to the motel. I was tuckered out. Pooped.

I soaked the legs/feet in a nice bath....then promptly conked out at 9pm. Up a bit after

6am. Raining a bit. Dang. It wouldn't be Dayton if we didn't have rain. I put the shorts on....but.....just going to breakfast down the outside corridor convinced me this was a day for long pants and a jacket! The cold front had moved through. Brrr...temp about 60, windy, and cloudy. Had a small breakfast at the Knights Inn....cereal, blueberries (I supply), regular coffee, OJ. Over to the hamfest about 7am. Rain stopped but it was sopping wet everywhere and chilly. OK....started wandering around in the flea market. More sellers there. Found a part of the flea market I had missed. I was standing at the table for Jim and Felicia Kruezer from the NY area. He's a big big early radio guy (Has original Marconi units) and a key figure in the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield, NY – out by Rochester. Usually he has many early technology books for sale there and mentioned he had a Philmore receiver for me to look at. Next to him was his friend Gary who had a few more things of interest. Wow! Jackpot.



Allied TRF Kit circa 1940?





Top View – Allied Kit TRF

The “TRF” receiver just uses two tuned circuits for selectivity, then a detector and audio amp. Tubes in this radio include a pentode 12SK7, a pentode 12SJ7, a 50L6 audio amp, and 35Z5 rectifier. Sold sometime after 1939 as that is the first year for the 12SK7 by Allied Radio as a kit.



KT-34 Lafayette and Heath GR-81  
Box Aero SW Coils on Top



He had a Lafayette KT-34 regen kit from the late 1950s or early '60s. . Supposedly recapped and working. Very nice shape. \$40. Sold. He had a Heathkit GR-81 kit from the 1960s. No cabinet but supposedly working and front panel and all in nice shape. \$15. Sold. Next was a really unusually – and not a regen – set from Allied Radio (before they even sold Knight Kits).....a TRF receiver kit. From the tube line up – late 1930s or early 1940s. Never seen one, nor had Jim Kreuzer. A real oddball and supposedly 'working'. \$25. Sold on the spot. Didn't have to argue. And that was the 'jackpot'. Also bought a set of Aero brand SW coils and a set of badly mangled boxed Pilot Wasp coils.

Now I had to get them all back to the car! Fortunately one of those carts came by and I managed a lift back to the car with the big box of goodies! The legs were still not in good shape, but I had to keep going. After a short rest in the car, I did the outer loop of the racetrack flea market once again. Must be a good half mile around, and then there are the rows in between – probably 2-3 miles of total walking to get around all the flea market tables in both areas. At least it seemed that way.

The mud level increased as the day went on – along the sides it wasn't bad, but if you had to cross the 'row' it could be slippery and muddy. Hope you didn't wear good shoes because they got a nice coat of Greene county slime on them.

Well, I was back over in the food court about 11:15am when the announcement came over the PA system: “Attention – Attention – Severe Storms with heavy rain and lightning approaching in a few minutes! Take appropriate action. “

I zipped into one of the large buildings and not much later, maybe sixty seconds, the sky opened, the rain gushed on down by the bucket full, and lightning was zipping all around with giant thunder booms. If you were outside and not prepared you'd get drenched. It got crowded inside.

The flea market got muddier and muddier



Lots of Mud – Sunday morning  
courtesy KD8RTT

I did the rounds again inside. Always things you missed the first sweep. CQ magazine was there but only one or two people. It's not like the old days when they went 'big' on their book sales, CQ Mag subscriptions, etc. CQ sponsors the USACA award and has since the 1960s.

There was going to be an NPOTA gathering for a picture at the ARRL booth at 1pm on Saturday. That was on the schedule. I found a seat here and there and rested up. During my wandering, I talked with Norm, W3IZ, one of the lead gurus for LoTW – Log Book of the World – the on line awards program/logging that tracks DXCC, WAS, Triple Play and other major awards issued by ARRL. We've had a few conversations about 'counties'.

**He hinted at something big happening with 'other IARU member societies' in regard to counties and other awards.** So...maybe LoTW will become more county hunting friendly and maybe work with CQ Magazine for on-line confirmations. Wouldn't that be nice? He said he could tell me exactly what, but he'd have to shoot me after – guess we'll all have to wait to see what is up. They've been hinting at a replacement for NPOTA for a while - with nothing in 2017 but something 'big' in 2018.

At 1pm, about 50-60 NPOTA folks show up for a group picture in front of the ARRL banner. Sean, KX9X, the other guru behind the very popular NPOTA program, was there naturally. Over 1000 people actively chased or activated last year with even more

casual type folks getting in on the fun! (pics on the Facebook/NPOTA page)

Well, I'd had enough fun, the feet and legs were totally shot.....so it was back to the room to crash. Tomorrow I'd head home. I had scored a few 'goodies' which was nice. Often I come home with no regens or additions. I try to follow the 'one hand rule' these days. If I can't hold the radio in one hand.... I don't buy it!

Dinner at the Asia Buffet – and early to bed. Slept like a log.

**Sunday** - after the hamfest

Time to get on home. I'm worn out, aching a bit, and home was calling. That's not to say I couldn't hit a park or two along the way. Left at 6:10am.

It's about 1000 miles from Dayton to home – the GPS lady said I could be home at 8pm – with the one hour time zone change where I 'gain' an hour. GPS lady doesn't understand gas stops and pit stops though.....so it would be 9 pm or later.....and that would be 15 hours of driving and assuming no delays. Well, 40 years ago, I might do that, but not now and no reason to make a mad dash home. Two days would do it. I headed down the same route as I came up.....and storms to the east big time so no reason to take detours that way. The path looked reasonably clear but had some rain escaping Dayton/Cincinnati vicinity – then it cleared up. Just a few sprinkles till down in TN. Windshield wipers running half the time. Clear sailing though.

Gosh...there are lots of 18 wheelers on the interstates. Seems there are 3 cars then a truck....3 cars and another truck....truck after truck after truck. As long as they don't try to pass each other, one moving 0.01 mph faster than the other, taking 5 minutes to complete a pass, things moved fine. Sometimes you got stuck behind trucks that seemed never to be able to pass....just sat in the passing lane for miles and miles and miles and miles...usually 5 or 10 mph below the speed limit. Some days you wish you had a 100KW laser to simply blast the trailer part away.....and clearing the road for the cars. Oh well. Must be a zillion trucks now on the roadways. If the chatter on Channel 19 is any indication.....well, we've got a bunch of real idiot drivers out there, too. It's not an easy job but some days you wonder – especially when they take five minutes to 'pass' another truck and traffic backs up 2 miles behind them. Most are reasonably good.....tough life for them. Traffic just seems to get more and more these days.

First up was General Butler State Park, KFF – 1279, in Carroll Country KY – right off

the interstate – and a quick 25Qs went into the log. Early in the morning – 12:07z and that was 8am local time. Did not stay long. In and out. Someone else will need to get another 19 to get it 'activated'. Worked all I could hear and rouse at the early hour.

Well....I managed to zip along most of the way and hit Louisville area. With a 2 mile detour I hit Tom Sawyer State Park – KFF 1254 in Jefferson County KY.. Over 50 quickly went in the log. The county hunters were out in force – many mobiles on the road this day headed from Dayton.

That would be it for the day – even though I passed by many other opportunities. Headed into AR and down to the Days Inn motel in Brinkley, AR in Prairie county. Dinner at the Mexican restaurant nearby. Good. 600 miles out of 1000 done. 400 to go tomorrow and all interstate.

## **Monday 5/22**

Time for one more in Prairie County – KFF 1098 – the Lower White river Museum State Park – about 10 miles off the interstate in Des Arc, AR. This museum covers the vital transportation route for early settlers on the Arkansas frontier during the steamboat era and the expansion of the culture from hunting and fishing into shelling, timber, agriculture, pearling and button making. The museum is closed on Monday and I was there. Not to worry, the parking lot was wide open. The site is a bit noisy – power lines all around – S4-5 QRN – so I optimized my parking spot. There is no other part of the grounds you can drive on – most of the exhibits are through the museum and accessed by foot. I didn't have time anyway to do much here other than operate and get 34Q in the log. Another day or another mobile for 'park activation' for a total of 44Q. I still get credit for an activation with 10+Q. Then quickly back to the highway and on to home. No more time for stops. Down the interstate – quick stop for gas and lunch, then headed home – getting there at 2:15 pm. 2,431 more miles on the 'new' car which is 16 months old with 53,216 miles on it. As long as the headlights are on – no chirp on the radio! Otherwise, the car thinks that 12.4v at the battery is fine - hi hi – and it isn't for most radios. (A KX2 or KX3 will be happy at 12.4v).

Good trip! Lots of memories and fun visits to parks and meeting CH and park hunters from all over the country! Found a few goodies, too!

Now I've got to type in all the contacts into TSQL and then upload to WWFF via KA9JAC and to LoTW with the generic state for those wanting WAS credit for 30m or 40m or whatever. No counties listed – I'm not yet going to set up a few hundred station 'locations' as I mobile through the various counties. Hi hi. But that could

change if LoTW starts to support counties big time.(Norm W3IZ, the ARRL LoTW said big plans are in the works Stay tuned!) Oh..and I've got to finish writing the County Hunter News.....and get it off to press before the end of the month. Never a dull moment these days.

The folks at Dayton Hamvention did a great job. It was a massive project to move and get the Hamvention going at the new venue – and overall it went very well. There were a few 'glitches' and I'm sure they'll be addressed for next year. A big round of applause for the hundreds of volunteers from the Dayton Amateur Radio club that make this possible. Likely hundreds of thousands of hours went into this move.

## Dayton Report – KB0BA/N0XYL

Hamvention 2017 is over. We arrived in Springfield on Wednesday afternoon, May 17th. The Cracker Barrel Old Country Store was nearby so you can guess where we had dinner that night. On Thursday, we made our way to the Greene county fairgrounds, the site of Hamvention 2017. The first stop was Building 2 to pick up our vendor badges and parking pass. Our booth was in Building 6, although it wasn't a building at all. It was a huge tent complete with holes in the 'roof'. KS4BO, Dave Kinsey, helped hang the banner and set up the MARAC booth.

Friday morning we left Springfield in plenty of time to reach the fairgrounds for the opening of the event. So we thought! We crept along at 5 mph for 10 miles due to a traffic jam that wouldn't quit. Apparently no one had alerted the Police Department about the influx of traffic. The vendor parking pass was to allow parking close to building 6. So much for that idea. Thank goodness for the roaming golf carts and drivers. It was hot and humid in the tent on Friday. A number of county hunters stopped by the booth. I totally forgot about making a list but remember AA8R/W8TAX, K0DEQ, W9OP, W4OWY, W8MP, W8TVT, N9JF, NU0Q, AK8A, NA8W, W8OP, W9GUY, N4CD, N9IHZ, K1SO, KS4BO, N5MLP, WA4UNS and NF0N. I apologize if I missed anyone. Several people mentioned the fact that the MARAC booth was hard to find. They were looking for an actual building. K1SO, KS4BO, WA4UNS and NF0N helped in the booth.

I must mention the fantastic tenderloin sandwiches Lowell bought for each of us! We found a local Barbeque shop in Springfield for dinner that evening. The food was great although a bit pricey.

Expecting another traffic jam on Saturday we left the motel earlier. Obviously the police had everything under control and there was no jam. Although the tent was hot and humid on Friday, a cold front complete with rain blew through the area that evening. The tent was cold and damp on Saturday. The weather did not improve during the day. More rain showed up during the day and again in the night. Do I need to mention the grounds were a swamp? The entire 'floor' in the tent was wet! However, we survived... no webbing between the toes so far.

The good news is one individual renewed his membership and two others signed up. One is a Big Rig driver! Several individuals took application forms. Let's hope they decide to join the club.

Being in charge of the MARAC booth at Hamvention 2017 was quite an experience and fun, even with all the rain.

Sandra N0XYL and Lowell KB0BA

# Awards Issued

USA-CW #149

Ray, WB0PYF

5/6/2017

## Operating Activities for County Hunters

June 3 1600z to June 4 0400z

### **Alabama QSO Party**

CW Ph RS(T),

county or SPC

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

June 17 1600z to 18 0200z

### **West Virginia QSO Party**

CW Ph Dig RS(T),

county or SPC

[qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp](http://qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp)

June 24 1800z to 25 2100z

### **ARRL Field Day**

CW Ph Dig

Number of transmitters, class, Section

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

You can run 'mobile' (category 1C) in FD if you want.

That's all folks! CU next month

